

“I trust you.” Three little words that have quite the impact. Three little words that most people are careful to use. For the most part, one must earn trust. A person must keep their promises, demonstrating that he or she has integrity before gaining another person’s trust. She must prove to be honest, upright, true to her word. He must say what he means and mean what he says.

We all need someone who we call “my person.” He or she, whether a friend, family member, or spouse, is the one person who can be trusted whole-heartedly. This person is the one with whom you celebrate good news. This person is the one to whom you vent about the cashier who shortchanged you at the store. This person is the one you call when life falls apart because you know they will keep your confidence and help you put the pieces back together.

However, trust is fragile; it can easily be broken. Now I’m fully aware that even the most trustworthy friend slips up every now and then. They forget a lunch date or overlook something important on occasion. But, for the most part, their track record is solid. Sure, our trust in them might get a little bruised every now and then, but for the most part, we can forgive the occasional mishap and our relationship with them heals and remains strong.

But, what about when trust is completely shattered? What happens when the offense is so bad that trust cannot be restored? It’s a hard question for a Christian. We are often told to forgive and forgive often, which is true. Forgiveness is an important part of our faith. However, what I feel we often don’t take into consideration is what happens after forgiveness.

When we forgive someone, we are giving up our right to retribution as well as cutting both parties free from the past. Through forgiveness, a new start has been created at which point both parties ask, “Where do we go from here?”

At this point, you can decide to seek reconciliation and give the relationship another shot. However, at this point the option to part ways amicably in the spirit of goodwill, is also on the table.

Sometimes the latter option is the only option.

If the relationship is toxic and trust cannot be restored, the relationship is hindered from maturing and both persons are at risk of failing to grow and mature. In this case, it is okay to release the relationship. You can go your way and let the other person go their way. Forgiveness has now allowed the opportunity for each person to be free of distrust, which holds one in the past as he or she questions everything that takes place based on past offenses. Now you and the other person are free to make new, healthy relationships that offer the benefits that healthy relationships bring, such as support, encouragement, and reliability.

Yes. We are to forgive, and we are to forgive often. Forgiveness, though, does not necessarily mean we are to remain in toxic, harmful relationships. Forgiveness may be a means of opening a door that allows each person to move forward in their own direction, free from a past that was detrimental to growth and development. Sometimes, all we can do is say, “I forgive you. Now, may God bless you and keep you as you go.” And sometimes, that’s enough. Amen.

Blessings, Pastor John

# What is Pentecost?

Pentecost is recognized as the “birthday” of the Christian Church and offers a creative opportunity to celebrate the wonder and mystery of God, the teachings of Jesus Christ, and the powerful gifts of the Holy Spirit.

All Christian denominations which profess belief in the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) are “pentecostal” in that they profess that the Holy Spirit is a direct presence of God within their lives.

In Acts 2, we study how the apostles gathered to celebrate the Jewish harvest festival on the 50th day after Passover, when suddenly the Holy Spirit descended on them. It sounded like a very strong wind, and it looked like tongues of fire. The apostles began speaking in foreign languages, inspired by the Holy Spirit. People passing by at first thought that the apostles must be drunk, but Peter told the crowd that the apostles were full of the Holy Spirit.

Do we, Pilgrim Church, even “do” Pentecost? Yes, we even encourage each other to wear a bit of red on Pentecost, to symbolize the fiery spirit of the day and our commitment to respond to the call of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

And here’s the good news:

Pentecost didn’t just happen once, a long, long time ago. Multiple Pentecosts are recorded in Acts; multiple times — that is, when the Spirit is poured out, and people come to faith. For example:

- \* Philip baptizes the Ethiopian Eunuch, or
- \* Paul has his experience on the Road to Damascus and is converted,
- \* Peter’s encounter with Cornelius,
- \* And more!

The Spirit continues to move through the history of God’s people Israel, and on into the history of the church, right down to our lives today.

See you in red on Sunday, May 23, as we celebrate this special day!

# From the Moderator

Every Storm Will Pass but God’s Promises are Eternal

Hopefully as you read this column you and your loved ones will either have had or soon will be getting your COVID vaccine. 2020 was a difficult year for all of us. This year hopefully is looking up for you. 2021 kicked off with great promise for Pilgrim.

- \* We filled our Pastor position with a very bright, dynamic man from the Carolinas, Rev. John Barnette.
- \* Joyful Noise has recovered and is full of eager young minds.
- \* We are open for God’s Business.

SO IT’S TIME TO COME BACK AND SEE OLD FRIENDS AND MAKE NEW ONES!

Time to reach out to those friends you were meaning to invite to Pilgrim. Time to come and celebrate with us the passing of a difficult year.

The area is booming. The Congregation said, on the Pastor Search Survey, that growth was what you wanted. That growth begins with you! Doing God’s Work with kindness and compassion. Asking ourselves on a daily basis “what would Jesus do?”

It is time to put COVID behind us and not let it rule our lives. No, I am not saying to ignore taking reasonable precautions. I’m saying that we are social creatures and we are at our best when we interact with others.

People are hurting as a result of last year. It is a Christian thing to do to reach out and comfort them.

So, put on your Sunday best.

Show up.

Serve.

And ask “How can I help?” Your Church is counting on you!

