



# Pilgrim Church

UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

## November 2020 NEWSLETTER

It is hard to believe that the holiday season is already upon us. It feels like, somehow, 2020 dragged on and flew by at the same time. Because of the pandemic and quarantining, time has seemed irrelevant as we canceled plans, restricted our schedules, and spent months on end at home. Now, November is here, bringing with it the holiday season and questions about how we will see our loved ones and celebrate. One thing is for certain, though; the holidays will not be the same this year.

The first holiday that most of us will celebrate is Thanksgiving. Although Thanksgiving is technically only one day, for many, the month of November has become a time to reflect on everything for which we are thankful. There is even a 30-day Thankfulness Challenge that goes around on social media, meant to encourage everyone to post one picture per day of something they are thankful for. The purpose of the challenge is to create within us an attitude of gratitude.

Even though I don't participate in the social media Thankfulness Challenge (I'm not good at remembering to post on social media!), I appreciate its intent. The challenge was created to help people see the good things in their lives, appreciate them, and be grateful. To do so, we must pause for a moment and look around. We must look past our busy schedules and long to-do lists that bring stress, remembering that life is so much more than the tasks and appointments with which we fill our days. This challenge encourages us to remember our friends and family and to look around at the seemingly small, yet important, things that we take for granted, like food on the table and coffee in our favorite mug.

This November, I want to encourage you to take part in your own 30-day challenge. Take a moment to reflect on all the large and small things in your life for which you are grateful and write them down. Remember them and give thanks to God for them, because we know that all good things are gifts from him, made available to us because of his grace. If you desire a daily guide, please see the listing in this newsletter.

While I strongly encourage you to share your gratitude with God through prayer, I also want you to let your gratitude affect how you live your life. In other words, let your gratitude lead you to a life of humility. Share your blessings with others. If you are thankful for your friends, be a friend to someone who needs one. If you are grateful for the food on your table, share a meal with someone who is hungry. And if you are thankful for your church family, invite a neighbor to join you for Sunday worship.

Nothing says "thank you" to God more than using what he has given you to glorify his name and build his kingdom. So, I encourage each of you to take the 30-day Thankfulness Challenge, but don't stop after 30 days. Remember to be grateful. Let it fill your hearts and be reflected in your actions. Lastly, let your life be a testament to God's overwhelming grace. Happy Thanksgiving, my friends! Amen.

*"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

Blessings,  
Pastor John



Recently I was reflecting on the tremendous hype of Halloween. The fascination of dressing up as someone you're not. The fixation on death and being scared out of your wits. The delight in trick-or-treating to get a great amount of candy. In reflecting on the obsession with Halloween, it occurred to me that the celebration is a far cry for the initial intent of the holiday.

Halloween comes from traditional ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, where people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts. It was held on the eve of All Saints Day and became known as All Hollow's Eve. It was a preparation for the day of commemorating all the saints of the church both known and unknown who have attained Heaven. Initiated in the Catholic Church, it was later found favor in other Christian denominations.

The Catholic Church saw All Saints Day in a somewhat narrow focus commemorating those whom the Church elevated to the status of sainthood. In other traditions which did not have elevated saints, say all believers are saints. Which comes from the Apostle Paul who saw everyone in the faith as saints, meaning true believers in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Both traditions central focus is to remember all the saints who have gone before offering thanksgiving and honor. In the process of remembering, the celebrant is reconnected spiritually and emotionally with the saints who have passed on. All Saints Day then is a sacred day of commemoration which has faded from our days of celebrations.

My hope for those of us in the Christian faith that we regain a focus on All Saints Day as a time to give thanks for the saints in our lives and honor their gifts left with us. HAPPY ALL SAINTS DAY. Amen.

Pastor Ken

The children have loved seeing Pastor John around Joyful Noise and are looking forward to spending more time with him during their weekly devotions.

We have decided to cancel our Christmas Program and Dinner with Santa. This year we will create a new way to celebrate the birth of Christ with the students of Joyful Noise that will eliminate the 200 person crowd.

