



Pilgrim Church

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

February 2021 NEWSLETTER

Salutations, my brothers, and sisters in Christ! I hope that you are excited about what is to come for Pilgrim Church in the coming year. I know I am! I feel confident that God is still very much at work in our world and has great plans in store for us. Therefore, I'm looking forward to the future with hope and excitement!

I am thrilled to hear that many in our congregation have already received or have appointments to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. As more of us become vaccinated, we will be able to gradually move back to stable, in-person worship, times of fellowship, and community-wide outreach projects. We will no longer speak of Wednesday night dinners and fall fests as things held in the past, but as activities we will soon enjoy again! Each day, I feel more confident that this pandemic will soon end and we will once again be able to come together as a church community and welcome each other with a hug or a handshake.

I am grateful for you and your commitment to Pilgrim Church. Because of your willingness to support this church, even when church life was at a standstill, Pilgrim Church survived both pandemic and an 18-month period without a settled pastor – not an easy feat! I want to take this moment to affirm and celebrate your faithfulness to God and to this church community.

As we move forward into a new chapter, I ask that you prayerfully consider how you can be involved in the part of the body of Christ that is Pilgrim Church. I strongly believe that our post-pandemic world will be different, presenting us with new challenges and new opportunities to share the love of Christ with our neighbors. Each member's participation, collaboration and innovation will be key to our success. Therefore, your ideas, questions, time, and labor will be essential and greatly appreciated as we re-energize our ministries.

Also, the ministry of the church requires financial support. In Luke 8:1-3, we find that Jesus relied on the financial support of His followers. His church is no different. Our services and ministries are funded by you, as church members. Your support strengthens the body and extends Christ's reach into our community. Moreover, tithing is a spiritual discipline that benefits the individual, as well. Tithing is a physical action that brings to life our trust in and commitment to God. I am appreciative of those who have pledged financial support to the church by turning in a pledge card, as well as those who have made private commitments to support the church financially. As we begin to revitalize our ministries, please prayerfully consider how you may be able to go above and beyond, when you are able, to support both old and new ministry initiatives.

As I said earlier, I am looking to the future with hope and excitement. God has led us this far, and He will continue to lead us into a bright, new future. By His grace, there will be new life at Pilgrim as we begin to come together as a community once more to fellowship together, support one another, and serve Christ by serving our community.

Each of you has been grafted into this part of the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit to strengthen it. Therefore, you are vital to the health of Pilgrim Church. So, come and be a part of your community of faith. You are wanted and needed. We celebrate you and what you bring to the table!

By His Holy Spirit, may God continue to inspire us and guide us as we move forward, together.

Sing praises to the Lord, O you His faithful ones, and give thanks to His holy name. For His anger is but for a moment; His favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.
Psalm 40:4-5

Pastor John

Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday, February 17

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, meaning "lengthen" and refers to the lengthening days of spring. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Today, Christians focus on relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter." This is why you will see the designation "Sunday in Lent" rather than "Sunday of Lent" in the naming of these Sundays. On each Lord's Day in Lent, while Lenten fasts continue, the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

Drive Through Recognition of Ashes

10:00 -11:00 a.m.

Pastor John will meet you at your vehicle under the covered portico entrance to the Narthex for a moment of reflection and recognition of ashes.

Please wear a mask.

Worship Service

6:30 p.m.

In the Sanctuary

The **2021 Lenten Devotional** *Promises Promises* is now available for \$3 in the church office.

This devotional includes an introduction and daily readings beginning Ash Wednesday and concluding on Easter Sunday, April 4. *Promises Promises* is a devotion by the StillSpeaking Writers Group. This group is composed of United Church of Christ ministers and writers who collaborate on resources for people in the church, outside the church, and not sure about the church.

Lenten Small Group Study with Pastor John

Wednesdays, February 24-March 31

Noon and 6:30 p.m.

Forgiveness: A Lenten Study by Marjorie Thompson
Is forgiveness a Christian duty under all circumstances? Combining biblical examples with real-life situations in six engaging sessions, this study encourages you to deepen your grasp and practice of this spiritual discipline.





From the Moderator

Annual Report 2020

Fellow Pilgrims, we had our 2020 Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 24. I know many more of you would have been there except for this dreadful virus that we are all dealing with. Please keep safe and return to the on-site Pilgrim services when you are comfortable.

So, for my column this month I thought I would summarize the highlights of the meeting. Of course you can always get a full copy of the Annual report by stopping by the Church Office during hours. Copies are also available for the taking in the Narthex.

