



One day, while driving home, I found myself behind a red truck. At the bottom center of his tailgate was a bumper sticker that caught my eye. All it said was "I *love* haters." (Instead of the word "love" there was a giant red heart.) Of course, we all know that a "hater" is one who is jealous of you, hostile towards you, or doesn't want to see you succeed. In some cases, it is someone who might even try to sabotage you so that you fail at something. A hater is not someone you would call a best friend, let alone someone you would say you love.

So, naturally the bumper sticker intrigued me. Our natural response to a hater is to go on the defensive and keep them at arm's length. We draw a dividing line between ourselves and them. There hostility towards us breeds hostility with us. Then, our haters really do become our enemies and community is broken.

But what if we all made up our minds to love the haters in our lives? In his most famous sermon, the Sermon on the Mount found in chapter 5 of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus said to his disciples, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven." In other words, love the haters! Love and pray for them so that they can experience the love of Christ through you. In doing so, not only do we help break the cycle of hate that is destructive to relationships and community, but we partner with Christ in building God's kingdom.

As the saying goes, haters are going to hate. There will be people with whom we have conflict. But Christ has called us, his disciples who live in his love, to a ministry of compassion, reconciliation, and love. In Christ, may we find the strength to love others as Christ has loved us in spite of our strife or conflicts. May we all learn to love the haters in Christ's name!

Blessings to you, my friends!
Pastor John

Matthew 5:44-47 Love for Enemies

44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous.

46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

Did you know?

We continue to work on our online worship availability. If you would like to serve on the tech team, we'll teach you. Please contact the church office!

Pastor John's office is open to you! Reach out to the church office to schedule an appointment or call.

From the Moderator

When I was growing up and I would ask my father something that would be viewed as nearly impossible, he would say “you might as well ask for world peace.” My Dad was a hard working veteran of WWII, and I was just a kid. So to me that meant the answer to my request was ‘nope, not gonna happen.’

As time went on, of course, I realized I could ask God directly: “Lord, grant the world one day of peace.” What I mean is a day, just one without conflict, without war, without murder or assault of any kind. I figured if He could pull off just one day maybe we could learn from example and develop more peaceful days. This is a tall order to be sure, but the Lord could certainly do it.

So far He has not granted my request. At this point I would be happy if my old hometown of Chicago could have that one day. But I am aware He moves in His own way; so I will continue to be patient.



In time, of course, I realized the responsibility to make this happen is not the Lord's.

It is mine! It is yours!

We all have it within ourselves to accomplish this. It takes simple acts of kindness:

- Smile, don't frown.
- Listen, don't condemn,
- Say thank you,
- Help a stranger,
- Help a neighbor,
- Forgive someone.
- Spread the good word!

Let's start today. Let's create the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth by making a difference. Impossible? Maybe, but we must try. Will we ever see world peace? Maybe not. We can't control all seven billion people on earth. But we can control our actions. We can influence those around us. We can seek peace in our world.

“Turn from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.” -Psalm 34:14

Don Anderson, Moderator

Music Matters

Many years ago, while traveling in the car with another church family to their favorite restaurant, we passed a sign that said, “Jesus is the Answer,” and my friend responded with a gleam in her eye, “What was the question?” For whatever reason, we chuckled about that for years, but at the same time, also knew both the hidden and spoken truth behind the message.

It came to my mind again ironically, as in the last two weeks as I've been listening to Andrae Crouch's song, "Jesus is the Answer," along with many other songs written and performed by him. It has been so rejuvenating and uplifting that I've woven it into one of our songs for Choir, 'Soon and Very Soon.' Reflecting on the meaning behind each of these has been a joy and a comfort to know that in any season of life, Jesus is the answer; in any conversation, relationship, group discussion or encounter, we have the ability to draw near to our Saviour in Spirit, in truth and wisdom.

While there can be, and will be, differing viewpoints and opinions, what is true for us as Christians is knowing Christ as our Saviour. By living this out in daily life, meditating on it day and night (a work in progress for myself and I'm certain for all of us), may we all come to know Him more... while sharing God's light, love, hope and grace; to be the change that we want to see in the world.

“And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to all creation.” -Mark 16:15.

Katy Yoder, Music Director



United in Spirit and inspired by God's grace, we welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all.

A UCC Haiti Appeal seeks to raise \$100,000 for immediate relief and longer-term recovery for the thousands of people in Haiti who are reeling from sequential disasters.

To give to support the work of the UCC in Haiti, please mark Haiti on your memo line. Or give online at <https://www.ucc.org/ucc-haiti-appeal/>.



Back to School has kicked off and we are ready to delve deeper into learning with our students. 25 new students started for VPK K/1st grade. That gives us 180 students and we have waiting lists!

August finished with lessons on how God made the world and during September we will be talking about taking care of each other.

To protect our students and staff, from the continued spread of COVID-19, Joyful Noise Learning Center will be closed the week of August 30-September 3.

After Labor Day, because communication and understanding of each student is so important, we'll begin with Parent Teacher Conferences.

