

From the Desk of Pastor John

April
2022

Night had fallen. Jesus had shared his last meal with his disciples and watched his betrayer, Judas Iscariot, run off into the night to tell the chief priest and temple officers where to find and arrest Jesus. As Judas ran off into the night, Jesus and his other disciples went to the Mount of Olives. There in the dark garden, Jesus fell to his knees and prayed to his Heavenly Father:

“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”

It was a time of despair and distress for Jesus. He knew the path laying before him would lead to the cross, resulting in physical, emotional, and mental suffering. Although he understood that he must remain obedient to his Heavenly Father (and would remain obedient!), Jesus could not escape his very real human response.

In his prayer to God, we hear Jesus’ human nature struggling to accept the brutality he was to face. Like someone who flinches at the sight of a needle or instinctively recoils from a large flame, Jesus, too, wrestled with his human instinct to run. In other words, Jesus knew what human suffering was.

In fact, Luke’s gospel tells us that he began to sweat blood as he wrestled with his anguish. Jesus was experiencing a very real condition known as hematidrosis.

This condition occurs when one’s blood pressure drastically increases due to stress, causing the blood vessels around sweat glands to rupture and leading one to literally sweat blood. Jesus was physically suffering as he came to grips with the darkest hour of his life and human history.

Life has its dark moments. We suffer. We experience grief. We feel our blood pressure rise and tears threaten to fall from our eyes as stress overwhelms us. We, too, pray to God for the bitter cup that life sometimes puts in front of us to be removed, even though we know that suffering is part of our human life.

In these time of distress, we can remember that our God has been there. As Christ prayed on the Mount of Olives, he experienced raw, intense human emotions; these emotions are the same ones that we, too, experience in our darkest hours.

This adds a whole new dimension to the name Emmanuel, “God with us.” Not only is Christ’s Spirit with us physically, but he is with us emotionally as well. He empathizes with us not only when we are joyful, but also when we suffer.

Blessings,
Pastor John

 **Pilgrim Church**
 UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

24515 Rampart Boulevard
Port Charlotte, FL 33980
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www.pilgrimonline.org
office@pilgrimonline.org
Office Hours:
Mon - Thurs, 9:30 am - 2:30 pm

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

Senior Pastor:
Rev. John Barnette

Associate Pastor:
Rev. Ken Ewing

Office Administrator:
Cat Foster

Sunday School Director:
Jessica Warne

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!*

Holy Week

Holy Week is a time of intense fasting, reading, and prayers in which we pay particular attention to the final days of suffering and execution then resurrection of Jesus Christ.



Sunday, April 10

Palm / Passion Sunday is the first day of Holy Week. It is the Sunday before Easter, that commemorates Jesus Christ's triumphal entry with palms and "Hosannas" into the city of Jerusalem

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 22:14-23:56

9:00 a.m. Worship



Thursday, April 14

Maundy Thursday is observed in commemoration of Jesus Christ's upper room institution of the Eucharist during the Last Supper.

Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

6:30 p.m. Worship



Friday, April 15

Good Friday is the day which Christians annually observe the commemoration of the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16-25
John 18:1-19:42

6:30 p.m. Worship



Sunday, April 17

Easter celebrates the early morning Resurrection of Jesus Christ on the third day after his Crucifixion.

Isaiah 65:17-25
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Acts 10:34-43
John 20:1-18

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Worship
Location TBA

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Council Highlights

A motion was made and unanimously approved by the Council to proceed with a full financial audit of Pilgrim, by an outside independent Accounting firm.

- An audit is an independent, objective evaluation of our church's financial reports and how we report them. This accounting firm will come in to look at our records to ensure that our policies and procedures, properly safeguard our resources. We have a responsibility to our congregation that we care for the gifts that you have bestowed to us and that we demonstrated good stewardship.

Dave Wilson was elected Council Co-Moderator.

Property Insurance Appraisal was conducted of all property of Pilgrim.

Council will be working on updating outdated by-laws and procedures over the next several months.

A grant to Joyful Noise was received that includes an upgrade internet support to the Pilgrim campus.

We continue to search for a Music Director.

We are collecting several bids for repair and maintenance projects that will be completed over the next months.

