



Pilgrim Church
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy,
peace, patience, kindness,
generosity, faithfulness, gentleness,
and self-control... Galatians 5:22-23



Easter Season is just beginning!

He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today.

He walks with me and talks with me

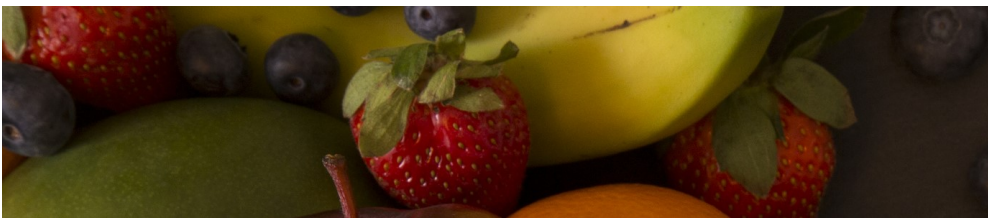
Along life's narrow way.

He lives, He lives, Salvation to impart.

You ask me how I know He lives?

He lives within my heart.

"He Lives" - Alfred Henry Ackley



April 2024 Newsletter

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



Love Your Neighbor

... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control... Galatians 5:22-23

April Birthdays

1 - Jim Scott
2 - Dawn Miller
4 - Vera Bennett
6 - Ken Ewing
6 - Char Semon
9 - Bruce Devantier
9 - Sharon Cooper
10 - Cheryl Huber
11 - Don Anderson
18 - Judi Wilson
21 - Ken Moriarty
21 - Allen Moll
30 - Connie Rice

April Anniversaries

11 - Jacque & Frank Ross

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

April Ideas to Love Your Neighbors

Pick a different Pilgrim to pray for each day.
Make someone a get well soon card, see the prayer list for possible recipients.
Let another ahead of you in line.
Leave an extra special tip for someone who took care of you.
Support your local art community by making a purchase from a local artist.
Take old blankets and towels to a local animal shelter.
April 22 is Earth Day caring for our planet is loving our neighbors:
Use cloth napkins and rags instead of paper towels.
Gradually switch to LED light bulbs.
Grow some of your own herbs, spices, or vegetables. You can share any produce abundance!

Pilgrim Prayer List

John Krueger - Parkinson's
Savina Krueger - cancer
Joe Beaudreau - health
Russ Whittaker - health
Lorraine O'Keefe - cancer
Carter & family - peace
Bob Schlosser - health
Tiffany Fortini - encouragement
Frida Ruby Brown - health
Dawn Miller - health
Henrietta Williams - health
John & Beverly Washburn
Ronald Whittaker

Betty DeCicco - health
Daniel Faber - cancer
Gilbert Sequira - health
Marge Doucet - health
Carol Rewkowski - peace
For the Prodigals - to return to Jesus
Joe White - family and friends sympathies
Sidoney Johnston - homebound
Crystal Ivery - health
Gene Burnell - heart surgery recovery

Allan & Ruth Van Blerkom
Daryn Hassell
Gene Rice - health
Martin Heckler - spiritual & physical health
Pat Wheatcroft - cancer
Rev. Bill Klossner - health
Bertha Cousins - health
Cub Scout Pack 257 - healing and peace
Bert Scott - homebound
Bill Wolf - PC Rehab
Cindy Guilfoyle - health

Ministry & Outreach

*... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy,
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Joyful Noise Learning Center

Joyful Noise was very excited to receive our CLASS® Monitor scores from the Early Learning Coalition for our VPK classes. We were very happy with our score of 5.28 out of a possible 7. This is an improvement of over one point from last year! CLASS®, an acronym for Classroom Assessment Scoring System, is an observation based tool that measures the quality of teacher to child interactions in the classroom. Classroom interactions and experiences help children develop language and learn new concepts.

April is Child Abuse Awareness Month. Joyful Noise staff will all wear blue on April 5th in support of awareness. You will see blue pinwheels displayed in recognition of child abuse awareness. National Child Abuse Prevention Month recognizes the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect. If you suspect that a child is being abused or neglected, please call the Florida Child Abuse Hotline at 800-96-ABUSE (800-962-2873).