Cynthia Poudrette, Joyful Noise Director

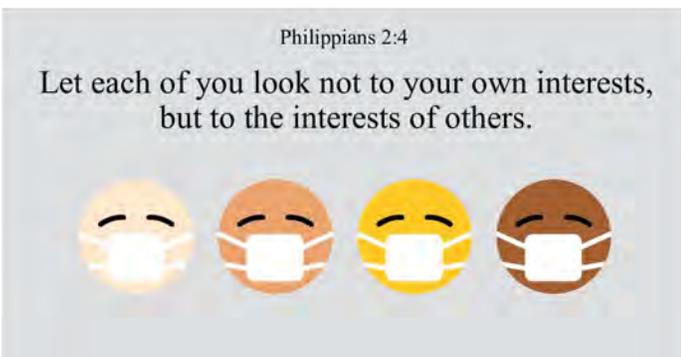
Pilgrim Women

Thursday, September 16, 10:00 a.m. Coffee Room
Bring your Bible and see you there.

HOME WORK ASSIGNMENT FOR SEPTEMBER 16 !

Lesson Title is "Women of the Covenants"

- Sarah- Genesis 11:27–12:20, Genesis 18:1-15, Genesis 20:1-18
- Hagar -Genesis 16:1-16 and Genesis 21:8-21



September Birthdays

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

- 1 Al Fischle, Joan Powell
- 2 Dionne Jones
- 4 Faye Pettross
- 6 Cynthia Poudrette
- 7 Ann DeWalt, Al Leshner
- 8 Jim Smith
- 9 Aidyn Martinez
- 13 Mary Rose Binski, Rose Utterback
- 15 Ev Munro
- 16 Russ Whittaker
- 20 Sandee Ewing
- 22 Irene Butler, Dean Fritz
- 24 Reyne Schrock
- 28 Faye Ewing
- 29 Lurlyne Murray
- 30 Evelyina Martinez, Karyina Martinez

Tell Your Story

Experiences shape and mold us. Learning of each other's perspectives widens our world and provides wisdom and strengthen how to love one another.

There is a question and we invite your answers. Some stories may be reprinted and shared with the congregation as we enter the season of Stewardship and Advent.

What does the church or Pilgrim Church mean to you?

Please submit your response to the church office via drop-off, mail or email by September 15.

Missions

Mission Outreach Ministry needs you to serve. We invite you Monday, September 13, 7:00 p.m. to an information meeting on how you can be involved!

Our church supports local, state and national charities. Prayerfully consider taking part in one or more of the ministries listed below.

Back Pack Kidz

Back Pack Kidz is a volunteer nonprofit organization dedicated to delivering backpacks filled with food to 15 schools in Charlotte County each week. These backpacks are given to the children when school is dismissed on Friday to those who would be food deprived without this help.

Charlotte County Homeless Coalition

September Mission of the Month

The Homeless Coalition provides help to those in need in our county for: temporary shelter, financial assistance with housing & utility bills, hot meals every evening and a food pantry. In addition to providing financial assistance to the Homeless Coalition, Pilgrim Church members help to serve food monthly on the 3rd and 5th Fridays. Our next day to serve is September 17.

Charlotte Harbor Young Life

Inviting young people to experience life as God designed it to be lived, Young Life is a Christian ministry that reaches out to middle school, high school, and college students in all 50 of the United States and in more than 100 countries around the world. The local chapter is run out of the Port Charlotte Town Center.

Habitat for Humanity, Charlotte County

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit housing organization that works in partnership with local families in need of decent and affordable housing. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. As part of the Apostle Build, Pilgrim Church has partnered with other local churches to provide financial support and labor to build houses.

Pilgrim Church Food Pantry

Pilgrim church operates a Food Pantry that is open to the public every Monday, except holidays. Church members support the pantry with financial and food donations.

January–June 2021 we served 924 bags of groceries to 2,328 adults and 733 children.



Virginia B Andes Volunteer Community Clinic

Virginia B Andes Volunteer Community Clinic provides no-cost volunteer medical, pharmacy and wellness service to the under-served in Charlotte County. Pilgrim Church supports the clinic financially through giving to our Missions Ministry as well as members volunteering at the clinic.

Wings of Shelter Int'l Inc

Wings of Shelter Int'l, Inc. is a faith-based organization dedicated to the intervention and prevention of child sex trafficking. They offer restoration, rehabilitation and safe housing to minor females rescued out of domestic sex trafficking. They maintain several safe homes located in SW Florida.

Psalm 96:1-3:

“Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise His name; proclaim His salvation day after day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples.”

1 Samuel 12:24:

“But be sure to fear the LORD and serve Him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things He has done for you.”

Pilgrim Church Food Pantry

Mondays 10:00—11:30 a.m.

*"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me" - Matthew 25:35*

Ready for Business



Wednesday morning deliver to the Heroes of Joyful Noise Teaching Staff



Keeping ahead with food storage



Gary makes deliveries to 12 Senior US Veterans... they all fit!



