

Words. Words. Words. We are surrounded by words. They come to us from all directions. We hear them coming from our televisions, and radios; we read them in books and newspapers; and we hear people talking to us. We need words. We have been sharing useful information by using words for thousands of years! I can't begin to imagine what human-kind would look like if God had not gifted us with the ability to communicate with words.

Words are powerful. Whether we always realize it or not, the words that we use have the power to heal as well as the power to hurt.

Words can be helpful and encouraging. We can use them to build others up and strengthen relationships. Words of affirmation can help a person gain confidence and help them recognize their own gifts and talents.

In the same vein, words can help build relationships. We can use our words to welcome and comfort another person. We can use words to communicate love and care to another.

However, sometimes we don't necessarily use our words for good. When angry, bitter or upset, we can discharge words that are sharp, hateful, and mean. We all too quickly lash out at those with whom we are upset, or those closest to us, sometimes calling them inappropriate names, and speaking ill of them to others.

Let's not forget our tendency to gossip either. Opening phrases like "You won't believe what I heard...", "You didn't hear this from me, but...", and "Let me just tell you what he did..." often catch our ear and draw us into listening to the other person's idle chatter. Even though we know that the story we are about to hear is most likely embellished, we listen intently to whatever our informant has to say, sometimes hoping to hear a piece of incriminating information that proves embarrassing or detrimental to the person of whom one is speaking. Very rarely does anything good come from gossip.

Our words are not to be used to hurt and cut others down. They are to be used to heal and build up. Ephesians 4:29 tells us, *"Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear."* As Christians, we are called to use our words for good. When we talk, the message that we speak should glorify God and be spoken with love, compassion, and, as the above verse points out, grace. This especially holds true within the church. Therefore, brothers and sisters, I challenge you to put away hateful words and pointless gossip. Instead use the words that you speak to build each other up and encourage each other so others may come to know Christ through you.

Blessings!
Pastor John

From the Moderator

"If I sit next to a madman as he drives a car into a group of innocent bystanders, I can't as a Christian, simply wait for the catastrophe, then comfort the wounded and bury the dead. I must try to wrestle the steering wheel out of the hands of the driver."

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

(Noted German Theologian on the eve of WWII)

World War II was a direct result of the failure of the peace accords coming out of World War I. From the failure of those accords a new element rose around the world; a culture of blame. 'We lost because of...' 'We didn't get everything we were entitled to.' 'It was their fault.' So, another war, concentration camps and sixty million dead. Ethnic cleansing. Genocide. Vengeance on people because of past wrongs... some centuries old. Hate.

No one wrestled the wheel out of the hands of the drivers!

What does any of this have to do with us at Pilgrim United Church of Christ?

We must not forget that we are ALL God's children. We are loved unconditionally. There is no difference in that love based on race, intellectual ability, physical traits, color of our skin, ethnic origin, economic status or gender. None.

What can we do? Fight the prejudice. Stand up for the less fortunate. Welcome All to celebrate with us in Christian love. Remember the Three Great Loves initiative from the UCC: Love of Neighbor. Love of Children. Love of Creation. All three working in tandem to address inequities in society.



Let Love, not fear or hate govern our actions. As Christians we are duty bound to wrestle with that steering wheel every day.

Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I help you. I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

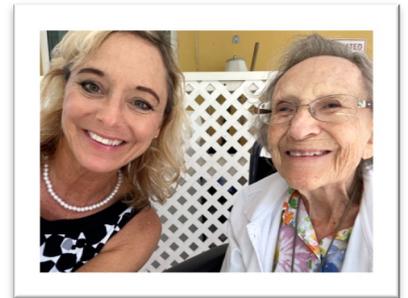
-Isaiah 41:10

Don Anderson, Moderator

Music Matters

I have been blessed this past month with the privilege and opportunity to be with my dear friend, Dotty who was just recently moved to a nursing home nearby in Nokomis. She lost her husband in the last year just prior to COVID and has been staying with her son up until this time, who was just diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. While this has been a time of change and turmoil in their lives, I have also observed and been blessed to take part in the opportunities for God's provision of great joy to take over in the presence of sorrow and loss along with being adopted as a 'heart-adopted' granddaughter to Dotty (and niece to Chris) by this wonderful caring family, as have my children. We have been very close friends with their daughter Pam for over a decade now, and it is beautiful how God weaves together the tapestries of life and inter-relations of families in such an intricate and well-designed way.

