



**Pilgrim Church**

UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

## From the Desk of Pastor John

Here's a "statistic" you may be familiar with: 20% of a church's congregation does 80% of the work. In other words, a small portion of the members provide most of the effort and financial support needed to support the church. I've never seen a scientific study to support this. I'm not convinced these numbers are entirely accurate, but there does seem to be some truth in this assessment.

When it comes to church success, there seems to be a trend: a call for assistance goes out, and the same group of people tend to show up. Whether it's nominations for leadership positions, church property management, ministry work, or financial support, it's often easy to predict who is going to volunteer or say "yes." These members are often called the "backbone of the church," because they're the ones pastors and leaders know they can call on when there is a need.

For some people, saying "yes" is easy. They may have plenty of free time and resources. For others, however, serving and participating in the life of the church requires sacrifice. They love the church and want to ensure its success, so they rearrange schedules and tighten budgets. Whether it is easy or difficult for them to contribute, we are all grateful for those individuals who step up to help. They provide the support that is necessary to allow the church to continue, so that it may benefit both the congregation and community.

But, one question lingers: what happens when these individuals burn out? When they no longer have the physical, emotional, and mental strength to continue, what will happen to the church?

Every pastor and church lay leader has wrestled with these questions

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## July 2024 Newsletter

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

at some point. When those who have always stepped up start avoiding phone calls, refuse a request to sit on one more committee, or refuse to help with one more project, who can the church call on for help? Will the church survive?

The church was never meant to depend on a select few. Yes, we need elected leaders to oversee the business of the church, but the work and ministry of the church requires the participation and support of all members. Think of Paul's body metaphor for the church, outlined in 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. Just like all organs and extremities are vital to the functioning of the body, all members are vital to the functioning of the church.

Simply put: the success of the church is up to you.

Yes, you!

In order for Pilgrim UCC to be successful, each and every member must participate. Show up at a finance meeting. Grab your gardening gloves, tools, and cleaning supplies and join the properties committee on a scheduled clean-up day. Attend congregational meetings and town hall meetings. Be courageous, saying "yes" when approached about serving on a committee or council. Be active in the life of the church.

I understand that some may have physical and financial limitations. However, that does not mean you can't show up in some form. Your presence matters. Your encouragement and input matter. Regardless of the type of support you can give, it matters. Everyone can be an active, participating member of Pilgrim Church.

My friends, Pilgrim Church needs you - especially now, as you prepare to embark on a new journey. You will soon be entering a time of transition, during which your involvement will be even more imperative. Your church leaders will need your commitment, support, and participation more than ever, if Pilgrim is to be healthy and ready when the time comes to call a new settled pastor.

Your contributions, however big or small, are impactful and needed for the church to thrive.

You are needed and you matter.

You are Pilgrim UCC.

Blessings,

Pastor John

**"You are the  
body of Christ.  
Each one of you  
is part of it."  
1 Corinthians 12:27**

## Pilgrim United Church of Christ

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

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*Maintenance Technician:*  
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*Organist:*  
Cheryl Huber

*Pianist:*  
Maverick Li

*Children's Ministry Director:*  
Jessica Warne

*Bell Choir Director:*  
Russ Whittaker

Joyful Noise  
Learning Center  
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www.joyfulnoiselc.org

*Director of Joyful Noise:*  
Cynthia Poudrette  
jndirector@pilgrimonline.org



# Love Your Neighbor

## July Birthdays

- 17 Bill Wolf
- 21 Daphne Dillon
- 22 Janice Lewis
- 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 rec-

## 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.
- ◆ Direct others to have a turn first.
- ◆ Write a kind note to someone.
- ◆ Keep in touch with your friends! Call them and suggest a coffee or ice cream outing!
- ◆ Remember those on the prayer list!
- ◆ Go through your tools for the Property & Grounds team!

## Pilgrim Prayer List

- Hurricane Recovery & Rebuild
- Joe Beaudreau - health
- Chrissy Ross - heart surgery
- John Krueger - health
- Savina Krueger - cancer
- Rev. Bill Klossner - health
- Cynthia Poudrette - health
- Nancy Burnell - knee surgery
- Gene Burnell - health
- Aaron Rice - health
- Cindy Guilfoyle - spiritual health
- Gene Rice - health
- Justin Wilson - health
- Lorraine O'Keefe - cancer
- Martin Heckler - spiritual & physical health
- Ronald Reuter - health
- Sidoney Johnston - homebound
- Daniel Faber - family and friends sympathies
- Josh Fraser - spiritual health
- Pilgrim Church Transition
- Carter & family - peace
- Zander Jones - heart surgery
- Amara Smith - cancer
- Gretchen Meienburg - cancer
- Joyce Faber - health
- Judy Michaels - health
- Christopher Fraser - peace
- David "Wheatie" Wheatcroft - health
- Dawn Miller - health
- Pat Wheatcroft - cancer
- Starr - cancer
- World Peace