Cynthia Poudrette, Director Joyful Noise

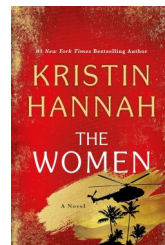
Joyful Noise
Learning Center
941-629-4821, www.joyfulnoisec.org
jndirector@pilgrimonline.org

Women's Fellowship

A special Thank you to Marilyn Hill for presenting a Pilgrim History Lesson at the March meeting!



The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 18, at 10:00 a.m. in the Library. The program will be a conclusion of the Seasons of Life study this year. Members will be asked to share an assessment of their current Season of Life and how God is directing it. Lunch together is planned at Skilletts.



The April Book Club Dinner will be held at 6:00 p.m. on April 8, at the home of Judi Wilson. You still have time to read the book! We will be reviewing, "The Women" by Kristin Hannah.

Service projects this year have included Valentine gift baskets to the homebound, collection of personal care items for women to the C.A.R.E. shelter, and clothing and healthcare items to Bread of Life Mission and Share the Blessings Ministry. The group is assembling Easter baskets for homebound members.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Romans 15:13

Ministry & Outreach

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Prayer Partners

We received a big answer to prayer last month! A man we were praying for received a miracle. When he went to the hospital for a scheduled lung biopsy and upon further CAT scans doctors could give no medical explanation for the tumor's disappearance and consequently sent him home –no biopsy! Praise God!!

We continue to pray for:

- Others to join our prayer group
- Individual requests
- The world situation
- Revival
- Children's spiritual growth & safety
- A return to family values
- Many other pertinent topics of concern to each of us

We are here for you just a call away: 941-258-2597.

Adult Bible Study

Sundays at 10:15 a.m.

We are currently studying The Gospel of John. John wrote to prove that Jesus was the Christ, the promised Messiah (for the Jews) and Son of God (for the Gentiles). The word "Believe" appears 99 times in this book and proofs of Jesus' Deity appear in every chapter.

Join us on Sunday mornings following worship for an hour of adult "Sunday School" and learn more!

Honor Veterans

"Thank you military veterans of all eras!" That is the message that Southwest Florida Honor Flight wants everyone who has put on the uniform of one of our service branches to take to heart. The organization, which serves most of Southwest Florida, shares their mission: "to safely transport our veterans to Washington D.C., to be honored at their memorials and receive the welcome home they deserve." Two flights have been scheduled this year with nearly 100 Veterans on each, along with Guardians who serve to ensure a safe and memorable experience.



The first flight is April 16, when the chartered Allegiant aircraft will leave Punta Gorda Airport at 6:30 am for the flight to the Baltimore-Washington International Airport with bus transportation to the nation's capital stopping at significant memorials to those who served. The return flight will arrive back in Punta Gorda about 9:00 pm, where the community will proudly welcome the troops home. There are hundreds of family and well-wishers who fill the terminal inside and out.

You can be part of this welcome home celebration by arriving at the Bailey Terminal by 8:15-8:30 to enjoy the music and camaraderie while waiting for the landing of the aircraft. You are welcome to make signs and have family and friends join you.

Mail Call is a letter of appreciation honoring and thanking the Veteran for his or her service and what it means to the letter writer. Letters due 4/8.

If you are a veteran, whether you served in combat or not, and would like to be considered for a future flight, or if you would like to serve as a Guardian, for a family member or any veteran, applications may be found at the local Hub website, www.swflhonorflight.org.

Missions

On behalf of the Mission Committee, I would like to thank the congregation for their continued support of our mission outreach. We support several outreach mission partners in response to Jesus calling us to love and serve God through loving and serving our neighbors.

This year we had the best response from folks on our painting day for our family partner as part of the Apostles Build - Habitat for Humanity. It was our thirteenth year serving with the Habitat's Apostles Build. This was our January mission focus.



We supported the Backpack Kidz in February, and the Homeless Coalition in March.

