From the Desk of Pastor John

July 2022

"Now you are
the body of Christ
and individually
members of it."
1 Corinthians 12:27

This verse, from Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth, was our Adult VBS memory verse. We discussed what it means to be a church member, a participating member of the body of Christ. Our study of Tom Rainer's book, *I Am a Church Member*, helped us debunk the myth that membership in a church is like membership in a country club: full of perks and privileges. In actuality, church membership means being a whole lot more like Jesus. Biblical church membership is more about serving than being served, humility over egotism, and love for one another above all else.

As individual members of the body of Christ, we are called to work together to serve others in love, sharing Christ through our actions and words. No one member of the body is more important than the other, and every one is to be:

celebrated,
respected, and
appreciated.

Moreover, each diverse and unique gift and perspective is to be welcomed, as each one strengthens the body of Christ.

This is not always easy, especially when we allow our own desires, agendas, and egos to get in the way. When this happens, our wants and ideas are prioritized over unity and collaboration. Other people become obstacles to overcome or to move out of the way, instead of brothers and sisters in Christ whom we are called to love, serve, and be in relationship with.

In Philippians 2:7, Paul reminds us that Jesus emptied himself and took on the form of a slave or servant. We are to live by Christ's example. As disciples of Jesus and members of His church, we, too, are to empty ourselves - letting go of our preferences and desires - so that we may look not to our own interests, but to the interests and needs of those around us. In other words, as Christ sacrificed Himself to serve and love us, we must "sacrifice" our egos and what's -in-it-for-me attitudes to serve, loving others as Christ has called us to do.

Churches are not country clubs. Tithes are not membership dues entitling us to perks and privileges, nor do they earn us the right to be heard above everyone else.

(Continued on page 2)

Pilgrim Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

24515 Rampart Boulevard
Port Charlotte, FL 33980
941-629-2633
www.pilgrimonline.org
office@pilgrimonline.org
Office Hours:
Mon - Thurs, 9:30 am - 2:30 pm

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

Senior Pastor:
Rev. John Barnette

Associate Pastor:
Rev. Ken Ewing

Office Administrator:
Cat Foster

Sunday School Director:
Jessica Warne

Pianist:
Cheryl Huber

Organist:
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!

Our first question should not be, "what does the church offer me?"

Instead, we should ask, "what can I offer the church?"

Church membership is about being a part of the body of Christ. Yes, we come to learn about Jesus, find support and encouragement, and grow in our faith. But, most importantly, church is about serving one another in love and living according to the kingdom of God here and now.

As Tom Rainer said, "The concept of an inactive church member is an oxymoron." Church membership is participatory. It's about setting oneself aside to serve others in love.

So…How will you serve?

Blessings,
Pastor John

Spread the Word we continue to search for a new 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 and experience.

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

June Updates

Thank you to Ken Rhoe and his Hospitality Ministry Crew for getting our congregation "Breaking Bread" once again! Your hard word work and dedication to this ministry was seen and praised by all. If you would like to be part of this hard working ministry, please talk with Ken so he can find a spot for you.

The original air conditioning unit needs to be replaced in the Community Center. This will be a very large expense and job to undertake. We have secured a unit and a company to install this new unit. Many AC companies are having supply chain issues getting units and materials, with many not getting them till 2023. We have been blessed in securing a company that was able to get a unit that we needed. In the next few weeks, once they have permits approved and secured, they will begin.

Our sanctuary has recently sprung a leak in the ceiling/roof near the back rows. We have reached out to our roofing company, we are still under warranty, and this issue has been documented, roofers will complete the assessment and repair the issue as soon as they are able.

The tinting on our large sanctuary windows is starting to peel. Quotes are being gathered as this too is a large undertaking.

Joyful Noise was closed for a gas leak on June 3. The Community Center's original water heater developed a leak in the gas line and was therefore replaced with a safer electric one, as recommended by the professionals who responded to the call. Thankfully it was a quick fix.