Sanctuary Walker Days were approved with many already enjoying this safe, air conditioned, indoor space to get their steps on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

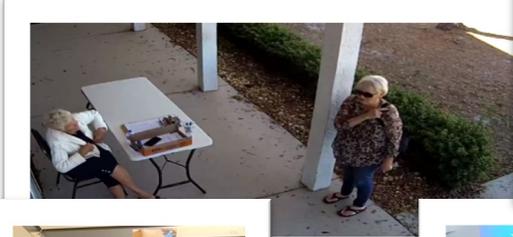
Spring Cleaning had poor participation. We heard many missed the announcements and will commit to increase our communication.

We will be recognizing Police Appreciation Week (May 15-21) by collecting individually wrapped snacks and drinks to deliver that week to our local station. This is another great idea of helping our community.

The Council has discussed many concerns, ideas, and frustrations from the congregation over the return of Wednesday Night Dinners. Your voices have been heard and this has NOT been forgotten! There were many great ideas for a variety of different ways we can "break bread" together in the future. We will be exploring these ideas and will share them to the congregation once all the information has been brought together.

Jessica Warne-Emard, Moderator

March Memories





Easter Flowers

Easter Lily and Hydrangea plants are available this year through the Englewood Lion's Club. You may indicate your purchase in memory of, honor of or to the Glory of God.



Easter flowers will be delivered for Easter Sunday and may be taken home after worship. Plants remaining after Easter Sunday will be shared with our homebound members and the Pilgrim Church gardens.

Return this form with payment to the Church office or in the offering plate by the firm deadline of **April 3, 2022.**

Your Name _____

Total Number of Plants : _____

Please mark what kind of plant and how you would like your dedication recognized. Additional Orders on back.

1. Dedicated to _____

Lily \$12 Hydrangea \$15

- In Memory of
- In Honor of
- To the Glory of God

2. Dedicated to _____

Lily \$12 Hydrangea \$15

- In Memory of
- In Honor of
- To the Glory of God

Additional Orders may be made by including a note with your payment.



Sunday Musicians

Do you know someone in our local community who plays the Piano? Keyboard? Flute? Guitar? Another instrument? Or someone with a gifted voice to share?

We are wishing to host gifted musicians for special music during Sunday Worship. Monetary gifts will be offered.

All levels of musicians are welcome. Worship music selections must be sacred and approved by pastor.

Please spread the word, if your or someone you know are interested or would like more information, reach out to Pastor John.



Altar Flowers

Fresh Live Altar flowers give an atmosphere of life and beatify the church for morning worship. After each worship, flowers are shared with the infirm, homebound or taken home by the giver.

If you would like to order in memory of, honor of or to the glory of God, fresh flowers for the altar, please make note on the registration slip or by calling the church office.

Special requests are usually honored by our florist, Port Charlotte Florist. A single fresh arrangement costs \$35. For two fresh arrangements the cost would be \$50.

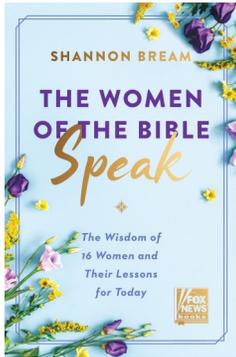


Sunday Small Group

The Sunday morning Adult Bible Study meets in the Church Library every week following the worship service. It is not too late to join us as we continue in the Book of Mark, discussing the life of Christ thru the accounts of a young man who traveled with the disciples. In a verse-by-verse, chapter-by-chapter study format, this Small Group explores how the Bible, written so long ago, is relevant to us today.

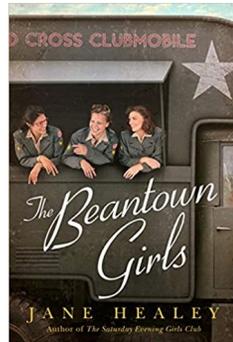
We are not meeting April 17 or 24.

Pilgrim Women



Join us on Thursday, April 7, at 10:00 a.m. in the Coffee Room off the sanctuary as we continue our study of “*Women of the Bible Speak*” by Shannon Bream. Each lesson stands alone and all women are welcome to join us for the study and fellowship. If you are available, plan to join us for a lunch outing afterwards. Our April study centers on sisters Mary and Martha. In preparation, read Luke 10:38-42, John 11:17-44, and John 12:1-8.

A book has been selected for the next review – “*The Beantown Girls*” written by Jane Healey. This is a novel of how love, courage, and danger unfolds as World War II’s brightest heroines—the best of friends—take on the front lines. The book review date is Monday, April 25, and the location and time is TBA.



