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Jesus' Appearances

Jesus first appeared to a woman of questionable reputation, Mary Magdalene. She came to the tomb to find it empty. Two men ask what she was looking for. She replied, "What have they done with Jesus?" The men said, "He is not here. He is risen." She turned into the garden crying. Suddenly, she encountered Jesus, though she thought He was the gardener. Through her tears she did not recognize Him until He called her by name, Mary. Then she called him Teacher. He instructed her not to embrace Him since He has not gone to God.

This first encounter is interesting that it was to a woman, since women did not have great standing. It seems to me that through the Resurrection there was a major transformation in Jesus' nature that folks did not recognize Him right away.

Later the disciples gathered in the Upper Room behind locked doors in fear for their lives because of the crucifixion. When Jesus appeared, they were stunned at first. He said, "peace be with you." Putting them at ease and they affirmed that Jesus was their Master, and believed. However, the disciple Thomas was not there. When he heard the news he said he needed to see Jesus' hands and side and touch them to believe.

Another day Jesus entered the Upper Room, and greeted the disciples. Thomas made his request to

Ewing's Doings

see Jesus' hands and side, to confirm He was the Risen Christ. Thomas believed. Jesus said, "blessed are those who have not seen and believed." The Risen Christ Jesus wants us all to believe His resurrection by faith.

Two men, apparently followers of Jesus, aware of the events that just happened in Jerusalem, were walking to Emmaus. Jesus joined them on the journey. They noted amongst themselves that He talked as one with great knowledge of scripture. As custom in those days of hospitality, they invited Him in to break bread. It was only at the breaking of bread that they recognized Jesus.

Another time He was building a fire for breakfast at the seaside of Tiberi. Seven disciples were fishing and caught nothing. Jesus called out to them "Did you catch any fish?" "No" they answered, Jesus instructed "cast your nets on the other side." They did and caught many fish, which they brought to Him to cook and recognized Him as Risen Lord.

Jesus, the Risen Lord, appears to us in many forms, being transformed by the power of the Resurrection. Most of the time He comes to us in our every day lives in the breaking of bread, in moments of doubt and fear, in the mundane of life.

Lord we believe, help our unbelief.

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

May Birthdays

- 3 Robert Emard
- 5 Gary Cooper
- 6 Vasa O'Leary
Judy Whittaker
- 7 Fred Ripley
Gerry Ahlgrim
- 9 Judy Prier
- 22 Karen Ahlgrim
- 30 Nancy Hoffman

May Anniversaries

- 2 Gary & Sharon Cooper
- 3 Gerry & Karen Ahlgrim
- 4 Mike & Joyce Faber
- 13 Ken & Vickie Rhoe

Did we miss your special date? Kindly reach out to our office at your earliest convenience. You can contact us by phone or email, and we will be happy to update our records accordingly.

Ideas to Love Your Neighbors

- **Give someone flowers** – A simple act of kindness that brings unexpected joy.
- **Teacher Appreciation Week – May 5–9** Share a thank-you note, a sweet treat, or a small gift with:
 - Joyful Noise staff
 - Small group leaders
 - Teachers in your everyday life
- **Send a card** – Just because. Brighten someone's mailbox.
- **Pray for your neighbors** – Lift them up in prayer, even if you don't know their names.
- **Mother's Day Prayer – May 11** Pray for all moms—those joyful and content, as well as, those exhausted, grieving, or in need of strength.
- **Share a laugh** – Send a funny photo or a clean joke to lighten someone's day.
- **Invite someone to lunch** – A casual meal can mean more than you know.

Pilgrim Prayer List

- Hurricane Recovery & Rebuild
- Pastor Search
- Pilgrim Church & Leaders
- Sidoney Johnston - homebound
- Beverly Weber - hospice
- John Krueger - health
- Savina Krueger - cancer
- Christopher Fraser - peace
- James Fraser - health
- Josh Fraser - salvation
- Joyce Faber - health
- Penny Purse - cancer
- Carter & family - peace
- Carol - health
- Chrissy Ross - health
- Arlen McKinley - health
- Derrick White - cancer
- Gene Burnell - health
- Susan Littrell - health
- Betty DeCicco - health
- Brent & Rachel Smith - pregnancy
- Ed Robinson
- Evan Thurber - travel mercies
- Joyce & family - travel mercies
- Pat Wheatcroft - cancer
- Peace
- Ted Robinson - health
- Tegan Jones - cancer
- Dave Wilson - health
- Ken Rhoe - health

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

Thank you for your support of Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity Apostles Build. We provided an overflowing house warming basket, with many beautiful gifts, at the closing of the Apostle Build Home. What a generous body of believers Pilgrim Church is...not all items pictured! We encourage you to lift in prayer Manny & Jennifer Meralda and Baby Sebastian as they settle into their new home.



