



Pilgrim Church

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

April 2021 NEWSLETTER

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin,) one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." 28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

John 20:24-29

Have you ever experienced doubt? If you answer "no," well ... I'm skeptical. Doubt and skepticism are part of human nature, especially when what we hear or see seems beyond belief. No one wants to be made a fool of or come across as gullible. Therefore, we throw up the guard of doubt and mistrust and demand proof.

When it comes to our faith, we are not different. We live in a world that is constantly challenging our faith. I am sure that each of you has had a time or two in your life, maybe even lately, that you've questioned your faith. "What is it that I actually believe?" "If God is real, why do bad things happen?" "If God is real, why doesn't he just make himself known in a big way?" "If you are real, God, show me!"

Sound familiar? Yeah. For me too.

Jesus' disciple Thomas has always gotten an undeserved bum rap because of his doubt regarding his friends talk about Jesus being raised from the dead. Instead of breaking out in songs of praise and joy, he basically says, "PROVE IT."

"Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe," he responded. For Thomas, the proclamation that Christ had risen wasn't enough. He had to see it for himself.

But here's the thing. Even though Thomas had his doubts, he didn't cut and run. Scripture tells us that he was in the room with his friends a week later. He showed up, with his doubts and all, and waited on the Lord.

And Jesus delivered. He appeared before the disciples once again and allowed Thomas to touch his wounds. "My Lord and my God!" He proclaimed in response.

We doubt. At times our faith gets a little shaky as we try to see Jesus moving about around us. When doubt comes, remember Jesus did not reprimand Thomas for his doubt. He showed up for Thomas simply because Thomas kept coming back to that room where Jesus had appeared, despite his skepticism.

Thomas reminds us that sometimes it is in our times of doubt, when we are struggling to understand, that Jesus shows up and shows out, moving in new ways that help us to see his presence in our lives. All we must do is simply be willing to show up, too.

Blessings, Pastor John



Holy Week

Maundy Thursday, April 1

6:30 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Good Friday, April 2

6:30 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, April 4

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Worship behind the Sanctuary

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

10:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship

Women's Fellowship

What do you know about Fyodor Dostoyevsky? That he was Russian? Yes! That he was a brilliant writer? Yes! He wrote *Crime and Punishment* and *The Brothers Karamazov*. Come to our Meeting on April 1, at 10:00 a.m. to learn of his fascinating life as a man of faith that changed the world. This review is a continuation of a year-long study of inspired world figures with God at the center of their lives.

We meet in the Coffee Room off the sanctuary and follow the Church's COVID protocol for Small Groups.

The group's most recent mission project is finding ways to support the staff at Joyful Noise school and contribute to a scholarship program for enrolled families in need.

From the Moderator

WHAT BRINGS YOU JOY?

After 2020 we all have to think, "How did we do it?" Just how did we get through one of the most trying years in recent memory?

Most of us are not Florida natives. Many of us therefore have spent an entire year without seeing our family face to face. Skype, Zoom and the phone do not make up for missed occasions like births, graduations, holidays and birthdays. So our typical family support network became frayed. We had to develop different ways to bring joy to our lives.

In my case my involvement at Pilgrim and my faith in God played an important role in allowing me to maintain a more positive attitude. I knew that in spite of it all, things were really not that bad. I knew we would recover, life would go on and we would be ready for the next challenge that the world and God would throw at us.

May I suggest that this last year has been an extended Lent for us all? We gave up many things in the last year to ensure the survival of our family our friends and ourselves. We each have a list of what didn't happen. 2020 was our penance.

How better to view 2020 if not through the eyes of our faith.

We are now prepared for the celebration that is Easter. Easter the beginning of our Christian faith. Where the actions of one person in Jesus brought us a new beginning.

Let us concentrate on the future.

Let that bring us joy!

Don Anderson, Moderator

Serving at the Homeless Coalition

We all know the difference eye contact can make in a persons self worth. Dignity is a gift you can give! This month we serve as waitstaff at the Homeless Coalition

TWICE! On the 3rd & 5th Fridays at 4:15 p.m. Pilgrims willing to serve are always needed! Please reach out to Elaine Boersma for details or with any questions!



Parish Administrator

I hope this newsletter finds you healthy and safe. I also hope that many of you have received either some or all of one of the Covid vaccines. For the record, Judy and I have been fully inoculated.

I am also looking forward to the return of those persons who have been inoculated to our Sunday services. There is room for social distancing in both services. We do continue to wear masks and have temperatures taken at the door; therefore, please consider returning to "in-person" worship. I feel spiritually fed after attending church on Sunday mornings, and I can't wait to get the handbell choir ringing once again!

Now for the sad part of my message. I have notified Pastor John and our moderator, Don Anderson, that I am stepping aside as your Parish Administrator. I have been in that position for three years, happily volunteering to do so. It was always my intent when I volunteered that I would step aside once our church was firmly in the hands of a good pastor. We are now at that stage.

I want to thank all of you for making my time as Parish Administrator a wonderful experience. Was it all fun and games? Of course not, but knowing I had the support of my fellow Pilgrims made it all worthwhile. I have made friends and met people who otherwise may never have crossed my path, and that always adds to one's life. I will always, in some way here or there, be part of Pilgrim Church. I am not moving or leaving Pilgrim Church. As I told Pastor John and Don, God is not done with me yet.

