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Be Transformed

The New Life in Christ

¹ *I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God— what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

³ *For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.*

Romans 12:1-5 NRSV

The dictionary defines transformation as a change in the condition, nature, or function of something or someone. An example would be a basic change in nature from being self-centered to being a servant to others. Part of the difficulty in being transformed is that we naturally, instinctively, resist change.

I learned how to oil paint in high school but changed to watercolor over the years. Some of the basic principles remain the same; however,

Ewing's Doings

I had a transformation in my thinking and approach to my painting. My starting point underwent a transformation. Rather than starting from dark to light, I needed to change perspective and move from light to dark. It produced a fundamental transformation in my approach to my expressions through painting.

As a congregation we are undergoing a transitional period for being out of the sanctuary... to returning to worship in the sanctuary. The change has been difficult to say the least. Nevertheless, I have noticed in recent months a transformation beginning to happen. We are moving away from being a collection of individuals to being a congregation of faithful followers of Jesus the Christ. My hope is that this transformation will continue and deepen the days and years to come.

Paul in his letter to the church at Rome writes, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God— what is good and acceptable and perfect." Paul is calling to transform our basic nature from being self-centered to being a servant of Christ Jesus. We are called, as Pastor Merci reminded us, to join in Jesus to take a stance that is counter culture. Rather we are called to be God's culture of Agape Love and acceptance.

May we continue be transformed by the grace and love of God. So be it!

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

Birthdays

- 4 Janice Cahn
- 9 Nancy Beaver, Cat Foster
Sheryl Staples, Dave Wilson
- 10 Robert Warne-Emard
- 11 Cheryl Gerry, Jacque Ross
- 29 Susan Littrell
- 30 Karen McKenney, Kim Vought

Anniversaries

- 27 Cheryl & Carroll Eastman
60 years!

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

Ideas to Love Your Neighbors

Print and share an Irish Blessing. If you don't have a printer, the Church Office can help!

Take a walk through your neighborhood and pray for the health, safety, and well-being of the residents.

Pick a flower from your yard and offer it to a grocery clerk or maybe the doctor's office receptionist.

Share gold wrapped candy... "You're worth more than gold."

Invite someone to Ash Wednesday Worship on March 5, 6:30p.m.

Pilgrim Prayer List

- Hurricane Recovery and Rebuild
- Pastor Search
- Pilgrim Church & Leaders
- Sidoney Johnston - home-bound
- Frank Ross - hospice
- Beverly Weber - hospice
- Gail Brete
- Judy Michaels - health
- Martin Heckler - spiritual health
- Tina Turner - health
- Carole Worster - health
- Betsy Field - peace & strength
- Brycen McBride - 3yr old JN student, surgery
- Allison Baldwin - health
- Arlen McKinley - health
- Derrick White - cancer
- Kato and Owners - healing and peace
- John Krueger - health
- Savina Krueger - cancer
- Pal Foster - family and friends sympathies
- Dave O'Keefe - health
- Don & Jean - health
- Gene Rice - family and friends sympathies
- Joyce Faber - health
- Carter & family - peace
- Jo & John Sweatt - health
- Christopher Fraser - peace
- Cure for Cancer
- James Fraser - health
- Josh Fraser - salvation
- Pat Wheatcroft - cancer
- Peace
- USA leaders and people
- Rev. Bill Klossner family and friends sympathies
- Marge Trayner - health
- Jody Phillips - cancer

Joyful Noise Learning Center

March is full of collaboration! Our teachers are coming together to discuss student and classroom objectives for the end of the year. They are sharing the expectations needed for students at the start of the following school year to ensure their success. This communication has really been a great way for all of the teachers to see how they connect and how we all work together (“it takes a village”).

We have entered into our final quarter of the school year and summer is fast approaching and we continue to be busy, busy, busy! We continue monitoring students’ progression and meeting learning expectations for their age groups. Student and classroom Spring pictures take place the second week of March for all our students. The third week of March is Spring Break for all Charlotte County Public Schools; we will have our full camp days for our before and after students. VPK teachers and staff are starting discussions for Easter and for the end of the year VPK graduation.

Many classrooms will be discussing rainbows, weather, and leprechauns for St. Patrick’s Day. Teachers have fun bringing to life several book leprechauns within the school for a little mischief after reading how to catch a leprechaun. These books and “mischief makers” are a great way to get all students engaged in the book after reading. Every age group (including teachers) partakes in these activities and has a lot of laughs.

Service of Ashes

Wednesday, March 5
6:30 p.m. Library



Women’s Fellowship

Book Club Dinner meeting will be on Tuesday March 11, at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Center featuring the memoir of Ina Garten and some of her recipes. Her book title is “Be Ready When the Luck Happens.”

