

## From the Desk of Pastor John

“There aren’t enough hours in the day  
to do what all needs to be done!”

Have you ever found yourselves saying that? I know I have. Life can be quite hectic. Between work and life at home, it seems that every minute of every day is dedicated to completing some task that must be addressed. For some, hours at work are filled with different tasks that the boss assigns them. Then, once freed from work, there is always laundry to be washed, folded, and put away, groceries to be bought, floors to be vacuumed, and maintenance on the car. For young families, time must also be set aside to take the kids to piano lessons and recitals, baseball practice and games and to finish the dreaded homework.

There is no denying that for many of us life is busy. Our hours are filled with tasks that “absolutely must be handled.” Distracted by all those different tasks that steal the minutes and hours of our days, it can be hard to find the time to sit down, relax, and take a breather.

As we run around, getting things done, we don’t necessarily think about the importance of rest. We even try to ignore the symptoms of fatigue, like aching bones, headaches, burning eyes, and foggy minds. If the symptoms are so bad that they can’t be ignored, we then drink cup after cup of coffee in hopes that the caffeine will push us through to the day’s end.

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**May 2023  
Newsletter**

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

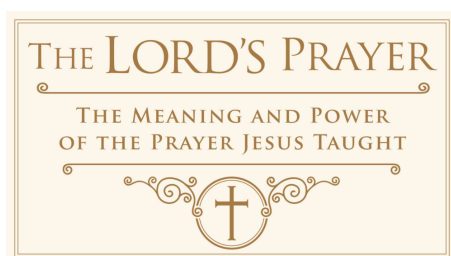
A hectic life not only affects us physically, and emotionally, it affects our spiritual life as well. Too often we get distracted by all the chores of life and forget to connect with God.

In the gospel of Mark, chapter 6, we hear of Jesus sending his disciples out among the villages to proclaim repentance, to cast our demons, and to anoint and cure the sick in his name (vs. 6b-13). After completing their tasks, they return to Jesus and gather around him. Once they were all gathered, Jesus tells them in verse 31, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest awhile."

Rest is vital to a healthy, productive life. We all need to take time to get away from the hustle and bustle of day-to-day life to regain our strength and clear our minds. Devoting time to rest and revitalization also grants us the opportunity to set aside the mundane tasks of life that distract us so that we can shift our focus back to God and center our lives in Him.

I encourage you to set aside time to rest. I know the idea of rest can be daunting (who will take care of the laundry?!), but without rest we are unable to live up to our God-given potential and to carry out our calling to serve Christ by serving others. So, seclude yourself, rest, and remember that if Jesus carved out time to rest, so can you!

Blessings!  
Pastor John



## Small Group Study with Pastor John

Wednesdays in May, noon & 6:30 p.m.

Most Pilgrims know the Lord's Prayer by heart. We pray it every week, you may pray it at different times and in different settings. We know it as the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples. But do we really understand the meaning ... what does this prayer ask of God each time we pray it?

In *The Lord's Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught*, pastor and bestselling author Adam Hamilton guides us to really know—and really pray—the Lord's Prayer. Join Pastor John for this small group study.

Books are available in the church office. The book is not required to participate in the class. The class is open to all, books are \$15 for large print, \$14 for regular print.

## Pilgrim United Church of Christ

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## Ministry & Outreach

### Joyful Noise Learning Center

We will celebrate our teachers and staff for Teacher Appreciation Week, May 8-12, for the awesome job they do every day. Our theme this year is "Because You Lift Us Up". I have little treats for them each day.

Teachers are gearing up for VPK Graduation. Our ceremony will look very different this year. Because we are unable to use the Church Sanctuary or the Community Center, we will have the VPK graduation in the Joyful Noise hallway. We can fit 88 chairs along the walls so we will have one class graduate at a time which will allow each child to have four guests.

We are almost fully enrolled for the fall. We have 12 spots in various classrooms available schoolwide. We have already started registering children for the June 2024-2025 school year. That's not this fall but NEXT fall.

In response to a concern reported to DCF, we had air quality tests throughout the school and community center by Indoor Air Testing, Inc. I am very happy to report the air quality test came back CLEAN!

Cynthia Poudrette, Director

### Adult Bible Study

Sundays at 10:15 a.m.

Join us on Sunday mornings immediately after the worship service.

The Sunday Adult Bible Study small group will begin a study of the Book of Acts during the months of May, June, and July. Luke is the author of this book and focuses on the power of the Holy Spirit working through the disciples following Jesus' resurrection and ascension. It provides insight into the historical development of the early Church. This class meets right after the worship service and uses a "verse-by-verse" approach to studying the scriptures.

