

It's hard to believe that October is already here. The rainy season is coming to an end, milder temperatures are rolling in, and our friends from up north will soon return. I love this time of year. I always have and I always will. Though fall is celebrated a little differently in Florida than it is in North Carolina (no one pulls out the storage bins filled with sweaters, nor do we have changing leaves to admire down here), it is still a time to enjoy the outdoors without getting overheated, and pumpkin-flavored everything. For me, it's really all about the pumpkin pie, pumpkin-spiced lattes, and pumpkin-flavored cheesecake (a personal favorite!).

October is shaping up to be a great time at Pilgrim Church as well. After having to postpone most of our outreach programs because of COVID, we will be hosting a community-wide outreach event: Trunk-or-Treat! This is exciting! This event will be held on October 31st from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Participants are asked to arrive at the church at 3:30 p.m. to set up their vehicles. I strongly encourage everyone to participate in this event. This is a great way for us to be a part of our larger community, share the love of Jesus, provide a safe alternative to traditional trick-or-treating and to fellowship with each other. A great perk of participating is you get to see kids dressed up in adorable outfits! If you need inspiration on how to decorate your car, have no fear. I will be glad to help you; I have a plethora of ideas. The only way for this event to be a success is with your commitment to participate! So please, sign up and be part of this great outreach opportunity.



Also, this October will be a time of recommitment. Just as the Trunk-or-Treat event's success is dependent on your participation, so is the success of the church. Christ has called us to be active, engaged members of His Church. Not only are we to support its ministries by showing up to participate in worship,

but we are also to be present for fellowship and encouragement, lend our talents and gifts to the church's ministries, and support the church financially. It takes each member faithfully engaging in church life for the church to be healthy, and successful in sharing the love of Jesus. You are a vital member of the Body of Christ that is Pilgrim Church. You are needed and you are valued.

So, as we enter October and reflect on stewardship, I ask that you prayerfully consider how best you can contribute to the life of Pilgrim Church. There are multiple ways you can get involved: volunteering with the STAIR program, serving on a committee, helping with the food pantry, or joining our prayer team. These are only a few examples. Please contact the church office for more opportunities.

Please, also, prayerfully reflect on how you can help support the church financially. Tithing is a spiritual discipline. It not only demonstrates one's gratitude for what God has provided, but it also demonstrates one's trust that God will continue to provide and helps one to understand what it means to sacrifice on behalf of another. In other words, it provides an opportunity to draw closer to God. Please know that 100% of monies given to the church are dedicated to God and are used to His glory. All tithes and gifts given to the church's General Fund go towards buying needed supplies for worship and ministry, paying utility bills, staff salaries, and maintaining church property.

As we enter October and begin to think about 2022, I do so with hope and excitement. There is no doubt that God has wonderful things in store for Pilgrim Church. I encourage you to get involved and be a part of this wonderful community. As I said, you are needed and valued. I am glad you are here and look forward to continuing sharing the love of Jesus with all our neighbors!

Blessings,
Pastor John

From the Moderator

The Holidays!

Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.
-Colossians 3:2

This is crazy! I am writing this and I'm already thinking about the holiday season ahead. It's 92 degrees outside! The air conditioner never shuts off! Being originally from up North I associate Thanksgiving and Christmas with snow. I remember many Halloween's with snow on the ground! After being in Florida for 11 years I guess it's time to reframe my thinking.

I (we?) need to do more than that. We need to keep things in perspective over the next few months.

Halloween has gone from a fun filled day for kids to dress up and indulge in way too many sweets, to the beginning of the holiday shopping season.

Thanksgiving has changed from a gathering of family and friends to give thanks to God for another successful harvest, to the beginning of the really serious Christmas shopping rush.

Christmas Day has morphed from a celebration of the arrival of our Savior into the day everything really goes on sale! And many stores stay open to entice that last minute shopper! Or, you can beat the crowd and return the gifts that were bought back in October.

But it is not too late to change our thinking. We have spent too much time in consuming and not enough time in thanking and giving. Look around, there are people in need everywhere.

