

From the Desk of Pastor John

January
2022

I am a last-minute Christmas shopper. Every Christmas - this past one included! - even though I try to get my shopping finished before the week before Christmas, I don't. There's always one last gift that needs to be bought and I'm usually buying it on December 23rd. But, when that last gift is bought, I always breathe a sigh of relief and feel a little giddy. It always feels great knowing that I no longer must trek out to the stores, struggle to find a parking spot, fight another crowd, and wait in a long checkout line to buy one more trinket to be given as a Christmas gift.

But as I drive home, the giddy feeling starts to wear off as another reality set in. Every gift that I have bought must be wrapped. Wrapping is not a fun task for me. My back starts to hurt as I bend over the table to cut the paper, which never goes smoothly. Then comes the tape. I always end up getting it stuck somewhere on the present where it's not supposed to be. Then, when I attempt to pull it off, the wrapping paper rips, which means I've got to start over.

Gift wrapping is not one of my strengths.

Despite the stress of shopping and wrapping, the act of giving and receiving a gift is meant to be a meaningful and spiritually significant part of Christmas. We give and receive gifts to remind us of the greatest gift given to us by our gracious Heaven Father. That gift, of course, was the Christ child, who the prophet Isaiah prophesied would be called Immanuel, which means "God with us."

In Christ Jesus, God broke into our lives to dwell with us. He came not only to save us from sin, but to also

share life with us, to experience the ups and downs we face, and to confirm his unconditional love for us that never wavers.

In other words, he gave us the present of his presence.

Gifts that come wrapped in shiny paper or in a beautiful bag can be heartfelt tokens of one's love for another. It's okay to give gifts, especially if they are in the spirit of love and not to get something in return. However, the greatest present that we can give someone is the present of presence; to simply show up for the good times and the bad. In doing so, in showing up, we embody and proclaim the love of God, who chose to come to us even in our messiness.

To show up and to be present for someone else is an act of sacrificial, unconditional love that truly embodies the spirit of Christmas.

Moreover, it is a gift that goes beyond Christmas as well. It is a gift that can be given throughout the year, allowing us to celebrate the true Spirit of Christmas year-round. So, as we journey into the new year, carrying the Christmas spirit within our hearts, I encourage you to give the present of your presence, committing to share life with others during the good and the bad times. In other words, I encourage you to share the love of Jesus, Immanuel ... God with Us. Amen.

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel."
Isaiah 7:14

God Bless, Pastor John



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Joyful Noise
Learning Center
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Senior Pastor:
Rev. John Barnette

Associate Pastor:
Rev. Ken Ewing

Office Administrator:
Cat Foster

Sunday School Director:
Jessica Warne

Music Director:
Katy Yoder

Organist:
Cheryl Huber

Bell Choir Director:
Russ Whittaker

Director of Joyful Noise:
Cynthia Poudrette

Maintenance Technician:
Gene Burnell

*No matter who you are,
or where you are
on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*



New Year Business

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 23, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

At the annual congregational meeting you determine the Leadership Council makeup for the next year. Also, it is at this time that financial stewardship decisions are made. Stick around for an extra half hour after worship and discover who the Pilgrim Church congregation is and why it matters to Port Charlotte. Learn what ministries have happened in the last year that you may have missed and what you can look forward to for the next year.

Membership Contact information

In this newsletter you will find a contact information form. Whether you are a visitor, winter resident or member we would love to insure that we have accurate contact information on you. Please complete this form, leave it in the giving box or the church office.

Directories available in February

With updated contact information we will make available updated pictorial directories in the church office (\$5 suggested donation to offset the cost of supplies).