While visiting with Dotty on Sunday, we shared what had taken place in our lives during the past week



and then she paused for a moment and said, "I hope you don't mind if I don't have that much to say today." She is completely blind and hard of hearing, so at times, prefers to be in solitude while still being in the presence of others and wanted me to know that she appreciated my coming to visit her, even though she was being still and quiet. I answered back in return that of course it was okay, and a few moments later, it came to mind that I should sing hymns to her. She immediately lit up with a smile on her face, and said, "Oh, that would be lovely!" So, I did, and we had a beautiful time of worship together and sang 'In the Garden,' and "How Great Thou Art." Then, we just held hands and she put my hands up to her face for a long while to just enjoy being near someone who loved her very much. I am so thankful for these precious moments with the power of the Holy Spirit and the ability to nurture someone just by being available and present. Human connection is so very important and life is precious every day; I pray that I will take time for remembrance of this throughout my time here on earth and practice my utmost for His highest.

Hoping that you all have many blessings throughout these next weeks to come and experience God's presence in your life as well.

Katy Yoder, Music Director



Our big activity to end Summer Camp was a week spent in God's Wonder Lab for VBS. Pastor John started our day each morning with scripture, songs, and experiments.

I heard Pastor John shared "He's Done Marvelous Things" with you in Worship. It was a blessing to hear the sweet young voices sing out this song.

We continued our lessons with the camp teachers, sharing more Bible stories and more experiments. The Bible stories were illustrated by the teachers sharing experiments:

- There was jello in a petri dish where the students added fruit loops and gummy worms
- Students had Nutella and strawberries
- Jesus and Peter walking on water turned into actual words "walking" on water, and a hover craft in Opening Time with Pastor John
- Jesus's power of life and death displayed in an experiment of dancing raisins
- Saul turning into Paul related with flowers that change color
- And more!

We made snacks based on our lesson and created Bible crafts each day:

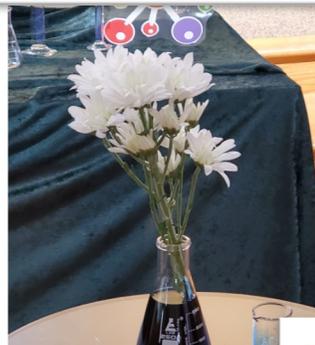
- Stained glass butterflies created with tissue paper
- "Jesus is the Light" Suncatchers
- Glory to God Kites
- And more!

This was our best VBS yet! I hope you enjoy these pictures!

With the end of the summer comes the start of a new school year. Our school year will begin on August 16 with the start of VPK and our kindergarten/first grade. We will host Parent Orientation for all current and new students on August 5 at 5:30 p.m. to share our new Parent Handbook and School Calendar followed by a walk through our classrooms.

Please join in prayer for the teachers, staff and students as we begin this new school year.

Cynthia Poudrette, Joyful Noise Director



Scout News

Troop 351 had 12 boys and 4 adult leaders attend a week of summer camp at the end of June at Camp Daniel Boone in Canton, NC. The boys earned many merit badges and had a wonderful week in the mountains, they learned that spring fed mountain lakes are VERY cold. On the way home they visited The Great Smoky Mountain National Park and hiked Clingman's Dome which is at an elevation of 6,000 feet, very high for a bunch of Florida boys.



Parent Meetings for the new school year will be in early August. If you know of any local boys interested in scouts, this will be a great information meeting. Troop, 6-12th graders, August 2, 6:30 p.m. Pack, K-5th graders, August 3 at 7:00 p.m.