So this year....do not give as much to one another, give more to those less fortunate. You can start small. An extra bag of groceries for our food pantry, for instance. (Have you noticed the numbers of people we serve keep going up?) How about helping out at Pilgrim's Trunk or Treat on Halloween day? What a nice way to meet our neighbors. What does Joyful Noise need? How about the Homeless Coalition? We Floridians have been fortunate so far to evade any serious storms. But what about the rest of our country? So many in need. The list is endless. LET'S DO SOMETHING!

If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?

-1 John 3:17

Don Anderson, Moderator



All our staff and families are so excited to be back open and much healthier after our quarantine. Thank you to everyone at Pilgrim UCC for your support, encouragement and prayers.

Cynthia Poudrette, Joyful Noise Director



Music Matters

During my service as a pianist several years ago at Trinity Church in Sarasota, I learned a new song, which we sang mid-September. In the last year, I've become very interested in researching the history behind certain songs that speak deeply to my heart, one of which is, Make Me a Blessing. It came to my mind as I was preparing to contribute to the newsletter, that it might be nice to share this history with all of you as well. I hope it blesses and nourishes your soul as much as it has mine.

I'm sharing the historical context as well as an excerpt below from the 3rd stanza of the song.

The full article can be viewed using this link: <https://hymnstudiesblog.wordpress.com/2018/12/22/make-me-a-blessing/>

MAKE ME A BLESSING

"...So will I save you, and ye shall be a blessing..."

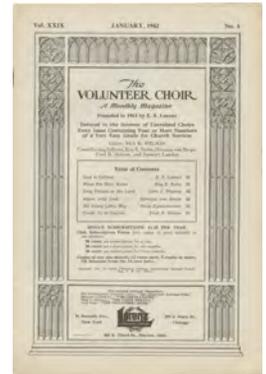
- Zechariah. 8:13

INTRO.: A song which reminds us that one reason why we are saved is to be a blessing to others is "Make Me a Blessing." The text was written by Ira Bishop Wilson, who was born on September 6, 1880, at Bedford, Iowa.



Wilson's sister taught him to play the violin and organ while he was still at home, and he began studying music theory in his youth. Around 1902, Ira began studies at the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Illinois, with the view of training to be a musical evangelist.

However, in 1905, he went to work for the Lorenz Publishing Company in Dayton, Ohio, as a composer and editor. There he wrote a large number of hymn arrangements, choral anthems, and cantatas, often using the pseudonym of Fred B. Holton. His compositions appeared in *The Choir Leader* and *The Choir Herald*; he also served as editor in chief of *The Volunteer Choir*. His works include *The King's Message* (1910), *The Beginners' Choir* (1911), *Praise Ye: A Collection of Sacred Songs* (1913), and *His Worthy Praise* (1915).



Apparently, these words were written around 1909. The tune (Schuler) was composed by George Stark Schuler (b. Apr. 18, 1882; d. Oct. 30, 1973). A native of New York City, NY, he received his training at the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, where he went on to be a faculty member for forty years.

Stanza 3 encourages us to love others' souls
'Give as 'twas given to you in your need,
Love as the Master loved you;
Be to the helpless a helper indeed;
Unto your mission be true.
God has given us an unspeakable gift: 2 Cor.9:15

We should then love others as the Master loved us: Jn. 13:34-35

This is accomplished by being a helper to the helpless and teaching others also: 2 Tim. 2:2

CONCL.: The chorus continues to ask God's help in doing good unto others.

Make me a blessing, make me a blessing,
Out of my life may Jesus shine;
Make me a blessing, O Savior, I pray,
Make me a blessing to someone today.'

Katy Yoder, Music Director

Missions

Thanksgiving Meals

Our God is a great God and reminds each of us that it is our duty to care for those around us every day. Pilgrim Church understands the gift of gathering around a table with our traditional Thanksgiving meal. We seek to provide a Thanksgiving Dinner to those who will not be able to provide for themselves.

If you or a family you know could benefit from items to prepare a special dinner, please complete the form at the end of this newsletter. Return the form no later than noon on Monday, November 8. We will strive to fulfill each request.

In 2020, the Pilgrim Food Pantry distributed 70 Thanksgiving Dinner bags. November 2020 total expense came to \$1,150, for the Thanksgiving Dinner items and gift certificates (families could then purchase their own turkey/turkey breast/ham).