Prayer List

Bill Wolf	Joe Beaudreau
Savina Krueger	Victory Fellowship Church
John Krueger	Travis Opsahl
Gloria Kurbanali	David Kaye
Jim Wright	Pat Wheatcroft
Gene Rice	Al Johnson
Adrian Roche	Jeff
Louise Timchak	Janice Lewis
Sidoney Johnston	Hoerl Family
Diane Cremonini	Arlene Robbins
Frank Ross	Michael Garofola
Richard McLemore	Doug Terry
Lorraine O'Keefe	Cheri & Rick Perry
Melvin Keller	Zander Jones
Ray Slater	Karen Becker
Jim Smith	

Pastor Ken

FREEDOM

The dictionary defines "freedom" as "the power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants without hinderance or restraint." The prevailing belief is that we are free to do whatever we want or say whatever we like without repercussions. Such attitude or belief does not take into account the fact that there are boundaries in our lives. The prevailing thought is that there are no restraints on us, that from my perspective anything goes. This is simply not so. We need to understand, in life there are boundaries. Nature provides boundaries, such as climate, time, and life span. Governments set boundaries for its citizens. God, in His grace, sets before us a choice of boundaries that we must choose to honor.

Yes, we have been granted the freedom of choice. We choose which boundaries we adhere to. That is our freedom. However, we need to also be reminded that our choices have consequences. For example, if we chose to drive over the speed limit and get caught, we will pay the price.

Moreover, If we chose to live by the commandment to love God and our neighbor, we live with the consequences of being in a right relationship to God and in harmony with all. But if we chose to live a self-centered life ignoring the boundaries set before us, we will live with the consequences of disharmony in our world, a world filled with anarchy.

God has set the boundaries of agape love, and we have the freedom to accept or reject them and live with the consequences. Yes, we have freedom. However, we must remember this: our freedom comes with boundaries.

Chose wisely! So be it.
Pastor Ken

AmazonSmile

When you shop AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. And you can choose Pilgrim Church!

Music Notes

My word for this New Year is *Mystery*. The song that I've selected to speak about is a recent one, not one of old, in which I normally write about. It has fascinated me in the last week as to what God is doing both in my own life along with all over the globe. The other word that comes to mind is History, which, when broken down, is "*His Story*", if you will see beyond the noun into the broader scope of the Upper Story and the Lower Story. It is a love story written by God that never ends in which we are both part of the past, present and future until the coming of Christ Jesus and beyond. Let us Behold the Wondrous Mystery in our hearts and with each other this year in 2022!

Search these titles on YouTube: "Randy Frazee God's Story" and "Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery: Matt Papa & Matt Boswell" for your own enjoyment!

Come behold the wondrous mystery, in the dawning of the King, He the theme of heaven's praises, robed in frail humanity, In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come, Look to Christ, who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, he the perfect Son of Man, In his living, in his suffering, never trace nor stain of sin, See the true and better Adam, come to save the hell-bound man, Christ the great and sure fulfillment of the law, in him we stand.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, Christ the Lord upon the tree, In the stead of ruined sinners hangs the Lamb in victory, See the price of our redemption, see the Father's plan unfold, Bringing many sons to glory, grace unmeasured, love untold

Come behold the wondrous mystery, slain by death the God of life, But no grave could e'er restrain him, praise the Lord, He is alive, What a foretaste of deliverance, how unwavering our hope, Christ in power resurrected, as will we be when he comes.

Katy Yoder, Music Director



Our Christmas Program and Dinner with Santa was a HUGE success. The church was standing room only even with the extra seating we made available. That means we had over 300 people at the program. We had seating for 160 at Dinner with Santa. Every seat was filled with some guests sitting on the floor in the hallway and others sitting outside at picnic tables. Some families visited Santa or did crafts first, waiting for seats to open up. It was so exciting to have so many visitors back into the church and school!



Thanks to our parents, friends at Pilgrim Church and always our students, we were able to be Santa for the residents of Sandhill Gardens in time for Christmas treats! Next year we hope our students can deliver the gifts to the seniors!



Happy New Year! Joyful Noise staff and children are looking forward to all the new year will bring and wish you blessings for the year to come.

