

From the Desk of Pastor John

August
2022

I'm sure you are probably already aware of this, but we humans can be very ... judgy. We seem to like to pass out criticisms like they are piece of candy.

Some criticisms are direct. A comment may be made about what someone is wearing, their job performance, how they speak, or some perceived personality flaw, like laughing too loud. Other criticisms are passive. They come in the form of a magazine cover that depicts a "perfect-size" model, suggesting to the viewer that their body is not good enough - even though the model has been photoshopped! Leaving someone out, "forgetting" to extend an invitation to partake in community because there is concern they "won't fit in," can be another example of passive criticism.

Whether criticism is dished out in a direct or passive way, its message is always clear: you are not good enough. For this reason, criticism often instills a sense of shame. It can lead people to question their worth and cause the self-talk in their head to turn rancid and negative.

Rarely do we think about the effect a simple comment can have on a person. Our criticisms or judgmental comments can embed deep within a person's subconscious; these comments

stay with them. Eventually, as that person is about to embark on some new adventure, they'll question their abilities, choices, and even their self-worth. In this regard, our criticisms act as chains that hold others back, preventing them from taking risks, building healthy relationships, and enjoying life to the fullest.

I wish I could say that we criticize or judge others subconsciously, unaware of what we are doing. But that isn't always true. Sometimes, criticism is used as a tool of advancement. Criticism is used to point out another's flaws, making the offender look better by comparison. It's a harsh game that is embedded deep within our culture's mores. One learns to break down others before being broken down themselves, to promote their strengths by pointing out others' weaknesses.

We often fail to see the damage our judgments do to beloved children of God, as well as the damage that is done to relationships and to community. Criticisms and judgements hurt us all. Healthy relationships grounded in love cannot thrive when criticism is afoot.

While criticism is often damaging, encouragement is healing. Encouragement builds up instead of tearing down. It has the power

(Continued on page 2)

 **Pilgrim Church**
 UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

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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

Pianist:
Maverick Li

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!*

to affirm another person's worth and instills a sense of confidence. It can break the chains of self-doubt, drown out negative self-talk, and run the feeling of shame out of town, setting the person free to live life authentically and fully - to live life as God intended.

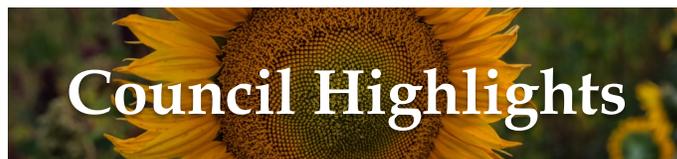
Encouragement is an act of love that we just don't practice enough. So, I encourage you to be encouraging. Do not focus on flaws and failures; instead, focus on goodness and achievements. Lift others up with words of affirmation and support. Help them see themselves for who they really are: a person to be loved who is filled with beauty, strength, and worth. Help them to see that they are so much more than the criticisms that others have heaped upon them.

Encourage others and help them see that they are beloved children of God.

Blessings, Pastor John

“And let us consider
how to provoke one another
to love and good deeds,
not neglecting to meet together,
as is the habit of some,
but encouraging one another,
and all the more
as you see the Day approaching.”
Hebrews 10:24-25

Use the Acts of Encouragement calendar in this newsletter to build a new habit! Check out each day's act of affirmation and follow through reaching out to those near and far, neighbor and receptionist, dear and stranger. Check out the August Narthex Bulletin Board for scripture cards to keep and ponder or share when you send a card.



The Air Conditioner Unit for the Community Center is now installed!! Thank you to Conditioned Air for a smooth installation and getting us cooled down again. This was a BIG project that cost \$45,256 to complete, with our cost shared with Joyful Noise. Your continued tithing helps fund these unexpected expenses.

We have a new Boy Scout liaison with the church, Donna Graves. She will be sitting in on our monthly Council meetings to keep us informed of activities happening with the Scouts. In addition, I (as the moderator) will be sitting in on the Scouts monthly committee meetings. We both are looking forward to working together and creating more opportunities through Pilgrim for the Scouts to truly shine in our community.

Council discussed several fundraising ideas over the course of the next year. We will be gathering details for each idea and bringing them to the congregation once finalized. Please keep an eye on your bulletins!

Finances have been secured and approved by Council to now call upon Keith Altizer & Company, PA to investigate and complete a full financial audit of Pilgrim Church. All members of Council and Finance discussed and agreed upon this company over the past months, and are pleased to move forward with the audit. Remember:

- An audit is an independent and objective evaluation of our church's financial reports and how we report them.
- Someone will be looking at our records to ensure that our policies and procedures properly safeguard our resources.
- Our church has a responsibility to our congregation that we care about the gifts that they have bestowed to us and that we have good stewardship demonstrated for all to see as such.

