



Prayer. It is to be the most powerful gift God has given us. Through prayer, God invites us to enter into relationship with Him and to share with Him everything that is on our hearts. Yet many struggle, finding it difficult to express to God what is on their hearts. Carrying on a conversation with someone who is standing in front of you, helping in a physical way to guide the conversation is one thing, but talking to God ... well, that's a whole different ballgame.

I understand. Prayer doesn't come easy to everyone. There are those who can simply close their eyes and share their thoughts, concerns, and feelings with God in a seamless stream of thought. Then there are those whose minds are more like a spiderweb. For these individuals there are thoughts and feelings going in all directions and at times it is hard to bring them into a cohesive stream of thought. Their mind wanders, taking detours as one thought triggers a memory or another thought, and they feel like they are spending more time asking themselves "Where was I again?" instead of actually praying.

Do not feel bad. I have struggled with prayer, too. My mind is like the spiderweb, with strands of thought going in all directions. I can go from one thought to a completely unrelated thought in a blink of an eye. This makes prayer difficult at times.

A good friend of mine shared with me a wonderful acronym that has helped me with prayer and I would like to share it with you. I want you to remember the acronym A.C.T.S.

Here's what each letter stands for:

"A" stands for adoration. First, take time to worship God and recognize Him for who He is - our Creator, our Savior, and our Sustainer.

"C" stands for confession. We are called to acknowledge our transgressions. We fall short of the glory of God and are called to confess our sins before Him.

"T" stands for thanksgiving. Remember to thank God not only for His grace, mercy, and forgiveness, but also for all the prayers He has answered.

"S" stand for supplication. Appeal humbly, lift up your sincere prayer requests. God doesn't necessarily care that you want your favorite team to win, but He does want to hear what is weighing heavy on your heart, your concerns, and your needs. Lift them up to the Lord!

For those of you who may struggle with prayer, I encourage you to try the A.C.T.S. prayer. I hope that it is helpful for you. However, if prayer isn't something that comes easy for you, please do not hesitate to stop in and see me. I will be glad to help you develop a healthy prayer life.

Blessings,  
Pastor John

"Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known."  
Jeremiah 33:3

Adoration  
Confession  
Thanksgiving  
Supplication

 **Pilgrim Church**  
 UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

24515 Rampart Boulevard  
Port Charlotte, FL 33980  
941-629-2633

[www.pilgrimonline.org](http://www.pilgrimonline.org)  
[office@pilgrimonline.org](mailto:office@pilgrimonline.org)

Office Hours:

Mon - Thurs, 9:30 am - 2:30 pm

Joyful Noise

Learning Center  
941-629-4821,  
[www.joyfulnoisec.org](http://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!*



## Council Highlights

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 May 24, 7:00 p.m. in the Coffee Room.

- Town hall meetings are coming back!! Please keep an eye on the Sunday bulletin, Facebook and your e-mail for details.
- We are still searching for a Music Director. Thank you for your continued understanding and support as we continue this search. And thank you to Cheryl Huber for working with the choir and playing for Pilgrim Church twice a month – you are amazing!
- The Nominating Committee has filled the open volunteer position of Assistant Treasurer and she will soon start training with our Treasurer.
- Sanctuary Walker Days are a hit... such a safe and hazard-free way to get your daily steps in....out of the FL heat!
- Council received feedback from the congregation over the return of our gathered meals. We are still working out the details and will make an announcement once we have them made. Thank you for your patience.
- A motion was approved for a Honorarium Plaque in commemoration of Pastor Matthew. Materials for this will be acquired and assembled, noting his name and many years of service at Pilgrim Church. It was a unanimous approval to honor the expressed wishes of Pastor Matthew for no type of dedication. Donors that contributed to this fund will be contacted about the return of their donation or permission to send the fund balance to Virginia B. Andes Community Clinic in Pastor Matthew's name.
- We are still gathering names of accounting firms and quotes for an audit of Pilgrim's finances. Once we have these, Council and Finance will discuss the next steps to proceed.

Jessica Warne-Emard, Moderator



## Sunday Small Group

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study Resumes at 10:15 a.m. following the church service. Our meeting place is the Library in the Community Center.

We are starting a new study of the Book of Daniel using a verse -by-verse, chapter-by chapter discussion format. Be sure to bring your Bible.



## 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.



## Hiring Music Director

This person will be responsible for selecting appropriate anthems and special music as well as recruiting and directing musicians and choir members at weekly Sunday worship services.

This is a part time position perfect for a bi-vocational candidate. Salary will be consistent with candidate's education, experience, and skill level. Please send cover letter and resume to [office@pilgrimonline.org](mailto:office@pilgrimonline.org).