Your Elected General Council for 2021:

Don Anderson Moderator

Members at Large

Phil Brown
Dan Donahue
Ken Ewing
Cheryl Gerry
Dionne Jones
Jessica Warne-Emard
Dave Wilson
Susan Wright

Five of your Council members terms will conclude at the end of this year. (We can serve a limit for four years.) Pilgrim is ALWAYS looking for those who are willing to step up and help run the Church. If you are interested please let any of the Council members know....or stop by the Church Office and talk to Pastor John.

Pilgrim is, also, always looking for volunteers for the Ministries that run the Church. Once again please stop by the Office if interested.

The Budget for 2021

The Budget as proposed calls for a balanced budget with \$1,187,710 of revenue being offset by an equivalent amount of expense. The Moderator, who delivered this report, also said that this was a best guess. Based on 2020 we really had little idea what impact COVID would have on Church and Joyful Noise in 2021. The Finance Ministry and the General Council will monitor the situation monthly and recommend any necessary changes to the Congregation.

Pastor Comments

The Annual Meeting concluded with a very positive presentation from our new Pastor, John Barnette. He said that he was very optimistic about the future of Pilgrim. He also repeatedly pointed out that it was our Church. Pastor John was chosen to be our leader but the Church will only be as strong as we want it to be. In other words, we are the church.

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. - Galatians 6:10

"Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth: Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."
- Isaiah 43: 18-19

Don Anderson, Moderator

Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That is faith.



Pastor Ken Reflections

SHALOM

The Hebrew word “Shalom” is most often translated into the English word “peace.” That is an adequate translation; however, it does not go to the deeper understanding of Shalom as the Jewish people understand it.

Shalom is used as a greeting and a departure when encountering a fellow believer. For me it is a marvelous way of establishing a relationship with another. In the greeting of Shalom you are seeking a warm, positive, caring interaction cementing a harmonious balance in relationship.

The basic translation of Shalom is harmony, which may imply peace. Most often we understand “peace” as the cessation of violence. For me, that is a limited understanding. Yes, we had “peace” during the Cold War; however, we did not have harmony. There was tension and distrust in our worldwide relationships; there was no coming together to create a harmonious relationship.

Today after the violence against democracy and it’s symbol (the USA Capital building) we have “peace” the cessation violence, but we do not have harmony in the country.

Shalom goes deeper than the simple peace of non violence, physical or relational. Shalom, “Harmony” implies caring for others, promoting justice in treatment of others, showing love and mercy for others. Greeting one another with Shalom is to say we are in tune with you and affirm a balance in our relationship. It is the affirmation of a relationship far deeper than simply not having a non violent one.

To have Shalom in our lives we need to live the Great Commandments to love in our relationships. Amen.



One on One with Pastor John

Pastor John’s door is open! If you want to share a cup of coffee or your story, Pastor John wants to visit with you. You are invited to email or call the Church Office (941-629-2633) and schedule an appointment.



Altar Flowers

If you would like to place flowers on the altar, please call the church office. Save your special 2021 dates now. A single arrangement will cost \$35, a double arrangement is \$50.



Annual Report

Copies of the 2020 Annual Report are now available in the Narthex. Along with the historical information on the various ministries and projects of Pilgrim Church, this report includes the 2021 Leadership and budget. If you would like this report electronically, please email the church office at office@pilgrimonline.org.



From the Parish Administrator

Greetings, Pilgrims! I would like to thank those of you who ventured out into the wilderness to attend the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 24. It was my first time seeing those in attendance in quite a few weeks, as Judy and I are continuing to stay safe at home. Hopefully all that will change soon as we begin to see the answer to our prayers that puts this virus under control.

At our Annual Meeting, we passed a budget that, quite frankly, was difficult to believe could be met under current financial circumstances. What do I mean? Simply said, our income will not meet the need for expenses. This is not unusual in most churches, but we traditionally have not been "most churches." Your giving has always been generous, and I have no reason to believe that this year will not be the same. But, because we could not run any kind of organized stewardship campaign, our pledges for gifts and tithes was not as much as we hoped or needed. Where does that leave Pilgrim Church? It leaves us in a position of more than careful scrutiny when it comes to expenses versus income, and possibly a revision or two in the budget as we move forward.

So what does that mean for you, the members and friends of Pilgrim Church? It means that now, more than ever, we need your support, both physically and financially. Physically, you can offer your talents to join one of the ministries here at Pilgrim. Or perhaps you would care to help with some grounds maintenance on our campus. If you would like to share your talents, please call Cat Foster in the Church Office and let her know. I am sure she can pass your talent along to the right people.