“Action springs not from thought, but from a readiness for responsibility.” - Detrick Bonhoffer

Don Anderson, Moderator

## Women's Fellowship

Come to our meeting on Thursday, May 6, at 10:00 a.m. to learn of a fascinating 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. Our subject is Dag Hammarskjold, the second Secretary General of the United Nations. He was appointed in 1953.

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

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

A field trip is planned for Wednesday, May 12, to go Blueberry picking at the Albritton farm in Sarasota. Transportation will be provided by private car caravan. We will leave the church parking lot at 9:00 a.m. and we will return at noon.

Join us for fun and fellowship.

Join us as we meet and share how God is present in our lives.

## 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.

## Prayer Shawl

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is stocked. Different sizes and lots of colors available. If you could use a shawl for yourself or neighbor, please call the Pilgrim Church office or call Gayle Bratton at 941-764-3454.

## Food Pantry

Special collection for Memorial Weekend, please donate bottles of these items to donate: BBQ Sauce, Mayonnaise, Mustard, Ketchup.

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	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 mixed veggies	peanut butter
assorted canned beans	jelly
canned peas	snacks
canned fruit	canned tuna
ramen noodles	toilet paper
spaghetti sauce	paper towels

## Reach Out

Are you able to make a few phone calls every week? Do you want to build a relationship with your fellow Pilgrims?

We have Pilgrims who don't use the internet and wish to stay in touch. The goal is to BE the church and to love on our brothers and sisters.

Let Pastor John or the Church Office know that you are available to serve!



Check out our photos: Early in April, our amazing students had a busy week celebrating and learning about the Resurrection of Christ!



Everyone at Joyful Noise is busier than usual because the end of our school year is fast approaching. All teachers are busy with end-of-year assessments, parent-teacher conferences are being planned, and VPK Graduation invitations have been sent. Our VPK Graduation will be on Friday, May 21. Again, this year we are staggering the graduation ceremony with one class graduating at a time, limiting attendance, and no group program. This will allow for physical distancing and limiting exposure to all attendees.

Our Summer Camp begins on June 1, and is filling up quickly. We have lots of fun activities and crafts planned including water days, ice cream truck visits, and a bounce house.

Cynthia Pourdrette, Director

## Pilgrim Prayer List

Gloria Kurbanali  
 Louise Timchak  
 Bill Wolf  
 Joe Beaudreau  
 Carol Glanton  
 John Hames  
 Sidoney Johnston  
 Howard Meader  
 Gene Rice  
 Jim Wright  
 Enzo Raia  
 Ken Rankin  
 Savina Krueger

John Krueger  
 Jim Smith  
 Sgt. Michael Cote  
 Sandy Wheatcroft  
 Zander Jones  
 Judy Michaels  
 Jacob Kuhlman  
 Jean Shunk  
 McKenna O'Neill  
 Darryl Johnson  
 Mona Johnson  
 Marilyn Randall

## Memorial Day

Special Memorial Day Service  
 Honoring Heroes from  
 Our Armed Forces, Police and Fire  
 Sunday, May 30  
 6:30 p.m.  
 In the Sanctuary

All those who have served or who have had a friend or family member who has served are encouraged to attend. Please feel free to invite those who you feel would appreciate this opportunity to remember those who sacrificed their all to serve and protect.

Monday, May 31

\* Office Closed \* Food Party Closed \*



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, 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

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)



3  
Robert Emard

5  
Gary Cooper

6  
Vasa O'Leary  
Judy Whittaker

7  
Fred Ripley  
Gerry Ahlgrim

9  
Judy Prier

12  
Phyllis Keller

15  
David Brown  
Susan Wright

16  
Madeline Santiago

17  
James Keller

18  
Kerry Yelk

19  
George Stull

22  
Tootie Singer  
Karen Ahlgrim

30  
Jo Sweatt

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

## Pilgrim Church May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Every Sunday</b> 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:05am Wilson Small Group 10:00am Contemporary Worship						1 9:00am Praise Band Practice
2	3 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop Meeting	4 10:00am Prayer Group 7:00pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting	5	6 10:00am Pilgrim Women Fellowship 6:00pm JN Board Meeting	7	8 9:00am Praise Band Practice
9 Mother's Day	10 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop Meeting 7:00pm Missions Meeting	11 10:00am Prayer Group 7:00pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting	12 9:00am Pilgrim Women Blueberry Picking	13 Ascension Day	14 7:00am JN Pastries with Parents	15 9:00am Praise Band Practice
16	17 JN VPK Graduation Rehearsal 10:00am Food Pantry 6:30pm Finance Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop Meeting	18 JN VPK Graduation Rehearsal 10:00am Prayer Group 7:00pm Boy Scout PLC 7:00pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting	19 JN VPK Graduation Rehearsal Newsletter Article Deadline	20 JN VPK Graduation Rehearsal 10:30am PBJ Sandwich Makers 6:30pm Boy Scout Committee Meeting	21 JN Close at Noon 10:00am JN VPK Graduation 4:15pm Serving at The Homeless Coalition	22 9:00am Praise Band Practice
23 Pentecost Sunday	24 10:00am Food Pantry	25 10:00am Prayer Group 7:00pm Council Meeting 7:00pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting	26	27	28 JN Closed - Teacher Work Day	29 9:00am Praise Band Practice
30 Trinity Sunday 6:30pm Memorial Day Service	31 JN Closed Memorial Day Office Closed					

And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ... All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. -Acts 2: 2,4