Our food drive is scheduled for the first two weeks of November and we are looking forward to sharing with the Pilgrim Food Pantry.

Cynthia Poudrette, Director of Joyful Noise





# Food Pantry

In 2019, the Pilgrim Food Pantry distributed eighty-six Thanksgiving Meals. Total expense for November 2019 came to \$1,871.41, which included normal distribution items, Thanksgiving Fixin's items and gift certificates (families could then purchase their own turkey/turkey breast/ham). This was in addition to all the item donations we received.

We will have our usual Food Pantry distribution on Monday, November 9. Then on Monday, November 16, we will have a distribution for just those who have completed and turned in the Thanksgiving Meals form in October. We had over 60 families sign up this year!

We need your assistance with donations of special items for these gifts of Thanksgiving goodies. We are holding a special collection of:

- Mashed Potatoes
- Stuffing Mix
- Gravy

Financial gifts for gift card purchases

Our Food Pantry list:

- |                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| canned soup           | mac n cheese    |
| saltine crackers      | mashed potatoes |
| beef stew             | canned potatoes |
| canned pasta          | rice            |
| canned tomatoes       | dry beans       |
| canned green beans    | dry cereal      |
| canned pork n beans   | grits           |
| canned carrots        | oatmeal         |
| canned corn           | pancake mix     |
| canned mix veggies    | syrup           |
| assorted canned beans | peanut butter   |
| canned peas           | jelly           |
| canned fruit          | snacks          |
| ramen noodles         | canned tuna     |
| spaghetti sauce       | toilet paper    |
| dry pasta (assorted)  | paper towels    |



# PB&J Sandwich Ministry

We need donations of creamy peanut butter and jam (is spreads so much easier than jelly) for the monthly Sandwich Ministry. We use 18 loaves of bread to make 200 sandwiches!

Join us for an hour on Thursday, November 19, 10:30 a.m. to assemble sandwiches .



# Thanksgiving Mums

Available this year for \$9.00. You may indicate a purchase in memory of, honor of or to the Glory of God.

Mums may be picked up after the church service on Thanksgiving Eve service.

Return this form with payment to the Church office or place it in the offering plate by November 9.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

No. of mums : \_\_\_\_

Dedicated to \_\_\_\_\_

Dedicated

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> in Memory of        | <input type="radio"/> Deliver to Shut-In |
| <input type="radio"/> In Honor of         | <input type="radio"/> Will pick up       |
| <input type="radio"/> To the Glory of God |  |

Dedicated to \_\_\_\_\_

Dedicated

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> in Memory of        | <input type="radio"/> Deliver to Shut-In |
| <input type="radio"/> In Honor of         | <input type="radio"/> Will pick up       |
| <input type="radio"/> To the Glory of God |  |



We just received a pledge through a Wells Fargo Advisors investor who has pledged a grant to be matched for \$75,000 toward the capital campaign for the purchase of a permanent Safe House. Praise God!

One of our volunteers who works for Wells Fargo reached out to us about the potential, and we are so thankful for receiving this great blessing.

As a result of Covid-19, we have reached out to some gated community foundations in Southwest Florida to see about additional funding sources. We were told by some that they only give to local charities if someone living in the community makes a recommendation.

This gave us the idea to reach out and see if you live in a gated community with a foundation or know of someone who does to get a recommendation for funding. All we need is the recommendation, and we fill out an application for a grant.

If this is a possibility for you, please get in contact with us and let us know.

Thank you. God bless,

Lowell and Sally Senitz  
Wings of Shelter Int'l, Inc.

