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Ewing's Doings

The Greatest of these is Love

February is the month of love with Valentine's Day as the centerpiece. Most of the time when we talk or think about love, we speak of romantic love or erotic love. The biblical record sees love as agape love, sacrificial love. Love that values the other person and puts them first.

This is the heart of the message in Paul's letter to the Corinthians. In 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, 13 he writes "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful, or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love."

Paul gives us a litmus test on what love is and not. A husband may say to his wife after beating her that it was out of love. This is a lie, it is not love. It is anything but love.

In conversation with Pastor Merci, we discussed this passage. She reminded me that it can be helpful to put our name in place of love to get a better appreciation of Paul's lifting up the importance of agape love.

May you extend agape to all you meet!
Pastor Ken

Take a moment to use your name in the blanks below and read aloud...

_____ is patient;

_____ is kind;

_____ is not envious

_____ is not boastful

_____ is not arrogant

_____ is not rude.

_____ does not insist on its own way;

_____ is not irritable;

_____ keeps no record of wrongs;

_____ does not rejoice in wrongdoing but

_____ rejoices in the truth.

_____ bears all things,

_____ believes all things,

_____ hopes all things,

_____ endures all things.

May pursuing a life of being love to your family, friends, neighbors and strangers be your prayer this month.

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

Birthdays

- 10 John Krueger
- 11 Bob McWhirter
- 12 Jane Beaudreau
- 17 Kevin Beaver
- 18 Carol Veigel

Anniversaries

- 21 John & Savinia Krueger

Did we miss your special day? Please call or email the office, so we may update our files.

Ideas to Love Your Neighbors

- ♥ Love your neighbor: National Acts of Random Kindness Day, Monday, February 17
- ♥ Love your neighbor: pray for them
- ♥ Love your neighbor: send a card
- ♥ Love your neighbor: remember birthdays
- ♥ Love your neighbor: leave a treat for your postal worker
- ♥ Love your neighbor: wave and say hello

Pilgrim Prayer List

Hurricane Recovery & Rebuild
Pastor Search

Pilgrim Church & Leaders

Sidoney Johnston - home-bound

Delys Wood - health

Frank Ross - hospice

Brycen McBride - 3yr old JN student and family

Beverly Weber - hospice

Cheri Perry - Alzheimer's

Richard Worn - health

Rick Perry - caregiver

Joyce Faber - health

Caregivers - patience, peace & strength

Betsy Field - peace & strength

Ellen Chapman - ALS

Betty DeCicco - health

James Fraser - health

Josh Fraser - spiritual health

Judy Michaels - health

Michelle Yale - transportation

Peace

Gayle Bratton - family and friends sympathies

Gene Rice - hospice

Pat Wheatcroft - cancer

Rachel Gerry - pregnancy

Those touched by the California Fires

Carter & family - peace

Thank You For Your Heartfelt Care During My Illness

Thank you friends and family of Pilgrim Church for the calls, cards and prayers for my recovery. You have blessed me so much. I hope to be back with you soon.

Dionne Jones

Prayer Partners

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

Joyful Noise Learning Center

In February classrooms are focused on kindness, friendship, and love. Now that the holidays are over all VPK classrooms are focused on academic progression working towards kindergarten. Mid-year assessments have been done for each level with parent conferences scheduled. We are looking toward the 2025-2026 school year and are assessing availability in all classrooms and before/after care.

Bible time on Mondays continues to be a favorite amongst our VPK (voluntary pre-kindergarten) and K/1 (kindergarten and first grade) students. They are discussing what they learn from their Monday lessons with their families and the parents are sharing their joy seeing this back at Joyful Noise.

We are starting the planning process of Summer Camp. Each summer we open the Community Center to our elementary school aged students while they are out of school. Daily crafts, games, field trips, and other fun activities are coordinated for the appropriate age group every week. This summer program has not been fully opened since before Hurricane Ian in 2022 and returning Joyful Noise families are very excited to have this once again for the summer.

