



Pilgrim Church

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



From the Desk of Pastor John

What comes to mind when you hear the word “community”? Do you think of a small town where everybody seems to know everybody? Do you think of a neighborhood where there are block parties, neighbors greeting each other while on evening strolls, and card games being played at the clubhouse? Maybe you even think of the church. After all, the church is a congregation of people who gather for fellowship and worship, do life together, and call on each other for support.

As social creatures created to be in relationship with God and each other, we long for a place where we can connect with others in an intimate way. So, we seek community. It is something that most of us strive to build and be a part of because it allows us to connect with others who share our common beliefs and who offer support and affirmation.

It can be easy for us to forget the importance of being in community with each other, especially today when individuality and independence are so highly regarded. I am not saying it is not important to be who God has made you to be or that you should not be able to think for yourself. Each of us has been created to be our unique self. However, as Paul so eloquently illustrates for us in his body metaphor, our unique gifts and talents are best used when in cooperation with the whole body. In other words, it is when we are in community with each other that we can truly find fulfillment and purpose, and be our best selves, which God has called us to be.

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**May 2024
Newsletter**

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

Even though we long for community and have a picture in our minds of what a perfect community looks like, the reality is there is no such thing as a perfect community. This is because our communities - even Church communities - are made up of imperfect people. Even though we are striving to live a Christ-like life, there are times when emotions get the best of us or our egos take over and we end up hurting each other. Inevitably we are going to mess things up from time to time and in doing so cause conflict and tension in our relationships.

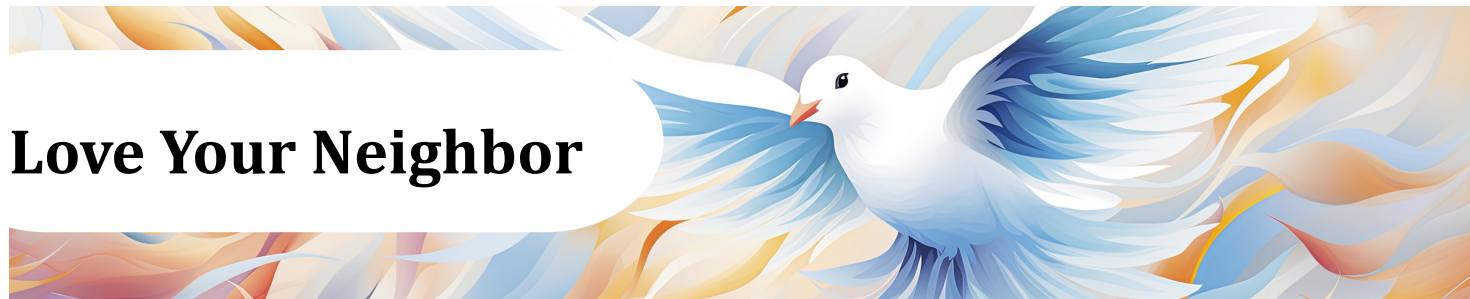
In 2 Corinthians 5:18, Paul reminds us that we have been called to the sacred ministry of reconciliation. That ministry should start here in the Church. When disagreements arise and our relationship with a sibling in Christ has been cracked, our mission is always to be reconciliation.

When conflict and disagreements arise, we must remember that this community is a sacred gift that God has given us. We are to cherish it, nurture it, and fight for it in the name of Jesus Christ, through whom we have been reconciled to God AND to each other. Amen.

"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us."- 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

Blessings, Pastor John

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
- 15 Susan Wright
- 22 Karen Ahlgrim
- 30 Nancy Hoffman, Jane Moriarty, Jo Sweatt

May Anniversaries

- 2 Gary & Sharon Cooper - 48 years
- 3 Gerry & Karen Ahlgrim - 55 years
- 4 Mike & Joyce Faber - 21 years
- 13 Ken & Vickie Rhoe - 57 years
- 28 Hazel & Bill Klossner - 8 years

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

Pilgrim Prayer List

- Hurricane Recovery & Rebuild
- Joe Beaudreau - health
- Lorraine O'Keefe - cancer
- Sidoney Johnston - homebound
- Rev. Bill Klossner - health
- Bert Scott - homebound
- Gene Rice - health
- John & Savina Krueger - health
- Bertha Cousins - health
- Carter & family - peace
- Cindy Guilfoyle - spiritual & physical health
- Daniel Faber - cancer
- Gilbert Sequira - health
- Tegan Jones - cancer
- Jacque Ross - health
- Martin Heckler - spiritual & physical health
- Pat Wheatcroft - cancer
- World Peace
- Cherry Gillner - hospitalized
- Gene Burnell - health



Business

Council Highlights

Council members had a Saturday “retreat”, exploring what serving on Council means. Pastor John gave a presentation discussing:

- the biblical foundation of church leadership
- the responsibility of church leadership to the congregation and to the mission of the church
- and the leadership role as visionaries.