# Pilgrim Ministries

## Women’s Fellowship

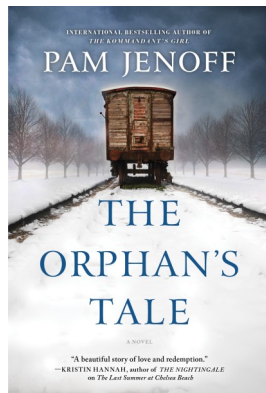
No July Fellowship meeting. Mark your calendars for August 15, 10:00 a.m.

### Book Club

Thursday, July 11, 6 p.m.

Join Pilgrim Women in reading “The Orphan’s Tale” by Pam Jenoff. A powerful novel of friendship set in a traveling circus during World War II, with stories of sacrifice and survival.

Noa finds refuge with a German circus, but she must learn the flying trapeze act so she can blend in undetected, spurning the resentment of the lead aerialist, Astrid. At first rivals, Noa and Astrid soon forge a powerful bond. But as the facade that protects them proves increasingly tenuous, Noa and Astrid must decide whether their friendship is enough to save one another—or if the secrets that burn between them will destroy everything. Watch for more details on location.



All women of the church are invited to attend.

## Adult Bible Study

Currently we are studying the Gospel of John. Each lesson “stands on its own” so newcomers are welcome anytime.

Summer Break begins July 14.

## Missions

The next Committee Meeting, September 9.

The Food Pantry will continue to serve during the summer months. PBJ Sandwich Makers will continue to meet on the 4th Thursday each month, 9:15 a.m. in Room 4. Please enter and sign in through the Joyful Noise Office, to meet their regulations.

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 pantry shelves as space is available. Most requested items are:

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

Pastor Ken Ewing , Chair of Missions

## Prayer Partners

James 5:16 - Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

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

We are here for you: 941-258-2597.

# Joyful Noise Learning Center

Joyful Noise Learning Center had their annual DCF inspection and passed with no violations. License renewed for another year! Thank you to everyone who took part in putting JN back together after Hurricane Ian.

Since June 2004, Joyful Noise Learning Center has been a ministry of Pilgrim Church. Twenty years! When the pre-school opened

its doors, it had three students. By December 4, it had 41 students and was at capacity. In a world where children are often forced to grow up too soon we offer a community of gentleness and safety where Christian values of kindness, honesty, and respect of God and others are taught with loving care.

Right now, Joyful Noise is gearing up for the new school year while still enjoying summer. We are so happy to have Summer Camp back this year! We have lots of activities planned as well as a few small field trips. The Sunny Daze Ice Cream truck will also be visiting the campers on July 3rd and August 2nd.

The Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program or VPK prepares early learners for success in kindergarten and beyond. We do have VPK spots still available so spread the word.

Cynthia Poudrette, Director

## Worship Readers

Are you willing to participate in worship as a scripture reader? With enough readers we can rotate to participating once ever other month. We need you! Please sign up on the clip board on Sunday or Call the Church Office.



## Pastor John's Summer Bible Study

Wednesdays  
Noon and 6:30 p.m.  
Starting July 3



Pastor John is leading a study based upon "underdogs and Outsiders". Matthew names five women in the family tree of Jesus: Tamar, a forgotten daughter-in-law and widow; Rahab, a prostitute; Ruth, a foreigner; Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah, an adulteress; and of course Mary, a young virgin. This study explores the stories of each of these five women, showing how they all played a pivotal role in God's plan. By learning about these underdogs and outsiders, you will uncover new dimensions of the story of God's people.

Preparation reading:

July 3 - Tamar: Genesis 38

July 10 - Rahab: Joshua 2

July 17 - Ruth: the book of Ruth

July 24 - Bathsheba: 2 Samuel 11-12,  
1 Kings 1-2

July 31 - Mary: Matthew 1-2

## Fellowship Breakfast

Sunday, July 28, 8:15 a.m.  
Community Center

Sharing a meal is one of the main ways to establish, deepen, and enjoy relationships with God and others. Meal sharing is a way to spend time with others, but more than that, it invites intimate conversations, laughter, and a spirit of togetherness. In the Bible, Jesus often ate with others, which was a way for him to deepen friendships, welcome strangers, and serve the poor. Be like Jesus! Gather with us for this monthly breakfast!