### Women's Fellowship

Pilgrim Womens' Fellowship has planned a summer of "fun outings" which include a daytrip and/or lunch. The first will be on June 15 with a trip to Snook Haven Restaurant in Venice. It is right on the Myakka River and has reopened from damage during Hurricane Ian. A carpool will leave the church parking lot at 11:00 a.m. Dress is casual. This is a perfect occasion to meet new friends. All women of the church are invited.

Monday, May 15, 6:00 p.m. Book Club Salad Supper at Carol Veigel's home. Call her to RSVP for gate access and Your salad item to bring. Book to be reviewed is Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens.

Thursday, May 18, 10:30 a.m. is our End of Year Celebration. Meet in the Church parking lot to carpool to Laishley Marina. Board the boat at 11:15 promptly. Wear non-skid shoes. The trip will take us to Riveria Grill for lunch and return about 2:30. A round-trip boat tour is \$30 CASH when you board the boat. Each will order off the lunch menu (see Charlotte Harbor Water Shuttle company available on web for details).

Upcoming months include a Peace River boat tour and a trip to the Village of the Arts in Bradenton. Our small group study series will resume in September.

### Children's Ministry

Our children continue to gather for Sunday School. In April we dug into Easter, the resurrection and why we use Easter Eggs to celebrate. We learned about God's creation & the importance of Earth Day, instilling how important it is to care for the planet. Our instruction is from Genesis.





## Ministry & Outreach cont.

### Missions Report

Our Moment for Missions renewed several months ago featuring Homeless Coalition, Back Pack Kids, and Virginia B. Andes Clinic with Pharmacy. We will feature in May The Children's Network of Southwest Florida.



The Children's Network works with single parent families and foster children providing needed assistance and mentoring. This is a new partnership, Pilgrim and Children's Network. We started supporting them with gifts and prayer in 2022, giving gifts of financial support and asking for volunteers to help mentor children.

The Network currently needs help in getting pajamas for children both girls and boys up to the age of twelve, diapers for infants, and toiletries for all children. Please join with the Mission Committee to continue to support the Children's Network of Southwest Florida. You can bring these items to the Church Office. A check for financial support of this specific ministry can be marked "Children's Network" in the memo line.

Thanks goes out to the congregation of Pilgrim Church for you continued support for our outreach ministry. May God continue to bless our mission outreach and the ministry of Pilgrim Church.

Pastor Ken, Missions Chair

### Prayer Partners

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 says "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Prayer Partners needs you to help intercede for God's people and initiate the release of His blessings upon us. God's word tells us in Ecclesiastes 4:9 & 12b "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: 12b "A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."

Even though we are a small group in number we have been calling on God together and witnessing many of His answers to our prayers.

We have seen and given thanks for a man whose cornea transplants were rejecting to have his sight restored, another man and his son reunited after a 10 year estrangement, two mothers have been given comfort and peace after the loss of a child, and much, much more.

James 4:2 says "You do not have because you do not ask God." Imagine the plethora of unreleased blessings God has ready to bestow on us if only we will ask.

If you are not comfortable praying out loud with us just listen and quietly intercede along with us for others worldwide. Submit your requests and those of others.

Join us on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. for prayer. Call Jacque Ross (941-258-2597) and she will include you by conference call.

*It's Time to get out of the boat.  
invite a friend to church...  
share the joy of knowing Jesus... LOVE your neighbor...*

## Business News

### Hurricane Recovery

Damaged siding has been removed from both the Community Center and the Sanctuary. Dry In has been put up, the moisture barrier.

The soffits have been fully repaired.

Insulation and Drywall are waiting on permits.

Air Conditioning repairs are expected to begin this week.

All other steps are in the works.

October 2022



Morning after

April 2023



tarped ...vinyl siding removed



Ready for new siding, April 2023

### Finance Report

Hello Everyone

Easter is behind us and some of our members who split their time between Florida and elsewhere are starting to leave. (Be safe in your travels, my friends!) When they return, I pray we will be at least in the Pilgrim Community Center for Sunday Service. As has been mentioned in the past, the Community Center can be used by the Church, but is also used by Joyful Noise Learning Center.

As to the Financials... Our Church is struggling. As you can see from the numbers we share in the Sunday Bulletin, we are not covering our Church expenses. Fortunately, our successful ministry, Joyful Noise, has been able to make up the difference.

BUT

We cannot count on Joyful Noise forever. As we continue to increase salaries to retain our current employees and to hire future teachers the school's ability to contribute to the overall Pilgrim bottom line will decrease.