Cynthia Poudrette, Director

Food Pantry

Winn-Dixie



We are thrilled to announce the Bloomin' 4 Good Program, a brand new program from Winn-Dixie that works to fight hunger in our local community. With this program, every \$12.99 Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet sold sends a \$1 donation to a hunger organization local to the store in which it was purchased. For the month of January 2022, Pilgrim United Church of Christ Food Pantry has been selected to receive a \$1 donation for every \$12.99 Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet with the red circle sticker (pictured) sold at: Winn-Dixie located at 2000 Kings Hwy, Port Charlotte. Look for the bouquets with the red circle sticker pictured here to make sure it is a Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet that will benefit Pilgrim Church Food Pantry.



Food Pantry Collection 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

Bible Study

Make a commitment to delve into God's word! After worship, in the Library, on January 9 the Sunday Adult Bible Study group kicks off a new study on the book of Mark. This study, led by Dave & Judi Wilson, goes chapter by chapter and verse by verse.

January Bible Reading

Read though the Bible in a Year

1/1 Genesis 1-3	1/15 Genesis 42:29-45:15
1/2 Genesis 4-7	1/16 Genesis 45:16-48:7
1/3 Genesis 8:1-11:9	1/17 Gen 48:8-end; Exodus 1
1/4 Genesis 11:10-14:13	1/18 Exodus 2:1-5:9
1/5 Genesis 14:14-18:8	1/19 Exodus 5:10-8:15
1/6 Genesis 18:9-21:21	1/20 Exodus 8:16-11
1/7 Genesis 21:22-24:27	1/21 Exodus 12:1-14:20
1/8 Genesis 24:28-26	1/22 Exodus 14:21-17
1/9 Genesis 27-29	1/23 Exodus 18:21-21
1/10 Genesis 30-31:42	1/24 Exodus 21:22-25:9
1/11 Genesis 31:43-34	1/25 Exodus 25:10-27
1/12 Genesis 35-37:24	1/26 Exodus 28-29
1/13 Genesis 37:25-40:8	1/27 Exodus 30-32
1/14 Genesis 40:9-42:28	1/28 Exodus 33-35:29
	1/29 Exodus 35:30-37
	1/30 Exodus 38-40:16
	1/31 Exodus 40:17-38; Lev 1-4

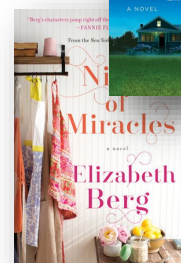
Pilgrim Women

Pilgrim Women's Fellowship has two events to start off the new year.

First is our general meeting on January 6, at 10:00 a.m. in the Coffee Room. Read Chapters 4 & 5 of Judges to begin our study of Deborah and Jael.

Second is, and be sure to mark your calendars, Book Club to be held on Monday, January 10, at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Judi Wilson. Dinner will be catered by Port Charlotte Luigi's Restaurant for a cost of \$10 per person. The book to be reviewed will be "Night of Miracles" by Elizabeth Berg. Reservations required by a text to Judi at 941-380-0877

Please join our Small Group as we work to build community within the women of our congregation.



Wednesday Night Dinners Coming Soon

We look forward to the day when we can say that the Wednesday Night Dinners are back! We are almost there...and are hoping for a February 2022 return!

In order to achieve this we need your participation. It takes multiple people for us to serve fellow Pilgrims and neighbors:



- Set Up -Put up tables and chairs:
2 people
(4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.)
- Prepare deserts:
1-2 people
(4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.)
- Servers / Food Preparation:
3-4 people
(5:00 p.m. to about 6:45 p.m.)
- Dish washer operator:
1-2 people
(5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.)
- Greeter/Money collector:
1 person to take up money
(6:20 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.)
- Clean up:
3 people
(7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.)
- Take Down -Return chairs and tables up and put them in the storage room:
2 people
(7:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.)

The goal will be to have Dinner available from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. then if you wish an option of joining the choir or stay for a Bible study devotion time at 6:30 p.m.

With the regulations to share this space with the school we must have all of our dinner volunteers background checked by our service. If you have not had a Pilgrim Church background check in the last 3 years, and want to serve, please let the church office know. These background checks need to be scheduled as soon as possible as with the reduced workforce some of these checks have been taking over a month to procure.