Joyful Noise is in need of good quality, age-appropriate, and church appropriate books for our classroom and curriculum closet. I have asked our teachers to put together a list of books that coordinate with our state approved weekly curriculum; along with books on CD for their listening centers. These lists will be made into an "Amazon Book Wish List" to be shared with anyone that would like to purchase a book for the school.

Women's Fellowship

Activities scheduled for February include:

- Involvement with Joyful Noise School
- Celebrating Valentine's Day with outreach to the homebound Pilgrim members
- Bible study of First John and the seven tests of Christian behavior
- Continued planning on establishment of a caregiver's support group

Our regular fellowship meeting will be on Thursday, February 20, at 10:00 a.m. in the library. All women are welcome to attend.

Potluck Fellowship

Saturday, February 15

4:00 p.m. Potluck

5:00 p.m. Concert by Maverick and Friends

Adult Bible Study

This small group meets right after Sunday service. Currently, the group is reading the Minor Prophets of the Old Testament.

In February we will cover:

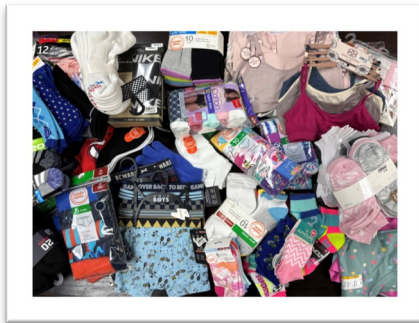
- **Obadiah.** It has two themes: the doom of the proud and rebellious and the deliverance of the meek and humble.
- **Jonah.** This prophet was a statesman who was a type (example) for Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection. He was also a type for Israel who was disobedient to God and "swallowed" by the nations of the world.



And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' Matthew 25:40

Missions

Jesus said, "I was naked and you clothed me." Matthew 25:36. The annual child size sock and underwear drive to support the clothes closet at our own Deep Creek Elementary, a legacy of Jacque Ross, was a HUGE Success! Thank you Pilgrim congregation!



The next Missions Committee meeting is Monday, February 10, 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room.

Souper Bowl of Caring

We are collecting cans of soup, get it "Soup"er Bowl, on Superbowl Sunday, February 9 for the food pantry and the little food pantry.

As millions of people tune in to watch the Super Bowl, we're also tuning in to the needs of our neighbors. The Souper Bowl of Caring is about taking action to fight hunger at the local level, ensuring that no one has to go without the food they need.

Help us reach our goal of making a difference in our communities. Whether you're a sports fan or not, it's a chance to be part of something bigger. Let's make this year's Souper Bowl of Caring the most successful one yet!



PBJ Sandwich Makers

Thursday, February 27, at 9:15 a.m. in Room 4. Enter and sign in at the Joyful Noise Office.

Fellowship with Pilgrim friends as you prepare this comfort food that feed the hungry.

Little Free Food Pantry

The Little Free Food Pantry Box is for those in need of dry goods and for those who desire to give. Take what you need, give what you can. Most requested items are:

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

2025 Apostles Build

The Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity Apostles Build is an opportunity for local churches to come together to raise walls, funds, and prayers to build a Habitat Home in Charlotte County.



21168 Chatburn Ave
Port Charlotte

Save the Dates:

- February 12, 8:30 a.m.
Angels in the Attic blessing
- March 8, 8:30 a.m.
Pilgrim begins Interior Painting

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.

Altar Flowers

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

An arrangement costs \$30 each.

Council Highlights

-If you have an idea for Council or Finance, we would love to hear it! Many of you have ideas to share, but are afraid to share them at a meeting; so instead, please reach out to one of us or get our attention before or after worship on Sunday.

-There are lots of opportunities to help Pilgrim Church. Please reach out to the church office for more information on where your gift of time and talent can be matched.