Once again, thank you for the privilege of being able to serve you, serve Pilgrim Church, and serve the Lord.

Yours Faithfully in Christ,

Russ Whittaker, Parish Administrator



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.



The Hand of God

Little Philip was walking home in the rain with his mother following Sunday worship. It finally stopped raining as they rounded the corner, where to their surprise and delight appeared a vivid double rainbow in the sky.

"Doesn't it look like an artist painted this rainbow?" his mother exclaimed. "I bet God painted this just for you!"

"Yes," replied Philip, "God did it, and he did it left handed."

Confused, his mother asked him, "What makes you say God did this with his left hand?"

"Well," said Philip, "we learned in Sunday School that Jesus sits on God's right hand."



United Church of Christ

We believe in the triune God.

We believe that each person is unique and valuable.

We believe that each person is on a spiritual journey.

We believe that the persistent search for God produces an authentic relationship with God.

We believe that all of the baptized 'belong body and soul to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.'

We believe that all people of faith are invited to join Christ at Christ's table for the sacrament of Communion.

We believe the UCC is called to be a united and uniting church.

We believe that God calls us to be servants in the service of others.

We believe that the UCC is called to be a prophetic church.

We believe in the power of peace.

We are a people of possibility.



Spring has sprung and the students at Joyful Noise are learning all about how things grow and new life.

We focus on growing and new life at this time to share and teach that Easter is all about new life. Classes have planted seeds and are observing how they grow.



A seed is cold and hard like Jesus' tomb. We watch as life comes from that cold hard seed and becomes a beautiful plant. This is a visible reminder that Jesus rose from the cold hard tomb to give us everlasting life! Happy Easter!

Cynthia, Director



Eagle Scout Project

Troop 351, Life Scout TJ Graves is preparing his Eagle Scout Project this Spring. His goal is to prepare at least 20 duffel bags/backpacks filled with 3 sets of clothes, shoes, toiletries and gear to be shared with homeless veterans in Charlotte County. Donations are appreciated! There is a collection box for clothes, toiletries and basic camping gear such as: flashlights, headlamps, water bottles duffel bags and backpacks in the Narthex. The collection ends April 18.

TJ is a 14 year old, 7th grader at Charlotte Middle School. He has been in scouting for 6 years.

Pilgrim Prayer List

Gloria Kurbanali	Samantha Tagge
Louise Timchak	Jim Smith
Bill Wolf	Doug Terry
Joe Beaudreau	Sgt. Michael Cote
Carol Glanton	Sandy Wheatcroft
John Hames	Cat Foster
Sidoney Johnston	Zander Jones
Howard Meader	Phil Brown
Louise Wright	Sharon Eon Harris
Gene Rice	Raine
Jim Wright	Judy Michaels
Enzo Raia	Ken Rhoe
Ken Rankin	Linda
Savina Krueger	Roger Byrne
John Krueger	Elizabeth Aragon

Food Pantry

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

Our Food Pantry list:

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

For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. -Song of Solomon 2:11-12



Pilgrim Church
 A Congregation of
 The United Church of Christ

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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, 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



2

Dawn Miller
 Sharyn Schwabach

4

Velma Bennett
 Debbie Stephenson

5

Susie Del Aguaro

6

Ken Ewing
 Karin Raia
 Char Semon

8

Pina Raia

9

Sharon Cooper
 Bruce Devantier

10

Carlton Noles

11

Don Anderson
 Harvey Shupe
 Genny Sweetland

18

Judi Wilson

21

Glenn Dulick
 Allen Moll
 Kathy Wagner

22

Beatrice Victoria

30

Connie Rice

Did we miss a birthday?
 Please call or email the office,
 so we may update the records.



Pilgrim Church April 2021

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Every Sunday
 8:00am Traditional Worship
 9:05am Wilson Small Group
 10:00am Contemporary Worship

1 Maundy Thursday 10:00am Pilgrim Women Fellowship 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Worship	2 Good Friday JN Closed 6:30pm Good Friday Worship	3 Holy Saturday 9:00am Praise Band Practice
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4 Easter 7:00am Sunrise Worship	5 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop Meeting	6 10:00am Prayer Group 7:00pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting	7	8	9	10 5:00pm Boy Scout Spaghetti Fundraiser 9:00am Praise Band Practice
11	12 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop Meeting 7:00pm Missions Meeting	13 10:00am Prayer Group 7:00pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting	14	15 10:30am PBJ Sandwich Makers	16 4:15pm Serving at The Homeless Coalition	17 9:00am Praise Band Practice 4:00pm Cub Scout Crossover
18	19 10:00am Food Pantry 6:30pm Finance Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop Meeting	20 10:00am Prayer Group 7:00pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scout PLC	21 Newsletter Article Deadline	22 Earth Day	23	24 9:00am Praise Band Practice
25	26 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop Meeting	27 10:00am Prayer Group 7:00pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting 7:00pm Council Meeting	28	29 6:30pm Boy Scout Committee Meeting	30 Serving at The Homeless Coalition	

"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." John 11:25