Any questions can be directed to Ken Rhoe, 717-404-6176 or the church office.

January Birthdays

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

6	Vera Roscoe
11	Kay Neilley
17	Dave O'Keefe
17	Sharon Sweeney
18	Gert Devantier
18	Mary Stoudt
19	Jonathan Emard
20	Olive Prince
22	Tom Jones

2021 Annual Report

Submissions for the 2021 Annual Report are due on January 12, 2022.

Altar Flowers

If you would like to order in memory of, honor of or to the glory of God, fresh flowers on the altar, please make note of this wish on the registration slip or by calling the church office. All dates for 2022 are available. Save your special date now! A single arrangement costs \$35. For two arrangements the cost would be \$50.



WISE MEN AND WOMEN STILL

*Seek Him
Adore Him
Serve Him*

Contact Information

(please print)



Name _____
first Last nickname/preffered name

Mailing Address _____
street
_____ city state zip code

Seasonal Address _____
street
_____ city state zip code

dates for out of town _____
from to

Mobile Phone Number _____ Email Address _____
o add my email to Pilgrim's blast

House Phone Number _____

Birthday _____ Anniversary _____

In case of emergency contact
Name _____
first Last relationship

Emergency Mobile Phone Number _____ Emergency House Phone Number _____

Church Member Status active homebound associate winter resident visitor inactive

Date Joined Pilgrim Church _____ Date of Baptism _____

Membership by confession of faith baptism confirmation transfer

Occupation _____ Previous Occupation _____

Hobbies and Skills _____

Pilgrim Ministries in which
you participate _____

Pilgrim Ministries in which
you are interested _____

Office use Member ID _____ Envelope No _____ Database Updated _____

Advent at Pilgrim Church

"I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year " - Scrooge



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 New Years Day
2 9:00am Worship	3 JN Camp Day 10:00am Food Pantry 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	4 JN Camp Day	5 JN Camp Day 10:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	6 Epiphany 10:00am Pilgrim Women Fellowship	7	8 12:00pm TJ Graves Eagle Ceremony
9 Baptism of Christ 9:00am Worship 10:15am Wilson Small Group	10 10:00am Food Pantry 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm Missions Mtg 7:00pm BSA Troop Mtg	11 7:00pm BSA Den Mtg	12 10:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	13 6:30pm Rhode Island Club	14	15
16 9:00am Worship 10:15am Wilson Small Group	17 JN Camp Day Martin Luter King Jr Day 10:00am Food Pantry 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 6:30pm Finance Mtg 7:00pm BSA Troop Mtg	18 JN Parent Teacher Conferences 7:00pm BSA Den Mtg	19 JN Parent Teacher Conferences Newsletter Article Deadline 10:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	20 JN Parent Teacher Conferences 10:00am PBJ Sandwich Makers 7:00pm BSA Pack Committee Mtg	21 JN Parent Teacher Conferences 4:15pm Serving at The Homeless Coalition	22
23 9:00am Worship followed immediately by Annual Meeting 3:00pm Rhode Island Club	24 10:00am Food Pantry 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm BSA Troop Mtg	25 7:00pm BSA Den Mtg 7:00pm Council Mtg	26 10:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	27 6:00pm BSA Committee Mtg	28	29
30 9:00am Worship 10:15am Wilson Small Group	31 10:00am Food Pantry 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm BSA Troop	<div data-bbox="581 1612 812 1797"> <p>Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet with the red circle sticker at: Winn-Dixie (Kings Highway) supports Pilgrim food pantry.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="162 1774 406 1913"> <p>Annual Meeting Sunday, January 23, 2022, 10:00 a.m.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1131 1627 1481 1925"> <p>* 2022 *</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Break a bad habit • Learn a new skill • Pray for neighbors • Visit a new place • Read the Bible • Write a letter • Try something new • Take a risk </div>				