YoungLife

We received this post card from a student who attended a YoungLife summer camp week.

"This week has been the best week of my life. Thank you so much :). My life is forever changed. Camp has been fun and has strengthened my relationship with Jesus. I will never forget it.

-Amelia"



STAIR

Start The Adventure In Reading

S.T.A.I.R. Program Is Beginning Its 20th Year We Need Your Help!

S.T.A.I.R. is a children's literacy program that provides one-on-one tutoring in reading and language skills.

Pilgrim Church has been providing this program since 2001 helping 2nd grade students from Deep Creek Elementary. Hearts were broken when the program was halted for 2020-2021 school year. We are ready to jump back in now!

These 2nd grade students, recommended by teachers, and supported by parents are bused to Pilgrim Church on Tuesday & Thursdays from 3:00 pm - 4:45 pm.

Each gathering we provide a snack, one on one reading time and group reading activity or games closing with an educational video teaching skills such as phonics and vocabulary.

Pilgrim Church has helped over 400 students become better readers at a critical time in their educational development. Over the years we have seen siblings come through our course and sometimes we get to see or hear from former students and learn of their progress.

We can't do any of this without your help. All the tutors and substitutes are volunteers and are trained at Pilgrim Church. The only required skill you need is the heart to love on the youngest generation and the ability to read.

S.T.A.I.R. meets, for session in the Fall and Spring. Fall Session is usually October & November.

All supplies for this program are provided. If you are interested in becoming a tutor or substitute, please contact me or mark the Sunday Registration slip. We look forward to a great session of STAIR!

STAIR Coordinator, Lucia Dargis, (815) 210-5559





Around Pilgrim Church

Join the Pilgrim Choir

Special Music, Contemporary and Traditional Songs coming up in August:

Shine Jesus Shine
Create in Me
In Christ Alone
Soon and Very Soon
He knows My Name

Join with your fellow Pilgrims to worship and praise the Lord! Choir Rehearsal is Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room.

Adult Bible Study

Sunday Morning Bible Study resumes on August 15!

Discussion leaders, David & Judi Wilson invite you to gather following worship at 10:15 a.m. in the Library. The Library is in the rear of the Community Center.

TOPIC: Isaiah 42

Please join us as we study the God-directed life and teachings of the prophet. Isaiah in a format of chapter-by-chapter and verse-by-verse.

Diaconate Meeting

Tuesday, August 10
6:30 p.m.

We are beginning the process of forming a Pilgrim Deacon Board. Anyone interested in deacon ministries is invited to this information meeting.

Questions? Reach out to Susan Wright or Pastor John

Love to Cook?

There's just something special about proving tasty home cooked meals to those in need. Whether the need is generated from an illness, or recovery from a surgery, maybe to share love with a shut in or to show care for a family after a death; a hot meal is nourishing to the body and soul.

If you are willing to cook an occasional meal, please contact the church office so we may compile a list of those interested.

Altar Flowers

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

Zoom Zoom

We have learned of a few Pilgrims who would appreciate assistance in getting to the grocery store or a doctor's appointment.

If you are able to occasionally provide transportation, please contact the church office so we may compile a list of those interested.



Prayer Ministries

Prayer List

Louise Timchak
 Bill Wolf
 Joe Beaudreau
 Sidoney Johnston
 Gene Rice
 Ken Rankin
 Savina Krueger
 John Krueger
 Jim Smith
 Sgt. Michael Cote
 Zander Jones
 Gloria Kurbanali
 Jim Wright
 Allan Van Blerkom
 Howard Meader
 Evan Thurber
 Connie Rice
 Warburton Family and Friends
 Patricia Porter
 Valerie Stern
 Cat Foster
 Hoerl Family
 Sarah Walker & family
 Anthony Torres
 Donna & Harry Bundy
 Dawn James
 New School Year
 STAIR Program
 Ministries of Pilgrim Church

Prayer Shawl

If you would like a shawl for yourself or neighbor, please call the Pilgrim Church office or reach out to our creative knitter, Gayle Bratton.