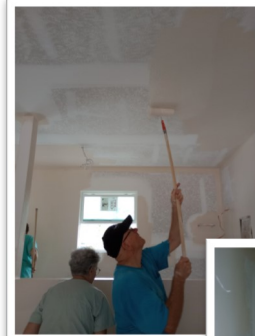
In April, we will feature the Virginia B. Andes Community Clinic. In May, we focus on the Food Pantry. The Food Pantry continues to serve the teachers of Joyful Noise and several homebound Veterans.

We look forward to working with our outreach partners in response to Jesus' call to serve those He called the least of these in Matthew chapter twenty five.

If you want to be active with our missions, we have different opportunities for you to be involved, including our PBJ Sandwich Makers who meet on the 4th Thursday of the Month at 9:15 in Room 4 of the Community Center. Just show up prepared to spread some peanut butter and jam! Please enter and sign in through the Joyful Noise Office to meet their regulations.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor Ken Ewing
Chair of Missions

Pilgrim in Pictures





Council Highlights

*... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy,
peace, patience, kindness,
generosity, faithfulness, gentleness,
and self-control... Galatians 5:22-23*

-Spring has sprung! Now is the time that we start some spring cleaning on our campus. There will be several volunteer opportunities to come spruce up our campus. If you would like to come in and lend a hand with the cleaning and organizing of several rooms and areas, please check the Sunday bulletin for those upcoming dates and times. (There will be snacks!)

-Our Properties and Grounds Team has been busy the past month working on several different projects. Thank you for making it look good. If you would like to join this team, please come to their next meeting on April 11 at 6:30 p.m.

-The Community Center continues to be in process; however we are moving in the right direction. We hit a delay as our contractor deals with sub-contractor issues.

-Thanks to an acquired grant, Ms. Cynthia, our Joyful Noise Director, the Goodell Room and all Joyful Noise classrooms were able to have their windows replaced with hurricane impact ones. This grant could only be used for certain items, repairs, and upgrades for Joyful Noise students.

-Council approved the purchase of brand new tablets, with the newest operating system, for the Joyful Noise classrooms. This purchase was a much needed upgrade to the tablets that were currently used by the staff, as they were unable to work with their system platform due to changing technology. The new tablets were purchased using Joyful Noise reserves; which came from a technology fee built into student tuition for this very purpose. The older tablets are still able to be used and will go into the kindergarten/first grade classrooms for daily use with the students.

-Thank you to Ken Rhoe and Jacque Ross for opening our coffee bar on Sunday mornings. What a

wonderful gift for our Pilgrims! It is nice to see many of you smiling and talking with one another. Everyone is encouraged to join this time of fellowship.

-Our Council continues to discuss the future for Pilgrim. We have a list of items that still need to be addressed around the campus, some of these items have been shelved since the hurricane. These items include purchasing a new commemorative stone for our memorial garden, replacing the tint on one of the Sanctuary windows, upgrading a security panel in the church office, and repairing/replacing a ladder to the attic. As we start getting back into the new phase of reconstruction in the Sanctuary, we will be checking these items off the list.

-Finance Committee needs additional members. This committee is important to Pilgrim Church, as it discusses the financial wellbeing and helps Council in its decision making. We would love for you to come and sit in on a meeting, share your thoughts, and share your experience with us. Fresh minds help others see fresh ideas. Please consider attending a meeting – held every third Monday at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room.

-Our Treasurer is in need of money counters and an Assistant. If you have cash handling, banking, or business experience please come see me; I would love to sit down with you and discuss how your experience can make an impact here at Pilgrim.

-As always, Council meetings are open to everyone. Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Church Library (inside the Community Center). I look forward to seeing you there, April 23!

Jessica Warne-Emard
Moderator

"In addition to all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity."

- Colossians 3:14



Business

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Property & Grounds

The Property and Grounds Committee is motivated to have an attractive and safe environment for the church.

Highlights from our Property and Grounds notes for our March 14, meeting includes these projects:

The five live oaks purchased for the school are being cared for with water and fertilizer and are in a sunny place to avoid planting shock. They have a lot of new growth on them.

The island at the entrance to the community center will have the large East Palatka Holly trimmed of dead wood and the small volunteer oak will be allowed to grow.