Email: [wingsofshelter@aol.com](mailto:wingsofshelter@aol.com)

Website: [www.wingsofshelter.org](http://www.wingsofshelter.org)

Phone: 239-340-2980

*"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." -James 1:17*

- 1 - What smell are you grateful for today?
- 2 - What technology are you grateful for?
- 3 - What color are you grateful for? What food are you most grateful for?
- 4 - What sounds are you grateful for today?
- 5 - What in nature are you grateful for?
- 6 - What memory are you grateful for?
- 7 - What book are you most grateful for?
- 8 - What place are you most grateful for?
- 9 - What taste are you grateful for today?
- 10 - What Bible story are you grateful for?
- 11 - What texture are you grateful for?
- 12 - What abilities are you grateful for?
- 13 - What sight are you grateful for today?
- 14 - What Bible Verse are you grateful for?
- 15 - What about your body are you grateful for?
- 16 - What knowledge are you grateful for?
- 17 - What piece of art are you grateful for?
- 18 - What touch are you grateful for?
- 19 - Who in your life are you grateful for?
- 20 - What song are you most grateful for?
- 21 - What Book of the Bible are you grateful for?
- 22 - Which addition are you grateful for?
- 23 - What challenge are you grateful for?
- 24 - What moment this week are you most grateful for?
- 25 - What form of expression are you most grateful for?
- 26 - What small thing that you use daily are you grateful for?
- 27 - What small thing that happened today are you grateful for?
- 28 - What friend/family member are you grateful for today?
- 29 - What talent or skill do you have that you are grateful for?
- 30 - What about your church family are you thankful for?



## Serving at the Homeless Coalition

The Mission is simple. Alleviate and prevent hunger and homelessness.

Preventing hunger and homelessness since 1989, Charlotte County Homeless Coalition assists individuals and families in need of food and shelter. The Homeless Coalition's Hunger Prevention Program is based on the philosophy that no one in our community should go to bed hungry. To meet this goal, they offer hot meals, lunches, and snacks to the children and access to a weekly Food Pantry.

The Hot Meals Program is open 365 days per year and serves breakfast and lunch to Shelter residents and Veterans in the Shelter, and dinner to the general public in the Homeless Coalition's dining room, as well as evening snacks to the shelter's children. Over the last year, the Hot Meals Program has served more than 75,000 hot meals and snacks.

Volunteers are the backbone of the day-to-day operations and programs & services at The Homeless Coalition. Our volunteers put in several hours a week, in various positions, performing numerous tasks and building fulfilling friendships.

The Homeless Coalition offers Hot Meals every evening from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. all year. On Fridays these meals are restaurant style. With ordering from menus and having a wait staff bring those eating their meals. On the 3rd and 5th Fridays of each month, Pilgrim Church volunteers serve as the wait staff. We meet at the Homeless Coalition at 4:15 p.m.



Homeless Coalition is hosting the 5th Annual Fall Golf Scramble at Riverwood Golf & Country Club Saturday November 21. \$95 per person. more information, contact Darcy Woods at [darcy.woods@cchomelesscoalition.org](mailto:darcy.woods@cchomelesscoalition.org) or (941) 627-4313, Ext. 134. No rain date - if event is cancelled due to inclement weather, your entry fee and sponsorship will be considered a donation. 9th Annual Driving Out Hunger Fall Golf Scramble at Riverwood Golf Club Saturday November 21, 2020 Registration ~ begins at 7:30 am Shotgun Start ~ 8:30 am \$95.00 per person / \$380.00



- Find something that makes you happy.
- Find something to give someone else to make them smile.
- Find one thing that you love to smell.
- Find one thing you enjoy looking at.
- Find something that's your favorite color
- Find something you are thankful for in nature.
- Find something that you can use to make a gift for someone.
- Find something that is useful for you.



If you would like a magnetic badge for \$10, let the Church Office know. The next order for paid badges will be placed on November 10.



Bill Wolf  
 Gloria Kurbanali  
 Louise Timchak  
 Dennis Tagge  
 Joe Beaudreau  
 Carol Glanton  
 John Hames  
 Martinez Children &  
 Family  
 Jim Smith  
 Sidoney Johnston  
 "Bullet" McCleen  
 Karen Ahlgrim  
 Huff Family  
 Jim Wright  
 Howard Meader  
 Susan Littrell

Pastor John, Cathy &  
 Charlie  
 Marilyn Walker  
 Zander Jones  
 Irene Butler  
 Arte Johnson  
 Barbara Garner  
 Marilyn Randall  
 Gene Rice  
 Oliver LeJune  
 Cynthia Poudrette  
 Louise Wright  
 Family of Kelly Smith  
 Pastor Ken Ewing  
 Don & Susan Anderson  
 Leanne Minnick  
 Nancy Burnell



Prayer Meeting Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. To attend by phone just dial 941-258-2597 at 10:00 a.m. each week.