# Business

## From the Moderator

Dear Pilgrim Church,

By now, we have all heard the news regarding pastor John's resignation. Many have expressed sadness over this loss. Remember it is okay to feel sad and upset. We are experiencing the loss of our pastor. We need to remember, though, that God guides us through this journey. Though it may take a few days, a few weeks, or a few years, God leads us to right where he wants us to be.

Pastor John listened to God's call, and it guided him elsewhere, and we will celebrate that with him. Until his departure, we will continue with a "business as usual" attitude at the church but will also set aside a few moments to celebrate his time here at Pilgrim and to celebrate that new position.

I want to assure everyone that the Council and I have already begun looking towards the future and the work that needs to be done to prepare for and call a new pastor. I have already been in touch with one of our UCC Associate Conference Ministers, Reverend LaTrell Harrison. She will be advising us through the process of seeking a new pastor. We will be scheduling a time for Council to meet and discuss with her all the components (stages) of this search process, how each one flows into the next, what UCC resources are available to us, and what we as a congregation can do during this time of transition to keep Pilgrim healthy and active.

In the meantime, Reverend Harrison suggested I briefly share with you the process we will be using to search for our new pastor:

- 1) Council will approve a special committee for the search. No more than five members (with two alternates) nominated by the Nominating Committee and approved by Council.
- 2) The Search Committee will select an Intentional Interim Pastor to help with our transition to a new settled Pastor. The Conference will aid us by providing profiles of Interims and advising the Search Committee on how best to select the correct one for Pilgrim.

This interim will not be eligible to candidate for the settled pastor position. Instead, he is intentionally placed to help guide the church and Council to address Pilgrim's areas of growth before a settled Pastor is called.

3) After we have an interim pastor in place, the Search Committee will reach out to the congregation. We will be sending surveys, hosting town hall meetings to discuss the needs and goals of Pilgrim. Input from the congregation, staff, and Joyful Noise families will be very important as we create an updated Church Profile and select our new Pastor for Pilgrim and Joyful Noise. Everyone is encouraged to share their thoughts. Every voice matters!

4) The Search Committee will use the information gathered from the surveys and congregational meetings to start the search for the settled Pastor. They will look over profiles, conduct interviews, check references, use technology to hear sermons, and eventually select a candidate who will be recommended to the entire congregation for approval.

I know our church has faced many challenges. However, we have addressed each one, and we will address new challenges that arise. We will persevere! The time of transition that we are about to enter will provide us time to reflect, reimagine, and rebuild. It will also afford us the opportunity to strengthen the relationship between the school and the church, strengthen relationships, help on a committee, get involved in the life of the church in new ways, or simply drop a card of thanks to our pastor.

Please know that I and our Church Council are available to answer any questions you may have. We will be more than happy to answer any question, address any concern, or listen to comments you wish to share with us. Council and I will continue to work with Pastor John over the next two months, and we will be sure to keep you all posted on the process.

"We are Pilgrim Strong!"

Blessings, Jessica Warne-Emard, Moderator

# Property & Grounds

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

We need you. With hurricane season upon us, the grounds and property group are putting together a hurricane preparedness list and a team that will prepare the church and school properties in the event a hurricane is predicted to come through our area. We could use volunteers to help with moving or securing items around campus that may be damaged by hurricane winds or rain such as the shade covers picnic tables playground equipment or anything that may become a potential missile that could cause damage to the property. We would love to have your help in preparing our church and school properties if such a need arises. Please contact the church office if you are able to help with this important mission

Multiple members have donated spare tools for our storage shed for use around our church property. Additional tools would be helpful:

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

The next meeting is Tuesday, July 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the Library. Many hands make light work!

# Finance Committee

Do you have ideas for cost cutting? Do you have an idea for streamlining our financial statements or how to present to the congregation differently? Or, do you just want to know what we do at a Finance Meeting? Please consider coming to share your insight with us and your experience. Finance meetings are every third Monday of the month. The next meeting is June 16 at 6:30 in the church conference room. We would love to have you!

# By the Numbers

## Offering Last 4 Weeks

\$ 11,985	General
\$ 565	Missions
\$ 715	Hurricane

## General Needed Monthly

\$ 21,560

## Attendance Average Last 4 Weeks

72

# Hello My Name Is

Do you know where your Pilgrim name badge is? We are placing an order on July 11. Let us know if you need a replacement name badge. Cost is \$10.

# Altar Flowers

If you would like to order altar flowers in memory of, honor of, or to the glory of God, fresh flowers, 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.

# Printer Ink Cartridges

Pilgrim Church may recycle up to 20 used cartridges per month of any used ink or toner cartridge and receive \$2 back in recycling rewards per cartridge. We collect your used ink cartridges and deliver them monthly to Staples for our credit.

