

From the Desk of Pastor John

Talk is cheap ... Well, actually it's free! And if there is one thing I know for sure it's that many of us love to gab. Of course, there is the occasional introvert that tends to listen more than speak, but even they have a lot to say when they feel comfortable enough to open up. Obviously, talking can be a good thing, especially when what we say is encouraging and uplifting. Speaking a simple phrase like "great job!" or "I love you" can quickly brighten another person's day and inspire them to continue moving forward with positive energy. Talking also allows us to share important information. Humankind has been sharing useful information by talking for thousands of years! From alerting others to potential danger heading their way to sharing recipes with a neighbor, talking has been a vital form of communication. I can't begin to imagine what humankind would look like if God had not gifted us with the ability to communicate through speech.

However, sometimes we don't necessarily use our words for good. When angry, bitter, or upset, we can discharge words that are sharp, hateful, and mean, words that tear another person down instead of building them up. We all too quickly lash out at those with whom we are upset, sometimes saying things we (should) regret, and speaking ill of them to others.

Let's not forget our tendency to gossip either. Opening phrases like "You won't believe what I heard...", "You didn't hear this from me, but...", and "Let me just tell you what he did..." often catch our ear and draw us into listening to the other person's idle chatter. Even

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September 2023 Newsletter

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

though we know that the story we are about to hear is most likely embellished, we listen intently to whatever our informant has to say, sometimes hoping to hear a piece of incriminating information that proves embarrassing or detrimental to the person of whom one is speaking. When engaging with gossip, we not only let someone else's misfortune become our entertainment, we instigate the spread of misinformation that may damage the person who is at the center of the gossip. Very rarely does anything good come from gossip.

Humankind's propensity to let our talking get out of hand, becoming negative and toxic is nothing new. Paul even had to address the issue with the church. In Ephesians 4:29 he tells us, "Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear." As Christians, we are called to use our words for good, to bring life, speak for those who can't, and build up one another. When we talk, the message that we speak should glorify God and be spoken with love, compassion, and, as the above verse points out, grace. This especially holds true within the church. Therefore, brothers and sisters, if you are tempted to let your words run wild, I challenge you to put away hateful words and pointless gossip you may be harboring. Instead, take a moment to think about words that are helpful, encouraging, and life-giving. Use them with each other every chance you get, so that others may come to know Christ through you.

Blessings,
Pastor John

LET *everything* YOU SAY BE
GOOD & HELPFUL SO THAT YOUR
WORDS WILL BE AN *encouragement*
TO THOSE WHO HEAR THEM.
EPHESIANS 4:29

Congress enacted legislation making Labor Day a legal holiday in 1894. The holiday is the nation's tribute to the American worker.

Here are some verses for you to ponder on this holiday.

Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans. - Proverbs 16:3

Come to me all who labor and I will give you rest. - Matthew 11:28

Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men... - Colossians 3:23

And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.
- Galatians 6:9

In all toil there is profit, but mere talk tends only to poverty.
- Proverbs 14:23

Enjoy the day of rest!

Pilgrim United Church of Christ

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941-629-4821,
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Business Update

Property Status

BackFlow

We have learned that the backflow assembly has a significant leak. One contractor shared it was a crack that required the model to be replaced. \$34,949. Another vendor has been called for an opinion.

Siding

The siding contractor is working on completing the permit process (the Notice of Commencement has been signed!), scheduling us with their crew and hopes to be working on our campus mid September. The work is expected to take a full week.

General Contractor

Thursday, August 24, presentations to our Council Moderator and Property Committee were made by two local General Contractors. Once they determine a recommendation and present to Council for a vote, the rebuilding will move forward with priority to the Community Center.

Solar Security Lights

Lighting behind the church office has been done.



Name Badges

As snowbird season approaches, so many people moving to SWFL and along with worshipping at Kings Gate Sundays bring us many new faces. Do you know where your Pilgrim name badge is? We are placing an order on September 15. Let us know if you need a replacement name badge. Cost is \$10.

T-Shirts

Our PilgrimSTRONG T-shirts are available in the church office and after worship. A \$8 donation per shirt is requested.

3 Small 1 Medium 3 XX Large 5 XXX Large



Ink and Toner Cartridge Recycling

Bring your empty ink and toner cartridges to worship or the Church Office and we will recycle them. Pilgrim Church receives \$2 back in Staples Rewards for each eligible cartridge recycled. Save the planet and reduce the costs of Pilgrim's office supplies!