When a knitter picks up the needles to work on a prayer shawl, whether it is for 10 minutes or an hour, a prayer is said for the person who will receive the shawl—by name if it is known—but as we seldom know the person who will receive the shawl—it is a prayer for comfort and easing of pain, be it physical, mental, emotional or spiritual. When the shawl is finished a different prayer of blessing is said for the recipient.

HOW TO



PRAISE

FOR WHO HE IS.
 FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE.
 "OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN,
 HALLOWED BE THY NAME."



REPENT

OF SINS I HAVE COMMITTED.
 OF COMMANDS I HAVE NEGLECTED.
 "AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS, AS WE
 FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS."



ASK

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY
 BREAD.
 "AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION,
 BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL."



YIELD

MY WILL TO GOD'S WILL.
 MY AGENDA TO GOD'S AGENDA
 FOR ME.
 "THY KINGDOM COME. THY WILL BE
 DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.
 FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, AND
 THE POWER, AND THE GLORY,
 FOREVER. AMEN."

MATTHEW 6:9-13

Prayer Group

Members meet at 10:00 a.m. in the Coffee Room weekly on Tuesdays.

Everyone is invited to join these prayer warriors with praise and petitions!

Peace

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace:
 Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
 Where there is injury, pardon;
 Where there is doubt, faith;
 Where there is despair, hope;
 Where there is darkness, light;
 Where there is sadness, joy.
 O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
 To be consoled as to console,
 To be understood as to understand,
 To be loved as to love.
 For it is in giving that we receive,
 It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
 And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
 Amen.

St. Francis of Assisi



Missions

Food Pantry

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

For August we are holding a special collection of dry beans (red/black) and rice. We serve several Haitian families and these items are always highly requested and some weeks can be hard for us to find in stores.

We served 110 households (378 people) in the last month! July expenses total \$1,656.80. Closed one week for 4th of July.

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 |
| canned pork n beans | Instant grits |
| canned chili | 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 |

PBJ Sandwich Makers

We need donations of creamy peanut butter and jam (it 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, August 19, 10:00 a.m. to assemble sandwiches. Many hands make light work. More sandwich makers are needed especially while our snowbirds are North!



Mission of the Month

The Missions Committee designed August as Food Pantry Mission of the Month.

Did you know

- It costs an average of \$1400 to provide items over the goods donated each month?
- It takes 4 volunteers each week to serve our neighbors?
- Our volunteers have the option to rotate their Monday commitment in order to fit their schedules.
- The Pilgrim Food Pantry gives to everyone who seeks assistance.
- Different times of year the Food Pantry does special collections cakes & icing, Thanksgiving items, condiments, etc.

Reach out to Tony Caniglia to find where you could support this mission best!

Homeless Coalition

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

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. Hope to see you there on August 20! Questions? Contact Elaine Boersma for details!

New volunteer opportunities are available with The Homeless Coalition. To serve your neighbors, Contact Darcy Woods at 941-627-4313, ext 134.

- Kitchen Team (cook, prep and create meals)
- Clerical (be in the office)
- Fabulous Finds (retail)
- Pick ups (an hour a week and your vehicle)

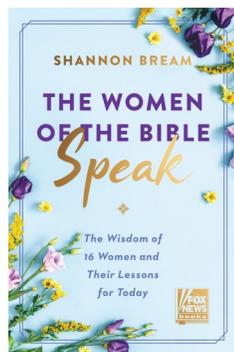
Pilgrim Women

Note this date change!

Women's Fellowship will resume on Thursday, September 16 instead of September 2

We will begin the study of "The Women of the Bible Speak" by Shannon Bream.

Meetings begin at 10AM in the Coffee Room off the sanctuary.



COVID-19 Response

A Note of Pastoral Care - Pastor John

As you are aware, I have been closely monitoring the spread of the COVID-19 Delta variant. Unfortunately, we are seeing an influx of cases among both the unvaccinated and vaccinated populations. Fortunately, it still holds true that vaccinated persons are at a minimal risk of being hospitalized or death (unless one is considered high-risk because of a preexisting condition).

