



# Pilgrim Church

UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

## January 2021 NEWSLETTER

The New Year is upon us ... FINALLY! I can honestly say that I am looking forward to 2020 coming to an end. It has been quite a year, to say the least! Many of us had looked to 2020 as a fresh start; it was a new year and a new decade. No one expected that a pandemic would sweep the world. Words and phrases like “quarantine” and “social distancing” became part of our vocabulary and masks became the new fashion trend. We were forced to cancel plans and separate ourselves from loved ones, in hopes that we all would remain healthy.

Unfortunately, for some, this was not the case. All of us know someone who has contracted the virus and we have waited anxiously to hear the good news that they had recovered. Many did recover, but some did not. So, 2020 has been a year of mourning for many of us.

Despite the heartache, anxiety, and frustrations, 2020 has also been a year of rediscovery, you could say. Many of us rediscovered the joy of spending time outside, walking around the harbor’s edge and through the many parks in our area. Many learned to cook and bake bread. Some took advantage of the opportunity to finally watch that show on Netflix they’ve been meaning to watch, while others chipped away at the stack of books they’ve had sitting on their coffee table. We have rediscovered the little things in life, which we may have overlooked in the past while partaking in the hype of mass entertainment and consumerism.

This pandemic has also given us the opportunity to slow down and reflect on what is profoundly

important. As we have been separated from family and friends, we have come to realize that the greatest aspect of our lives is our relationships. We’ve come to realize the importance of sitting down to share a cup of coffee or meal with a beloved and how much we miss handshakes and hugs. We now realize how much we need each other, as we have had to face some difficult things without the presence of a supportive friend.

2021 is going to be different, I just know it! Yes, we are beginning the year with the pandemic still disrupting our lives, but God is at work in our scientists and medical professionals. They have made great strides in regards to vaccines and treatments and I am confident we are beginning to see a light at the end of the tunnel. Therefore, the new year brings hope for better days, filled with joy and happiness. The new year also brings us the opportunity to change old habits and reevaluate our priorities, so that we may live abundant lives filled with love and connection. In other words, we have been given the opportunity to experience a resurrection into new lives!

As you start to consider New Year’s resolutions, I encourage you to first reflect on the lessons learned during 2020. Take time to remember those vital friendships and relationships you missed the most and make connection a priority. Take time to remember how much you missed being a part of your church family and consider new ways to get involved in church life, in order to nurture your relationship with this community.

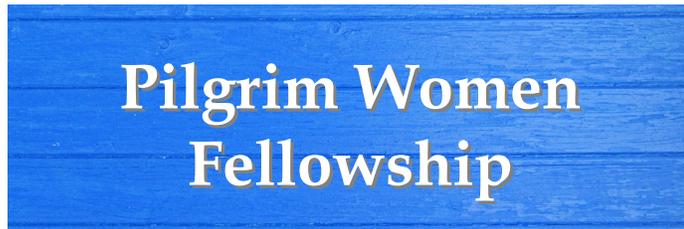
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2020 will only be a wasted year if we don't learn from it. I hope that you carry with you these lessons learned into the new year and that they help you make 2021 the best year possible.

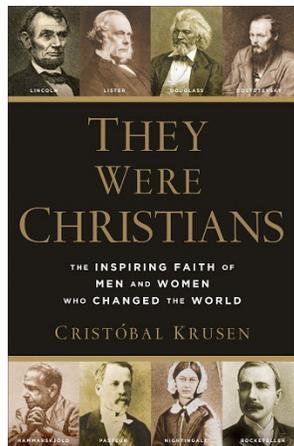
Blessings, Pastor John

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." - Lamentations 3:22-24



Meetings will resume on Thursday, January 7, at 10:00 a.m. The location will be outdoors under the portico of the Front Entrance to the Sanctuary. Please bring your own lawn chair. Church protocols for wearing masks and social distancing will be followed.

The program will be a continuation of the study of the inspiring faith of men and women who have changed the world. This month's study will feature the life of Frederick Douglass. The source document is the book [They Were Christians](#) by Cristobal Krusen.



If you would like to socialize after the meeting please bring a bag lunch to the small group.

ALL women of Pilgrim Church are welcome to attend this monthly study time. All you need to do is show up! For any questions you can contact Judi Wilson at 941-380-0877.

## From the Moderator

New Beginnings 2021

I first used this column title when I became your Moderator in January 2018.

How things have changed!

We are now into the second year of having to deal with COVID 19. The pandemic has forced us to reexamine so many aspects of our lives, including how we worship.

We have a new Pastor after a long and extensive search: Pastor John Barnette.

On the other hand, have things really changed that much?

Our faith and our Church, have not changed. We at Pilgrim have many reasons to be grateful.

We are still a Church run by volunteers under the guidance of our Church Leadership.

We still operate the finest faith based childcare center, Joyful Noise, in SW Florida.

We are still actively involved in the community through our mission programs

Therefore, in spite of it all...the bumps in the road, we have prevailed.

We must remember in our prayers those locally and across the globe who are less fortunate.

We must continue to support our Church with our time and our resources.

Don Anderson, Moderator

# 24 Hours of Prayer

I got up early one morning  
and rushed right into the day;  
I had so much to accomplish  
that I didn't have time to pray.