The Troop has been very busy the last couple months. They had their Fish and Chips Dinner with Gift Basket Penny Social. Thank you for all that participated. That really helped with covering gas for the Spring Break Trip to Pensacola.

On March 3, Christopher White, our Scoutmaster received the Live Oak Award from the Two Rivers Council for his distinguished service with Scouts.

During Spring Break 12 scouts and 4 adults traveled to Pensacola. They went to the Navy Aviation Museum at Pensacola Naval Base. Then the scouts traveled Mobile to explore the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park.



Coming up in May we have a crossover ceremony for cub scouts graduating to boy scouts. Also, some roadside clean ups.

Our Pasta Dinner is scheduled for April 14. Tickets will be coming out soon and we will have them at the Church office. We are still working with the Salvation Army, so if you cannot attend you can donate a ticket and the Salvation Army will hand them out to someone in need of a meal. The money that we raise will help with the gas expenses to summer camp at Camp Woodruff in Blairsville, Georgia. The Scouts will leave on June 25 for camp and will return July 3.

We have three Life Scouts working towards their Eagle Projects. We also have welcomed in 6 new scouts from another troop looking for a new home. We have 27 scouts in the troop now. We have two scouts that became members of the Order of the Arrow, Howard Nuzum and Oliver Pettit. Harold "TJ" Graves earned Brotherhood in the Order of the Arrow earlier this year. We will be finishing up the year on May 21 with our final Court of Honor for Cub and Boy Scouts before breaking for summer break.



Enrollment: We are currently fully enrolled. We are quickly filling up for fall even though the year has just begun. School wide we only have nine spots available for this fall and we have a waitlist for our Before/after program. We already have seven children registered for June 2023.

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 2-6.

Notice has been received of our award of the Child Care Stabilization Subgrant. Some of the funds must go directly to staff for incentives, with the remaining funds there is a list of allowable uses for the funds. We are excited that with the remaining funds we plan to make mortgage payments and repair playgrounds and more!

The VPK children are 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.

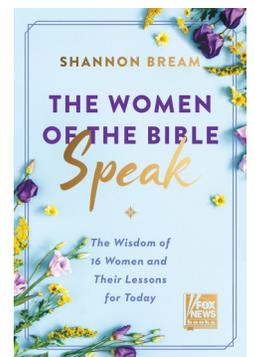
Cynthia Poudrette, Director



Pilgrim Women will meet on May 12 INSTEAD OF the first Thursday of the month. We will conclude our study of *Women of the Bible Speak* by Shannon Bream.

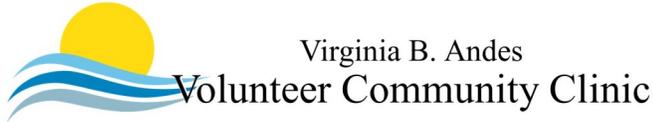
We meet in the Coffee Room adjacent to the Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m.

All Pilgrim Women are welcome. We travel to a local restaurant for lunch after the meeting.





# Mission of the Month



### Vision:

To assure that all Charlotte County residents have access to quality health care.

### Mission Statement

To provide no cost volunteer medical, pharmacy and wellness services to the under-served in Charlotte County.

### Medical Clinic

The Virginia B. Andes Volunteer Community Clinic provides qualified Charlotte County residents with no-cost, onsite exams, primary and semi-urgent wellness services, medical care, minor procedures, and access to limited surgical and laboratory services. VBA patients come from all walks of life and economic circumstances. The VBA Clinic is proud to be the health care safety net for Charlotte County.

### Volunteer Pharmacy

The VBA Clinic Pharmacy is dedicated to providing free pharmaceutical care to the residents of Charlotte County. The VBA Pharmacy provides prescription medications, one-on-one counseling, and assists in patient advocacy services for enrollment in various drug manufacturers' compassionate care programs.

### Wellness Services

We promote, encourage and support healthy lifestyles and self-care with all our patients. The VBA Clinic offers programs, workshops and educational materials addressing: weight loss, smoking cessation, diabetes management, and stress reduction.

### Get Involved

Volunteers are the heartbeat of the VBA clinic and pharmacy. The best way to be involved is to volunteer your time and talents. We need volunteers in every aspect of our operation and offer opportunities for medical and non-medical personnel.

