

# From the Desk of Pastor John

June  
2022

Once I had a shrub growing at my house. It was a relatively small shrub. It popped up voluntarily and stood alone among some groundcover. One wouldn't think much of that plant if it wasn't for where the plant grew. Its location makes it quite the nuisance. This seemingly non-conspicuous plant grew right at the edge of my driveway on the left-hand side, making it difficult to park in the driveway when there were two cars present. If there wasn't a car parked on the right-hand side of the driveway, one didn't have to deal with the bush. However, if there was a car parked there, one had to hug the left-side edge of the driveway, which meant the left side of the car was most likely going to fall victim to the wild branches of that bush.

I tried everything to tame this bush. I cut the branches back only to have them growing wildly again within two weeks. I even cut the plant all the way back to a bare stub, centimeters from the ground! But it just grew back thicker and fuller than before.

Why didn't you just dig it up, you ask? Tried that. The plant's roots had grown under my driveway, making it virtually impossible to remove it.

The bottom line is I was stuck with this bush. It was a nuisance, but it was there to stay.

You know, we must deal with frustrations and problems that simply won't disappear. For some

these problems are trivial, much like a rebellious bush, but then there are some who must deal with greater difficulties and snags. These difficulties can't be avoided or dug up; they must be faced each day. For some its an illness that hinders their quality of life. Physical illness along with mental illness, like depression, can at times be ignored for a moment or two, but eventually they let their presence be known.

For others, it's grief. The loss of a loved one is something that leaves a mark. Grief, then, plants itself within the heart and refuses to leave. It sleeps from time to time, but always wakes up at some point and lets its presence be known.

Then there are those who deal with financial hardships. The budget and cash flow are always at the back of the mind, ready to invade everyday thoughts.

Nuisances. Difficulties. Crisis. Frustrations. Whatever you want to call them, there are some things that are planted into our lives, and we simply must deal with them.

But, we don't deal with them alone. God is always at work in our lives, even when it comes to the difficulties and nuisances in our lives.

Paul wrote to the Roman church Romans 8:28, "And we know that in all things God works for the

(Continued on page 2)

 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.joyfulnoiselc.org](http://www.joyfulnoiselc.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!*

good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." We don't know why we have hardships. We don't know why there are some things in life that we must live with even though we'd like to dig them up and discard them. But, we do know this: God is right there in the messiness of all of it, redeeming even the most unpleasant aspects of life and working them to His glory.

Over time, that bush that had caused me so much grief blossomed. Beautifully rich, pink flowers popped out, offering a display of God's beauty. When left in God's hands, beauty can come from the most frustrating things life has to offer.

Blessings!

## Council Highlights

Thanks to Judi and Dave Wilson, we have an interim pianist for our Sunday service. His name is Maverick Li, a classically trained, a FSW high school collegiate track student. He will be working alongside Cheryl, learning the hymn side of piano.

The honorarium for Pastor Matthew Neumann is near completion. (Thank you for your patience.) Council approved to hang the piece in the Community Center vestibule, after presenting it to the congregation officially. Special thanks go out to Joe Gillner and his son, Andrew, for dedicating their time and materials to create this piece. It is truly beautiful!

Going forward with the financial audit of Pilgrim, Council is sending the information gathered from companies regarding their fee quotes over to the Financial Committee for funding discussion. Once we have a plan to fund, this will move back to Council for final approval.

Town Hall meetings will be changing their format in the future and given a new name - "Pilgrim Progress Meetings". Council would like the opportunity to engage in a healthy discussion about the business side of the Pilgrim Church every quarter with the congregation, giving them an idea of where we are and where we are heading. These meetings will start in quarter 3, official date to be determined.

As always, I encourage any of you, if there is an issue or grievance to please reach out to any member of Council (or myself) so we may add it to our agenda for the next Council meeting. This gives the members of Council the opportunity to address the issue fully and find a solution.

Council Meetings are usually 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. The next meeting is moved due to Pastor John's vacation and the 4th of July holiday, we hope to see you Wednesday, July 6, 7:00 p.m. in the Coffee Room.

Jessica Warne-Emard, Moderator

## Membership Sunday

Are you interested in becoming a member of Pilgrim Church?

We are welcoming new members on Sunday, July 10.

If you would like to be the missing piece of our puzzle, please reach out to the church office or make a note on your registration slip!

*Acts 2:41  
Those who embraced his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to the believers that day.*

Pilgrim Church  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



**MENU**

- Scrambled eggs
- Bacon
- Regular pancakes
- Blueberry pancakes
- Bagels w/cream cheese
- Bananas
- Yogurt
- Lasagna
- Salad
- Garlic toast

The Sunday, June 5 Brunch is at 10:00 a.m.  
The cost is \$5.00 for adults;  
children under 12 are free.

