

From the Desk of Pastor Ken

REFLECTIONS ON THE TRINITY



We refer to the Trinity as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The Trinity has been a source of confusion and theological discussion over the centuries. I would like to share my reflection on the Trinity in hopes it may help some folks understand in part the nature of the Trinity.

My Scriptural references are as follows: "In the beginning God" Geneses 1:1a, "In the beginning was the Word (Jesus)" John 1:1a, "All of them filled with the Holy Spirit" Act 2:4a, and Scriptural affirmation that God is Love {Agape.}

What my first thought was to see the Trinity in light of my own life. I have a basic nature which is expressed as husband, father, and minister. Three different expressions of who I am. I am in no way equating my situation with Trinity except to help begin to explain the Trinity.

To begin, my focus is on the affirmation that God is Love, Agape self-giving Love. The affirmation is that God's basic nature is Love.

God as Father may be seen as Love giving life to all, but especially

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July 2023 Newsletter

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

in the Son Jesus. God has been seen as creator of the world, and of life, everything was created out of Love. The foundation of all is Love.

God as Son, Jesus the incarnation of Agape. Love became flesh to be a mentor on how Love is to be express in the flesh. Love came to show us how we are to relate to God and to one another. Through Love we, like the Son, are to humbly show kindness, mercy, compassion, justice, and promote harmony and respect.

God as Holy Spirit, Love as promised to all as supporter, comforter, and one who holds us accountable. Love that is ever present in life. Love that does not force us to be Christ like, but caring encourages us to be a loving person.

This is Trinity as Agape expressed in three different ways. Blessing to all in Love. Amen-So Be It.

Pastor Ken Ewing

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Pilgrim in Pictures



Memorial Day Service of Remembrance

Weathered Crosses Replaced by Building & Grounds Committee





Business News

Council Highlights

We are taking all the steps necessary to move forward in hiring a new general contractor. Currently we have met with several companies that will be getting their bids to us over the course of the next few weeks.

Our campus remains unlit. This is unsafe for our congregation members, our Joyful Noise teachers and families, and to those outside missions that still meet on campus. As our insurance will not pay to have these lights replaced, the Buildings and Grounds Committee is finishing their detailed plans with estimates of cost for this project.

Council approved to renew with our current insurance providers this next year. Like at your homes, rates have gone up with inflation and as result from Hurricane Ian.

Council did not renew the charter for The Boy Scouts this year. Once we have our campus open again, we can get another charter into place for a scout troop.

Finance Committee and Council will continue to tweak our budget for the remainder of the year and start planning for next year's budget. Discussions continue looking at different avenues of bringing in revenue (fundraisers, craft shows, yard sales, etc.) to pay for restoring our hurricane deductible and the larger campus projects (lighting, sign, AC replacements).

Council will be working on building and strengthening community within our congregation. Having our ministries and committees reach out more to one another; and, to also reach out to more members and visitors of the congregation. We all have gifts that are seen by others, but often not used; and we want to see them used!

As always, your voice matters to Council and myself. I encourage any of you, if you have anything to share with Council, feel free to reach out to one of us!

Jessica Emard-Warne, Moderator

Finance Report

Last month I mentioned that growing our congregation is a financial imperative. That was the **most important item** mentioned on the Congregational Survey that we did going into our search for a new Pastor. We found an outstanding Pastor! Now it is time to grow the Church!!!!!!

Some basic questions answered:

- Q. Doesn't our tithe and other donations cover the cost of running the Church?
 - A. Not even close. Right now, the Congregation's donations cover about half the cost of running the Church. You can see just how far short we fall in the Sunday bulletin.
- Q. Why do we need to grow? We have the revenue from Joyful Noise.
 - A. Joyful Noise's costs are continuing to increase. The minimum wage increase has an impact along with a very tight local labor market. (Which will only get worse once Sunseeker opens in the Fall). We cannot count on Joyful Noise forever.

So.....

This must be a priority for Pilgrim. We need to start planning our path to success **now** so that when the Community Center is ready for us, we are ready to go and grow. Your thoughts and ideas are welcome. The Finance Ministry and General Council are open meetings. Your attendance and questions are always welcome. We need an involved congregation to continue to be a Community and Mission driven Church.

So, as I said before, invite your friends, invite your neighbors to a Church where you are not part of a cast of thousands. Where everybody knows your name. Where you are greeted at the door with kindness and fellowship.

Don Anderson, Finance Chair



Ministry & Outreach

Joyful Noise Learning Center

Joyful Noise is getting refreshed! Mr. Gene already paints one classroom each month to keep us looking great. He is now busy sanding and painting our classroom doors and doorframes. He's finished the doors and is now working on the door frames. Soon he will be moving on to repaint all our bulletin boards in the classrooms and in the hallway. We are blessed to have Mr. Gene keeping our school looking great and everything in working order.

We are fully enrolled for the 2023-2024 school year. We have enrolled several families for the 2024-2025 school year and have tours scheduled for additional families considering enrolling for that school year.