Joyful Noise Teachers & Staff along with our local Homebound Veterans received a \$30 Wal-Mart gift card and Easter message with hopes of supporting their big Easter dinner shopping expenses.



March's collection of **Tuna was 148 cans!** April's Spam Sunday numbers are not available at time of printing. All this donated food for those in need, thank you.



The events surrounding Easter, particularly Jesus' resurrection, represent a new beginning and a promise for believers.

How will you acknowledge the gift of resurrection and express gratitude for the hope and peace it brings?

PBJ Sandwich Makers

Thursday, April 24 | 9:15 a.m.
Room 4, enter through Joyful Noise Office

Fellowship with Pilgrim friends as you prepare this comfort food that feed the hungry. We recently made 170 PBJ sandwiches for the Charlotte Care Center and the Bread of Life Mission in just 30 minutes!



You are invited to be part of this fun and meaningful way to serve others.

Little Free Food Pantry

For those in need of dry goods, and for those who wish to give. **Take what you need. Give what you can.** Together, we care for one another.

If you are donating, please remember:

- Canned or dry/non-perishable items only
- Choose items that won't be affected by rising temperatures



Let's continue to be a blessing to our neighbors through simple acts of love and generosity.

Most requested items are:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Macaroni & Cheese | Canned Pastas |
| Soup | Canned Fruit |
| Dry Rice | Dry Beans |
| Canned Veggies | Tuna/Canned Meat |
| Instant Potatoes | Toiletries |

Adult Bible Study

Sundays | 10:00 a.m.
Pilgrim Church Library

Join this group for one hour on Sunday mornings following the worship service.

This class will meet May 11, 18, and 25. There is NO CLASS on May 4.

This class moves at its own pace as we move through the Books of Old Testament prophets. This month will include the 3 chapters of Zephaniah who was an aristocrat prophet. His prophecy revealed that a faithful remnant would be delivered from captivity, that Gentiles would be converted, and that one day, people could worship God anywhere – not just in Jerusalem! Thus here we are, Pilgrims!

The Book of Haggai follows and describes conditions after return from the exile in Babylon. His primary message is to “rebuild the temple.”

Women’s Fellowship

Our monthly meeting will be on May 15 at 10:00 a.m. in the Church Library. Our Bible study will be the summary of John’s letters. We will also discuss summer plans for the group.

We will venture South this month with lunch at the Riviera Grill on Deltona Blvd, in Punta Gorda and then a visit and shopping at the Funkie Junkie Consignment and Market Place on McKenzie St.

This small group is a wonderful environment to make new friends, serve the church in special projects, and explore our community.

Book Club is May 1, at Luigi’s Restaurant at 6:00 p.m. The featured book is “Take Me With You” by Catherine Ryan Hyde.

Care Group

Tuesdays | 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM
Conference Room

Looking for a place to talk, connect, and be encouraged?

Join us for **Care Group**, a safe and welcoming space to openly share your current and ongoing concerns. Whether you’re feeling overwhelmed, frustrated, or just need someone to listen, you’re not alone. Sometimes simply speaking your heart in a nonjudgmental group can be deeply healing.

All are welcome. Bring a friend or share with a neighbor—this group is open to everyone.

Led by a compassionate team, each session will include group discussion, opportunities to share helpful resources, and time for prayer and fellowship. Together, we’ll support one another through life’s challenges with hope and care.

Let’s walk this journey together.

CPR – Save A Life!

Saturdays, May 3 & 17 | 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Hosted at Pilgrim Church Library

Free for Pilgrim Church members when space is available! Don’t miss this opportunity to learn lifesaving skills that could make all the difference in a moment of crisis.

More info and registration: CPRsaveALifeFL.com

But it’s **not just for professionals** — this course is perfect for **anyone** who wants to be prepared to recognize medical emergencies and respond confidently.