We will have our usual Food Pantry distribution on Monday, November 8 and 15. Then on Monday, November 22, we will have a distribution for just those who have completed and turned in the Thanksgiving Meals form by November 8.

Food Pantry will be closed on November 29.

We need your assistance with donations of special items for these gifts of Thanksgiving dinners. We are holding a special collection of:

- Mashed Potatoes
- Stuffing Mix
- Gravy
- Dessert Mix
- Financial gifts for gift card purchases

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

Mission of the Month

Habitat for Humanity, Charlotte County

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit 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.



Stewardship Month



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

23 Whatever you do,
work at it with all your heart,
as working for the Lord,
not for human masters,
24 since you know that
you will receive an inheritance
from the Lord as a reward.
It is the Lord Christ
you are serving.

- Colossians 3:23-24

What does Pilgrim Church mean to me?

My first introduction to Pilgrim Church came from a former roommate of Pastor Neuman. He encouraged Faye and I to visit Pilgrim Church. On our first visit we were warmly greeted and we became quickly involved because of the attention paid to youth and to mission outreach.

With a deep commitment to service, I became part of the Mission Committee and got involved in community service. Becoming more and more involved with Pilgrim Church, I began working alongside Pastor Matthew in carrying out pastor duties.

In 2012, I spent four and an half months in hospitals and rehab in Indiana. What helped me pull through and return to our home in Florida was the community of faith... Pilgrim Church prayers and well wishes. On returning home I pledged to give back to Pilgrim Church and maintain an attitude of gratitude and service to God through serving Pilgrim Church.

From the tenure of Pastor Matthew, the interim pastors of Mike and Bill till now with Pastor John, I have tried to fulfill my commitment to serve the congregation of Pilgrim Church. I have done so with humor and a faith given to me by the grace of God.

Ken Ewing, Associate Pastor



2022 Pledge Card

Turn in by November 1, 2021

Name: _____

Envelope #: _____

My commitment for 2022 will be:

- Prayers Presence Service
 Gifts

Operating \$ _____ Weekly Monthly Yearly

Missions \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____

o If you would like us to contact you regarding automatic withdrawal (e-giving) please check the box.



Keep this portion as a reminder for your commitment to Pilgrim Church.

My commitment for 2022 will be:

- Prayers Presence Service
 Gifts

Operating \$ _____ Weekly Monthly Yearly

Missions \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____

Around Pilgrim Church

Area Code 941

On *"I Love Lucy"*, when Lucy gave out her phone number, she'd say it as, "Murray Hill 5-9975."

Remember when the numbers changed to 7 digits? Well, our local telephone has changed.

When making a local call to a 941 number, dial the 941 area code and then the 7-digit number. So to call the church from your local landline you would dial 941 629 2633.

Trunk or Treat

Pilgrim Church is hosting Trunk or Treat open to all our neighbors on Sunday, October 31 at 4:00 p.m. Trunks will need to be in place by 3:30 p.m. and ready to hand out candy at 4:00 p.m.



Register your vehicle for the trunk or treat in the church office BY October 17. If you need help "dressing" your trunk, we can help!



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.

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.

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.

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

Pilgrim Women

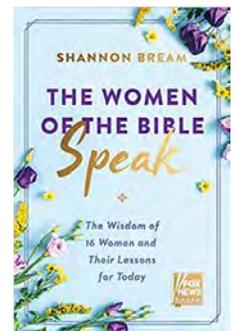
Join the ladies of the Pilgrim Women's Fellowship on Thursday, October 7, at 10:00 a.m. in the Coffee Room adjacent to the Sanctuary.

This month's Bible study will feature "Rachel and Leah: Sisters and Rivals" from Shannon Bream's best seller, *The Women of the Bible Speak*.

Please read Genesis 29-31 in preparation, and be sure to bring your Bible to the study.

A "Ladies Day Out" field trip has been organized for Thursday October 28 to visit Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota and lunch/shop together.

Questions about this Small Group can be directed to Judi Wilson, 941-380-0877.



Prayer

Meeting Prayer Needs

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.