Our regular meeting will be on Thursday, March 20, at 10:00 a.m. in the library. All women are welcome to attend. The Bible study planned is Second John and the teachings of Christ as they relate to truth and love. There will also be continued planning of a caregiver’s support group, an action plan for involvement in our Joyful Noise school, and an evaluation of the recent fund-raising activity. Homebound member Easter baskets will also be discussed. The group present will select a lunch spot for fellowship following the meeting.

Prayer Partners

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

Adult Bible Study

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

In March, we will cover the seven chapters of Micah. Micah was a country preacher and prophet who denounced the social sins of the day: unfair treatment of the poor, corruption among leaders, bribery, and dishonesty.

The teaching format is verse-by-verse with plenty of discussion. The group grows in their knowledge of the Bible book-by-book. All are welcome.

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

On the move for 2025! The January Children's sock and underwear collection was a huge success. These underclothes were given to the clothes closet at Deep Creek Elementary. Our BOGO, Buy One Give One, Souper Bowl of Caring collection on February 9 topped out at 132 cans of soup. These cans will be used in the Little Food Pantry, the Joyful Noise Teachers and in donation to the Salvation Army.



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. Pastor Ken gave the blessing at the Angels in the Attic installation on February 12. There is a special event where we need 10 volunteers.



Interior Painting
Saturday, March 8, 8:30 a.m.
21168 Chatburn Ave
Port Charlotte

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

Pilgrim Church supports:

- Back Pack Kidz
- Charlotte County Habitat For Humanity
- Children's Network of SW FL
- Homeless Coalition now Charlotte CARE Center
- Pilgrim Food Pantry
- Virginia B. Andes Clinic
- Wings Of Shelter
- Young Life

PBJ Sandwich Makers

Thursday, March 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

Prayer Shawl Ministry

1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 2:00 p.m.

Do you have a dear friend or relative who needs the comfort and strength of a prayer shawl? Please call the church and we would be happy to share one with you.

Pilgrim members and friends gather to make prayer shawls each month on the first and third Tuesdays every month at 2:00 p.m.

Inexperienced? We will teach you! Already crochet or knit, come fellowship! Visit to learn more about this ministry!

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.

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.

Pastor Search

Please continue to pray for the Pastor Search. The Pastor Search Prayer Guide is available at Worship and in the Church Office.

This committee consists of five members; with two alternates.

Cheryl Gerry, Ken Ewing,
Joan Powell, David Wilson
Alternates: Daphne Dillion, Pat Smith

Follow Us on Facebook

You automatically follow people who you're friends with. You can also follow Pages (businesses, your church, organizations) and people who aren't your friend on Facebook but allow everybody to follow them.



When you follow a profile or Page, you may see updates from that person or Page in your Feed. If you like a Page, you'll automatically follow it.

Our Facebook page:
"Pilgrim Church of Port Charlotte"

2025 Council

Moderator
Jessica Warne-Emard Term 2, Year 2
Asst Moderator Ken Rhoe Term 2, Year 2

Members-at-Large
Gerry Ahlgrim Term 2, Year 2
Tony Caniglia Term 1, Year 2
Joe Gillner Term 2, Year 2
Sandy Jones Term 1, Year 2
Connie Rice Term 2, Year 2
Kim Vought Term 1, Year 1
Nettie Wineland Term 2, Year 1
Donna Yorkston Term 1, Year 2

The next Council Meeting is Tuesday, March 25, at 6:30 p.m. in the Library.

By the Numbers

Offering Last 4 Weeks

\$ 9,295	General
\$ 739	Missions
\$ 1,710	Hurricane
\$ 1,749	Potluck and Concert

General Fund Needed Monthly

\$ 18,014

Attendance Average Last 4 Weeks

80

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.

Lent Bible Verses

Word Find

Matthew 6:16-18 - "And **when you fast**, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, **anoint** your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your **Father** who sees in secret will **reward** you.

Joel 2:12-13 - "Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me **with all your heart**, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." **Return to the Lord your God**, for He is **gracious** and **merciful**, slow to anger, and abounding in **steadfast love**; and he relents over disaster.

Isaiah 58:6-7 - Is this not the fast that I choose: to loose the **bonds** of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to **share** your **bread** with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house...

Mark 1:12-13 - At once the **Spirit sent** Him out into the wilderness, and He was in the wilderness **forty** days, being tempted by Satan. **Jesus** was with the wild animals, and **angels** attended Him.

1 Peter 5:6 - **Humble** yourselves, therefore, under the mighty **hand** of God so that at the proper time He may **exalt** you.

Colossians 2:16-17 - Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the **substance belongs to Christ**.