You could help save a life. *Learn the signs. Know what to do.*

Joyful Noise Learning Center

The month of May brings Joyful Noise to the end of our calendar school year, along with most schools across Charlotte County. We will still provide care for those students staying in our center throughout the summer, along with our school age summer camp program.

Teachers attended several trainings presented by the Early Learning Coalition during the month. These trainings were offered as part of our yearly continuing education requirements - with no out of pocket cost to the teachers or the center. We learned about effective behavior strategies, classroom management strategies, play-based learning techniques in math and early literacy, how to streamline schedules and routines, and to create lesson plans that reflect the needs of students and fulfill the new state standards. These classes are designed to bring teachers together and share ideas and techniques while learning from one another. It was a lot of fun!

Our **playgrounds** need some TLC and a facelift. Several playgrounds have been closed since Hurricane Ian and need some work in order to reopen to students once again. Wood fencing needs replacing in one area due to a safety concern, equipment needs replacing due to age, and dirt

needs to be brought in to fill holes caused from erosion over time.

The Property and Grounds Committee started this project already. Council approved their request to replace the wood fence with a more economical material (chain link). They have purchased the materials and will install. They are pricing out play equipment, shade, and dirt for the holes. They continue the discussion on what can be done for the continued erosion and tree root exposure.

If you would like to help with our playground, please contact our Property and Grounds Committee. If you would like to donate towards new equipment, please note on your envelope "JN Playgrounds".

We will have a week of fun and appreciation from May 5-9th for our teachers during "**Teacher Appreciation Week**". This time of year is filled with such love and joy as students and their families bring teachers small tokens of appreciation throughout the week. Each day, teachers will have their own "spirit fun week" where they get to dress up for fun/silly themes and enjoy a special themed treat every day. If you are unsure, you can always call and ask what we may need throughout the year.

Al-Anon

Complete for the season, will resume November

- Other close meetings for the support of Al-Anon.
- Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. at New Day Christian Church, Peachland Blvd, Port Charlotte
 - Mondays, 7:00 p.m. Congregations Church of Christ, Aqui Esta, Room 9, Punta Gorda

Prayer Partners

Wednesdays | 10:00 a.m.

Join us in prayer — wherever you are! To join, simply call Jacque at 941-258-2597.

Let's stay connected in faith and lift one another up in prayer, even from a distance. All are welcome



Council Highlights

Hope is happening here! Pilgrims are working together to keep our church moving forward. Each one of us has a gift to share and we need you to share them with the congregation. Come volunteer your time in a committee, setting up or cleaning up, or sharing your thoughts and ideas at Finance (every third Monday of the month). Together WE make the church; together WE make hope happen here at Pilgrim.

Fundraiser ideas were discussed for the future to help with the Sanctuary rebuild. Volunteers are needed to make fundraisers a success.

The final insurance claim check from Hurricane Ian was received from the insurance company for Joyful Noise and the Community Center. The funds granted will be used to finish these buildings, making them **100% complete and ready for our hurricane season**.

Our lawyer has contacted the Bankruptcy Court seeking more information from them on the proceedings of our original contractor in their filing of bankruptcy. The information gained will determine our next steps moving forward with that case.

The case with our current contractor will move to mediation to determine whether we file a lawsuit or settle outside of the courtroom. The lawyer will sit down with a small group of us and the contractor and his legal representative to discuss the issues, concerns, and remedies. I will continue to share information as it becomes available.

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 5-9. God calls teachers to use their gifts to serve – whether it's in a classroom with small children or bible study with adults. Please help show your appreciation for our Joyful Noise and Pilgrim Church teachers this week. **Thank you to ALL teachers** – this is a job of love, patience, and many long hours.

Recycle Ink Cartridges – Support Pilgrim Church!

Pilgrim Church can recycle **up to 20 used ink or toner cartridges each month** through Staples and receive **\$2 in recycling rewards per cartridge**. These rewards help offset our office supply costs.

Do you have used cartridges at home or work? Bring them in! We collect them and make a monthly delivery to Staples.

Thank you for supporting our efforts to save money and care for the environment!

Altar Flowers

Sponsor Altar Flowers for an Upcoming Service! Sponsoring altar flowers is a beautiful way to:

- Remember someone special
- Celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or milestone
- Give thanks or mark a meaningful moment

To reserve your date, simply mark it on the registration slip or contact the church office. Secure your special date today. Each arrangement is \$30.