Problems just tumbled about me,  
and heavier came each task.  
"Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered.  
He answered, "You didn't ask."

I wanted to see joy and beauty,  
but the day toiled on, gray and bleak;  
I wondered why God didn't show me.  
He said, "But you didn't seek."

I tried to come into God's presence;  
I used all my keys at the lock.  
God gently and lovingly chided,  
"My child, you didn't knock."

I woke up early this morning,  
and paused before entering the day;  
I had so much to accomplish  
that I had to take time to pray.

Author unknown

The Prayer Group is encouraging members and friends of Pilgrim Church to participate in a 24 hour prayer vigil. From your homes, on January 1, to kick off the new year.

Pick an hour that you can stop and prayer, then call the church office or sign up today in the Narthex for the 24 hour prayer vigil on Friday, January 1, 2021. Prayer topic ideas to lift up:

- Pilgrim Church
- The Family
- Personal Renewal and Moral Awakening
- Federal, State & Local Leaders and Our Troops
- The Imprisoned and Persecuted
- Business Leaders, Mass and Social Media
- Education Administrators, Teachers, and Faculty
- Cultural and Social Services
- The Infirm and Those Treating the Sick
- The Depressed and Those Facing Job Loss

# Paper Prayer Dolls

Paper Prayer Dolls are back! The precious children of Joyful Noise Learning Center each created a paper doll.



The dolls, which have been laminated for easy cleaning, are available for you to "adopt" and pray over this year! The back of each paper doll has the student's name and age. Pick up your doll in the Narthex today and commit to pray for this student and their family!

# Pilgrim Face Masks

Masks with the Pilgrim logo are available for sale in the church office. Cost is \$6. Masks are

made of a 3-layer blend of Knit fabric, anti-dust, and are machine washable. Pick yours up today and represent Pilgrim Church!



# Food Pantry

We are open every Monday , 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Volunteers and food items and financial donations are always welcomed.

Our Food Pantry list:

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

# Thank You

We would like to thank you all for your well wishes, cards, and gifts as we retire. We so appreciate them all and will miss all of you.

A special thank you to Pastor John for his nice recognition of us. He has been wonderful to work with and we've enjoyed his good sermons. Pilgrim is blessed to have him.

Thanks, too, for our wonderful choir! They always worked so hard and were so faithful. They shared their talents and supported each other so willingly.

Pilgrim is a wonderful church. You all have a special place in our hearts. Thanks again. Stay safe and healthy.

God bless you all, Darryl & Mona Johnson

# A Thousand Words





# 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  
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, “Pilgrim Church of Port Charlotte” and be part of our online community during the week.

View our worship services at

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



## January Birthdays

- |    |                                |
|----|--------------------------------|
| 2  | Samantha Sosa                  |
| 6  | Vera Roscoe                    |
| 9  | Henry Swen                     |
| 11 | Kay Neilley                    |
| 17 | Sharon Sweeney<br>Dave O'Keefe |
| 18 | Gert Devantier<br>Mary Stoudt  |
| 19 | Jonathan Emard                 |
| 20 | Olive Prince                   |
| 27 | Phil Brown                     |
| 30 | Marlene Warburton              |

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



## Pilgrim Prayer List

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| Bill Wolf        | Howard Meader  |
| Gloria Kurbanali | Zander Jones   |
| Louise Timchak   | Louise Wright  |
| Dennis Tagge     | Leanne Minnick |
| Joe Beaudreau    | Gene Rice      |
| Carol Glanton    | Jim Wright     |
| John Hames       | Christ Church  |
| Jim Smith        | Valerie Stern  |
| Sidoney Johnston | Ken Rankin     |
| Karen Ahlgrim    | Cheryl Gerry   |
| Huff Family      | Enzo Raia      |

# Pilgrim Church January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Every Sunday</b> 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:15am Wilson Small Group 10:00am Contemporary Worship					1 New Years Day 24 Hour Prayer Vigil JN Closed	2 9:00am Praise Band Practice
3	4 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop Meeting	5 10:00am Prayer Group 7:00pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting	6 Epiphany 12:00pm Advent Bible Study 6:30pm Advent Bible Study Evening	7 10:00am Pilgrim Women	8	9 Cub Scout Campout 9:00am Praise Band Practice
10 The Baptism of Christ Sunday	11 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm Missions Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop Meeting	12 10:00am Prayer Group 7:00pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting	13	14 6:00pm Rhode Island Club	15 4:15pm Serving at The Homeless Coalition	16 9:00am Praise Band Practice
17	18 Martin Luther King Jr Day 10:00am Food Pantry 6:30pm Finance Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop Meeting	19 10:00am Prayer Group 7:00pm Boy Scout PLC 7:00pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting	20 Newsletter Article Deadline	21 10:30am PBJ Sandwich Makers	22	23 9:00am Praise Band Practice
24 2:00pm Rhode Island Club	25 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop Meeting	26 10:00am Prayer Group 7:00pm Council Meeting 7:00pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting	27	28 6:30pm Boy Scout Committee Meeting	29 4:15pm Serving at The Homeless Coalition	30 9:00am Praise Band Practice
31	 <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: #008080;">“We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.” -Hebrews 6:16</p>					