We celebrated Dr. Seuss birthday on March 2. This is also “Read Across America Day”. All the classes read Dr. Seuss books and had fun art activities. On March 17th several classes celebrated St. Patrick’s Day with lots of green food and activities. Check out our Facebook page for fun pictures of the celebrations.

April is going to be very busy at Joyful Noise.

Pastor John is preparing our students for Easter with his weekly devotional activities. Pastor visits our VPK classrooms and K/1 every Monday morning.

The children are learning this month that Easter is not about a giant candy giving bunny, rather about the miracle of Jesus rising again.

The VPK children are also preparing for their Graduation Program, May 20, at 10:00 a.m. They are making a joyful noise practicing songs and learning dance moves, so mark your calendars.

I continue to look for qualified staff who fit our Joyful Noise family to teach our children. We are still in need of three teachers. Please pray that all our staffing needs are met.

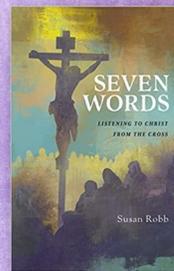
Cynthia Poudrette, Director

Church Property

In response to our recent property appraisal we ask that if you have any personal items at Pilgrim Church, you remove the items from our campus. These items are a liability that we cannot assume.

After April 10, all items at Pilgrim Church will here after be considered property of Pilgrim Church and may be used, discarded or moved.

Digging Deeper in Lent



“*Seven Words*” by Susan Robb, Lenten Small Group Study with Pastor John

Noon and 6:30 p.m.

Wednesdays, through April 13



3 For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, 5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then He appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. 7 Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared also to me.

- 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 NRSV

Mission of the Month

April is Stock the Shelves month for the Pilgrim Church Food Pantry. We have seen the need for our food pantry increase in the last month

Comparing the food pantry records for the same first weeks of each year:

Average	2021	2022
Families	36	38
Adults & Children	113	135

With the increase cost of living we anticipate families to face greater hardships in the weeks to come. Let's be ahead of the curve and stock our shelves to meet the needs of our community!

Each Sunday in April we are asking for specific items to stock our shelves, of course if you see other items on sale, we'll gladly accept all donations of goods and financial support!

- April 3 rice and beans, 1 lb bags of the dried variety
- April 10 pasta and pasta sauce
- April 17 dry cereal
- April 24 peanut butter, jelly and jams
- May 1 canned tuna fish

Proverbs 22:9 *A generous person will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor.*

Pilgrim 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 |



We are opening the Sanctuary
Air Conditioned, No Pollen, Secured
Tuesdays and Thursdays,
10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.
Come and go as your schedule allows.
Don't forget your water bottle!

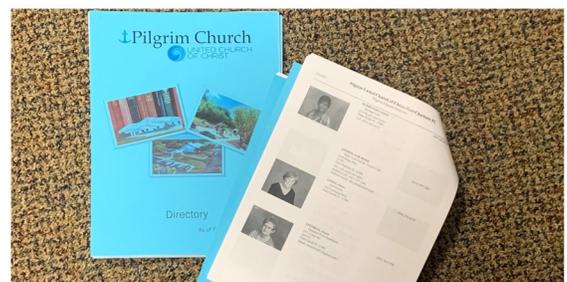


AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. And you can choose Pilgrim Church!



Pilgrim Church Directories

Are now available in the Church Office.
\$5 Donation requested to cover printing costs.





April Birthdays

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

- 2** Dawn Miller
- 4** Velma Bennett
- 6** Ken Ewing
Char Semon
- 9** Sharon Cooper
Bruce Devantier
- 11** Don Anderson
Genny Sweetland
- 16** Donna Bundy
- 18** Judi Wilson
- 21** Allen Moll
Ken Moriarty
Kathy Wagner
- 22** Beatrice Victoria
- 30** Connie Rice



Pilgrim Prayer List

Bill Wolf - homebound, Savina Krueger - cancer, John Krueger - Parkinson's, Gloria Kurbanali - homebound, Louise Timchak - PC Rehab, Sidoney Johnston - homebound, Melvin Keller - cancer, Lorraine O'Keefe - cancer, Gene Rice - stroke, Joe Beaudreau - health, Jim Smith - homebound, Richard McLemore - cancer, Adrian Roche - cancer, John Hames - PC Rehab, Pat Wheatcroft - cancer, Zander Jones - health, Michael Garofola - health, Judy Michaels - health, the Hoerl Family, Doug Terry - cancer, Arlene Robbins - health, Megan Townsend - health, Connie Rice - health, Jody Phillips - cancer, Rieley, Edward Clapp - cancer



