

In my October newsletter article, I wrote about feeling discombobulated. I pointed out that the word "discombobulated" conveys a sense of confusion, disorganization, and frustration. When we are discombobulated, everything seems to be out of order, leaving us all out of sorts and stressed out.

When I shared that reflection, I had absolutely no idea how relevant it would be for the month of October!

The last four weeks have definitely been discombobulating. Hurricane Ian turned our community upside down, leaving us feeling disoriented and helpless. As we have surveyed and processed the aftermath of the storm, we have become keenly aware of how easily our things can be destroyed and how little control we have over our own lives. Storms and natural disasters can destroy our property, and we are sometimes at the mercy of other people. In other words, forces outside our control can alter our lives in momentous ways. Though we plan and prepare, there are simply some things for which we cannot fully plan or avoid. They will happen and we will be affected.

Amid the uncertainty and discombobulation of the last several weeks, I have found myself returning to Psalm 46. This particular psalm, likely written in response to a pending invasion of Jerusalem, speaks to God's constant presence during times of difficulty. The first

three verses capture the author's confidence in God: "God is our refuge and our strength, an ever present help in our time of trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult."

Alluding to our lack of control over nature, the author captures the ever-present threat of instability everyone faces. Things happen that change the world around us. What feels unshakable and unchangeable, that which feels secure, is not; it can be shaken or even shattered.

Life is vulnerable. We are not immune to tragedies and tumult. Things happen and our lives get knocked sideways. Sometimes everything is shaken for a season, but sometimes the change is permanent.

However, despite what life-altering events may arise, God remains the same. He is indeed our refuge, in whose hands we are held, and He is our strength, the One who holds us together and sustains us when we are overwhelmed. So, as we begin to rebuild and find our new, post-Ian normal, may we find ourselves anchored in God, who remains the same.

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult." -Psalm 46:1-3 NRSV

He is our constant; He is our refuge; and He is our strength. And that will never change. Amen.

Blessings, Pastor John



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Rev. John Barnette

Associate Pastor:
Rev. Ken Ewing

Maintenance Technician:
Gene Burnell

Office Administrator:
Cat Foster

Organist:
Cheryl Huber

Pianist:
Maverick Li

Director of Joyful Noise:
Cynthia Poudrette

Sunday School Director:
Jessica Warne

Bell Choir Director:
Russ Whittaker

Music Director
Katy Yoder

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



A Moment with the Moderator

Here we are...November. Hurricane Ian seemed to leave us without much of an October.

Pilgrim survived another Category 4 hurricane. Ian hit on September 28th and left us with damage to all of the buildings and out buildings of our campus. (Check out the page of photos in this newsletter.) Beyond the building damage, all of our post lamps were damaged beyond repair, several of our large shady oak trees were downed, smaller trees were broken, garden areas were flooded and dirt displaced. Nothing is in its rightful place and looks very sad to us all.

Thankfully, we had a small but mighty group of Pilgrim volunteers that responded to the disaster and helped secure, clean up, and provide support those first few days. We also secured a highly recommended service crew that has worked with our insurance company to handle all of our damage, Neice Restoration. This local company will be onsite for the entirety of our recovery, working on each building. They have served our area for many years. They also, have a personal stake in our recovery as well, as one of the crew has children over at Joyful Noise Learning Center. All of the crew drives by our church daily and they have expressed their desire for Pilgrim Church to look good and shiny again.

Since all the buildings received damage, we focused our attention first, on getting secure. The electrician from Phil Magill Electric inspected our facilities and even rewired some areas for power. Neice Restoration came and secured our roofs and siding areas that were exposed with tarps to prevent new water damage. They brought in large air scrubbers and dehumidifiers in the buildings to draw out all the excess moisture and water in ceilings, walls, and floors. After walking all the buildings with our adjuster and Neice, we finalized a plan for them to proceed.

The first building to be reopened was our school. Joyful Noise had water damage in each classroom from the windows, as well as, inside the reception/office closets and front doors. Dehumidifiers and scrubbers were brought in to help dry out the areas affected. The roof took some damage and has been secured until it is fixed. The playgrounds took a HUGE hit. Most of their large, shady oaks were either uprooted and laying out on the areas or broken in half. Mulch was displaced or sprinkled with various debris. Their new shade poles were damaged and fencing pulled in some areas.