Food Pantry Collection List

canned soup
saltine crackers
beef stew
canned pasta
canned tomatoes
canned green beans
canned pork n beans
canned chili

canned carrots
canned corn
canned mixed veggies
assorted canned beans
canned peas
canned fruit
ramen noodles
spaghetti sauce

dry pasta (assorted)
mac 'n cheese
mashed potatoes
canned potatoes
rice & dry beans
dry cereal
Instant grits
oatmeal

pancake mix
syrup
peanut butter
jelly
snacks
canned tuna
toilet paper
paper towels

Around Pilgrim Church

Prayer Group

Schedule Change!

Prayer Group will now be meeting on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Coffee Room.

Adult Bible Study

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

TOPIC: Book of Isaiah

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.

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.

Do you arrange flowers? We are looking for gifted designers to create a couple of silk arrangements for our altar for Fall or Communion Sundays. Please let Pastor John know if you want to share your talents!

Prayer Shawls

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.

STAIR

Start The Adventure In Reading

This reading program has been postponed to the Spring Semester.

This is disappointing for the Deep Creek Elementary 2nd grade teachers, administrators and students.



This decision was made by Deep Creek Elementary Administrators in response to the current strength of the COVID virus. Please continue to pray for these students and faculty as they take each day with each new challenge.

Tutors are still needed for Spring Semester.

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

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." - Joshua 1:9

Save the Dates



Stewardship



October is Stewardship month. It's about more than money. It's about giving of your time, your participation, your talents... it's being part of a community serving God together.

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

Joyful Noise Learning Center
941-629-4821, www.joyfulnoiselc.org

"To Help People KNOW Christ Personally and GROW in Their Faith."

Rev. John Barnette, Senior Pastor
Rev. Ken Ewing, Associate Pastor
All Members, Ministers
Gene Burnell, Maintenance Technician
Cat Foster, Office Administrator
Cynthia Poudrette, Director of Joyful Noise
Jessica Warne, Sunday School Director
Russ Whittaker, Bell Choir Director
Katy Yoder, Music Director

Installation Service

Pastor John D Barnette will be formally installed on Sunday, October 10. This Sunday also marks his one year anniversary at Pilgrim Church

Character Parade

Mark your calendars for October 28, 9:30 a.m. You are invited to the character parade at Joyful Noise Learning Center. The students will dress in costume and file through the Community Center. We'll have candy for you to pass out. Please come and enjoy some time in the presence of these young students.

Trunk or Treat

Pilgrim Church is hosting Trunk or Treat open to all our neighbors on Sunday, October 31 at 6:30 p.m. Trunks will need to be in place by 6:00 p.m. and ready to hand out candy at 6:30 p.m.

Register your vehicle for the trunk or treat in the church office. If you need help "dressing" your trunk we can help!



Prayer List

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Bill Wolf | Joe Beaudreau |
| Savina Krueger | Jacque Ross |
| John Krueger | Frank Ross |
| Jim Smith | Adrian Roche |
| Sidoney Johnston | Louise Timchak |
| Gloria Kurbanali | Howard Meader family and friends |
| Jim Wright | Ken Rankin |
| Gene Rice | Ray Slater |
| Hoerl Family | Zander Jones |
| Evan Thurber | Michael Leonetti |
| Carol Foster | those in path of Hurricane |
| Doug Terry | Norma Jean Link |
| Michaels / Miller / Olivo Family | |

September 2021 at Pilgrim Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	2 6:00pm JN Board	3	4
5 9:00am Worship 10:15am Wilson Small Group	6 JN Closed Labor Day Office Closed 7:00pm AA - Women	7 7:00pm BSA Den	8 JN Picture Day 1s, 2s, 3s 10:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	9 JN Picture Day VPK K/1	10	11
12 9:00am Worship 10:15am Wilson Small Group	13 JN Parent Teacher Conferences 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm BSA Troop 7:00pm Missions 7:00pm AA - Women	14 JN Parent Teacher Conferences 7:00pm BSA Den	15 JN Parent Teacher Conferences Newsletter Article Deadline 10:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	16 JN Parent Teacher Conferences 10:00am Women Fellowship 10:30am PBJ Sandwich Makers 7:00pm BSA Pack Committee	17 JN Parent Teacher Conferences 4:15pm Serving at The Homeless Coalition	18
19 9:00am Worship 10:15am Wilson Small Group	20 JN Parent Teacher Conferences 10:00am Food Pantry 6:30pm Finance 7:00pm AA - Women 7:00pm BSA Troop	21 JN Parent Teacher Conferences 7:00pm BSA Den	22 JN Parent Teacher Conferences 10:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	23 JN Parent Teacher Conferences	24 JN Parent Teacher Conferences	25
26 9:00am Worship 10:15am Wilson Small Group	27 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm BSA Troop 7:00pm AA - Women	28 7:00pm BSA PLC 7:00pm Council 7:00pm BSA Den	29 10:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	30 6:00pm BSA Committee		

Joshua 24:15

But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."