April Bible Readings

Read though the Bible in a Year

- 4/1 1 Samuel 30:11- 2 Samuel 2
- 4/2 2 Samuel 3:1-6:11
- 4/3 2 Samuel 6:12-10:19
- 4/4 2 Samuel 11-13
- 4/5 2 Samuel 14-16
- 4/6 2 Samuel 17-19
- 4/7 2 Samuel 20:1-22:34
- 4/8 2 Samuel 22:35-24:17
- 4/9 2 Samuel 24:18-25; 1 Kings 1-2:18
- 4/10 1 Kings 2:19-4:19
- 4/11 1 Kings 4:20-7:39
- 4/12 1 Kings 7:40-9:9
- 4/13 1 Kings 9:10-11:25
- 4/14 1 Kings 11:26-13:34
- 4/15 1 Kings 14-17
- 4/16 1 Kings 18:1-20:25
- 4/17 1 Kings 20:26-22:36
- 4/18 1 Kings 22:37- 2 Kings 4:28
- 4/19 2 Kings 4:29-8:15
- 4/20 2 Kings 8:16-10:24
- 4/21 2 Kings 10:25-14:10
- 4/22 2 Kings 14:11-17:18
- 4/23 2 Kings 17:19-19:24
- 4/24 2 Kings 19:25-23:9
- 4/25 1 Kings 23:10-25; 1 Chronicles 1:1-16
- 4/26 1 Chronicles 1:17-3:9
- 4/27 1 Chronicles 3:10-6:30
- 4/28 1 Chronicles 6:31-8:28
- 4/29 1 Chronicles 8:29-11:21
- 4/30 1 Chronicles 11:22-15:29



Council Meetings

Council Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of Each month. Members of Pilgrim Church are welcome and encouraged to attend. Though you will not have a vote, your voice matters.

This meeting is a great way to be part of the ministry that is happening at Pilgrim Church, we hope to see you April 26, 7:00 p.m. in the Coffee Room.

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

					1	2
3 5th Sunday in Lent Food Pantry Special Collection: 11b bags of rice and beans 9:00am Worship 10:15am Wilson Small Group	4 10:00am Food Pantry 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm BSA Troop Meeting 7:00pm AA - Women	5 10:00am Pilgrim Walkers 7:00pm BSA Den Meeting	6 10:00am Prayer Partners 12:00pm Lent Bible Study 6:30pm Lent Bible Study	7 10:00am Pilgrim Walkers 10:00am Pilgrim Women Fellowship	8	9 6:30pm BSA AOL Crossover
10 Food Pantry Special Collection: pasta and pasta sauce Palm Passion Sunday 8:00am Blood Pressure Checks 9:00am Worship 10:15am Wilson Small Group	11 10:00am Food Pantry 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm AA - Women 7:00pm BSA Troop Meeting 7:00pm Missions Meeting	12 10:00am Pilgrim Walkers 7:00pm BSA Den Meeting	13 10:00am Prayer Partners 12:00pm Lent Bible Study 6:30pm Lent Bible Study	14 Maundy Thursday 10:00am Pilgrim Walkers 6:30pm Worship	15 Good Friday JN Closed 4:15pm Serving at The Homeless Coalition 6:30pm Worship	16 Holy Saturday
17 Easter Sunday Food Pantry Special Collection: dry cereal 7:00am Sunrise Worship 9:00am Worship	18 10:00am Food Pantry 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 6:30pm Finance Meeting 7:00pm AA - Women	19 10:00am Pilgrim Walkers 7:00pm BSA Den Meeting	20 Newsletter Article Deadline 10:00am Prayer Partners	21 10:00am Pilgrim Walkers 10:00am PBJ Sandwich Makers 7:00pm BSA Pack Committee Meeting	22 Earth Day	23
24 Food Pantry Special Collection: peanut butter and jelly 9:00am Worship	25 10:00am Food Pantry 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm BSA Troop Meeting 7:00pm AA - Women	26 10:00am Pilgrim Walkers 7:00pm BSA Den Meeting 7:00pm Council Meeting	27 10:00am Prayer Partners	28 10:00am Pilgrim Walkers 6:00pm BSA Committee Meeting	29 4:30pm Serving at The Homeless Coalition	30



- April 3 1 lb bags rice and beans
- April 10 pasta/sauce
- April 17 cereal
- April 24 pbj stuff
- May 1 canned tuna fish