It was important to get Joyful Noise up and running as soon as possible for our community. Not many know or remember, but a hurricane 18 years ago (Hurricane Charley), created our largest mission as a response to a community need, Joyful Noise Learning Center. The community needed a safe space for their children to learn and to grow as the surrounding community rebuilt, so the seed to build and grow that mission idea ensued, with our community center serving as the starting point of the school in those early days before the building was built. Seeing as we serve over 150 families today, since Charley, Pilgrim has provided thousands of families with a safe space for their children to learn and grow with God.

We are now focusing the restoration process on the Community Center, which took the most damage but will be the easier of the buildings to restore. Depending on supply materials the Community Center will be closed four to six months, or more. Our AA group, our scouting group and our afterschool childcare are all on hold for this duration. Most of the Community Center will need to be gutted and rebuilt. Several holes in the roof brought in large amounts of water that saturated walls and ceilings. Demolition has begun. While this focus is a priority, simultaneously Neice Restoration will work on the church. Our Narthex too has several holes in the roof that brought in large amounts of water that saturated walls, ceilings, and flooring.

Yes, we took a big hit of damage on our campus. Yes, the Community Center and the Sanctuary are closed. Yes, the task looks overwhelming. But...

we continue to show up,
we continue to volunteer,
we continue to worship, and
we continue to be Pilgrim strong!

Again, I ask that you take a moment and recognize our staff - they have worked very hard during this recovery process and spent many hours thinking about what else still needs to be done. They deserve a HUGE thanks. As do the volunteers that came and helped during recovery and with our memorial garden. THANK YOU!!

Please, if you or someone you know is in need, reach out to let us know. We will help as best we can to get you the resource or support that you may need at this time.

Jessica Emard-Warne, Moderator

Council Highlights



This was our first Council meeting after Hurricane Ian. We spent this meeting discussing the damage, recovery, and restoration of Pilgrim Campus. This included a tour of all three buildings: Joyful Noise, Community Center, and Sanctuary.

- Our phones and internet work! Took a bit of time to work out all the kinks after the hurricane, but we are now able to communicate with the outside world again.
- Council recognized the work days that occurred on the campus after the hurricane. Thank you to those that came out to help lend a hand. We were able to get things safe and secure due to those volunteers.
- Joyful Noise re-opened on the October 24th, minus three families and the before/aftercare program. Teachers and students were happy to be back. Once the Community Center is restored for daily use, the program will resume.
- Teachers also had work days to get their rooms and playgrounds ready for the return of their students. Those that stayed to finish the task were treated to lunch from the moderator and pastor. We recognized their dedication and commitment to the school and their students.
- While touring the buildings, Council discussed the reopening after repairs are completed. We will continue to bring updates on progress to the congregation. Please keep an eye out in for these updates in the Newsletters, Sunday bulletins, and e-mails.
- We will have a new system for getting weekly offering envelopes to you. Instead of receiving a box for the year, they will now be sent straight to your door quarterly. This will save so much waste, while simultaneously saving time getting these envelopes in your hands.
- The month of October is usually earmarked for "Pastor Appreciation Month". Due to Hurricane Ian, we have been unable to fully show our appreciation. I am asking Pilgrim Church Family to express to Pastor John the depth of our gratitude for all that he does for us! This is a special time to honor those who minister to us and celebrate the impact they make on our lives.

The Apostle Paul reminds us of the importance of recognizing the work of those in ministry: "Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work." - 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13
- Missions has named Pilgrim Church as their last offering pledge for the year. This gift will be placed in the general fund, to be used by Pilgrim Church and Joyful Noise for hurricane recovery and repair. Thank you Missions!

The next Council Meeting will be after Thanksgiving on Tuesday, November 29. And as always, the Council welcomes you all to attend any and all meetings.

Jessica Emard-Warne, Moderator

Joyful Noise Learning Center is open for our younger children. Because of the damage in the Community Center and Goodell Room, we have no safe space for our school age children.

We thank the members of Pilgrim Church who were here as early as the day after Hurricane Ian for their tireless work in clearing and cleaning this part of the campus aiding our quick return. Joyful Noise Learning Center really is a ministry to neighborhood families.

Cynthia Poudrette
Director

All Saint's Day

November 1 is All Saint's Day. The day we remember the saints in our lives who showed us what it meant to live Christ like. Sunday, November 6, along with communion we will recognize this day. Bring a framed photograph of a saint from your life to place on the table for commemoration and in gratitude.