Until small groups are able to meet in the church we will continue to conduct prayer by conference call. To submit prayer request or have a request removed contact Cat in the office, by phone or email or call me at the above number or email me at jacque.ross@aol.com.

It is our blessing and privilege to intercede for you and your concerns.

God's heart is moved when we pray. We always need prayer, but now more than ever!

Jacque Ross





**Pilgrim Church**  
 A Congregation of  
 The United Church of Christ

24515 Rampart Boulevard,  
 Port Charlotte, FL 33980  
 941-629-2633  
 www.pilgrimonline.org  
 office@pilgrimonline.org

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9 am - 2 pm

**“To Help People KNOW Christ Personally and  
 GROW in Their Faith.”**

Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship,  
 Ministry and Evangelism

Rev. John Barnette, Senior Pastor  
 Rev. Ken Ewing, Associate Pastor  
 All Members, Ministers  
 Russ Whittaker, Administrator & Bell Choir Director  
 Darryl Johnson, Choir Director  
 Mona Johnson, Organist  
 Patrick & Marilyn Randall, Worship Leaders  
 Jessica Warne, Sunday School Director  
 Cat Foster, Office Administrator  
 Gene Burnell, Maintenance Technician

**Joyful Noise Learning Center**

941-629-4821, www.joyfulnoisec.org

Cynthia Poudrette, Director of Joyful Noise

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

Follow our Facebook Page! Search “Pilgrim Church of Port Charlotte” and be part of our online community during the week.

View our worship services at

- our Facebook page, “PilgrimUCC”
- Our Vimeo Page:  
<https://vimeo.com/channels/pilgrimonline>
- Our website: [www.pilgrimonline.org](http://www.pilgrimonline.org)



**November Birthdays**

4

Lisa Noles, Joyce Faber

5

Pastor John Barnette, John Biluk

6

Louise Timchak, Doug Yokom

7

Carol Mills

9

Eileen Murray, Alex Sosa

10

Charlie Bratton, Bert Scott  
 David Thompson

11

Maxine Wilson

15

Don Janis

17

Gene Burnell

18

Enzo Raia

23

Zach Schrock

24

Helen Phillips, Pat Smith  
 Danny Wineland

28

Steve Goettler

29

Jim Wright

Did we miss a birthday?  
 Please call or email the office,  
 and we will update our records.

## Pilgrim Church - November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 All Saints Day 9:00am Worship 10:00am Wilson Small Group	2 7:00pm Boy Scouts	3 Election Day 10:00am Prayer Group	4	5	6	7 9:00am Praise Band Practice
8 9:00am Worship 10:00am Wilson Small Group	9 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm Missions Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts	10 10:00am Prayer Group	11 Office Closed Veteran's Day	12	13 6:00pm Fisher/Pierson Wedding Rehearsal	14 9:00am Praise Band Practice 3:00pm Fisher/Pierson Wedding
15 9:00am Worship 10:00am Wilson Small Group	16 Food Pantry Thanksgiving Distribution 6:30pm Finance Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts	17 10:00am Prayer Group 7:00pm BSA PLC	18 Newsletter Articles Due	19 10:30am PBJ Sandwich Makers 6:30pm BSA Committee Meeting	20	21 9:00am Praise Band Practice
22 Reign of Christ Sunday 9:00am Worship 10:00am Wilson Small Group	23 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm Boy Scouts	24 10:00am Prayer Group 7:00pm Council Meeting	25 JN Close at Noon 6:00pm Thanksgiving Eve Service	26 JN Closed Thanksgiving Day	27 JN Closed	28 9:00am Praise Band Practice
29 1st Sunday of Advent 9:00am Worship 10:00am Wilson Small Group	30 7:00pm Boy Scouts					