August General Fund

8/6	\$3,615	8/13	\$3,785	8/20	\$8,044
Needed Weekly		\$ 5,390			

Ministry & Outreach

Joyful Noise Learning Center

Joyful Noise Learning Center has started the 2023-2024 school year! This means Pilgrim Church has been serving, educating and loving our neighboring children for over 20 years! We are anxiously waiting for the Community Center to return so that we can fully serve all our families.

This year: 158 students!

140 preschoolers 4 kindergartners 2 first graders

12 Before/Afterschool (staff children until the CC is fixed)

We are blessed to be fully staffed! 30 staff!

Fun Facts:

We order 60 gallons of milk a week!

We use more than 25 boxes of cereal a week!

More than 100 bananas a week!!

Here's some photos from the first week!



We appreciate your prayers as we care for and teach these children.

Cynthia Poudrette, Director



- ☐ Colored Cardstock
- ☐ White Cardstock
- ☐ Stickers Of Any Kind (For Collages)
- ☐ Adhesive Foam Letters
- ☐ Crayola Markers
- ☐ Play Sand (For Sensory Tables)
- ☐ Baking Soda (For Sensory Tables)
- ☐ Fitted Crib Sheets (For Nap Cots)
- ☐ Acrylic Craft Paint



Missions

Anyone interested in the Missions and Outreach of Pilgrim Church is invited to the **Monthly Meeting**, Monday, September 11, at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Office.

Mission of the Month is Wings of Shelter: Rescue. Restore. Educate. Prevent. Wings of Shelter currently operates Safe Houses in Southwest Florida for minor females rescued from domestic sex trafficking with the goal to rescue, restore and rehabilitate survivors through a victim-centered, non-punitive approach. Wings of Shelter works to empower and encourage clients academically, emotionally, spiritually, and socially to help them heal from the complex trauma they have endured and move toward independence. Residents of the program receive trauma-focused mental health counseling, medical care, private schooling, tutoring, opportunities to pursue hobbies, part-time jobs, and re-socialization through a volunteer big sister program.

PBJ Sandwich Makers monthly assembling 200 PBJs! Join us Thursday, September 14, 9:15 a.m. in the Conference Room and make some Pilgrim friends as you prepare comfort food sandwiches that feed the homeless. Donations of jam are appreciated.

Little Free Food Pantry is for those in need of dry goods and for those in need to give. This mini food pantry helps feed neighbors, especially in times when our pantry remains closed. Andrew Anderson, the scout who created our box calls them Faith Boxes because he has faith that people will only take what they need and others will give generously.

August Weekly Missions Giving
8/6 \$95 8/13 \$225 8/20 \$20

Narcotics Anonymous

Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.
Pilgrim Conference Room

Narcotics Anonymous offers recovery from the effects of addiction through working a twelve-step program, including regular attendance at group meetings.

Women's Fellowship

First meeting of the year is Thursday, September 21 at 10:00 a.m. in the Library (use the Joyful Noise main entrance). After the meeting we will go to lunch at the KOI Restaurant in Murdock area.

The topic will be "Seasons of Our Lives" with an ultimate objective of identifying how we involve ourselves in service to Pilgrim Church. All women are invited!


Prayer Partners

Weekly prayer meetings continue by phone on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.. To join us call Jacque at 941-258-2597.

We also continue to read and share books on prayer, the latest is "Inspired Prayers" by Dave Kubal. If you are a reader and wish to borrow or share a book on prayer let Jacque know.

Additionally, we pray for some of the request on the Intercessors for America Prayer website ifapray.org. The site has a plethora of resources including a map of prayer partners in our area.

"Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving." - Colossians 4:2



Alcoholics Anonymous®

Women's Group Meeting
Mondays 7:00 p.m.

At Pilgrim Church Conference Room

Pilgrim Church

"I raise my eyes toward the mountains. From whence shall come my help?
My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of Heaven and earth." - Psalm 121:1-2

Ministry & Outreach cont.

Adult Bible Study

Sundays at 10:15 a.m.

Build your discipleship on Sunday mornings by staying after services for Bible Study. Currently, we are concluding the book of Acts. The format is a class discussion of verse-by-verse chapters that include historical context, Old Testament references, and group insight into relevance for today. Won't you join our small group this Fall?

As we conclude The Acts of the Apostles, we read of the good news for all people and recount the origins of the Church and its growth—from the persecution of the followers of Jesus through the spread of the faith. We see that the mission of the Twelve has become the mission of many, as we are called to gift the world with the message of Jesus through our lives today.

In mid-September we begin a study of Corinthians.

Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians reads like a letter from a parent who wishes to share wisdom—and a warning—with his or her children. Paul has received some disturbing news about the people he knows well and loves. Therefore, this letter reflects Paul's own suffering as well as his desire to have the Corinthians change their ways. In the second letter, we catch a glimpse of the passion of Paul, a man with many moods and emotions.