In addition to your physical talents, you also have the ability to help our Pilgrim family financially. Did you ever consider giving all,

or a portion, of your recent stimulus check to the church? We need stimulating too! Fortunately, I am in a position to do just that, and I will. That is not to say that all of you are in a position to do that. I ask you to consider your choices as to what to do with this money, but please include Pilgrim Church in those choices. I am very confident that at the end of the year, the overwhelming generosity of our congregation will once again "keep the lights on" at Pilgrim Church.

As ever, the gift of Jesus in our lives makes us better in our hearts. I always say "Thank You" to our Lord for giving me the talents to serve Pilgrim and to carry on with His work. Let each one of us find our talents, thank the Lord for them, and put them to good use by serving and giving. Giving time, talents, and finances is a wonderful feeling, especially when it comes from the heart and in the spirit of Jesus!

Please consider volunteering at Pilgrim. Please include Pilgrim in your decision on how to best use your stimulus money. Finally, please keep Pilgrim Church and all its ministries in your prayers. God bless you all, and stay happy, stay healthy, and stay safe.

As ever, your servant in Christ,

Russ Whittaker





Thank You Notes

From the Marty Dewitte Family:

Thanks to so many wonderful members and friends that Mom got to know so well. Thanks to Mike Faber for always making sure Mom got to her car safely on Wednesday dinners. She loved Pilgrim Church, the dinners and helping with the Reading Program. Bless you all, Lu Anne & Mike Gruenke

From YoungLife Charlotte Harbor

Dear Friends,
Thank you very much for your support of YoungLife. You are helping the student of Charlotte County have a better understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Tom Parker & The Young Life Staff



Joyful Noise Learning Center is very excited to have the Joyful Noise School Board in place. The Board is a collaboration of Pilgrim Church members, Joyful Noise parents, and Joyful Noise Administration. The Joyful Noise School Board will meet for the first time in February. We are looking forward to the board providing guidance in policy making, adjustments and changes due to State regulations, and staff support.

The students of Joyful Noise are looking forward to their Valentine Parties as they create their crafty valentine's in class.

Be sure to check out the new bulletin board in the Narthex from the Pond VPK class.



Offering Envelopes

The Offering Envelopes for 2021 have arrived and are ready to be picked up!



The pre-dated weekly and special giving envelopes boxes can be found on the table in the Narthex. Please make sure to pickup your envelope box the next Sunday you are at the church or stop by during office hours. The church office is open Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. If you are

not comfortable leaving your vehicle, we'll be happy to run the box out to you!

To help distribute envelopes, please feel free to also pick-up those of neighbors or close friends which you may be able to deliver to them.



Pilgrim Prayer List

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Gloria Kurbanali | Jim Wright |
| Louise Timchak | Enzo Raia |
| Bill Wolf | Savina Krueger |
| Joe Beaudreau | John Krueger |
| Carol Glanton | Linley Ross |
| John Hames | Lily Ross |
| Sidoney Johnston | Samantha Tagge |
| Howard Meader | Jim Smith |
| Zander Jones | Tamara |
| Louise Wright | Family of Gail Ethridge |
| Leanne Minnick | Dan Merriman |
| Robert Garofola | Cindy Guilfoyle & Paris |
| Gene Rice | Sheri Umscheid |

Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set alarms to wake up. That is hope.



For those who wish to worship from home, join us for a Live Online Worship Experience!

It is important to note that we are in the infant stages of livestream worship. You may experience quality inconsistencies regarding images and sound. Please bear with us as we work to get the new technology running smoothly. All feedback is very welcome - good or bad. Your feedback will help inform further discussions pertaining to the exploration of technologies associated with livestreaming.

To watch the 10:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service in real time go to pilgrimonline.org and click the menu button "Online Worship" or check in on the Pilgrim Church Facebook page. If you are following Pilgrim Church on Facebook, you should receive an automatic notification just before 10:00 am that we are live.

If you miss the real time live service, you will still be able to watch archived recordings of the service at the same places as usual. The recording will take a few minutes to be rendered and posted following the end of the live stream.

Once we have the glitches worked out our plan is to add the Traditional Service to the live stream options.

If you attend the Traditional Service and would be willing to learn more about the video team please see Pastor John. We need you!

When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That is trust.