Serve wholeheartedly,  
as if you were serving the  
Lord, not people. - Ephesians 6:7



## The Timeline of Daniel

- 620 BC** Daniel is born.
- 605 BC** Daniel, along with his **friends** are taken to **Babylon**. – 1:3-7
- 602 BC** Daniel **interprets** Nebuchadnezzar’s **dream** about a **statue** made of gold, silver, bronze, iron, and clay. – 2:26-45
- 589 BC** Nebuchadnezzar begins **siege** of **Jerusalem**. – 2 Kings 25:1-3
- 586 BC** Babylonians **destroy** Jerusalem, setting **fire** to the **temple** and the palace. – 2 Kings 25:4-10  
**Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego** refuses to pay homage to Nebuchadnezzar’s golden
- 562-556 BC** Nebuchadnezzar dies and is replaced by a succession of short-lived kings.
- 539 BC** A **handwriting** appears on the **wall** and Belshazzar calls for Daniel who interprets it as a judgement from God. – 5:5-29
- ~540 BC** Darius orders Daniel to be thrown into the **lion’s den** & wishes Daniel that he be **saved** by his **God**. – 6:16
- 536 BC** Daniel dies at 84 years old. – 12:13
- 538 BC** Cyrus allows the Jews to **return** to Judea and **rebuild** the temple in Jerusalem. – Ezra 1:1-4
- 515 BC** The temple in Jerusalem is **completed**. – Ezra 6:14-18

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# 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	First reading and Psalm	Alternate First reading and Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost July 7, 2024	2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 Psalm 48	Ezekiel 2:1-5 Psalm 123	2 Corinthians 12:2-10	Mark 6:1-13
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost July 14, 2024	2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 Psalm 24	Amos 7:7-15 Psalm 85:8-13	Ephesians 1:3-14	Mark 6:14-29
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost July 21, 2024	2 Samuel 7:1-14a Psalm 89:20-37	Jeremiah 23:1-6 Psalm 23	Ephesians 2:11-22	Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost July 28, 2024	2 Samuel 11:1-15 Psalm 14	2 Kings 4:42-44 Psalm 145:10-18	Ephesians 3:14-21	John 6:1-21

## Lessons from Daniel

1. Daniel is about living in exile as citizens of the Kingdom of God.

The book of Daniel tells the story of a few talented teenage Israelites during their time in Babylonian captivity. The language, dress, culture, ethics, and religion were all different than what they grew up with.

The Kingdom of God will seem strange to the empire of the world. In exile, those around us will be confused at what we post on social media, what we do on the weekends, and what our goals are in life. Living in exile is hard, difficult, and costly.

2. Daniel is about influencing the world around us.

In Daniel, these teenagers end up dramatically shifting the culture around them. But they didn't do that by using violence, ranting on Facebook, or imposing their beliefs on other people. They quietly and respectfully refused to submit to things that were contrary

to the Kingdom of God. The decisions to honor their true King ended up making an incredible impact on the culture around them.

3. Daniel is about Jesus.

Just like Daniel, Jesus refused to compromise his Kingdom convictions and defile himself when he faced the luring temptations (Matthew 4:1-11).

Jesus didn't leave Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace (Isaiah 43:2; Daniel 3:25).

Jesus was lowered into the lion's den of death, and as the stone was rolled away, came out gloriously. (Luke 24:2)





# July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> Office Closed	<b>2</b> Office Closed 2:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>3</b> Office Closed 10:00am Prayer Partners 6:30pm Summer Bible Study	<b>4</b> Independence Day Office/JN Closed 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 10:00am Adult Bible Study	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 6:30pm Property and Grounds Ministry	<b>10</b> 10:00am Prayer Partners 12:00pm Summer Bible Study 1:00pm Bulletin Team 6:30pm Summer Bible Study	<b>11</b> 6:00pm Pilgrim Women's Book Club 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 6:30pm Finance Committee Meeting	<b>16</b> 2:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>17</b> Newsletter Article Deadline 10:00am Prayer Partners 12:00pm Summer Bible Study 1:00pm Bulletin Team 6:30pm Summer Bible Study	<b>18</b> Office Closed 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 6:30pm Council Meeting	<b>24</b> 10:00am Prayer Partners 12:00pm Summer Bible Study 1:00pm Bulletin Team 6:30pm Summer Bible Study	<b>25</b> 9:15am PBJ Sandwich Makers 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 8:15am Fellowship Breakfast	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 10:00am Prayer Partners 12:00pm Summer Bible Study 1:00pm Bulletin Team 6:30pm Summer Bible Study	<b>Every Sunday</b>  8:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 9:00am Children's Worship 10:00am Youth Bible Study		