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

Prayer List

Bill Wolf
Savina Krueger
John Krueger
Jim Smith
Gloria Kurbanali
Jim Wright
Brandi Friday
Gene Rice
Joe Beaudreau
Adrian Roche
Louise Timchak
Ray Slater
Michael Leonetti
Nancy Burnell

Sidoney Johnston
Susan Wright
Lorraine O'Keefe
Jolene Mowry
Zander Jones
Judy Michaels
Michael Garofola
Brittany Fallica
Dawn Miller
Service Men & Women
Those families caring for loved ones with COVID
Karen McKenny
Jill Bard

October Birthdays

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

- 1 Susan Anderson
- 4 Savinia Krueger, Debbie Leshner, Matt Santiago
- 6 Katy Yoder
- 7 Shirley Donohue
- 9 Sidoney Johnston
- 20 Valerie Forge
- 21 Ray Gaddie, Charlene Hall
- 29 Joe Beaudreau, Lorraine O'Keefe, Vickie Rhoe
- 30 Stephen Emard



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
Cheryl Huber, Organist
Cynthia Poudrette, Director of Joyful Noise
Jessica Warne, Sunday School Director
Russ Whittaker, Bell Choir Director
Katy Yoder, Music Director



**If you can do all this with a potato,
think of all God can do with you.**

October 2021 with Pilgrim Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:00am World Communion Sunday Worship 10:15am Wilson Small Group	4 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm AA - Women 7:00pm BSA Troop Mtg	5 7:00pm BSA Den Mtg	6 10:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	7 10:00am Pilgrim Women Fellowship 6:00pm JN Board Mtg	8	9
10 9:00am Worship - Pastor John Installation 10:15am Wilson Small Group	11 JN Closed Teacher Work Day 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm Missions Mtg 7:00pm AA - Women 7:00pm BSA Troop Mtg	12 7:00pm BSA Den Mtg	13 10:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	14	15 4:15pm Serving at The Homeless Coalition	16
17 9:00am Worship 10:15am Wilson Small Group	18 10:00am Food Pantry 6:30pm Finance Mtg 7:00pm BSA Troop Mtg 7:00pm AA - Women	19 7:00pm BSA Den Mtg	20 Newsletter Articles Due 10:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	21 10:30am PBJ Sandwich Makers 7:00pm BSA Pack Committee Mtg	22	23 12:00pm BSA BBQ Lunch Fundraiser
24 9:00am Worship 10:15am Wilson Small Group	25 JN Food Drive Begins 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm BSA Troop Mtg 7:00pm AA - Women	26 7:00pm BSA Den Mtg 7:00pm Council Mtg	27 10:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	28 9:30am JN Character Parade 6:00pm BSA Committee Mtg	29 4:15pm Serving at The Homeless Coalition	30
31 Pledge Cards Due 9:00am Worship and Stewardship Celebration 10:15am Wilson Small Group 4:00pm Trunk or Treat						

Food Pantry Thanksgiving items for baskets:
 Mashed Potatoes
 Stuffing Mix
 Gravy
 Dessert Mix
 Financial gifts for gift cards (turkey/ham)

*23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.
 - Colossians 3:23-24*



Thanksgiving Meals 2021 Order Form

Our God is a great God and reminds each of us that it is our duty to care for those around us every day. Pilgrim Church understands the gift of gathering around a table with our traditional Thanksgiving meal. We seek to provide a Thanksgiving Dinner to those who will not be able to provide for themselves.

If you or a family you know would benefit from items to prepare a dinner, please complete this form. Return the form no later than noon on **Monday, November 8**. We will strive to fulfill each request.

Groceries will be available to be picked up on

Monday, November 22, from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

Individual picking up groceries for the family must present ID that matches this form.

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL PICKING UP MEAL _____

Tear here _____ turn in portion below, save top for reminder

Thanksgiving Meals 2021 Order Form

**Groceries will be available to be picked up on
Monday, November 22,
from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.**

Individual picking up groceries for the family must present ID that matches this form.

DATE: _____

NAME OF FAMILY _____

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL PICKING UP MEAL _____

of ADULTS IN FAMILY _____ # of CHILDREN IN FAMILY _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE: _____

FOOD PANTRY TEAM USE

PACKED INITIALS: _____

PICKED UP INITIALS: _____