This was truly a great way for Council to come together and discuss and what being on Council and what the church means now and in the future. We all enjoyed coming together for this purpose.

Please be aware that our contractor is working on the Sanctuary. Storage containers along with a dumpster has been set in our far parking lot area to keep larger materials, machinery, and tools on site during our restoration period. As a reminder, with this restoration, there are several “hard-hat areas” being worked on. Do not enter an area under construction without authorization.

There are also several projects that will continue on campus, including a long awaited lighting project. We will have LED lighting on the outside of all buildings, illuminating areas around the buildings and sidewalks, shining out several feet. Our Properties and Grounds Committee worked hard on this project for quite some time. After many hurdles, including a strong hurricane, the foundation for this project has begun!

We are in need of congregation members to join our Finance Committee. Do you have questions about the church cash flows? Do you wonder what financial decisions are being discussed for the church? Do you want to know how much we spend weekly or monthly? These answers are discussed at our monthly meetings, every third Monday night at 6:30 p.m. in the church conference room. Please consider coming to share your insight with us and your experience.

Jessica Warne-Emard, Moderator

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 April 11, 2024, meeting include these projects:

- The driveway potholes have been repaired with asphalt patches.
- The five live oaks purchased have a lot of new growth on them.
- A large 4 by 4 beam with predrilled holes has been erected and set in concrete in the ground for the placement of the large composite cross which was blown over by Hurricane Ian. The large composite cross was re-erected on March 21st and bolted to the beam. Later, more concrete was added at the base of the 4X4 for stabilization against strong winds. On another day, the cross was then sanded and cleaned with bleach to make it ready for painting.

The property and grounds group will be fixing up the old shed to use to protect and store the tools and equipment needed to maintain our church and school properties. We are in need of tools and equipment for this purpose. If you have any of these items that you no longer need or use please consider donating them:

- Wheelbarrow
- Rakes
- Shovels
- Ladders
- Level
- Hand Tools
- Tool Box
- Saw Horses
- Post Hole Digger

Ministry & Outreach



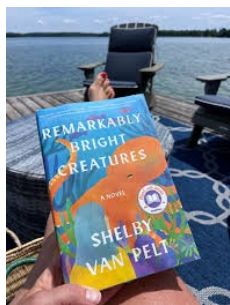
Women's Fellowship

All women of the church are invited to join.

The group will begin a Summer Bible School study on Thursday, May 16 at 10:00 a.m. in the Church Library.

Watch your bulletin for some summer field trips that will be coming up.

The next Book Club is set for Monday, May 20 at 6:00 p.m. details pending. The group will discuss "Remarkably Bright Creatures" written by Shelby Van Pelt. This is an exploration of friendship, reckoning, and hope, tracing a widow's unlikely connection with a giant octopus.



Prayer Partners

Join us Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. for a prayer meeting through a conference call.

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 : 941-258-2597.

Missions

April focus was on the Virginia B. Andes Clinic. We had a speaker from the Clinic visit us on Sunday, April 21 and gave them \$2,000.

In May our Moment for Mission will be our Food Pantry. Our Food Pantry continues to serve the teachers of Joyful Noise and some local homebound veterans.

The Little Food Pantry, located near the church office entrance, is a box that is open for those in need. You are invited to add items on your own schedule directly to the pantry or you are welcome to bring your food items to Worship or the Church Office and we will fill the box as space is available. Most requested items are:

Macaroni & Cheese	Canned Pastas	Soup
Canned Fruit	Canned Veggies	Tuna
Instant Potatoes	Hotel Toiletries	

PBJ Sandwich Makers meet on the 4th Thursday of the Month, May 23, 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.

Pastor Ken Ewing , Chair of Missions

Adult Bible Study

This Sunday morning class continues to study the Gospel of John in the month of May. The disciple John writes convincingly of the divinity of Christ by emphasizing in every chapter how He is God's Son. Join us any Sunday and build your discipleship. Class will not be held on May 26 or June 2.

Joyful Noise Learning Center

We currently have a total of 28 spots available schoolwide for the 2024-2025 school year.

We are gearing up for the final VPK Assessments and VPK Graduation next month. Graduation is on Friday, May 17th at 10:00 a.m.

We received funds for the Inside/Outside Grant. All classrooms are getting new dramatic play equipment (kitchens, dolls, food, etc.). The younger classrooms are also all getting new child-sized couches for their cozy areas. The two permanent shades for the playgrounds have been ordered. One will be on the VPK playground and the other will straddle the toddler playground and the threes playground. They should be installed in about four to six weeks. The steel bases will be white with teal shades on top.