The primary way to reduce that dependency is to grow the Church Congregation. We know from your feedback that you like what you see and hear at Sunday Worship Services. Please share your joy and spread the message with your neighbors and friends.

Our Church's future is in our hands.

Don Anderson, Finance Chair



## Love Your Neighbor

### May Birthdays

- 3 Robert Emard
- 5 Gary Cooper
- 6 Vasa O'Leary, Judy Whittaker
- 7 Gerry Ahlgrim, Fred Ripley
- 9 Judy Prier
- 12 Phyllis Keller
- 15 Susan Wright
- 17 James Keller
- 22 Karen Ahlgrim
- 30 Nancy Hoffman, Jane Moriarty, Jo Sweatt

### May Anniversaries

- 2 Gary & Sharon Cooper
- 3 Gerry & Karen Ahlgrim
- 4 Mike & Joyce Faber
- 13 Ken & Vickie Rhoe

Did we miss your special date? Please call or email the office, so we may update the records.

### May Ideas to Love Your Neighbors

- ♦ If anyone can make a meal for Genny Sweetland and the son she cares for following her major cancer surgery May 8 please contact Jacque, 941-258-2597.
- ♦ May 4 is National Day of Prayer, stop and pray for our nation, our leaders, our first responders... and then find a way to tell them you prayed for them.
- ♦ Invite someone to Small Group with Pastor John. It's a great way to ease someone into our congregation in a comfortable, relaxed setting!
- ♦ Plan a Mother's Day gathering with friends to celebrate and share stories of the leading women of your life story.
- ♦ Invite a veteran or first responder to our May 28, 6:30 p.m. Memorial Remembrance Service.
- ♦ VPK (Pre-Kindergarten) graduation is May 19. Pick up a treat (i.e., a book, a beach ball, rice cereal treats) for a class to share that last week! We have 4 classes, largest class is 19 students.

### Pilgrim Prayer List

Recovery after Hurricane Ian

Fred Ripley - health

Jim Smith - health

Jim Scott - homebound

Andrew Altman - health

Arlene Robbins - health

Judy Fresen - cancer

Diane Robinson - health

Brian Robinson - health

David "Wheatie" Wheatcroft - health

Pat Wheatcroft - cancer

Kerry

John Hames - homebound

Lorraine O'Keefe - cancer

Bill Wolf - homebound

Savina Krueger - cancer

John Krueger - Parkinson's

Joe Beaudreau - health

Sidoney Johnston - homebound

Rick McLemore - cancer

Marge Trayner - health

Bud Trayner - cancer

Martin Heckler - cancer

Hal Linck - cancer

Louise Wright - health

Peter Young - health

Genny Sweetland - cancer

Ken Hill - cancer

Cheri & Rick Perry - Alzheimer's  
the depressed and grieving -

Russ Whittaker - health

Ed Ryan - cancer

Lynn Davis - family and friends  
sympathies

Breema

Daniel Faber

Joanne Burraway - cancer



## May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 7:00pm AA - Women	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 12:00pm The Lord's Prayer Study 6:30pm The Lord's Prayer Study 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b> National Day of Prayer	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:00am Worship 10:15am Adult Bible Study	<b>8</b> 7:00pm AA - Women 7:00pm Missions Meeting	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 12:00pm The Lord's Prayer Study 6:30pm The Lord's Prayer Study	<b>11</b> 6:30pm Buildings & Grounds Ministry	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
Joyful Noise Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week						
<b>14</b> 9:15am PBJ Sandwich Makers 10:30am Pilgrim Women's Fellowship Outing	<b>15</b> 6:30pm Finance Meeting 7:00pm AA-Women	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Newsletter Article Deadline 12:00pm The Lord's Prayer Study 6:30pm The Lord's Prayer Study	<b>18</b> Ascension Day Luke 24:44-53 9:15am PBJ Sandwich Makers 10:30am Pilgrim Women's Trip	<b>19</b> JN VPK Graduation	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:00am Worship 10:15am Adult Bible Study	<b>22</b> 7:00pm AA - Women	<b>23</b> 7:00pm Council Meeting	<b>24</b> 12:00pm The Lord's Prayer Study 6:30pm The Lord's Prayer Study	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Pentecost Day Acts 2 9:00am Worship 10:15am Adult Bible Study 6:30pm Memorial Day Remembrance Service	<b>29</b> Memorial Day Church Office/JN Closed 7:00pm AA - Women	<b>30</b> JN Closed	<b>31</b> 12:00pm The Lord's Prayer Study 6:30pm The Lord's Prayer Study			