Some areas that you could serve:

Finance. Joyful Noise. Property and Grounds. Worship set-up. Worship break-down. Hospitality. PB & J. Missions. Sending cards and other communications to shut in (with some personalization).

You are always welcomed at our meetings. The next meeting is set for February 25, 6:30 p.m. in the Library.

Property & Grounds

The Property and Grounds Committee is motivated to have an attractive and safe environment for Pilgrim Church.

The cost of our lawn service is a major expense to the church at \$500 a month for the church property and \$1000 a month for the school property. (\$1500 a month for both). The service is being currently provided by Headley's Lawn Care LLC. The grass is being cut very short and often. Cutting grass too short is not good for the lawn and cutting less frequently could be a cost savings for the church. It was also brought up that maybe the church volunteers may be interested in doing the lawn maintenance. The property group feels this is an area we should be looking into as a potential cost savings to the church.

We are considering purchasing and installing an LED light fixture on one of the light poles in the driveway. The previous light fixtures were destroyed by Hurricane Ian. This replacement light fixture could be purchased from Amazon for approximately \$370. If this light provides a significant lighting improvement (as we think it will) to the dark areas of the church property, we could add additional lights as needed.

We did install some temporary solar lights on the south side of the school entrance door where it is dark when some of the teachers arrive and leave this time of year. Those new lights should help light up the back entrance to the school for the time being.

We also identified an electrical box, inside, above the door, for the emergency light so it could be easy to hardwire a permanent light outside the south door in the future if we decided to do so.

We invite all Pilgrim Friends and Family to gather as able on Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. to assist on the projects around the campus.

Valentine's Day Quiz

1. How many times does the word LOVE appear in the Bible (NIV)?
 - a. 63
 - b. 551
 - c. 1024
 - d. 227
2. Finish the verse: "We love because _____."
 - a. of Jesus.
 - b. John loved us first.
 - c. God first loved us.
 - d. Jesus performed miracles.
3. How many times is Peter asked by Jesus if he loves him?
 - a. 3
 - b. 77
 - c. 33
 - d. 1
4. "They seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her." To whom did they seem a few days?
 - a. Ezra
 - b. Moses
 - c. Joshua
 - d. Jacob
5. From Proverbs, "What covers all wrongs?"
 - a. clothes
 - b. forgiveness
 - c. love
 - d. Friendship
6. Who said, "How beautiful is your love...?"
 - a. David
 - b. Boaz
 - c. Solomon
 - d. Jonathan
7. Whose love is steadfast in Lamentations?
 - a. Solomon
 - b. Jacob
 - c. The Lord
 - d. Esther
8. Finish the verse: "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from _____."
 - a. Jesus
 - b. Peter
 - c. John
 - d. God
9. When is the word LOVE first mentioned in the Bible?
 - a. Genesis 22
 - b. 1 Corinthians 2
 - c. Exodus 13:12
 - d. Matthew 4
10. "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only _____"
 - a. A stringless harp
 - b. Deceiving myself
 - c. A resounding gong
 - d. Telling lies
11. What does John tell us perfect love will do?
 - a. Be a strong witness to our neighbors
 - b. Overcomes sin
 - c. Wins over our enemies
 - d. Casts out all fear
12. The Bible says whoever does not love does not know God.
 - a. True
 - b. False
13. The Bible states we are to "love our enemies".
 - a. True
 - b. False
14. All are examples of how to love EXCEPT for:
 - a. Be patient
 - b. Be kind
 - c. Be fruitful
 - d. Be unselfish



1. b
2. c 1 Jn 5:1
3. a
4. d Gen 29:20
5. c Prov 10:12
6. c Song of Sol 4:7
7. c Lam 3:22
8. d 1 Jn 4:7
9. a
10. c 1 Cor 13
11. d
12. a 1 Jn 4:8
13. a Matt 5:44
14. c 1 Cor 13

Lectionary Readings

In preparation for Worship read ahead and ponder!