As previously shared, Council would like the opportunity to engage in a healthy discussion about the business side of Pilgrim Church every quarter with the congregation. Pilgrim Progress Meetings will give the congregation an idea of where we are and where we are heading. This quarter's meeting will be held Sunday, July 31, following worship in the sanctuary.

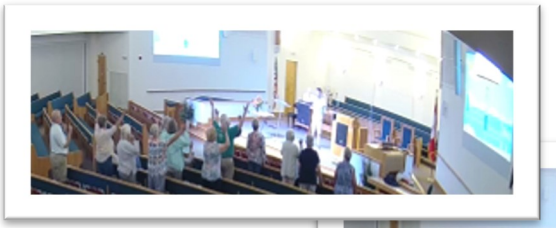
As always, I encourage any of you, if there is an issue or grievance to please reach out to a member of Council (or myself) so we may add it to our agenda for the next Council meeting. This gives the members of Council an opportunity to address the issue fully and find a solution. All members of Pilgrim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

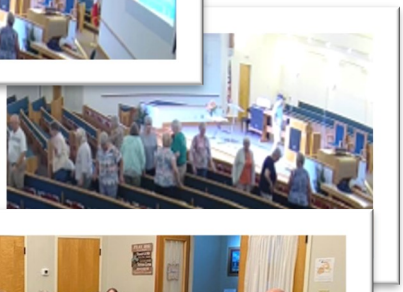
Due to Vacations and the 4th of July, the June Pilgrim Council Meeting is moved to July 6, 7:00 p.m. in the Coffee Room.

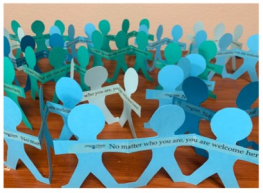
Jessica Warne-Emard, Moderator

VBS for Adults

We sang *Jesus Loves Me*, *Father Abraham*, *I'm in the Lord's Army* and more. We made crafts (keychains, magnets and more) that in turn became welcome bags for our visitors. We enjoyed snacks of trail mix and cookies and a potluck. And we learned what it means to really BE a church member.

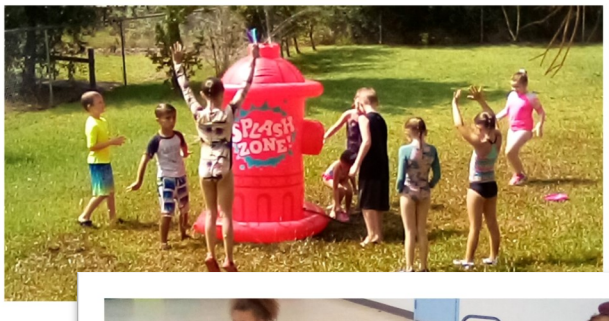






Enjoy these memories made at our Summer Camp Water Day!

Cynthia Poudrette, Director



Christmas in July

This is just a handful of the items students are asked to bring on the first day of school. These items plus school uniforms and new shoes and various fees for the new year certainly adds up for families. For some the list bring tears as the family cannot afford the requested name brand (which teachers know are higher quality and last longer) or all of the list. We are having Christmas in July as a way to ease this burden for our neighbors.

- 2 composition books (wide rule)
- 1 pencil pouch (not a box)
- 1 pkg. of #2 Ticonderoga pencils
- 1 box of 24 Crayola colored pencils
- 1 box of 24 Crayola crayons
- 1 pair Fiskar scissors
- 1 pkg. of erasers
- 4 pkg. of Elmer's glue sticks
- 1 pkg. of variety of highlighters
- 1 pkg. of low-odor dry erase markers
- 1 large boxes of tissues

Please bring as many items as you are able to the church office or narthex by the end of July. If you are unable to go shopping please mark your check memo line "Christmas in July".

Fellowship Brunch

Sunday, July 3
After worship in Community Center

Menu:
Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, French Toast,
Soup, Sandwiches and Potato Salad

$5 for adults, children under 12 are free.

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.

Puzzle Swap available!

Check out the puzzles in the Coffee Room.

Find one you like.

Borrow it! Or bring a puzzle and trade it for one that's new-to-you.

Coffee Hour Fellowship

Except for Brunch Sundays

Sundays, 8-9 am

Finance Report

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE MONEY
JULY, 2022

Hello fellow Pilgrims. As your interim Finance Chair, I will be writing a monthly column about the money aspects of what goes on in Pilgrim Church.

Every year at the Annual Meeting in January, you, the Congregation, approve the proposed budget for the year. With that you place your trust in Pastor John and the same Annual Meeting Elected Moderator to guide the General Council and the Finance Ministry to allocate those monies wisely within that budget.

This year you approved an overall projected revenue budget for Pilgrim of $1,583,800. Of that $1,320,000 is Joyful Noise and $263,800 for the Church proper (Including allocations for missions.) Expenses for the year total the same amount. This is called a balanced budget.

Now a balanced budget is a big deal. We are not just any old moderate sized UCC Church….we have a VERY SUCCESSFUL ministry in Joyful Noise Learning Center. There are 200 little ones who are being educated by numerous qualified employees, and we continue to hire for Joyful Noise.

How we doing right now? Well, right now we are okay.

January through April, 2022: (May reports have not yet been approved by Finance and General Council)

Pilgrim Church:	Actual	Budget
Revenue	$ 83,016	$ 74,700
Expense	$102,195	$ 88,573

Joyful Noise:	Actual	Budget
Revenue	$456,790	$440,000
Expense	$430,124	$416,684

TOTAL	Actual	Budget
Revenue	$539,806	$514,700
Expense	$532,319	$505,257

For Revenue we are over budget on the Church side where our only source of revenue is your tithe and over budget on Joyful Noise side where we collect monies from the student's parents and the various state programs who support the low income families, along with grants from programs in which we are awarded.

Even though our tithing is a bit above par, and we are thankful for your giving, our expenses have been more than expected.

As with all other areas of SWFL and beyond, the cost of living has had a significant increase. We all see this at the gas stations and Wal-mart every day.

What do we spend money on….salaries. Qualified, outstanding staff deserve fair compensation. We are grateful that a lot of the Joyful Noise Learning Center staff have been gifted grant monies the last few years from various agencies. We also know the staff we have reflects the care we are able to provide to the children who are entrusted with us.

Oh yeah there is also the $45,000 expenditure for replacing the major air conditioning unit that cools the Community Center. (Welcome to Florida!)

Moving forward we all must continue to take prayerful consideration regarding the increased expense of maintaining our church property and ministries and how we fund our ministries and our tithing.

As always your questions are welcome. Remember that the Finance Ministry and the 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

Health Matters

Health Awareness Month may be over but your health still matters! Along with opening the Sanctuary for walking on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Council has approved another low impact exercise opportunity.

Genny Sweetland is leading a class of chair aerobics. This is a low impact seated exercise for anyone with limited mobility, baby boomers, seniors or anyone who wants to try something different. The exercise moves are safe fun and effective and will get your heart rate up and help burn fat and lose weight. You will have so much fun that you will forget that you are exercising.

- Pilgrim Walkers
  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.

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.

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

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. Single arrangements cost $35. Two fresh arrangements the cost is $50.

Bloomin' 4 Good

We are thrilled to announce the Bloomin' 4 Good Program, a program from Winn-Dixie that works to fight hunger in local communities, supported Pilgrim Church Food Pantry with a $40 donation after the January 2022 "Pilgrim Month". With this program, every $12.99 Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet sold sends a $1 donation to a hunger organization local to the store in which it was purchased.

Pilgrim United Church of Christ Food Pantry has been selected again to benefit with purchases during the month of July 2022! We will receive a $1 donation for every $12.99 Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet sold at: Winn-Dixie located at 2000 Kings Hwy, Port Charlotte. Look for the bouquets with the red circle sticker pictured when buying fresh flowers for your home, friends and neighbors!

Pilgrim Prayer List

Bill Wolf - homebound, Savina Krueger - cancer, John Krueger - Parkinson's, Gloria Kurbanali - homebound, Sidoney Johnston - homebound, Gene Rice - stroke, Joe Beaudreau - health, Rick McLemore - cancer, Jim Smith - health, Lorraine O'Keefe - cancer, Pat Wheatcroft - cancer, Rieley Owen - health, Zander Jones - health, Lil & Bruce daughter, Karen - cancer, Ukraine - peace, Louise Timchak - PC Rehab, John Hames - PC Rehab, Ron Anderson - cancer, Healing the Nation, that we all come together, Sandy Wheatcroft - health, Evonne Bloss - surgery, David Kaye - health, Praise - He is always with us., Michelle Yale - housing, employment, Shari Ahlgrim - health, Andrew Altman - health, Shemp, Silas, Saxon, Saint - housing , Kathy Del Monte - health, Family and friends of Beverly Nappe

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

Government Military Media Business
Education Church Family

July Bible Readings

7/1 Psalms 79-82
7/2 Psalms 83-86
7/3 Psalms 87:1-89:37
7/4 Psalms 89:38-91:13
7/5 Psalms 91:14-94:16
7/6 Psalms 94:17-98:3
7/7 Psalms 98:4-102:7
7/8 Psalms 102:8-104:4
7/9 Psalms 104:5-105:24
7/10 Psalms 105:25-106:33
7/11 Psalms 106:34-107:38
7/12 Psalms 107:39-109:31
7/13 Psalms 110-113
7/14 Psalms 114:1-118:9
7/15 Psalms 118:10-119:40
7/16 Psalms 119:41-96
7/17 Psalms 119:97-160
7/18 Psalms 119:161-124:8
7/19 Psalms 125-131
7/20 Psalms 132:1-135:14
7/21 Psalms 135:15-138:3
7/22 Psalms 138:4-140:13
7/23 Psalms 141:1-145:7
7/24 Psalms 145:8-148:6
7/25 Ps 148:7-150:6; Pro 1:1-2:9
7/26 Proverbs 2:10-5:14
7/27 Proverbs 5:15-8:11
7/28 Proverbs 8:12-11:11
7/29 Proverbs 11:12-13:25
7/30 Proverbs 14-16
7/31 Proverbs 17-20

July Birthdays

1 Carol Aitchison
2 Ron Brawley, Paula Gallant
12 Gloria Kurbanali
13 Todd Radke
14 Vera Brawley
17 Bill Wolf
21 Daphne Dillon
22 Janice Lewis
23 Laverne Graham
25 Charlie Barnette
28 Betty Holmes

Pilgrim Church UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST July 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship Brunch	4 Independence Day JN Closed Church Office Closed 7:00pm AA - Women	5 10:00am Pilgrim Walkers 11:00am Chair Aerobics	6 10:00am Prayer Partners 7:00pm Council Mtg	7 10:00am Pilgrim Women Fellowship 10:00am Pilgrim Walkers 11:00am Chair Aerobics	8	9
10 8:00am Coffee Hour 9:00am Worship	11 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm Missions Mtg 7:00pm AA - Women	12 10:00am Pilgrim Walkers 11:00am Chair Aerobics	13 10:00am Prayer Partners	14 10:00am Pilgrim Walkers 11:00am Chair Aerobics	15	16
17 8:00am Coffee Hour 9:00am Worship	18 6:30pm Finance Mtg 7:00pm AA - Women 7:00pm BSA Troop Mtg	19 10:00am Pilgrim Walkers 11:00am Chair Aerobics	20 Newsletter Article Deadline 10:00am Prayer Partners	21 9:15am PBJ Sandwich Makers 10:00am Pilgrim Walkers 11:00am Chair Aerobics	22	23
24 8:00am Coffee Hour 9:00am Worship	25 7:00pm AA - Women	26 10:00am Pilgrim Walkers 11:00am Chair Aerobics 7:00pm Council Mtg	27 10:00am Prayer Partners	28 10:00am Pilgrim Walkers 11:00am Chair Aerobics	29	30
31 8:00am Coffee Hour 9:00am Worship 10:00am Pilgrims Progress Mtg						

Christmas in July: school supplies