Veteran's Recognition

The Veteran's Tree will return for our 2022 Veteran's Recognition on Sunday, November 13, under the leadership of Gerry & Karen Ahlgrim. If you have Veterans to add to the tree please reach out to them. Mark your calendars to join us for worship on November 13!

Properties Committee

We are prepping for cooler days. If you have interest in being the hands and feet that care for the Pilgrim Church Campus please join Pastor John for a meeting on Thursday, November 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room.

Music Notes

While preparing for this month's writing, the phrase Bountiful Blessings came to mind. When I think of abundance, it's meaning has changed over the last several years. As a child, when I would think about Thanksgiving and harvest, it was a time of festive celebration, with my family all gathered together, feasting on turkey, mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie, of course.

Now that they have passed from the perspective of my parents and several older family members, there is new meaning and the making of new memories and traditions within my own family. We have established our own ways while carrying on some of what was done in the past. It has been a very different life in Florida than what I would have chosen or imagined for myself and children, but God continues to amaze me with His goodness and grace. I miss the countryside and living in a rural community during somewhat simpler times, but each season and generation has their cross to bear and blessings to receive.

I think that I am one of many who has come to realize even more so in the last few years of trials during COVID-19, that abundance in life comes from the giving of life and joy to others. I hope to do more of that with each new day in every way that God has planned for me. Many blessings of abundance to you and your families today and always.

Psalm: 67

1 May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us,
2 that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.
3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.
5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
6 The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.
7 May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.

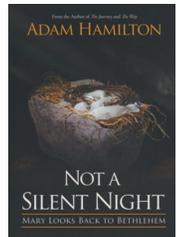
Katy Yoder
Music Ministry Director

Pilgrim Food Pantry

At this time the food pantry is closed. Stock will be shared with the Homeless Coalition. Unfortunately, due to the damage of our facilities we will not be part of the scouts food drive or Thanksgiving baskets. We will reach out for your participation and gifts when we are ready to restock our shelves.

Advent Bible Study

Starting, November 30, at noon and again available at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room, Pastor John will lead an Advent Bible Study reviewing Adam Hamilton's "Not a Silent Night: Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem" on Wednesdays in the season of Advent.



Sandwich Makers

Peanut Butter and Jam sandwiches are at an all time high need! We will continue to make these comfort food sandwiches monthly on the 3rd Thursday for the homeless in our community. Meet for about an hour in the Community Center Room 4 at 9:15 a.m. for the sandwich making on November 17. If you are not able to serve with your time we'll be happy to accept your donations of peanut butter or jam!



Oh give thanks to the Lord,
for He is good,
for His steadfast love
endures forever!

-Psalm 107:1

Stewardship: More than planning the 2023 budget, a response to God's faithfulness.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea. Psalm 46:1-2

Pilgrim Church Remember Your Membership Commitments

Commitment To Jesus Christ

Essential to becoming a Christian is inviting Jesus into our lives, asking Him to forgive our sins, and patterning our lives on His example and commands. After entering this relationship with the Lord, we grow daily in our journey with Him and seek to become fully committed Christ-followers.

Commitment To Spiritual Growth

Becoming mature Christians is achieved through personal Bible reading, prayer and helping others, being involved in a small group or service group and attending worship. We offer several avenues for growth every month, and urge our members to commit to belonging to a group.

Commitment To Attend

We expect members to attend church regularly as they are able. Faithful attendance is important as corporate worship draws us closer to one another and to God. For those unable to attend, our service can be viewed online.

Commitment To Serve

Every person has been given a unique set of gifts and abilities by the Lord. We are called to employ them in reaching out to other Pilgrims and our community. Being involved in the ministry and mission of the church is imperative as we move the Lord's Vision for Pilgrim Church forward.

Commitment To Give

The Bible teaches us to be generous in supporting our Christian mission of spreading the Good News of the Gospel. Some are much more able to tithe the traditional 10% of income than others. By joining Pilgrim we pledge to support the financial needs of our church to the extent that we are able, recognizing that though many are of limited financial resources, they can support the missions of the church through devoted contribution of their time and talents.



2023 Pledge Card



Turn in Sunday, November 20, 2023

Name: _____

Envelope #: _____

I pledge to commit to the spiritual discipline of supporting and serving Pilgrim Church. My 2023 commitment, along with my Prayers, Presence, Service and Talents, will be financial support of Pilgrim Church's ministries:

	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Yearly</u>
Operating	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Missions	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

Please contact me to set up automatic withdrawal (e-giving).