# Gun-Lock Safety Sunday

In response to

- Pulse Nightclub
- Parkland FL shooting at high school
- Robb Elementary School
- 100 people dying from gun violence each day
- 4.6 million kids in America living in homes with unsecured guns
- 8 children who are unintentionally injured or killed by a gun every day

A joint project of the League of Women Voters of Broward County, the Veterans Administration, the Florida Conference of UCC, and United Church of Christ Fort Lauderdale provided all churches in the Conference with gun-locks.



Get the facts: An unlocked gun at home increases risk of homicide by 2 times, suicide by 3 times, and domestic violence fatality by 5 times.

**Gun-Safety will save lives!**

If you or someone you know would use this FREE gun lock, please see Pastor John or the church office.

June 19-25, 2022, 6:30 pm

Pilgrim Church  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Crafts  
Snacks  
Songs  
Bible Study

I AM A CHURCH MEMBER  
BY THOM S. RAINER

# VBS Save the Date

For Adults

2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: 4 there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. - Ephesians 4:2-6



Another VPK school year has come to a close. Our VPK students celebrated with a fun filled week including: field day, crazy sock day, movie day and a craft day. We ended the week with our first full Graduation Program in two years. We had 63 graduates and a full house to help us celebrate. Please help us pray for these students and their families as they enter "big school".

Cynthia Poudrette, Director



# Mission of the Month



## Mission

The Children's Network of Southwest Florida is committed to working with the community to protect children and preserve families.

## Vision

Building Strong Links for Children in Need.

In Southwest Florida, hundreds of children have experienced abuse and neglect. These children, teens, and groups of siblings urgently need a safe, loving refuge. The Children's Network, in partnership with United Way, runs a Family Mentor Program to pair trained mentors with parents who are ready to be reunified with their children. This is a new ministry to us, we are still finding our place.

For more information: 239.226.1524

# Altar Flowers

Altar flower dates are being filled, so sign up now. Placing flowers on the altar for our worship services is a wonderful way to honor someone you love and appreciate or to remember a departed loved one.

Arranging to place flowers is as simple as a phone call or email to the church office. Tell us what information you would like printed in the bulletin, we order the flowers, and the florist delivers them.

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



# Pilgrim Food Pantry

For the Summer Months, the Food Pantry will be open on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. 10:00 a.m. until 11:20 a.m.

If you are interested in supporting this ministry with your time and talents, please reach out to the church office. Financial support can be left in the giving box or mailed.

## NEW Food Pantry Collection List

|                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| canned soup         | canned fruit         |
| saltine crackers    | ramen noodles        |
| beef stew           | spaghetti sauce      |
| canned tuna         | dry pasta (assorted) |
| canned pasta        | mac n cheese         |
| canned tomatoes     | mashed potatoes      |
| canned green beans  | rice & dry beans     |
| canned pork n beans | dry cereal & grits   |
| canned carrots      | oatmeal              |
| canned corn         | peanut butter        |
| canned mix veggies  | jelly                |
| canned peas         | snacks               |



Every penny counts!.

AmazonSmile donates 0.5% of your qualified purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. And there's a lot to choose from, including Pilgrim Church!

Instead of amazon.com go to smile.amazon.com, then follow the prompts and choose Pilgrim United Church of Christ, Punta Gorda, FL!

If you use the phone app: Open the app and find 'Settings' in the main menu (≡). Tap on 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone.

\$5.31 donation was received from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity during one quarter of 2021. That covered a ream of copy paper. Join us today in supporting Pilgrim Church with smile.Amazon.com.

# June Birthdays

- 3 Tim Donohue
- 4 Al Bluschke
- 5 Lesa Sealy
- 6 Ken Rhoe
- 8 Tony Caniglia
- 11 Sandy Jones
- 14 Wilbur Holmes, Jolene Mowry, Nicholas Santiago
- 16 Samantha Santiago
- 20 Carol Borris, Frank Ross
- 22 Reba Barker, Bill Epps, Will McClure
- 24 Judy Michaels
- 26 Marilyn Hill

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

# Pilgrim Prayer List

Adoration Confession Thanksgiving Supplication

Bill Wolf - homebound, Savina Krueger - cancer, John Krueger - Parkinson's, Gloria Kurbanali - homebound, Sidoney Johnston - homebound, Gene Rice - stroke, Joe Beaudreau - health, Richard McLemore - cancer, Jim Smith - health, Peace in our hearts and in our world, Revival, Polly Hagman - health, Lorraine O'Keefe - cancer, Pat Wheatcroft - cancer, Evonne Bloss - infection, Karen - cancer, Lorin Benson - peace, Tony - health, Jolene Scofeld - health, Rieley Owen - health, Zander Jones - health, John - health, Lil & Bruce daughter, Karen - cancer, Raina - stroke, Ukraine, Mike Faber - health, Ingrid - health, Louise Timchak - PC Rehab, John Hames - PC Rehab, Carol Veigel - health