A large 4 by 4 beam with predrilled holes was erected and set in concrete in the ground for the placement of the large composite cross which was blown over by Hurricane Ian. March 21 the cross was attached to the beam. The cross weighs around 300 pounds! It stands tall!

The driveway potholes were repaired with crushed shell, then overlaid with asphalt patch.

Discussion was held for a more permanent storage place of our golf cart - where it could be charged and secure, as well as, having a fund for future repairs and maintenance.

As our spaces on the rocks in the Memorial Garden are few, we discussed a second Memorial Garden near the old fountain between the Church and the Community Center. The goal is to have a meandering tree lined path between the two memorial gardens.

Pastor John's Office and the Church Office received a needed upgrade to LED lights thanks to the time of Property Team!

Much gratitude for such a committed group of Pilgrims! Thank you!

By the Numbers

Offering Last 4 Weeks

| | |
|----------|-----------|
| \$16,012 | General |
| \$ 901 | Missions |
| \$ 4,284 | Hurricane |

General Needed Monthly

\$ 21,560

Attendance Average Last 4 Weeks

77

Contact Information

24515 Rampart Boulevard
Port Charlotte, FL 33980
941-629-2633

www.pilgrimonline.org

office@pilgrimonline.org

Office Hours: Mon - Thurs 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Senior Pastor: Rev. John Barnette

johndbarnette1@gmail.com

Associate Pastor: Rev. Ken Ewing

ken.f.ewing6@gmail.com

Moderator: Jessica Warne

jawarne77@gmail.com

Maintenance Technician: Gene Burnell

Office Administrator: Cat Foster

office@pilgrimonline.org

Organist: Cheryl Huber

Pianist: Maverick Li

Bell Choir Director: Russ Whittaker

Children's Ministry Director: Jessica Warne

Learn and Grow

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Word Find

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

Galatians
Five
Live
by
the
Spirit.
For
the
whole
law
is
summed
up
in
a
single

commandment
"You
shall
love
your
neighbor
as
yourself."
The
fruit
of
the
Spirit
is
love
joy

peace
patience
kindness
goodness
faithfulness
gentleness
and
self-control
Against
such
things
there
is
no
law.

Galatians Trivia

- Who wrote the book of Galatians? (Galatians 1:1)
 - Luke
 - Timothy
 - Paul
 - Peter
- The Mosaic Law was in charge until who appeared? (Galatians 3:24-25)
 - Apostle Paul
 - Christ Jesus
 - Apostle Barnabas
 - Apostle Peter
- What apostle did the apostle Paul oppose face to face in Antioch for separating himself from the Gentiles? (Galatians 2:11-12)
 - Peter
 - Philip
 - Matthew
 - John
- The entire Law is fulfilled by keeping what command? (Galatians 5:14)
 - Remember to observe the Sabbath
 - Love your neighbor as yourself
 - Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin
 - Thou shall not steal
- We become children of God through... (Gal 3:26)
 - Obeying the Law
 - Loving others
 - Faith in Christ Jesus
 - Living a good life
- In Christ Jesus, the only thing that counts is faith, expressing itself through what? (Galatians 5:6)
 - Not stealing
 - Love
 - Obeying the Mosaic Law
 - None of the above
- The nature which the indwelling Holy Spirit imparts to Christians is known as what? (Gal 5:22)
 - Fruit of the Spirit
 - Sinful nature
 - Inherited nature from Adam
 - Carnal nature

1) C 2) B 3) A 4) B 5) C 6) B 7) A

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.

| Easter Year B | First reading | Psalm | Second reading | Gospel |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>Second Sunday of Easter</u> April 7, 2024 | * <u>Acts 4:32-35</u> | <u>Psalm 133</u> | <u>1 John 1:1-2:2</u> | <u>John 20:19-31</u> |
| <u>Third Sunday of Easter</u> April 14, 2024 | * <u>Acts 3:12-19</u> | <u>Psalm 4</u> | <u>1 John 3:1-7</u> | <u>Luke 24:36b-48</u> |
| <u>Fourth Sunday of Easter</u> April 21, 2024 | * <u>Acts 4:5-12</u> | <u>Psalm 23</u> | <u>1 John 3:16-24</u> | <u>John 10:11-18</u> |
| <u>Fifth Sunday of Easter</u> April 28, 2024 | * <u>Acts 8:26-40</u> | <u>Psalm 22:25-31</u> | <u>1 John 4:7-21</u> | <u>John 15:1-8</u> |

Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)

Love, joy, and peace appear to go together. It shows our relationship with God. When we spend time with God, we are full of love, full of heavenly joy, and full of peace. Love is the most important out of these nine. Without it, our good works have no use on earth (1 Corinthians 13:1). Joy goes deeper than a mere happiness, joy comes from the radiance, the brightness of God himself. Peace goes hand in hand with this attribute. Peace extends to others and our inner selves. With it, we have comfort in knowing God heals this broken world.

The next three reflect in our relationship with others: **patience, kindness, and goodness**. When this spiritual fruit is developed in us, we see others as God sees them, and we reach out to them with His

love manifested in us. This may include fellowship, hospitality, giving encouragement, helping with problems, and most of all, showing love.

Our final three: **gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control**, refers to how we handle opposition. As Christians, we are called to be faithful to Him who is always faithful to us. If we are faithful in the small things, God will reward us. (Matthew 25:22-23). Gentleness is a way for us to stand in contrast to the disorder and selfish conduct of the world, a display of God's love to those who are walking in darkness. By self-controlling our emotions when we are provoked to anger, we are able to demonstrate Christ's love to those around us and live peaceably with them.

Response to Recognize Earth Day

What did God make on the fifth day? (The things that live in the water and the birds of the air.) What were the waters made for? (To be filled with animals and for those animals to live and make more animals.)

What's currently in the oceans, lakes and rivers? (Our water is filled with plants, animals, along with pollution, including plastics.) How does all that plastic get into the oceans and our other waterways? (Inappropriate disposal of plastics as we are using more plastics than we can properly dispose of. Once in the water, plastic debris never fully biodegrades.)

Do you think we have a responsibility to take care of the water? (It's one of the first things God asked of us in Genesis 2: The Lord God took the man, Adam, and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep

it.) How do we do that? (Using less will translate to less plastic ending up in the water.)

Steps you can take to reduce the negative impact of plastics on our planet.

- Try doing a plastic-free Easter or Pentecost season, use the good china and silverware!
- Simpler ways to reduce single-use plastics are to bring your own reusable bags to stores and swap out plastic straws for metal straws.
- Educate yourself on your personal plastic use. How much plastic do you use on a weekly basis? What happens to your plastic waste after you discard it? What percentage of recycling in your state is actually recycled?
- Do a cleanup in your neighborhood or in a public space.

April 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|--|--|-----------|-----------|
| | 1 | 2 10:00am AI Anon 2:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00pm Council Meeting | 3 10:00am Prayer Partners 1:00pm Bulletin Team | 4 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous | 5 | 6 |
| 7 8:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 10:00am Youth Bible Study 10:00am Adult Bible Study | 8 7:00pm Missions Meeting | 9 10:00am AI Anon | 10 10:00am Prayer Partners 1:00pm Bulletin Team | 11 6:30pm Property and Grounds Ministry 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous | 12 | 13 |
| 14 8:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 10:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Youth Bible Study | 15 6:30pm Finance Committee Meeting | 16 10:00am AI Anon 2:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry | 17 Newsletter Article Deadline 10:00am Prayer Partners 1:00pm Bulletin Team | 18 10:00am Pilgrim Women's Fellowship 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous | 19 | 20 |
| 21 8:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 10:00am Youth Bible Study 10:00am Adult Bible Study | 22 | 23 10:00am AI Anon 7:00pm Council Meeting | 24 10:00am Prayer Partners 1:00pm Bulletin Team | 25 9:15am PBJ Sandwich Makers 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous | 26 | 27 |
| 28 8:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 10:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Youth Bible Study | 29 | 30 10:00am AI Anon | ²² By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another. Galatians 5:22-26 | | | |