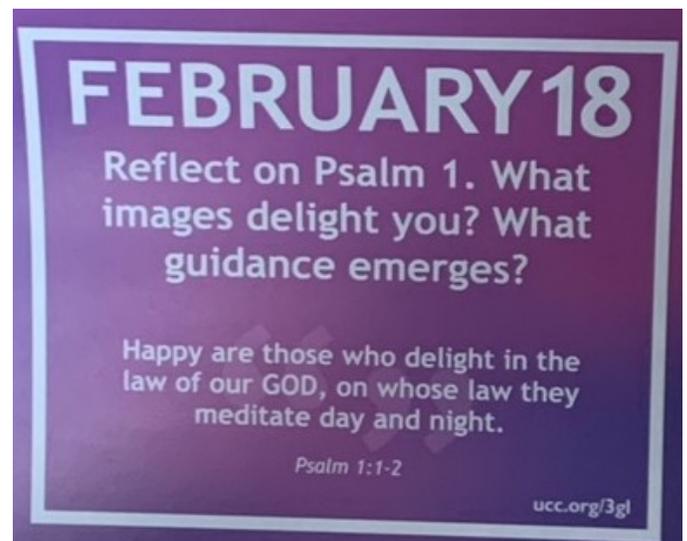
Join us Thursday, February 4, at 10:00 a.m. in the Coffee Room. Church protocols for wearing masks and social distancing will be followed.

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.



The 2021 Habitat for Humanity Apostles Build home will be in Deep Creek! On Saturday, March 6, we are assigned to complete the interior painting. Please get with Tony Caniglia for details or to sign up for this day of service.

This year's home is going to a single dad who has committed his own sweat equity and all the background requirements.





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 needed and very welcomed.

Did you know: In 2020 we distributed 487 bags of food? It served 1,532 adults and 625 children. That is 2,157 people that were provided food last year thanks to everyone's generous support!

If you think you would like to volunteer on a rotating basis, stop by the pantry 9:30 on a Monday and try it out! Don't forget your mask!

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 |



Prayer Group

Prayer Meeting is every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. We are meeting by phone conference, so pick a comfortable seat and dial 941-258-2597.

We continue to pray for new members to join our group.



Good News Club

We continue to minister to the Deep Creek Elementary children and their families in several different ways:

- Praying for children and families individually
- Delivering packets of Biblical materials to their doorsteps
- Weekly emails that contained online resources such as Bible lessons, songs, and crafts

In the next few weeks Jacque will be taking the staff flowers and some snacks to let them know we care for them and are praying for them.

If you would like to assist in this ministry reach out to 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
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.joyfulnoiselc.org
Cynthia Poudrette, Director of Joyful Noise

Find us on 

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



February
Birthdays

2

Dave Wheatcroft

10

Randy Blanchard
John Krueger

11

Bob McWhirter

12

Jane Beaudreau
Carol Smith

13

Jay Kelly

15

John Sweatt
Linda Shipp

17

Kevin Beaver

18

Carol Veigel

21

Joan Meader

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

On an old man’s shirt was written a
sentence “I am not 80 years old;
I am sweet 16 with 64 years of
experience.” That is attitude.



Pilgrim Church February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop Meeting	2 10:00am Prayer Group 7:00pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting	3	4 10:00am Pilgrim Women Fellowship 6:00pm Rhode Island Club	5	6 9:00am Praise Band Practice
7	8 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop Meeting 7:00pm Missions Meeting	9 10:00am Prayer Group 7:00pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting	10	11	12	13 9:00am Praise Band Practice
14	15 President's Day 10:00am Food Pantry 6:30pm Finance Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop Meeting	16 10:00am Prayer Group 7:00pm Boy Scout PLC 7:00pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting	17 Ash Wednesday Newsletter Article Deadline 10:00am Recognition of Ashes Drive Through 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service	18 10:30am PBJ Sandwich Makers	19 4:15pm Serving at The Homeless Coalition	20 9:00am Praise Band Practice
21 1st Sunday in Lent	22 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop Meeting	23 10:00am Prayer Group 7:00pm Council Meeting	24 12:00pm Lenten Bible Study 6:30pm Lenten Bible Study	25 6:30pm Boy Scout Committee Meeting	26	27 9:00am Praise Band Practice 5:00pm Cub Scout Blue & Gold Banquet
28 2nd Sunday in Lent	<p>Every Sunday 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:15am Wilson Small Group in the Library 10:00am Contemporary Worship including Children's Sunday School</p>					

“For God so loved the world that He gave
 His one and only Son,
 that whoever believes in Him shall not perish
 but have eternal life.

—John 3:16