For more information: Noreen Chervinski  
941-766-9570 Ext. 114 or  
nchervinski@volunteercare.org



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 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         |



## May Birthdays

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

- 3 Robert Emard
- 5 Gary Cooper
- 6 Vasa O'Leary, Judy Whittaker
- 7 Gerry Ahlgrim, Fred Ripley
- 9 Judy Prier
- 12 Phyllis Keller
- 15 Susan Wright
- 17 James Keller
- 19 George Stull
- 22 Karen Ahlgrim, Tootie Singer
- 30 Nancy Hoffman, Jane Moriarty, Jo Sweatt



## Pilgrim Prayer List

Bill Wolf - homebound, Savina Krueger - cancer, John Krueger - Parkinson's, Gloria Kurbanali - homebound, Sidoney Johnston - homebound, Lorraine O'Keefe - cancer, Gene Rice - stroke, Louise Timchak - PC Rehab, John Hames - PC Rehab, Joe Beaudreau - health, Evonne Bloss - infection, Richard McLemore - cancer, Jim Smith - PC Rehab, Michael Garofola - health, Kathy Wagner - health, Rieley Owen - health, John & Lorretta Almonte - health, Melvin Keller - family and friends sympathies, David Ahlgrim - health, Zander Jones - health, Brother Brinsson - health, Elizabeth Jo Smith - health, Adrian Roche - cancer, Barnette Family - family and friends sympathies, Noah - cancer



## May Bible Readings

Read though the Bible in a Year

- 5/1 1 Chronicles 16:1-19:9
- 5/2 1 Chronicles 19:10-23:11
- 5/3 1 Chronicles 23:12-26:19
- 5/4 1 Chronicles 26:20-29:19
- 5/5 1 Chronicles 29:20- 2 Chronicles 1-4:10
- 5/6 2 Chronicles 4:11-7:22
- 5/7 2 Chronicles 8:1-11:12
- 5/8 2 Chronicles 11:13-15:19
- 5/9 2 Chronicles 16:1-20:13
- 5/10 2 Chronicles 20:14-24:14
- 5/11 2 Chronicles 24:15-28:27
- 5/12 2 Chronicles 29-31
- 5/13 2 Chronicles 32:1-35:19
- 5/14 2 Chronicles 35:20-end; Ezra 1-3
- 5/15 Ezra 4-7
- 5/16 Ezra 8-10; Nehemiah 1
- 5/17 Nehemiah 2-5
- 5/18 Nehemiah 6:1-8:8
- 5/19 Nehemiah 8:9-11:21
- 5/20 Nehemiah 11:22-13:22
- 5/21 Nehemiah 13:23-31; Esther 1-4
- 5/22 Esther 5-10
- 5/23 Job 1:1-5:16
- 5/24 Job 5:17-8:22
- 5/25 Job 9:1-12:12
- 5/26 Job 12:13-16:10
- 5/27 Job 16:11-20:11
- 5/28 Job 20:12-24:12
- 5/29 Job 24:13-29:13
- 5/30 Job 29:14-32:10
- 5/31 Job 32:11-35:16



All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." - 2 Timothy 3:16 "

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Food Pantry Collection: tuna	2 10:00am Food Pantry 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm AA - Women 7:00pm BSA Troop Mtg	3 10:00am Pilgrim Walkers 7:00pm BSA Den Mtg	4 10:00am Prayer Partners	5 10:00am Pilgrim Walkers	6	7
<b>Joyful Noise Teacher Appreciation Week</b> <b>Joyful Noise Parent Teacher Conferences</b>						
8 Mother's Day 8:00am Blood Pressure Checks 8:00am Choir Rehearsal	9 10:00am Food Pantry 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm Missions 7:00pm AA - Women 7:00pm BSA Troop Mtg	10 10:00am Pilgrim Walkers 7:00pm BSA Den Mtg	11 10:00am Prayer Partners	12 10:00am Pilgrim Walkers 10:00am Pilgrim Women Fellowship	13 7:00am JN Pastries with Parents	14 5:00pm BSA Spaghetti Fundraiser
15	16 10:00am Food Pantry 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 6:30pm Finance 7:00pm AA - Women 7:00pm BSA Troop Mtg	17 11:00am Pilgrim Walkers 7:00pm BSA Den Mtg	18 Newsletter Article Deadline 10:00am Prayer Partners	19 10:00am Sandwich Makers 11:00am Pilgrim Walkers 7:00pm BSA Pack Committee	20 10:00am VPK Graduation 4:15pm Serving at Homeless Coalition	21 4:00pm BSA Court of Honor
22	23 10:00am Food Pantry 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm AA - Women	24 10:00am Pilgrim Walkers 7:00pm Council Mtg	25 10:00am Prayer Partners	26 Ascension Day 10:00am Pilgrim Walkers	27 JN Closed Teacher Work Day	28
29 8:00am Choir Rehearsal	30 Church Office Closed JN Closed Memorial Day 7:00pm AA - Women	31 JN Summer Camp Begins 10:00am Pilgrim Walkers	<b>Sundays in May</b> 8:00am Coffee Hour 9:00am Worship 10:15am Wilson Small Group			