Items for reopening the Goodell Room have been ordered. I have purchased various wooden shelving, tables, a rug, and other materials to set the room for use. I will soon order puzzles, books, and games that need to be replaced.

Cynthia Poudrette, Director Joyful Noise

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

Altar Flowers

If you would like to order in memory of, honor of, or to the glory of God, fresh flowers for the altar, please make a note of it on the registration slip or by calling the church office. Save your special date now!

A single arrangement costs \$40.

For two arrangements the cost would be \$70.

By the Numbers

Offering Last 4 Weeks

\$13,719	General
\$ 772	Missions
\$ 2,295	Hurricane

General Needed Monthly

\$ 21,560

Attendance Average Last 4 Weeks

92

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

Be kind and compassionate
to one another,
forgiving each other,
just as in Christ God forgave you.
- Ephesians 4:32

Learn and Grow



Coloring & Prayer Challenge



Read
Acts 2.

And then
color this
page while
in prayerful
conversation
with the
Father, Son
and Holy
Spirit.

Where are
you called
to respond
to this
beginning of
the church.

What is your
next step in
Jesus's
command to
Love your
neighbor?

How do you
devote
yourself to
the teachings
of the
apostles?

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>Sixth Sunday of Easter</u> May 5, 2024	<u>Acts 10:44-48</u>	<u>Psalm 98</u>	<u>1 John 5:1-6</u>	<u>John 15:9-17</u>
<u>Ascension of the Lord</u> May 9, 2024	<u>Acts 1:1-11</u>	<u>Psalm 47 or</u> <u>Psalm 93</u>	<u>Ephesians 1:15-23</u>	<u>Luke 24:44-53</u>
<u>Seventh Sunday of Easter</u> May 12, 2024	<u>Acts 1:15-17,</u> <u>21-26</u>	<u>Psalm 1</u>	<u>1 John 5:9-13</u>	<u>John 17:6-19</u>
<u>Day of Pentecost</u> May 19, 2024	<u>Acts 2:1-21 or</u> <u>Ezekiel 37:1-14</u>	<u>Psalm 104:24-34,</u> <u>35b</u>	<u>Romans 8:22-27</u> <u>or Acts 2:1-21</u>	<u>John 15:26-27;</u> <u>16:4b-15</u>
<u>Trinity Sunday</u> May 26, 2024 First Sunday after Pentecost	<u>Isaiah 6:1-8</u>	<u>Psalm 29</u>	<u>Romans 8:12-17</u>	<u>John 3:1-17</u>

Pentecost Sunday, May 19

Pentecost means “the 50th day” and marks the end of the Easter season. Pentecost is the sudden and powerful arrival of the Holy Spirit in and around the disciples and their friends gathered together in Jerusalem.

According to the second chapter in Acts:

Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in

other tongues as the Spirit enabled them...

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken.

Peter then boldly told the crowd about Jesus, and more than 3000 were baptized. This is the birth day of the church.

Read all of Acts 2 for the details of that day!

The Symbols of Pentecost

Wind

- A “driving wind” surrounded the apostles on that first Pentecost. The breath of the Holy Spirit strengthens and challenges God’s people on their faith journey.

Fire

- Representing the Holy Spirit, who filled the apostles with enthusiasm, replacing their fear with the courage to go forth and share Christ’s story. “Tongues of fire...came to rest on each of them.”

Red

- Representing Red is used at Pentecost: the fiery tongues that descended upon the Apostles.

Water

- Representing new life and the commitment first made at the time of baptism.

Dove

- Representing the Holy Spirit that descended “like a dove” and hovered over Jesus when he was baptized. Symbol of peace.



Pilgrim Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 2024

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sundays
 8:00am Choir Rehearsal
 9:00am Worship
 10:00am Youth Bible Study

			1 10:00am Prayer Partners	2 National Day of Prayer 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	3	4
5 10:00am Adult Bible Study	6	7 2:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	8 10:00am Prayer Partners	9 Ascension Day 6:30pm Property and Grounds Ministry 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	10 7:00am JN Pastries with Parents	11
12 Mother's Day 10:00am Adult Bible Study	13 7:00pm Missions Meeting	14	15 Newsletter Article Deadline 10:00am Prayer Partners	16 10:00am Pilgrim Women's Fellowship 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	17 JN Close at Noon 10:00am JN VPK Graduation	18
19 Pentecost Wear Red 10:00am Adult Bible Study	20 6:00pm Women's Book Club 6:30pm Finance Committee Meeting	21 2:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	22 10:00am Prayer Partners	23 9:15am PBJ Sandwich Makers 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	24	25
26 Trinity Sunday 8:15am Breakfast	27 Memorial Day Office/JN Closed	28 JN Closed Teacher Work Day 6:30pm Council Meeting	29 10:00am Prayer Partners	30 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	31	