As always, I encourage any of you, if there is an issue or grievance to please reach out to a member of Council (or myself) so we may add it to our agenda for the next Council meeting. This gives the members of Council an opportunity to address the issue fully and find a solution. All members of Pilgrim Church are welcome and encouraged to attend. Though you may not have a vote, your voice matters. These meetings are a great way to be an active part of the ministry that is happening at Pilgrim Church.

Jessica Warne-Emard, Moderator

Tasty Treats

Time to share your favorite recipes!

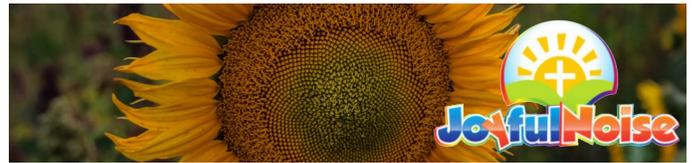
We are collecting recipes to be cumulated into one book that we'll sell in time for Christmas! Multiple recipes from each home will gladly be accepted.



This is a Pilgrim Church Fundraiser and we are asking for a donation of \$15 for each book. Of course, larger donations are accepted.

- Include your name. Also, include tidbits such as that it was a Smith Family French Reunion Recipe or Aunt Jane's Signature Thanksgiving Dish or Grandpa John's Meatloaf from 1901.
- Make sure recipe is complete, including all steps.
- List ingredients in the order used. Make sure all ingredients are included in the directions.
- Sizes of packages are changing, please be sure to include all amounts and container sizes:
 - 2 (8-oz.) cans, 1 (14-oz.) pkg.
 - Use parenthesis to separate amounts.
- Pick a category
 - Appetizers & Beverages
 - Breads & Rolls
 - Soups & Salads
 - Vegetables & Side Dishes
 - Main Dishes
 - Kid Favorites
 - Desserts
 - Cookies & Candy
 - This & That

Submit your recipes via paper (print clearly) or email to the church office.



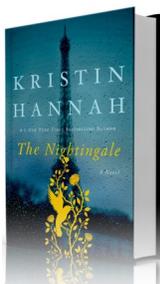
Joyful Noise Learning Center is hiring teachers and aides. Please help us spread the word to those that may have the necessary credentials to work with these precious children!

Enjoy these photos of Pastor John and the Joyful Noise 4 year olds—Summer Camp kids enjoying VBS!



Women's Fellowship Book Club and Dinner

The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah
 Wednesday, August 17, 6:00 pm
 At the home of Dee Ripley, Kings Gate
 RSVP: Dinner provided. Please be kind and Text RSVP to Judi Wilson at 941-380-0877.



Brunch

The Monthly Sunday Brunch needs more hands raised offering help in order to continue the tasty monthly brunches. Please reach out to Ken Rhoe or Pastor John if you would be able to help.

Acts of Encouragement

	<p>1 Call someone just to tell them to have a good day.</p>	<p>2 Leave an uplifting sticky note for a co-worker, family member or stranger.</p>	<p>3 Does your friend have a business? Recommend them to your friends, coworkers and family.</p>	<p>4 Tell a family member you are proud of them.</p>	<p>5 Reach out to any friends who are under the weather - Send them a get well gift or a bouquet of flowers.</p>	<p>6 Smile and give a hug.</p>
<p>7 Let someone know you are praying for them.</p>	<p>8 Acknowledge the positive changes you see in a friend.</p>	<p>9 Send a 'You're a Blessing' card to a friend - just because.</p>	<p>10 Speak life-giving, positive, uplifting words.</p>	<p>11 Tell someone how they inspired you.</p>	<p>12 Remind a friend of that they are a beloved child of God in Christ.</p>	<p>13 Send an encouraging text to a friend.</p>
<p>14 Be kind.</p>	<p>15 Leave an encouraging song on a friend's voicemail.</p>	<p>16 Tell the janitor/maid/cleaning professional/maintenance worker that you appreciate them.</p>	<p>17 Smile and give a hug.</p>	<p>18 Ask a cashier what their favorite candy bar is and buy it with your order.</p>	<p>19 Give a high five - congratulate someone on a job well done.</p>	<p>20 Invite someone to church.</p>
<p>21 Give a thoughtful & unexpected gift.</p>	<p>22 Give a sincere compliment.</p>	<p>23 Send an encouraging text to a friend.</p>	<p>24 Leave an uplifting sticky note for a co-worker, family member or stranger.</p>	<p>25 Give a card to a friend who means the world to you.</p>	<p>26 Give a virtual high five by sharing, tweeting or mentioning someone online. Send a heartfelt handwritten note.</p>	<p>27 Send a heartfelt handwritten note.</p>
<p>28 Let the store manager know what great service you received from one of their employees.</p>	<p>29 Drop off a plate of your favorite baked goods at your nearest fire station, police station.</p>	<p>30 Speak life-giving, positive, uplifting words.</p>	<p>31 Loan your favorite encouraging book.</p>			



Finance Report

The Finances: Growing Pilgrim
August, 2022

We are a small church with a very successful Ministry called Joyful Noise. If you are OK with that so be it...I am not. I, we, all need to do our part to grow Pilgrim Church.