Advent Year C	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
<u>Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany</u> Feb 02, 2025	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Psalm 71:1-6	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Luke 4:21-30
<u>Presentation of the Lord</u> Feb 02, 2025	Malachi 3:1-4	Psalm 84 <i>or Psalm 24:7-10</i>	Hebrews 2:14-18	Luke 2:22-40
<u>Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany</u> Feb 09, 2025	Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)	Psalm 138	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Luke 5:1-11
<u>Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany</u> Feb 16, 2025	Jeremiah 17:5-10	Psalm 1	1 Corinthians 15:12-20	Luke 6:17-26
<u>Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany</u> Feb 23, 2025	Genesis 45:3-11, 15	Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40	1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50	Luke 6:27-38

Peace

Love is mentioned many times throughout the Bible with one of the most endearing passage verses, taken from 1 Corinthians 13 “And now these three remain faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love (Agape).

The four types found in the Bible are Greek: Agape, Storge, Philia, and Eros.

Agape (Uh-GAH-pay):is the love of all humans; charitable; it is the highest form. The Agape form is the love given whether or not it is returned. It is God’s spiritual love toward humankind. It is the form of love shown in forgiveness. It is a selfless form, in the sense of being kind and loving.

Storge (STOR-jay):is parents’ love for children. This is considered exclusive to family relationships between parents, children, and siblings. We are all called to love one another with affection.

Philia (FILL-ee-uh):is the love of friends and equals; sometimes referred to as “brotherly/sisterly love” as in the city of Philadelphia. It is a loving relationship between good friends, regardless of their gender. We might often say we “love” our friends, but it can take on an entirely different meaning, such as how we would cherish a romantic partner. For example, a wife is in love with her husband but loves her children.

Eros (AIR-ohs)): iserotic, passionate love. It refers to romantic love and physical attraction. The Old Testament contains no direct mention of the Greek word Eros because it was written in Hebrew. But the Bible references its meaning, especially in the book known as Song of Solomon, or Song of Songs. But Plato contended that “Eros can become an appreciation for beauty within that person, or even an appreciation for beauty itself in an ideal sense. A platonic expression of love.

Contact Us

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Office Hours:

Mon - Thurs 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Associate Pastor: Rev. Ken Ewing

Moderator: Jessica Warne
jawarne77@gmail.com

Maintenance Technician: Gene Bunnell

Office Administrator: Cat Foster
office@pilgrimonline.org

Pianist: Maverick Li

Children's Ministry Director: Jessica Warne

Bell Choir Director: Russ Whittaker

Joyful Noise Learning Center
941-629-4821, www.joyfulnoiseinc.org

Director of Joyful Noise:
jndirector@pilgrimonline.org

February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Every Sunday 9:00am Worship 9:00am Children's Worship 10:00am Adult Bible Study						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	10:00am AI Anon 2:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	9:00am Church Work Day 10:00am Prayer Partners	1:00pm Bulletin Team 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous		9:00am TOPS	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
6:30pm Missions Meeting	10:00am AI Anon	Newsletter Article Deadline 8:30am Angels in the Attic Blessing 9:00am Property & Grounds Meeting 10:00am Prayer Partners	1:00pm Bulletin Team 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous		Valentine's Day 9:00am TOPS	9:00am CPR Class 4:00pm Potluck Fellowship and Concert
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	6:30pm Finance Committee Meeting	10:00am AI Anon 2:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	9:00am Church Work Day 10:00am Prayer Partners	10:00am Pilgrim Women's Fellowship 1:00pm Bulletin Team 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	9:00am TOPS	
23	24	25	26	27	28	
8:00am Breakfast	10:00am AI Anon 6:30pm Council Meeting	9:00am Church Work Day 10:00am Prayer Partners	9:15am PBJ Sandwich Makers 1:00pm Bulletin Team 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous		9:00am TOPS	