How to pray for America - by praying into centers of influence in our nation:

Government Military Media Business  
Education Church Family

# June Bible Readings

Read though the Bible in a Year

- 6/1 Job 36:1-39:12
- 6/2 Job 39:13-42:9
- 6/3 Job 42:10-17; Ps 1:1-5:7
- 6/4 Psalms 5:8-8:9
- 6/5 Psalms 9-10
- 6/6 Psalms 11:1-17:5
- 6/7 Psalms 17:6-18:36
- 6/8 Psalms 18:37-21:13
- 6/9 Psalms 22:1-24:6
- 6/10 Psalms 24:7-27:6
- 6/11 Psalms 27:7-31:5
- 6/12 Psalms 31:6-33:5
- 6/13 Psalms 33:6-35:21
- 6/14 Psalms 35:22-37:26
- 6/15 Psalms 37:27-39:13
- 6/16 Psalms 40-42
- 6/17 Psalms 43:1-45:12
- 6/18 Psalms 45:13-48:14
- 6/19 Psalms 49:1-51:9
- 6/20 Psalms 51:10-54:7
- 6/21 Psalms 55:1-57:3
- 6/22 Psalms 57:4-60:12
- 6/23 Psalms 61-64
- 6/24 Psalms 65:1-68:4
- 6/25 Psalms 68:5-69:4
- 6/26 Psalms 69:5-71:16
- 6/27 Psalms 71:17-73:20
- 6/28 Psalms 73:21-76:7
- 6/29 Psalms 76:8-78:24
- 6/30 Psalms 78:25-72

# Pilgrim Book Club

Pilgrim women are invited to Book Club Review on June 7 at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Betsy Field, in Maple Leaf. Contact the church for the exact address.

Book: *The Secret Stealers* by Jane Healey



# June 2022

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday                       | Saturday  |
|--|---|---|--|--|------------------------------|---|
|  |   |   | 1<br>10:00am Prayer Partners                                 | 2<br>10:00am Pilgrim Walkers                                 | 3                            | 4   |
| 5<br>Pentecost Sunday<br>9:00am Worship<br>10:00am Fellowship Brunch                 | 6<br>6:00pm Pilgrim Women Book Club<br>7:00pm AA - Women  | 7<br>10:00am Pilgrim Walkers                            | 8<br>10:00am Prayer Partners                                 | 9<br>10:00am Pilgrim Walkers                                 | 10                           | 11  |
| 12<br>8:00am Blood Pressure Checks<br>8:00am Coffee Hour<br>9:00am Worship           | 13<br>10:00am Food Pantry<br>7:00pm Missions Meeting<br>7:00pm AA - Women                               | 14<br>10:00am Pilgrim Walkers                           | 15<br>Newsletter Article Deadline<br>10:00am Prayer Partners | 16<br>10:00am PBJ Sandwich Makers<br>10:00am Pilgrim Walkers | 17                           | 18  |
| 19<br>Father's Day<br>8:00am Coffee Hour<br>9:00am Worship<br>6:30pm VBS: for Adults | 20<br>6:30pm VBS: for Adults<br>6:30pm Finance Meeting<br>7:00pm AA - Women<br>7:00pm BSA Troop Meeting | 21<br>10:00am Pilgrim Walkers<br>6:30pm VBS: for Adults | 22<br>10:00am Prayer Partners<br>6:30pm VBS: for Adults      | 23<br>10:00am Pilgrim Walkers<br>6:30pm VBS: for Adults      | 24<br>6:30pm VBS: for Adults | 25<br>65th Anniversary of the UCC<br>6:30pm VBS: for Adults |
| 26<br>Gun-Lock Safety Sunday<br>8:00am Coffee Hour<br>9:00am Worship                 | 27<br>10:00am Food Pantry<br>7:00pm AA - Women  | 28<br>10:00am Pilgrim Walkers                           | 29<br>10:00am Prayer Partners                                | 30<br>10:00am Pilgrim Walkers                                |                              |   |

|  |   |   |  |  |                              |   |
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VBS  
June 19-25  
6:30 p.m.

<sup>8</sup> Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. <sup>9</sup> Be hospitable to one another without complaining.

<sup>10</sup> Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. <sup>11</sup> Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ.

To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever.  
Amen. - 1 Peter 4:8-11