Enjoy these photos of summer fun at Joyful Noise!



Cynthia Poudrette, Director

Adult Bible Study

Sundays at 10:15 a.m.

Join this small group that meets on Sunday Mornings immediately after the worship service. We currently meet in the lobby of the Kings Gate Clubhouse. We continue in the Book of Acts reviewing verse by verse about 2 chapters per week. Each lesson is a stand alone so you can join anytime.

We will take our "summer school break" and not have class on July 30, August 6, & 13.

Missions Update

At the June meeting of the Mission Committee the members decided not to meet again until September.

We are current in our giving with two partners to be funded at the end of the year. We will hold on to our reserves to see how the hurricane recovery goes for Pilgrim Church. We will make a decision on the matter if need be by email. We will still work at fulfilling our commitment to our mission partners.

Even though we are limited in the way we can do things through the Food Pantry, we will continue to serve teachers from Joyful Noise and Veterans each week according to their particular needs. Jacque Ross, Tony Caniglia and Don Anderson also receives bread weekly and distributes it to those in need.

The little free food pantry box outside the office is used often. About once a week we have a donation from the community of goods that fit into that box. Neighbors show up with a box in hand. It's manna, just enough! God provides!

Thank you to the congregation members for their outstanding continued support.

Submitted by Pastor Ken Ewing, Chair

Prayer Shawls

Do you knit? Crochet? Here's a chance for you to wrap a neighbor with love and prayer. We give out over 20 shawls each year and our closet is empty.

A prayer shawl is a handmade shawl. Usually people knit or crochet prayer shawls. The only difference between a prayer shawl and any other shawl is in the process of making it. When making a prayer shawl, the crafter is very intentional about their work. They infuse the piece with a prayer.

How to create a prayer shawl:

Choose a prayer before beginning the project. If you know who the shawl is going to, pray specifically for that person and their needs. For shawls you gift to the church the shawl will go to an unknown person, prayers for health and wellbeing, as well as, abundant life fit well for these donations.

You can use absolutely any pattern as a prayer shawl. Preferably patterns that stitch in multiples of three. An easy pattern with a simple stitch repeat allows you to sink into the prayerful aspect of the project. If you have to focus too much on the pattern then it can take away from the prayer practice.

Repeat the prayer aloud or in your mind as you stitch. Again, this works best for patterns that are repetitive and don't require a lot of focus.

Pastor John will bless any shawls brought in. We have cards to go with the shawls so recipients know of the care and attention that went into the prayer shawls.

"When a knitter picks up the needles to work on a prayer shawl, whether it is for 10 minutes or an hour, a prayer is said for the person who will receive the shawl—by name if it is known—but as we seldom know the person who will receive the shawl—it is a prayer for comfort and easing of pain, be it physical, mental, emotional or spiritual. When the shawl is finished a different prayer of blessing is said for the recipient.

Shawls are knit with the amount of stitches and the pattern in multiples of three. This is to honor and remind each of us of all the threes in the Bible—the Holy Trinity, crosses on Calvary, Christ rising after the third day, Christ was 33 when he was crucified, Peter denied Christ three times—and you can recall other threes.

This shawl is given to you with the hope it will be a tangible reminder of the love, prayers and concerns for you from the people of Pilgrim Church. May it give you comfort and peace."

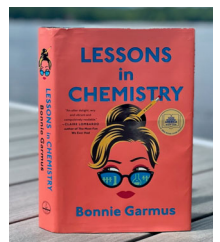
Women's Fellowship

We had a great time at the June field trip to Snook Haven. The lunch was tasty and the fellowship was even better!



The July field trip has been planned with "keeping cool" in mind. On July 20, we will travel to a local movie theater (looking at either Regal Town Center or AMC Merchants Crossing) for a movie selected by the group a few weeks before. We will choose a lunch stop near the chosen theater to fellowship before the show.

Book Club will meet on Thursday, August 17, with time and place to be determined. The featured book for review is "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus. Laugh-out-loud funny, shrewdly observant, and studded with a dazzling cast of supporting characters, "Lessons in Chemistry" is as original and vibrant as its protagonist.



Prayer Partners

Join us. Call Jacque Ross (941-258-2597) and be part of the conference call prayer meetings at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday mornings.