As part of the process to find a new Pastor the Search Committee did a church wide survey that became the basis for our Church Profile. This was shared with every applicant we talked to. First on the list of what you, the Congregation, requested was growth. Every applicant pointed out that YOU the Congregation were needed to help grow the Church, not the Pastor. YOU through your good works and by talking to your friends within the Community about Pilgrim...YOU help grow the Church. YOU through the gifts of your time, talents and financial support...YOU help grow the Church. We have a good thing here at Pilgrim Church. We should be proud to share it with others. It is in our hands.

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations.”
(Matthew 29:19)

How are we doing right now? Please note, my reports will always be a month behind for the time it takes to reconcile accounts and for Finance and Council to approve the findings.

January through May, 2022:

Pilgrim Church:

	Actual	Budget
Revenue:	\$117,937	\$ 93,875
Expense:	\$119,422	\$107,169

Joyful Noise

	Actual	Budget
Revenue:	\$553,674	\$550,000
Expense:	\$561,097	\$520,931

As always your questions are welcome. Remember that Pilgrim Church's Finance Ministry and General Council Meetings are open meetings and posted on the monthly schedule. You are always welcome to come by and help us as we manage God's House.

Don Anderson
Interim Chair, Finance Ministry



Adult Bible Study

The Book of James is the topic for a 3-week study beginning on August 14. The class led by David and Judi Wilson, meets in the Community Center Library immediately following the 9:00 am worship service. Be sure to bring your Bible as the teaching format is a Chapter by Chapter, verse by verse approach. The schedule is:

- August 14 - Introduction and Chapter 1
- August 21 - Chapter 2 & 3
- August 28 - Chapter 4 & 5

This New Testament book is written by James, the brother of Jesus. It has been called, "A Practical Guide to Christian Life and Conduct" and emphasizes the ethics of Christian faith.

This is a perfect opportunity to grow your discipleship by digging deeper into God's Word.



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 typically honored by our florist, Port Charlotte Florist. Single arrangements cost \$35. Two fresh arrangements the cost is \$50.



Words from a Sunflower:

- Be outstanding in your field
- Hold your head high
- Spread seeds of happiness
- Feed the birds

Boy Scouts of America

Troop 351 has been busy this summer.

They traveled to Blairsville, Georgia to attend Summer Camp. They got to go white water rafting on the Ocoee River.

We have two Boy Scouts working hard on picking their Eagle projects.

As a July outing the Cub Scout Pack and Boy Scout Troop went ice skating at Skatium in Fort Myers.

We are working on fun events for this coming year. Fundraisers like a Luau, Veterans/First Responders Breakfast and of course our Scouting for Food, which we will be doing in November and again in the Spring.



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.

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 |

Health Fellowship Tuesdays and Thursdays

- Pilgrim Walkers (come and go)
in the Sanctuary, 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
- Chair Aerobics
in the Coffee Room, 11:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Join your fellow Pilgrims for exercise and fellowship.

Organ Q & A

Do you have a question or two about our beautiful Allen Organ? How does it work? Why all the pedals?

You are invited to stop Cheryl after worship any week and ask questions or ask for a demonstration up close. She'll be happy to share her life long love this this instrument with you!

Music Notes

Help us spread the word that we continue to search for a Music Director. This is a part time position perfect for a bi-vocational candidate. Salary will be consistent with candidate's education and experience.

If you would like more information, including a full job description, reach out to the church office at 941-629-2633 or office@pilgrimonline.org.