As you study these letters written by Paul, the church of Corinth exemplifies the fact that arguments have always existed among the people of God. Though these arguments are familiar to the Christian journey, we are reminded in these letters that the Holy Spirit is with us and will work through us—and that our deepest call is to love God and one another.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Wednesday, September 6, 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, September 20, 6:00 p.m.

Pilgrim Church Conference Room

Needlework and prayer are combined to make beautiful prayer shawls for those in great need. Prayer shawls provide love, care, warmth, comfort, encouragement and hope for the people who receive them.

What a wonderful turn out we had for our Prayer Shawl Party in August. Those present decided they wanted to gather regularly! Every first Wednesday in the morning and every third Wednesday in the evening!



Inexperienced? We'll teach you! Already crochet or knit, gather your favorite needle/hook/yarn and come fellowship! Not sure? Visit to learn more about this ministry, to love one another, to learn to knit/crochet, to create!

MEN and WOMEN are welcomed!

Can't attend but want to participate? Patterns and even prayer shawl prayer guides are available in the Church Office and on the welcome table.

Worship Sundays 9:00 a.m. at Kings Gate Club house!



Love Your Neighbor

September Birthdays

2	Dionne Jones, Rita Yob
6	Cynthia Poudrette
11	Alric Fischle, Joan Powell
13	Rose Utterback
15	Ev Munro
16	Russ Whittaker
20	Sandee Ewing
22	Dean Fritz
24	Reyne Schrock
26	George Yorkston
29	Lurlyne Murray

September Anniversaries

14 Ron Wegman & Wini Bender

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

September Ideas to Love Your Neighbors

- ◆ Make a Prayer Shawl!
- ◆ Participate in a Patriot Day Memorial Event.
- ◆ It's Apple Season, make a pie/cake/crumble for someone.
- ◆ Call Jacque Ross (941-258-2597) and be part of the conference call prayer meetings at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday mornings.
- ◆ Football is back! Invite someone over to "tailgate" a game for your favorite team!
- ◆ September 23 is the first day of fall, buy something pumpkin spice to share with a neighbor!
- ◆ Leave a kind note for mail carrier/delivery person.
- ◆ Invite someone over for dinner and provide wonderful food.
- ◆ Give someone a hug or an affirming touch.

Pilgrim Prayer List

Recovery after Hurricane Ian
Bert Scott - homebound
Savina Krueger - cancer
John Krueger - Parkinson's
Fred Ripley - health
Sidoney Johnston - homebound
John Hames - homebound
Lorraine O'Keefe - cancer
Martin & Margie Heckler - cancer
Bill Wolf - Fawcett

Valerie Stern - cancer
Jacque Ross - health
Melvin Slater - health
People of Hawaii
Hal Linck - cancer
Dionne Jones - travel mercies
Russ Whittaker - health
Danny Wineland - health
Sarah Pasierb - health
Daniel Faber - cancer

Ed Ryan - cancer
Elaine Pregowski - health
Pat Wheatcroft - cancer
Betty Diccico - health
Laurie Farrell - health
Rick McLemore - family and friends sympathies
Joe Beaudreau - health
Those with PTSD as 1 year of Hurricane Ian approaches

Learn and Grow

Word Find

Y L A M B P R A Y F F P D
S H F O R S R T H A T E E
A H E N I W H O T I H A V
V A B L N G O D H T A C O
I C I Y L A P W R H N E T
O T B S O V E A E I K J I
R S L O V E D Y E M S B O
E D E N E J E S U S A E N
L I F E L O R D B U T L M
N N A R K Y P I L G R I M
P O C H R I S T H E J E P
S T R O N G L L I F O V P
H T W O R L D L S O H E R
O R A M P A R T P O N S O
U S I X T E E N P S A L M
L S P E R I S H A V E E I
D E V E R L A S T I N G S
T T E A C H E R H O L Y E

For	Believes	Acts	Lord
God	In	Ark	Love
So	Him	Bible	Peace
Loved	Should	Christ	Pilgrim
The	Not	Devotion	Pray
World	Perish	Eden	Promise
That	But	Faith	Psalm
He	Have	God	Rampart
Gave	Everlasting	Holy	Savior
His	Life	Hope	Strong
Only	John	Jesus	Teacher
Son	Three	Joy	Thanks
Who	Sixteen	Lamb	Way

September Trivia

Old Testament Trivia

Easy

1. How many books are in the Protestant Old Testament?
2. On what day did God create man?
3. How many sons did Jacob have?
4. This man wrote the first five books of the Old Testament.
5. From what part of Adam's body did God create Eve?
6. What did David use to defeat Goliath?
7. Name one of the two birds Noah sent from the Ark.