Keep this portion as a reminder for your commitment to Pilgrim Church.

My pledge for Pilgrim Church for 2023 will be:

Prayers Presence Service

Talents Financial Support of:

	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Yearly</u>
Operating	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Missions	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

Some give freely yet grow all the richer; others withhold what is due and only suffer want. - Proverbs 11:24

Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible Study is studying the book of Ezekiel on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. which is immediately following the worship service. Our temporary location is the Conference room adjacent to the Church Office.

Join us and learn more about this prophet/preacher. to the Jerusalem exiles captive in Babylon. Be sure to bring your Bible as the scripture is addressed verse-by-verse and chapter-by-chapter.

PilgrimSTRONG

T-shirts to support recovery efforts of Pilgrim Church and our neighbors are ordered! If you would like a shirt, we are asking for a \$15 donation. Shirts will be available in the church office or on Sundays.



A Taste of Pilgrim

Thank you Pilgrims! We have over 150 recipes!

If anyone is familiar with a binding machine or willing to learn please reach out to the church office and offer your time!

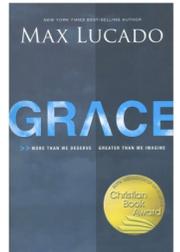
If you have not told the church office but plan on purchasing a cookbook, please let us know so we can be prepared! We are asking for a \$15 donation for each book.

Rejoice always, pray continually,
give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you
in Christ Jesus.

-1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Women's Fellowship

All women are encouraged to join this small group and the study of GRACE by Max Lucado. The next lesson will be "You Can Rest Now" and understand that 'none of us can ever be good enough or do enough to earn heaven'. This is why God sent His Son to earth to give us grace. We will meet Thursday, November 17 at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room adjacent to the Church Office.



Pilgrim Women Christmas Shopping and Luncheon
ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED!

Der Dutchman Buffet Restaurant in Sarasota
December 7 at 11:30

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

Contact the Church Office or Judi Wilson to make your reservation for this holiday fellowship! **COST: \$20** pre-paid to Pilgrim Church. Mark your checks/envelopes "Pilgrim Women December 7."

A moment to Brag: Two beautiful tea baskets were assembled for auction at the UCC Southern Regional Conference held in Live Oak, FL during October. One basket was adult size and the other, a children's tea set.



Scouting

The Greek Orthodox Church was gracious enough to open it's doors to Pack 351 and Troop 351 for use of their facility until Pilgrim is repaired.

The Luau will be rescheduled.

Scouting for Food will be November 12. The collected items will go to the pantry at the Salvation Army.

Pilgrim Prayer List

Gloria Kurbanali - homebound
Gene Rice - stroke
Joe Beaudreau - health
Jim Smith - health
John Hames - PC Rehab
Louise Timchak - PC Rehab
Rick McLemore - cancer
Lorraine O'Keefe - cancer
John Krueger - Parkinson's
Sidoney Johnston - homebound
Bill Wolf - homebound
Savina Krueger - cancer
Kathy Wagner - health
Connie Rice - health
Lorretta Almonte - grief
Evonne Bloss - surgery
Judi Wilson - surgery
Recovery after Hurricane Ian
Mel Slater - health
Judy Michaels - health
Pat Wheatcroft - cancer
Evangelism from Pilgrim into the community

November Birthdays

1 Pat Malagisi
4 Joyce Faber
5 John Barnette
6 Louise Timchak, Doug Yokom
7 Carol Mills
8 Cheryl Eastman
9 Eileen Murray
10 Charlie Bratton, Bert Scott
11 Maxine Wilson
15 Don Janis
17 Gene Burnell
23 Zach Schrock
24 Helen Phillips, Pat Smith, Danny Wineland