August Birthdays

- 1 Dee Ripley
- 3 Carole Worster
- 4 Jessica Warne-Emard
- 7 Barbara Bluschke
Madeline Warne-Emard
- 9 Wanda Burns
Dolores Westfield
- 10 Isabella Warne-Emard
- 11 Gayle Bratton
- 20 Nettie Wineland
- 29 Jackie Kaminski
- 31 Peggy Kalaf

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

Pilgrim Prayer List

- Bill Wolf - homebound
- John Krueger - Parkinson's
- Savina Krueger - cancer
- Gloria Kurbanali - homebound
- Sidoney Johnston - homebound
- Gene Rice - stroke
- Joe Beaudreau - health
- Rick McLemore - cancer
- Jim Smith - health
- Zander Jones - health
- Rieley Owen - health
- Ukraine - peace
- John Hames - PC Rehab
- Louise Timchak - PC Rehab
- Peace around the world
- Brian
- Nancy Burnell - health
- Bill Berdink - health
- Brenda Berdink - health
- Elizabeth Jo Smith - health
- Connie Rice - health
- Sarah Pasierb
- Judy Michaels - health
- John & Lorretta Almonte - health
- Lil & Bruce - grief
- Lorraine O'Keefe - cancer
- Judy Whittaker - health
- Sarah - grief
- Irene Butler - PC Rehab

August Bible Readings

Read though the Bible in a Year

- 8/1 Proverbs 21-23
- 8/2 Proverbs 24:1-27:10
- 8/3 Proverbs 27:11-30:33
- 8/4 Proverbs 31; Ecclesiastes 1:1-3:8
- 8/5 Ecclesiastes 3:9-8:17
- 8/6 Ecclesiastes 9-12; Song of Songs 1-2
- 8/7 Song of Songs 3-8; Isaiah 1:1-9
- 8/8 Isaiah 1:10-5:17
- 8/9 Isaiah 5:18-9:12
- 8/10 Isaiah 9:13-13:16
- 8/11 Isaiah 13:17-19:10
- 8/12 Isaiah 19:11-24:6
- 8/13 Isaiah 24:7-28:22
- 8/14 Isaiah 28:23-32:20
- 8/15 Isaiah 33:1-37:29
- 8/16 Isaiah 37:30-40:31
- 8/17 Isaiah 41-44
- 8/18 Isaiah 45-49
- 8/19 Isaiah 50-54
- 8/20 Isaiah 55:1-60:9
- 8/21 Isaiah 60:10-65:25
- 8/22 Isaiah 66; Jeremiah 1:1-2:25
- 8/23 Jeremiah 2:26-5:19
- 8/24 Jeremiah 5:20-8:22
- 8/25 Jeremiah 9-12
- 8/26 Jeremiah 13:1-16:9
- 8/27 Jeremiah 16:10-20:18
- 8/28 Jeremiah 21-24
- 8/29 Jeremiah 25-27
- 8/30 Jeremiah 28:1-31:20
- 8/31 Jeremiah 31:21-33:26



**Be like the sunflower,
stand tall and follow
the Son.**

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

	1 6:30pm BSA Troop Parent Meeting 7:00pm AA - Women	2 10:00am Pilgrim Walkers 11:00am Chair Aerobics 7:00pm BSA Pack Parent Meeting	3 10:00am Prayer Partners	4 10:00am Pilgrim Walkers 11:00am Chair Aerobics	5	6
7 8:00am Choir Rehearsal 8:00am Coffee Hour 9:00am Worship	8 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm AA - Women 7:00pm Missions Meeting	9 10:00am Pilgrim Walkers 11:00am Chair Aerobics	10 10:00am Prayer Partners	11 10:00am Pilgrim Walkers 11:00am Chair Aerobics	12	13
14 8:00am Coffee Hour 9:00am Worship 10:15am Wilson Small Group: James Intro/1	15 6:30pm BSA Troop Meeting 6:30pm Finance Meeting 7:00pm AA - Women	16 10:00am Pilgrim Walkers 11:00am Chair Aerobics 7:00pm BSA Pack Meeting	17 Newsletter Article Deadline 10:00am Prayer Partners 6:00pm Women's Fellowship Book Club and Dinner	18 9:15am PBJ Sandwich Makers 10:00am Pilgrim Walkers 11:00am Chair Aerobics	19	20
21 8:00am Coffee Hour 9:00am Worship 10:15am Wilson Small Group : James 2 & 3	22 Food Pantry 6:30pm BSA Troop Meeting 7:00pm AA - Women	23 10:00am Pilgrim Walkers 11:00am Chair Aerobics 7:00pm BSA Pack Meeting 7:00pm Council Meeting	24 10:00am Prayer Partners	25 10:00am Pilgrim Walkers 11:00am Chair Aerobics 6:30pm BSA Committee Meeting	26	27
28 8:00am Coffee Hour 8:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 10:15am Wilson Small Group: James 4 & 5	29 6:30pm BSA Troop Meeting 7:00pm AA - Women	30 10:00am Pilgrim Walkers 11:00am Chair Aerobics 7:00pm BSA Pack Meeting	31 10:00am Prayer Partners			

1 Thessalonians 5:11
Therefore
encourage
one another ...