With that being said, those who are vaccinated and contract the virus are at risk of experiencing severe flu-like symptoms for up to two weeks.

As your pastor, who cares not only about your spiritual health but your physical health as well, I encourage you to exercise caution when out in public and dealing with large crowds. Along with the vaccine, masks and social distancing are still effective defenses against spreading and contracting the virus.

What does this mean for us when we gather at Pilgrim? At this time, masks are still optional. However, I wish to encourage everyone to prayerfully consider wearing a mask when we are gathered in the building. I understand we have all appreciated the freedom of not wearing one and this is a frustrating situation, but it is my wish to see everyone remain virus-free and active at Pilgrim.

Scripture for the Month

Psalm 34:1-8

- 1 I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips.
- 2 I will glory in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice.
- 3 Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together.
- 4 I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.
- 5 Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame.
- 6 This poor man called, and the Lord heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles.
- 7 The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.
- 8 Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

Ephesians 6:13-17

13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

James 1:17

17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.



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

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9:30 am - 2:30 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
Gene Burnell, Maintenance Technician
Cat Foster, Office Administrator
Jessica Warne, Sunday School Director
Russ Whittaker, Bell Choir Director
Katy Yoder, Music Director

Joyful Noise Learning Center
941-629-4821, www.joyfulnoiselc.org
Cynthia Poudrette, Director of Joyful Noise



Connect with us online:
www.pilgrimonline.org
office@pilgrimonline.org

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 Vimeo Page:
<https://vimeo.com/channels/pilgrimonline>

August Birthdays

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

- 1
Dee Ripley
- 3
Carole Worster
- 4
Jessica Warne-Emard
- 7
Barbara Bluschke
Madeline Emard
- 9
Dolores Westfield
Wanda Burns
- 10
Isabella Emard
- 11
Gayle Bratton
- 16
Sherry Moll
- 20
Priscilla Brown
Carol Glanton
Nettie Wineland
- 29
Jackie Kaminski
- 31
Peggy Kalaf

Science says that we need at least 4 basic
elements to survive: **Water, Air, Food, Light**

The Bible tells us:
Jesus is the source of living **water**. John 4:10.
Jesus is the **breath** of life. John 20:21-22
Jesus is the **bread** of life. John 6:35
Jesus is the **light** of the world. John 8:12

Science is right, we need Jesus to live!

Pilgrim Church August 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion Sunday 9:00am Worship	2 10:00am Food Pantry 6:30pm BSA Troop Parent Meeting 7:00pm AA - Women	3 10:00am Prayer Group 7:00pm BSA Pack Parent Meeting	4 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	5 5:30pm JN Parent Orientation	6 JN Last Day of Summer Camp	7
8 9:00am Worship	9 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm AA - Women 7:00pm Missions Meeting	10 10:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm Diaconate Meeting	11 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	12	13	14
15 9:00am Worship 9:05am Wilson Small Group	16 JN First Day of VPK and K/1 10:00am Food Pantry 6:30pm Finance Meeting 7:00pm AA - Women 7:00pm BSA Troop Meeting	17 10:00am Prayer Group 7:00pm BSA Den Meeting	18 Newsletter Article Deadline 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	19 10:30am PBJ Sandwich Makers	20 4:15pm Serving at The Homeless Coalition	21
22 9:00am Worship 9:05am Wilson Small Group	23 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm BSA Troop Meeting 7:00pm AA - Women	24 10:00am Prayer Group 7:00pm Council Meeting 7:00pm BSA Den Meeting	25 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	26 6:00pm BSA Committee Meeting	27	28
29 9:00am Worship 9:05am Wilson Small Group	30 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm BSA Troop Meeting 7:00pm AA - Women	31 10:00am Prayer Group 7:00pm BSA Den Meeting				

Jesus said to them, "I am the
bread of life; whoever comes
to me shall not hunger,
and whoever believes in me
shall never thirst."
-John 6:35