November Bible Readings

Read though the Bible in a Year

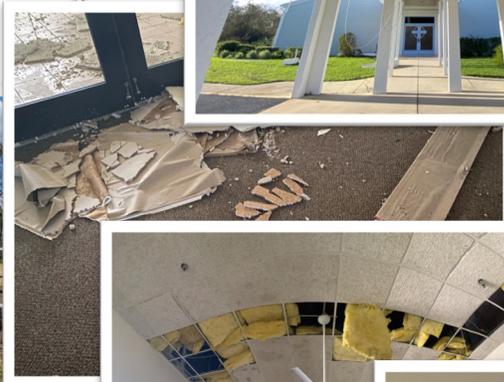
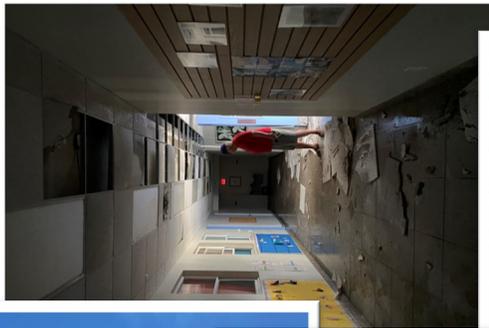
11/1 Luke 12:13-14:11
11/2 Luke 14:12-16:31
11/3 Luke 17:1-19:27
11/4 Luke 19:28-21:9
11/5 Luke 21:10-22:46
11/6 Luke 22:47-24:23
11/7 Luke 24:24-53; John 1:1-2:11
11/8 John 2:12-4:38
11/9 John 4:39-6:51
11/10 John 6:52-8:20
11/11 John 8:21-10:18
11/12 John 10:19-12:11
11/13 John 12:12-14:11
11/14 John 14:12-17:13
11/15 John 17:14-19:42
11/16 John 20:21; Acts 1:1-2:13
11/17 Acts 2:14-4:37
11/18 Acts 5:1-7:29
11/19 Acts 7:30-9:22
11/20 Acts 9:23-11:30
11/21 Acts 12-13
11/22 Acts 14:1-16:10
11/23 Acts 16:11-18:28
11/24 Acts 19-20
11/25 Acts 21:1-23:25
11/26 Acts 23:26-27:8
11/27 Acts 27:9-end; Romans 1:1-15
11/28 Romans 1:16-5:11
11/29 Romans 5:12-8:25
11/30 Romans 8:26-11:24

Pilgrims in the Community

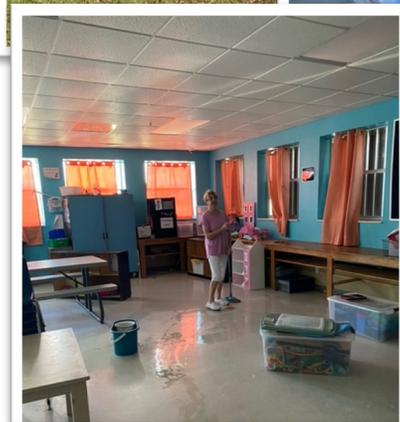
Cheryl Huber, our organist, is the keyboard player for the Charlotte County Concert Band. This large concert band of about 60 members plays standards, showtunes, patriotic music and some interesting pieces you haven't heard before. Concerts are held at Charlotte High School in Punta Gorda. Check it out! Tickets are on sale online now for the new season at charlottecountyconcertband.com/beta

Due to the damage in the Sanctuary and our lighting, we will not have the Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service. We will celebrate Thanksgiving on Sunday, November 20 and kick off the Season of Advent on Sunday, November 27.

Hurricane Ian - September 28, 2022



Hurricane Ian - Recovery and Response



It's been a busy few weeks at Pilgrim Church. We had several volunteers who spent hours working behind the scenes on our campus so worship and school



PilgrimSTRONG


Pilgrim Church

 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

November 2022

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

		1 All Saints Day	2 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	3	4	5
6 All Saint's Sunday Daylight Savings Time Ends 9:00am Worship 10:15am Adult Bible Study	7	8	9 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	10	11 Veterans Day	12
13 Veteran's Recognition Sunday 9:00am Worship 10:15am Adult Bible Study	14 Newsletter Article Deadline 7:00pm Missions Meeting	15	16 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	17 9:15am PBJ Sandwich Makers 10:00am Pilgrim Women Fellowship 6:30pm Properties Committee	18	19
20 Reign of Christ Sunday Thanksgiving Sunday 9:00am Worship 10:15am Adult Bible Study	21 6:30pm Finance Meeting	22	23 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	24 office closed Thanksgiving Day	25	26
27 1st Sunday of Advent 9:00am Worship 10:15am Adult Bible Study	28	29 7:00pm Council Meeting	30 12:00pm Advent Bible Study 6:30pm Advent Bible Study 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal			