From the Desk of Pastor John

Salutations!

I was hoping to have exciting news regarding our church restoration to share with you in this month's newsletter, but, unfortunately, I do not. Although we have made progress, minor setbacks have slowed the restoration process. We were disappointed to learn that the contractor hired to replace our siding has backed out, which means that our construction firm has had to restart the process of collecting siding bids all over again. We are hoping they will have a new contractor lined up soon. Once the community center and sanctuary are fully protected from the elements, interior construction can begin.

Please be in prayer for our construction team as they navigate the challenges that arise as they strive to get us back into our buildings as soon as possible.

However, there is good news to share! Cynthia, Jess, and the Joyful Noise team, along with volunteers from the church and parents from the school, have worked hard to get our playground up and running. New sand and mulch have been placed in our sandboxes and fall zones, new cushioned mats have been laid for our toddlers to toddle on, new shade sails have been hung, and new playground equipment and toys have been assembled and placed throughout the grounds. Giggles and shouts of excitement will soon be heard coming from our school playground once again!

Despite being unable to utilize many areas of our campus, life at the church goes on! We continue to

(Continued on page 2)

March 2023 Newsletter

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

From the Desk of Pastor John continued...

meet and find new ways to fellowship and do ministry. I am grateful to Kings Gate for allowing us to rent a space in their clubhouse for Sunday morning worship and Bible study. I am also grateful for those who have graciously accepted working with less space and sharing a small common area with other ministries. Our conference room is now used to make PB&J sandwiches, practice handbells, learn music at choir practice, hold meetings, and meet for Bible studies. It has not been easy, but we have risen to the challenge and we continue to be the church!

As we look towards Easter, please know the services this year will look a little different. There will be a Sunrise service at 7:00 a.m. as well as a traditional service at 9:00 a.m. However, both Easter services will be held outside in the church parking lot. The sunrise service will be similar to previous sunrise services I have led at Pilgrim. The 9:00 a.m. service, however, will be an Easter Celebration Through Word and Song. We will retell the Easter story while singing our favorite Easter hymns and praising God. If weather does not cooperate, the sunrise service will be canceled and the 9:00 a.m. service will be moved to Kings Gate.

No matter where we worship, the stone will be rolled away and Christ Jesus will be raised. That will be worth celebrating!

Though the season of Lent may look different this year, I pray it is a holy time of reflection, repentance, and spiritual growth for each of you. Even if you do not give something up for this season, I encourage you to find a way to serve and love your neighbor, study scripture, and spend time with God as you prepare to experience the resurrection of Christ on Easter.

Blessings,
Pastor John

Pilgrim United Church of Christ

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Season in Lent

Nestled between two joyous seasons of the Christian calendar, Lent takes us into the valley, into broken spaces, and into dry places. Yet, this season offers its own perspective of hope. Lent invites us into the deep work required for restoration to take place. Self-examination, study, fasting, prayer and works of love are disciplines historically associated with Lent. Conversion—literally, the "turning around" or reorientation of our lives towards God—is the theme of Lent. Both as individuals and as a community, we look inward and reflect on our readiness to follow Jesus in His journey towards the cross. The forty days of Lent correspond to the forty-day temptation of Jesus in the wilderness and the forty-year journey of Israel from slavery to a new community.

Did you know we are in the season of violet? The Church uses various colors that reflect the express emotions and ideas that are associated with each of the seasons of the liturgical year. Violet is the ancient royal color and therefore a symbol of the sovereignty of Christ. Violet is also associated with repentance from sin. White and Gold symbolize the brightness of day. Black is the traditional color of mourning. Red symbolizes fire, and therefore is the color of the Holy Spirit. Green is the color of growth. Blue is the color of the sky. The use of traditional colors connects us to the wider Body of Christ and provides worship planners with visual aids that mark the transition from one season to another.

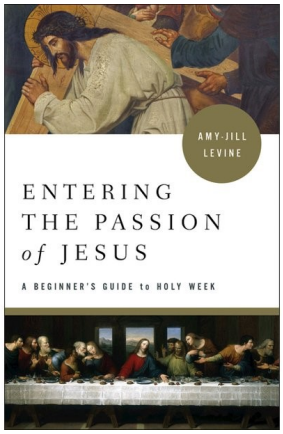
(excerpts copied from UCC sources)

Lent Calendar

The 2023 Lenten Calendar, provides a different daily scripture, prayer topic or fast for the Lenten season. If you need additional copies, please reach out to the Church Office. We hope this calendar is a guide for your own self-analysis, study, fasting, prayer and works of love.

Lenten Bible Study with Pastor John

Wednesdays, as of March 1, noon and 6:30 p.m.



Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week by Amy-Jill Levine. Books to follow along and study are available, but not required, in the Church Office, $14.

"Jesus' final days were full of risk. Every move He made was filled with anticipation, danger, and the potential for great loss or great reward.

Jesus risked His reputation when He entered Jerusalem in a victory parade. He risked His life when He dared to teach in the Temple. His followers risked everything when they left behind their homes, or anointed Him with costly perfume. We take risks as we read and re-read these stories, finding new meanings and new challenges. In this study, author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story. She shows us how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience."

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			February 22 *Ash Wednesday* Read and reflect on Psalm 51:1-17.	**February 23** Think and Say Positive Words	**February 24** Pray for the lonely.	**February 25** Go for a walk and look for God at work.
February 26 *1st Sunday in Lent* Read and reflect on Matthew 4:1-11.	**February 27** Fast: Avoid technology for the day.	**February 28** Pray for our community.	**March 1** Read and reflect on Lamentations 3:19-26.	**March 2** Affirm someone with the good they have done.	**March 3** Pray for the hungry.	**March 4** Do something good for the environment.
March 5 *2nd Sunday in Lent* Read and reflect on Matthew 17:1-9.	**March 6** Fast: Let your only beverage today be water.	**March 7** Pray for doctors, nurses and medical staff.	**March 8** Read and reflect on Romans 12:9-21.	**March 9** Tell someone how much you love them.	**March 10** Pray for the abused.	**March 11** Make a list of everything you are thankful for.
March 12 *3rd Sunday in Lent* Read and reflect on John 4:5-42.	**March 13** Fast: Avoid sweet treats today.	**March 14** Pray for someone who is sick.	**March 15** Read and reflect on James 1:12-13, 16-17.	**March 16** Write a letter of thanks.	**March 17** Pray for world political and religious leaders.	**March 18** Invite a friend to coffee.
March 19 *4th Sunday in Lent* Read and reflect on John 9:1-41.	**March 20** Fast: Refrain from complaining today.	**March 21** Pray for those who lead Pilgrim Church.	**March 22** Read and reflect on Isaiah 40:28-31.	**March 23** Give a compliment today.	**March 24** Pray for good things for someone who has been unkind to you.	**March 25** Prepare Easter cards to mail out.
March 26 *5th Sunday in Lent* Read and reflect on John 11:1-45.	**March 27** Fast: Avoid interrupting others today.	**March 28** Pray for missionaries.	**March 29** Read and reflect on Mark 14-15.	**March 30** Give someone a snack or treat.	**March 31** Pray for refugees.	**April 1** Create a care package for Homebound Pilgrims.
April 2 *6th Sunday in Lent* *Palm/Passion Sunday* Matthew 27:11-54	**April 3** Fast: Avoid worldly excesses (alcohol, gossip, internet, etc.)	**April 4** Pray for veterans and active service men & women.	**April 5** Read and reflect on Exodus 12.	**April 6** *Maundy Thursday* Read and reflect on John 13.	**April 7** *Good Friday* John 18-19.	**April 8** *Holy Saturday* Read and reflect on Psalm 31.
April 9 *Easter Sunday* Read Matthew 28:1-10.						

2023 Lent Calendar

Pilgrim Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March Birthdays

4	Janice Cahn
7	Phyllis Stanley
8	Bob Stephenson
9	Nancy Beaver, Cat Foster, Niles Stoudt, Dave Wilson
10	Robert -Emard
11	Cheryl Gerry, Jacque Ross
12	Nereid Maxey
18	Dan Donohue
29	Susan Littrell
30	Marty Donovan, Karen McKenney

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

March Anniversaries

27	Cheryl & Carroll Eastman

March Ideas to Love Your Neighbors

- Print and share some Irish Blessings.
- Follow the Lent Calendar.
- Invite a neighbor to the Lenten Bible Study with Pastor John.
- Share some cookies.
- Send a card, we all love mail that isn't a bill or advertisement.
- Take a walk through your neighborhood and pray for the health, safety, and well-being of the residents.
- Pick a flower from your yard and offer it to a grocery clerk or maybe the doctor's office receptionist.
- Buy some leprechaun stickers and share with everyone whom you cross paths.
- Remind a friend of the time change so they aren't late to church!
- Share gold wrapped candy… "You're worth more than gold."

Pilgrim Prayer List

Recovery after Hurricane Ian
Rick McLemore - cancer
Lorraine O'Keefe - cancer
Bill Wolf - homebound
Savina Krueger - cancer
John Krueger - Parkinson's
Kathy Wagner - cancer
Joe Beaudreau - health
Genny Sweetland - cancer
Elaine Pregowski - health
Sidoney Johnston - homebound
Doug Yokum - health
Zander Jones - health
Those affected by gun violence
Mike Faber - health
Joyce Faber - health
Ed Ryan - cancer
Eunice Terry - health
Jody Phillips - cancer
Pat Wheatcroft - cancer
Tina Phillips - health
Jim Smith - health
Josh & Janet - strength
Michael - cancer
Jacques & Angelina - job search
Geoff Fleming - health
Vicki - health
Gilbert Sequira - health
Lucia Malagisi - family and friends sympathies
Fred Ripley - health

Ministry & Outreach

Missions Report

The Missions Committee met for the first time this year in February. We are developing a small new budget for the year and will count on assistance from the congregation to support our outreach ministries. We understand this will be a strain on the congregation and do not want to take away from Pilgrim's Hurricane Ian recovery. At the same time we see that we need to keep faith with our DNA of serving God through serving others, and trust that the congregation will step up and support Pilgrim Church and our mission miniseries.

We are in need of new members and asking anyone interested in joining the Mission Committee contact Pastor Ken. New ideas and projects are welcomed along with those who wish to serve with their hands and feet. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Office.

We will resume our minute for missions in February in an effort to keep the congregation informed of our activities.

The food pantry, that is open to the public, is on hold until we can once again get into church following repairs. Please, no food item donations at this time. We don't have space available to store goods and want to be careful with expiration dates.

Thank you to the congregation for your great support over the years and may it continue into the New Year. We seek to be the practical expression of love of God and neighbor.

May God continue to bless Pilgrim Church and its mission ministry.

Pastor Ken, Missions Chair

Music Notes

I'm excited to see God working in the revitalization of our physical church location and even more so the beautiful Light flowing and emanating in each of our Choir members. It is truly a privilege to know each of them and I prophesy His handiwork and anticipate the expansion of our singing group as well as our wonderful congregation.

You are welcome to join our Choir. We rehearse on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and we have a seat for you! Currently we are meeting in the Church Conference Room. Enter as if you were going to the Church Office. You'll be able to help lead worship as a choir member and learn more about the various hymns we sing.

We look forward to the return of our Call to Worship within this next month and the celebratory worship that comes with it to open our services each week. As we plan for Easter festivities, it is He who leads each step and guides us with His hand.

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.
- Colossians 3:16

May you be blessed today and always, Katy

Adult Bible Study

Sundays at 10:15 a.m.

Verse by verse Bible study on Ezekiel continues. Learn about the prophecies regarding the destruction of Jerusalem, and the restoration to the land of Israel.

Joyful Noise Learning Center

The staff and children at Joyful Noise are super excited to be back on our playgrounds. Thank you to everyone who helped us get back outside!

We are so happy to see progress on the Community Center. We look forward to being able to welcome back our Before/After children once it is ready.

Council approved a new lawn maintenance vendor and we anticipate our grounds will shape up with the Spring. We are grateful for the volunteers who stepped up and trimmed bushes and pulled weeds while we searched for a new vendor. Thank you for making our campus welcoming!

We need more staff! Please share with those you know that we are accepting applications for those who meet the DCF qualifications.

We had Valentine Parties in February that included passing out Valentines, sweet treats, special books, games and related crafts.

Since we are now in Lent, our teachers are getting ready for Easter. It is a joy to share the Easter miracle with our children so that they know Easter is about Jesus, not a bunny.

Our program is full come June! We have 25 spots remaining for the Fall for 3s and VPK, these spaces will fill up quickly. The other classes are full.

Cynthia Poudrette, Director

PBJ Sandwich Makers

200 Individually Wrapped PBJs
Thursday, March 15
9:15 a.m.
in the Conference Room

Many hands make light work! Join us and make some Pilgrim friends as you prepare sandwiches that feed the homeless. Donations of jam are appreciated.

Children's Ministry

God's love was the focus for each week of February. We learned God's definition of love and reviewed those characteristics. We discussed how we can show love for one another by using acts of kindness in our home, at school, and in the community. Through several parables, we also learned how to love others not like us.

We made Valentine bookmarks as a reminder that God loves us every time we read a new book. And we are working on heart wreaths and heart sun catchers that reflects God's idea of what love is, from 1 Corinthians 13:1-13.

Each of our Sunday School students were honored with quarterly awards at school this past month, receiving different awards for "Outstanding Achievement", "Leadership", "Attendance", "Showing Pride", or "Student of the Month". We are so very proud of you all!

Our two Sunday School fifth graders, were inducted into the National Elementary Honor Society in February. They demonstrated outstanding academic achievements, personal character, and potential for success to be nominated and selected. Charlie & Izzy, Congratulations on your recent acceptance into this exclusive and prestigious organization!

Scouting

The Boy Scouts competed at Camporee at Camp Flying Eagle in Bradenton. The scouts did a great job and came home with 17 ribbons.

February 5 – Flag Ceremony at Kings Gate Service.

February 11 Fish & Chips Lunch to go – We had a great afternoon with our drive thru Fish & Chips Lunch. Great turn out and everyone enjoyed their lunch.

February 12 – We had 2 boys' crossover from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts.

The Cub Scouts have been working hard on their Pinewood Derby Cars for the big race day on February 25. Photos to come in the next newsletter.

We also had a Scout complete his Eagle Project. His project was to build four raised bed planters for the Solaris Rehab Center's Gardening Club. The Troop helped deliver them and get them set up.

Watch for ticket details on the April Pasta Dinner Fundraiser. We're grateful for our host at The Mason's Lodge in Punta Gorda while the Community Center is under construction.

Donna Graves, Scout Representative

Prayer Partners

You Can Help Change History! Want a more peaceful world? Want to experience miracles? The answer is to PRAY!

At the *Battle of the Bulge,* General Patton needed a 24 hour period of clear weather in order to rescue his troops. So he gave Chaplain Colonel James O'Neill the assignment to author a prayer which was then printed on wallet sized cards and distributed to the soldiers to recite. It read:

> "Almighty and most merciful Father, we humbly beseech Thee, of Thy great goodness, to restrain these immoderate rains with which we have had to contend. Grant us fair weather for battle. Graciously hearken to us as soldiers who call upon Thee that, armed with Thy power, we may advance from victory to victory, and crush the oppression and wickedness of our enemies and establish Thy justice among men and nations."

Our merciful God heard and answered that fervent prayer.

During World War II, England's King George the VI called for a National Day of Prayer in order to rescue trapped troops resulting in the *Miracle of Dunkirk* when for some unexplained reason Hitler halted the war for three days, and the weather cleared enabling the evacuation of trapped troops!

These are just two examples of God's mighty power unleashed by the impassioned prayer of His people.

The Bible reminds us we do not have because we do not ask. It goes on to say wherever two are three are gathered in His name He is in their midst.

So won't you join us on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. for prayer? You don't even have to leave the comfort of your homes. Just call Jacque Ross (941-258-2597) and she will include you on the weekly prayer meeting by conference call.

Become an integral part of History!

Read Across America
Classroom Library

Reading to a child develops vocabulary, language patterns, thinking skills, writing skills, listening skills, problem solving, and concentration. Reading to a child increases knowledge and imagination and shares moral lessons. We've noticed the books in our Joyful Noise Learning Center classrooms have become worn and torn. As we want to instill the power of reading to our students we would like to replace some favorites and even add to our collections.

Donations of these books or funds to purchase these and more are welcomed! Samples of these are available in Pastor John's Office.

In honor of Dr Seuss' birthday, March 2:

- *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish* by Dr. Seuss, $5.23
- *Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr.Seuss, 5.98

My Magic Breath: Finding Calm Through Mindful Breathing by Nick Ortner, wish 9 copies, $10.39 each.

Kindness is My Superpower by Alicia Ortego, wish 7 copies, $11.17 each.

Friends at School by Rochelle Bunnett, wish 6 copies, 7.99 each.

It's Okay to Not Be Okay by Emily Hayes, wish 4 copies, $11.79 each.

Pie is for Sharing by Stephanie Parsley Ledyard, wish 4 copies, $10.79 each.

Happy in Our Skin by Fran Manushkin, wish 9 copies, $7.99 each.

Standing In the Need of Prayer by Carole Boston Wetherford, $17.88

Other books on our wish list:

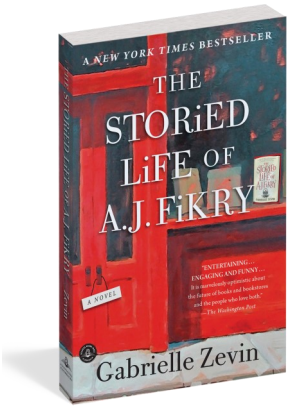
- *Just Help! How to Build a Better World* by Sonia Sotomayer, $12.58
- *We're All Wonders* by R.J. Palacio, $8.85
- *Grow Happy* by John Lasser, PhD, $15.95
- *Jesus Loves EVERYBODY* by Katie Kenny Phillips, $9.99
- *Chik Chak Shabbat* by Mara Rockliff, $7.99
- *We Are All Connected: Caring For Each other & The Earth* by Gabi Garcia, $18.99
- *Festival of Colors* by Kabir Sehgal & Surishtha Sehgal, $11.59

Women's Fellowship

Fellowship and Study

Pilgrim Women will meet on Thursday, March 16, at 10:00 a.m. We continue in the Max Lucado video sessions on GRACE. This month features the topic, "Fear Dethroned" and reassures us that God's grace is sufficient to face any fear in our lives. We meet in the room adjacent to the church office.

Women's Fellowship Book Club



Evening Book Club will meet on Monday night, March 27 and review the book, *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry*, written by Gabrielle Zevin. This is a story about a bookstore owner, his love of books, of "bookish" people, and of people in general. This is a dinner meeting held at 6:00 p.m., watch for announcement of location later in the month.

Mission of the Month
The Homeless Coalition

Homelessness is a widespread, societal issue that affects every community – even here in the paradise of Southwest Florida. The Homeless Coalition not only provides emergency services such as shelter and food to hundreds of people a year, but it also works with families to secure more financially stable futures. For some people, getting a job can be difficult without a proper form of ID or a dependable ride to work. We can help clients overcome those obstacles so that employment can be secured. We can help families stay in their homes by finding emergency funding to cover electric bills, etc.

It's never hopeless at the Homeless Coalition. The Homeless Coalition finances some of these programs through the Fabulous Finds Re-Sale Shop, where 100% of the proceeds go right back to fighting homelessness. As an impact-driven group, we reinvest a majority of our profits to achieve sustainability, grow our resources, and ensure the fulfillment of our mission to promote a positive impact to our community and resolve homelessness and hunger.

Join us March 12 for a special presentation.

UCC.org About Us

The United Church of Christ (UCC) is a distinct and diverse community of Christians that come together as one church to join faith and action. With over 5,000 churches and nearly one million members across the U.S., the UCC serves God in the co-creation of a just and sustainable world. The UCC is a church of firsts, a church of extravagant welcome, and a church where "...they may all be one" (John 17:21).

Today, we continue to change lives throughout the world. We work alongside more than 200 mission partners. We labor ceaselessly to fight injustice, in the United States and abroad. We instill our vision into our youth and young adults, forging leaders who will imagine new dreams. And we sustain and develop church leaders, pastors, and our local churches to live their faith in exciting new ways. We believe in a God that is still speaking, a God that is all-loving and inclusive. We are a church that welcomes and accepts everyone as they are, where your mind is nourished as much as your soul.

We are a church where Jesus the healer meets Jesus the revolutionary, and where together, we grow a just and peaceful world.

UCCFLA.org About Us

Our faith is 2,000 years old. Our thinking is not. We believe in God's continuing testament. This is why we are committed to hearing God's ancient story anew and afresh in our lives and in the world today. We try to remain attentive to God's creative movement in the world. Religion and science are not mutually exclusive, and your head and heart are both welcomed into our places of worship. We prepare our members and leaders to be engaged in ministry in the present and future church, and we embrace all kinds of communities and new modes of thinking. Why? Because God is still speaking,

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

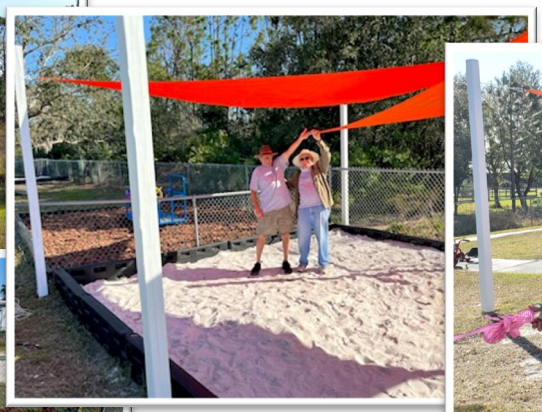
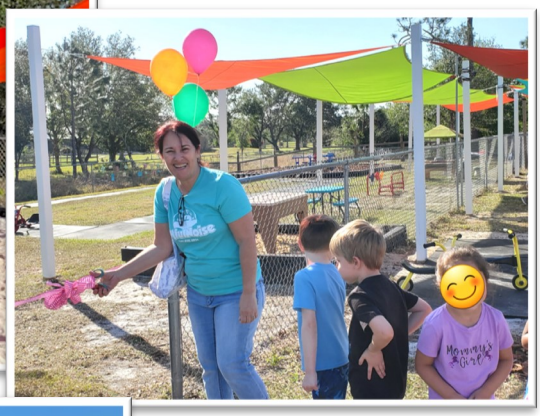
We believe in extravagant welcome. This is why we insist that God's communion table is open, not closed, and God's gift and claim in baptism are irrevocable. We advocate justice for all. Our congregations extend hospitality as a sign of God's inclusive love. We teach that evangelism — offering bread to those in search of it — is God's mission. Our perspective is global, not provincial. We work with — not against — people of other faiths. Why? Because God is still speaking,

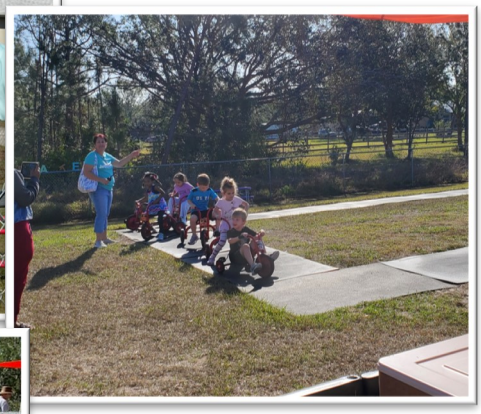
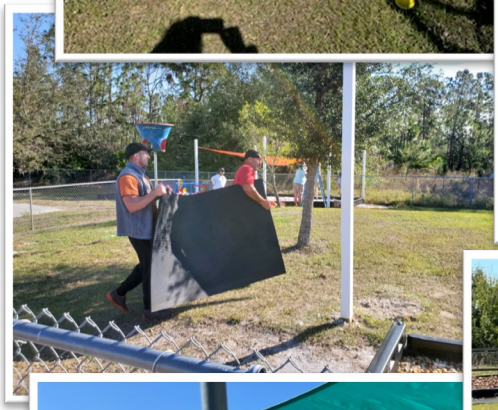
Never place a period where God has placed a comma. We believe the church's mission is to change lives — individually, systemically and globally. We work to make transformation possible, but trust in God's grace. This is why we insist that churches must be places of vitality in worship, learning and advocacy. We are committed to working for justice, and we believe that lives are changed through global experiences and friendships. Why? Because God is still speaking.

Check out these web pages for daily devotionals, ideas to be active through Pilgrim and to learn more!

Pilgrim in Pictures

Joyful Noise Playground Work Day (February 18) and Grand Re-Opening (February 20).

Council Highlights from the Moderator

- The congregation approved our new members into Council at our Annual Meeting. We welcome new Council members Randy Blanchard and Nettie Wineland. Next month, all of Council will come before the congregation to pledge our commitment and service to the church.

- We have a new roof!! Our campus now has a new roof on each building and fascia and soffits are going up. Woo hoo!

- For all key carriers: it is important to communicate with the office of your comings and goings across campus. First, several groups are sharing the space and we all need to be respectful of the group that follows us. Second, construction areas are hard hat areas and it is critical to keep everyone safe during this part of our recovery. If you do not have prior approval from the Church Office – do NOT go into the Community Center or the Church. (Thank you.)

- Our Buildings & Grounds Ministry has been working hard at getting information for Council regarding our campus lighting, looking into different vendors and products. At this time, we are working with the insurance company to see what is and what is not covered; but we will continue researching all the options regardless, as safety is a priority.

- The Buildings & Grounds Ministry has also been getting estimates on sign replacements. A new sign is not covered by insurance and will come out of our own funds. At this time, Council and Finance Committee felt that we will focus first on campus lighting and come back at a later time for the sign. We will keep the congregation informed on this project as we continue our reconstruction.

- Council meeting are always open to attend. Your voice matters to Council and myself. We meet on the Fourth Tuesday of the Month at 7:00 p.m.

- I encourage any of you, if there is an issue or grievance to please reach out to a member of Council (or myself). I am always happy to answer any questions, or get an answer to you. If it needs more research, we will add it to our agenda for the next Council meeting for further discussion. These meetings are a great way to be part of the ministry that is happening at Pilgrim Church.

- After the Annual Meeting, several members approached me to ask questions. Please continue to ask questions; I will be glad to answer it! If you cannot attend a Council meeting, please reach out to me or another Council member after service.

2023 Council

Moderator

Jessica Warne-Emard	Term 1, Year 2

Assistant Moderator

Dave Wilson	Term 2, Year 2

Members-at-Large

Gerry Ahlgrim	Term 1, Year 2
Randy Blanchard	Term 1, Year 1
Joe Gillner	Term 1, Year 2
Ken Rhoe	Term 1, Year 2
Connie Rice	Term 1, Year 2
Dave Wilson	Term 2, Year 2
Russ Whittaker	Term 2, Year 1
Nettie Wineland	Term 1, Year 1
Susan Wright	Term 2, Year 1

PilgrimSTRONG!
Jessica Warne-Emard, Moderator

Hurricane Recovery

Soffits and gutter work is complete at the Joyful Noise Learning Center and the Community Center. This work will soon begin on the Sanctuary building.

Our February work day completed the playgrounds and resulted in the outside space being safely opened to our students!

Please continue to pray for our recovery, as well as, that of your neighbors. Licensed and experienced contractors, along with, supplies remain scarce. Pray that while we are worshipping and serving outside our walls that we reach new people for Christ who may be leery of going to "church".

Building & Grounds

Pilgrim's Property Committee at work! This group is reviewing options for replacement lighting and researching the sign options for our entryway.

In February lighting over the Joyful Noise Learning Center was replaced by a member of this committee, saving us labor costs! Branches were trimmed and others were removed, again saving us labor costs.

Also our ice machine could not be safely restarted after the storm, it's now been replaced thanks to the diligence of another committee member.

This group will meet again on the second Thursday, March 9, at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. All interested in the property and maintenance of the Pilgrim campus are invited.

Finance Report

Well Pilgrims, after many years of prudent budgeting the time has come to spend the monies we set aside in case of a major hurricane. Fortunately, we have a CD in the bank that will cover the $235,000 deductible!

That policy right now costs over $100,000/year. We can expect the premium to go higher at renewal. However, that is a bargain when you realize that the cost for restoring our buildings alone is rapidly approaching $2,000,000. Yes…a lot of zeros! You have seen the pictures of the damage we withstood.

Thank you to all who so generously donated to the hurricane fund. We now begin the daunting task of rebuilding that deductible while paying our routine (and not so routine) bills. Our insurance policy covers our buildings but does not cover the damage to outside lighting, landscaping or signage. We have a daunting challenge ahead of us, but it is one we will accomplish.

We will remain, with God's blessing, Pilgrim Strong.

Don Anderson, Finance Ministry Chair

Name Badges

The Season of Lent through Easter worship, along with worshipping at Kings Gate brings us many new faces. Do you know where your Pilgrim name badge is? We are placing an order on March 13. Let us know if you need a replacement name badge. Cost is $10, the badges will be ready before Holy Week.

Calendar Days

March 3, 2023
Observed on the first Friday in March, World Day of Prayer is a global, ecumenical movement of Christian women joined together to observe a common day of prayer.

March 5-11, 2023
UCC Women's Week. A time to intentionally remember the women in your life and what they mean to your faith.

Pilgrim Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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			**1** 12:00pm Lent Bible Study 6:30pm Lent Bible Study 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	**2**	**3** World Day of Prayer	**4**
5 2nd Sunday in Lent 9:00am Worship 10:15am Adult Bible Study	**6** 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm AA - Women	**7**	**8** 12:00pm Lent Bible Study 6:30pm Lent Bible Study 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	**9** 6:30pm Buildings & Grounds Ministry	**10**	**11**
12 Daylight Savings: Spring Forward 3rd Sunday in Lent 9:00am Worship 10:15am Adult Bible Study	**13** 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm AA - Women 7:00pm Missions	**14**	**15** Newsletter Article Deadline 12:00pm Lent Bible Study 6:30pm Lent Bible Study 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	**16** 9:15am PBJ Sandwich Makers 10:00am Pilgrim Women's Fellowship	**17** St Patrick's Day	**18**
19 4th Sunday in Lent 9:00am Worship 10:15am Adult Bible Study	**20** 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 6:30pm Finance Committee 7:00pm AA - Women	**21**	**22** 12:00pm Lent Bible Study 6:30pm Lent Bible Study 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	**23**	**24**	**25**
26 5th Sunday in Lent 9:00am Worship 10:15am Adult Bible Study	**27** 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 6:00pm Pilgrim Women Book Club 7:00pm AA - Women	**28** 7:00pm Council Mtg	**29** 12:00pm Lent Bible Study 6:30pm Lent Bible Study 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	**30**	**31** 	