Daniel 9:3 - Then I turned my face to the Lord God, **seeking** Him by **prayer** and pleas for **mercy** with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.

Psalms 42:1-2 - As the deer pants for streams of water, so my **soul** pants for You, my God. My soul **thirsts for God**, for the **living God**. When can I go and **meet** with **God**?

Isaiah 58:6 - Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to **loose the chains** of injustice and **untie the cords** of the yoke, to set the oppressed **free** and break every yoke?

John 16:33 - In this world you will have trouble. But **take heart!** I have **overcome** the **world**.

As you prayerfully reflect on these verses, can YOU find the words in bold in the word search?

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

Lectionary Readings

In preparation for Worship read ahead and ponder!

Advent Year C	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
<u>First Sunday in Lent</u> Mar 9, 2025	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16	Romans 10:8b-13	Luke 4:1-13
<u>Second Sunday in Lent</u> Mar 16, 2025	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18	Psalm 27	Philippians 3:17-4:1	Luke 13:31-35 or <i>Luke 9:28-36,</i> <i>(37-43a)</i>
<u>Third Sunday in Lent</u> Mar 23, 2025	Isaiah 55:1-9	Psalm 63:1-8	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Luke 13:1-9
<u>Fourth Sunday in Lent</u> Mar 30, 2025	Joshua 5:9-12	Psalm 32	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Joy

The personification of Biblical joy can be found in the story of Job. He was stripped of every good thing he had on this earth. Job knew his experience was unfair, and did not sugarcoat his pain. His conversations were frank, yet he never forgot who God was. Job 26:7 says, “He spreads out the northern skies over empty space; he suspends the earth over nothing.”

Joy is rooted in who God is. “The Spirit of God has made me;” Job 33:4 says, “the breath of the Almighty gives me life.” Our Father’s ways are not our ways and His thoughts are not ours. We are wise to pray for our plans to align with His, not just to ask God to bless our intentions. Job held the wisdom to know God’s character.

The difference in the Biblical definition of joy is the source. Worldly stuff, achievements, even the people in our lives, are blessings that make us happy and fuel joyfulness. However, the source of all joy, is Jesus. Happiness is more of a state of mind, while joy is emotionally rooted in our faith in Christ. Jesus experienced pain, physical and emotional. “Joy is the settled assurance that God is in control of all the

details of my life, the quiet confidence that ultimately everything is going to be alright, and the determined choice to praise God in every situation.” - Pastor Rick Warren

Jesus said, “**The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.**” John 10:10

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

A Prayer to Choose Joy

Father, I pray to experience Your joy in full! Remind me and refocus my thoughts when I forget the rock-solid truth! Far beyond the fleeting feeling of happiness, Your joy sustains us, through laughter and sorrow, trial and celebration. You are with us through it all. A true friend, faithful Father, and incredible Counselor. You are my Defender, my Joy, Peace, and Truth. Thank You for Grace. Mold my heart by Your compassionate hand. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Contact Us

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

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Moderator: Jessica Warne-Emard
jawarne77@gmail.com

Maintenance Technician: Gene Burnell

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.joyfulnoiselc.org
jndirector@pilgrimonline.org

March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Every Sunday 9:00am Worship 9:00am Children's Worship 10:00am Adult Bible Study						
2 UCC Women's Week	3	4 10:00am AI Anon 2:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	5 Ash Wednesday 9:00am Work Day 10:00am Prayer Partners 6:30pm Service of Ashes	6 1:00pm Bulletin Team 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	7 World Day of Prayer 9:00am TOPS	8 8:30am Apostles Build Interior Painting 9:00am Worship Setup
9 Daylight Savings Time Begins	10 6:30pm Missions Meeting	11 Office Closed 10:00am AI Anon 6:30pm Women's Book Club	12 9:00am Property & Grounds Meeting 10:00am Prayer Partners	13 1:00pm Bulletin Team 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	14 9:00am TOPS	15 9:00am CPR Class 9:00am Worship Setup
16	17 Office Closed 6:30pm Finance Meeting	18 10:00am AI Anon 2:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	19 Newsletter Article Deadline 9:00am Work Day 10:00am Prayer Partners 1:00pm Bulletin Team	20 Office Closed 10:00am Pilgrim Women's Fellowship 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	21 9:00am TOPS	22 9:00am Worship Setup
23 8:00am Breakfast	24	25 10:00am AI Anon 6:30pm Council Meeting	26 9:00am Work Day 10:00am Prayer Partners	27 9:15am PBJ Sandwich Makers 1:00pm Bulletin Team 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	28 9:00am TOPS	29 9:00am Worship Setup
30	31					