Happy 4th of July

Seven areas of American Life that you could be covering in prayer. Commit this Independence Day to pick one area to add to your daily prayer life. Stand on the promise in 2 Chronicles 7:14: “If my people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

GOVERNMENT

Pray for your leaders, as well as the judges in our courts. Ask God to grant them wisdom to act with integrity. (1 Kings 3:28; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; Exodus 18:21; Proverbs 11:3; Romans 13:1-2)

- Federal Government
 - President, Vice President, Cabinet Members, Congressional Leaders, Supreme Court Justices
- State Government
 - Governor, Executive Leaders, Legislative Leaders, Judicial Leaders
- Local Government
 - Mayor, City Counsel, Police Chief, Fire Chief, First Responders, Judges, County Officials

MILITARY

- Perseverance to endure hardship (Isaiah 43:2; Deuteronomy 31:6)
- Wise leaders who inspire respect from those under their command (Romans 13:1)
- Protection and support for the families they have left behind (Romans 1:8-10)

MEDIA

- “...Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” (Philippians 4:8)
- The decision makers within the media to realize they can make a profit by producing uplifting projects (Proverbs 8:10-11)
- Christians in media to find favor and be filled with creative ideas that bring kingdom principles and life-giving messages to the public (Proverbs 2:1-15)

BUSINESS

- “I have filled him with the Spirit of God, giving him great wisdom, ability, and expertise in all kinds of crafts. He is a master craftsman, expert in working...” (Exodus 31:3-4)
- Impartation of ideas and resources to open principled businesses, especially in areas that need an economic boost (Psalm 132:15)
- Christian workers to display Christ-like humility and service to their co-workers (Philippians 2:3)

EDUCATION

- “If you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.” (Proverbs 2:3-6)
- A safe atmosphere conducive to learning
- Excellence in educators (Exodus 18:20-21)

CHURCH

- The church would find a new zeal and commitment to the mission and purpose of Jesus Christ (Matt 22:37)
- Unity with and among churches that reveal God’s love to the world (John 17:23)
- Integrity—that God’s people look and act differently from the world (1 Peter 2:11; 1 Corinthians 13:6)

FAMILY

- “If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.” (Mark 3:25)
- Unity and love in individual families that reach out in hospitality toward others (Romans 12:9-13)
- Establish healthy relationships between parents and children (Malachi 4:5-6)

These categories and scriptures are copied from
<https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/prayforamerica>



Love Your Neighbor

July Birthdays

- 1 Carol Aitchison
- 17 Bill Wolf
- 21 Daphne Dillon
- 22 Janice Lewis
- 23 Laverne Graham
- 25 Charlie Barnette
- 28 Betty Holmes

July Anniversaries

- 8 Fred & Dee Ripley
- 17 Al & Barbara Bluschke
- 27 Bruce & Gert Devantier

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

July Ideas to Love Your Neighbors

- ◆ Send birthday and anniversary cards.
- ◆ Leave a basket of snacks and bottled water by your front door at home for delivery workers.
- ◆ Get together with family and friends for a festive Fourth of July picnic.
- ◆ Give away one of your possessions for free to someone who needs it more.
- ◆ Make a bucket list and start by completing one thing on it by the end of this month.
- ◆ Keep in touch with your friends! Call them or suggest meeting for coffee.
- ◆ Take the child in your life out for an ice cream treat today.

Pilgrim Prayer List

Recovery after Hurricane Ian
Bert Scott - homebound
Carol Veigel - health
Bill Wolf - homebound
Savina Krueger - cancer
John Krueger - Parkinson's
Fred Ripley - health
Jim Scott - homebound
Rick McLemore - cancer
Joe Beaudreau - health
Pat Wheatcroft - cancer
Lorraine O'Keefe - cancer
Haserl - grief and health
Jane Beaudreau - health
Ken Rankin - cancer

Karen McKinney - health
Terry Rendon - health
Sharon Rendon - cancer
Russ Whittaker - health
Paul Whittaker - health
Heather - health
Sidoney Johnston - homebound
Martin Heckler - cancer
Margie Heckler - caregiver
Nancy Mitchell - health
Kevin Joyce - health
John Stapleton - health
Elaine Pregowski - health
Greenbaum Family - grief
Genny Sweetland - cancer

Cheri & Rick Perry - Alzheimer's
John Hames - homebound
Hal Linck - cancer
Martin Heckler - cancer
Margie Heckler - caregiver
Ashley Lonnais - health
Marty Donovan - family and friends sympathies, service 7/15
John Bial - cancer
Kay Conway - health
Don Janis - family and friends sympathies
Nioclette - surgery
Burkhardt Family - peace
Danny Wineland - health

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. -1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

						1
2 9:00am Worship 10:15am Adult Bible Study	3 Church Office Closed 7:00pm AA - Women	4 Church Office/JN Closed Independence Day	5 10:00am Prayer Partners	6 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	7	8
9 9:00am Worship 10:15am Adult Bible Study	10 7:00pm AA - Women	11	12 10:00am Prayer Partners	13 6:30pm Buildings & Grounds Ministry 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	14	15 Marty Donovan Memorial Service
16 9:00am Worship 10:15am Adult Bible Study	17 6:30pm Finance Committee Meeting 7:00pm AA - Women	18	19 Newsletter Article Deadline 10:00am Prayer Partners	20 Pilgrim Women Lunch & a Movie 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	21	22
23 9:00am Worship 10:15am Adult Bible Study	24 7:00pm AA - Women	25 7:00pm Council Meeting	26 10:00am Prayer Partners	27 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	28	29
30 9:00am Worship	31 7:00pm AA - Women					