New Testament Trivia

1. Who baptized Jesus and in what river?
2. Name the first two apostles to follow Jesus.
3. What was the profession of Simon Peter before following Jesus?
4. Where did Jesus turn water into wine?
5. How many days was Lazarus dead before Jesus came to visit?
6. What is the name of the garden where Jesus went to pray after the Last Supper?
7. After Jesus fed 5,000 people, how many baskets of food were left over?

OT 1 39 2 Sixth Day 3 12 4 Moses 5 Rib 6
Sling and Stone 7 Raven and a Dove
NT 1 John the Baptist in the River Jordan 2 Peter
and Andrew 3 A fisherman 4 Cana 5 Four 6
Garden of Gethsemane

Lectionary Readings

In preparation for Worship read ahead and ponder! Just note, while Pastor John typically follows the lectionary, there are times the Spirit moves him to cover different passages in his Sunday sermons.

Season after Pentecost Year A	First reading and Psalm	Alternate First reading and Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
<u>Proper 17 (22)</u> Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 3, 2023	Exodus 3:1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b	Jeremiah 15:15- 21 Psalm 26:1-8	Romans 12:9-21	Matthew 16:21-28
<u>Proper 18 (23)</u> Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 10, 2023	Exodus 12:1-14 Psalm 149	Ezekiel 33:7-11 Psalm 119:33-40	Romans 13:8-14	Matthew 18:15-20
<u>Holy Cross</u> September 14, 2023	Numbers 21:4b-9 Psalm 98:1-5 <i>or</i> <i>Psalm 78:1-2, 34-38</i>		1 Corinthians 1:18-24	John 3:13-17
<u>Proper 19 (24)</u> Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 17, 2023	Exodus 14:19-31 Psalm 114 <i>or</i> <i>Exodus 15:1b-11, 20- 21</i>	Genesis 50:15-21 Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13	Romans 14:1-12	Matthew 18:21-35
<u>Proper 20 (25)</u> Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost September 24, 2023	Exodus 16:2-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45	Jonah 3:10-4:11 Psalm 145:1-8	Philippians 1:21- 30	Matthew 20:1-16

ACTS Prayer Method

A: Adoration

Begin your prayer time adoring God. Praise God for who He is. Remind your heart of who He is. It may be helpful to write down the attributes and promises of God found in Scripture as you praise him.

Examples of Adoration in Scripture:

Psalm 100:5; 34:1-9; 1 Chronicles 29:11-12

C: Confession

Admit and confess your sin to God so your prayers will not be hindered. Avoid being general about sin. As you confess over time, your confession will get more and more specific. This may lead you to confess your sin to a brother or sister in Christ as instructed in Scripture.

Examples of Confession in Scripture:

Psalm 32:3-5; 1 John 1:8-9; James 5:16; Psalm 51

T: Thanksgiving

We always have reason to be thankful, even with the hard things present in our lives. As we pray, God will use our gratefulness to change our perspective. Spend time thanking God for what he has done for you in Christ and all the ways he has provided for you.

Examples of Thanksgiving in Scripture:

1 Thessalonians 5:18; Psalm 103:1-6; 9:1-2

S: Supplication

Finally, let your requests be made known to God. Let God's Word guide you in this. Authentically pour out your heart before the Lord and ask him for whatever is pressing in your life or the lives of others.

Examples of Supplication in Scripture:

Philippians 4:8; John 14:13-14; 15:7; Psalm 84:11; Matthew 7:7-12

September 2023

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

					1	2
3 9:00am Worship 10:15am Adult Bible Study	4 Labor Day Office/JN Closed 7:00pm AA - Women	5	6 JN Picture Day 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry 10:00am Prayer Partners 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	7 JN Picture Day 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	8	9
10 9:00am Worship 10:15am Adult Bible Study	11 Patriot Day 7:00pm Missions Meeting 7:00pm AA - Women	12	13 10:00am Prayer Partners	14 6:30pm Buildings & Grounds Ministry 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	15	16
17 9:00am Worship 10:15am Adult Bible Study	18 6:30pm Finance Committee Meeting 7:00pm AA - Women	19	20 Newsletter Article Deadline 10:00am Prayer Partners 6:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	21 9:15am PBJ Sandwich Makers 10:00am Pilgrim Women's Fellowship 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	22	23
24 9:00am Worship 10:15am Adult Bible Study	25 7:00pm AA - Women	26 7:00pm Council Meeting	27 10:00am Prayer Partners	28 Hurricane Ian Anniversary 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	29	30