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 one remaining alternate:

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

2025 Council

Property & Grounds

Wednesdays | 9:00 a.m. –Noon

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, May 27, at 6:30 p.m. in the Library.

In April, our Property Group was hard at work making the church more welcoming in preparation for Easter. Despite a reduced crew due to medical issues and travel, their dedication hasn't wavered.

- Cleaned the green algae from the north side of the school building
- Started cleaning the siding on the office building and Sanctuary
- Repaired and extended the drain spouts on three of the rain gutters on the school building. Also filled in the washout areas
- Cleaned the play-set tires (algae)
- We helped gathering three bids for new hurricane windows for the school building and community center
- Replaced ballast in woman's bathroom
- Removed tree roots that were trip hazards in a playground and filled in holes that were also trip hazards
- Met with contractor providing bid to finish church sanctuary

Follow Us on Facebook



Stay connected with us throughout the week by following our Facebook page: **Pilgrim Church of Port Charlotte**

When you follow a profile or Page on Facebook, you may see their updates in your Feed. You automatically follow people you're friends with, but you can also follow Pages — like businesses, churches, or organizations — even if you're not friends with them.

Already liked our Page? Great! That means you're already following us.

Use this simple tool to help spread our message — like and share our posts with your friends and neighbors!

Be sure to turn on notifications so you never miss an update, event, or uplifting message from our community.

We could really use an extra set of hands! If you're available, consider joining us for our Wednesday Workdays at 9:00 a.m. We typically wrap up by noon. Whether you're handy or just willing to help, there's a place for you. Come be part of the team that keeps our church beautiful and welcoming for all! Upcoming projects include:

- Replace weather strip on a door
- Replace fence in school playground
- Clean green algae from north side of church
- Rake leaves and twigs in playground behind Goodell room
- Weed removal in islands and landscaping



Word Search



Thursday, May 1, 2025

2025 National Prayer

God of hope, fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

You have caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead; therefore, we hope in what we do not see.

This world is not our home or reality, but the Lord is our Rock, our Truth, our Certainty.

God of hope, we pour out our praise and are filled with Your powerful presence.

We pour out repentance of sin and are filled with forgiveness and righteousness.

We pour out pain from the attacks of the enemy—anxiousness, fear, anger—and You fill us with courage, assurance, and love.

We pour out our needs, the desires of our hearts, and are filled with Your Kingdom provision and purpose.

We pour out our hearts for our nation, for the people and places, relationships and responsibilities the Lord has established: the Church, Family, Education, Business, Military, Arts, Entertainment, Media, and Government. May all who live, serve, and steward in these be filled with Your purpose, wisdom, strength, and truth.

Let Your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us, as we have hoped in You.

In abounding hope, anchored by our hope in the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen!

R	J	F	A	M	I	L	Y	T	T
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- ANCHORED
- ARTS
- ASSURANCE
- BUSINESS
- CERTAINTY
- CHURCH
- COURAGE
- DESIRES
- EASTER
- EDUCATION
- ENTERTAINMENT
- FAITH
- FAMILY
- FORGIVENESS
- GOVERNMENT
- HOPE
- JESUS
- JOY
- KIND
- KINGDOM
- LIVE
- LIVING
- LOVE
- MEDIA
- MILITARY
- NATION
- NEIGHBOR
- PEACE
- PEOPLE
- PILGRIM
- PLACES
- POWERFUL
- PRAISE
- PRESENCE
- PROVISION
- PURPOSE
- RELATIONSHIPS
- RESURRECTION
- RIGHTEOUSNESS
- ROCK
- SERVE
- STEWARD
- TRUTH

Lectionary Readings

In preparation for Worship read ahead and ponder!

	<i>1st Reading</i>	<i>Psalm</i>	<i>2nd Reading</i>	<i>Gospel</i>
Third Sunday of Easter May 04, 2025	Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)	Psalm 30	Revelation 5:11-14	John 21:1-19
Fourth Sunday of Easter May 11, 2025	Acts 9:36-43	Psalm 23	Revelation 7:9-17	John 10:22-30
Fifth Sunday of Easter May 18, 2025	Acts 11:1-18	Psalm 148	Revelation 21:1-6	John 13:31-35
Sixth Sunday of Easter May 25, 2025	Acts 16:9-15	Psalm 67	Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5	John 14:23-29 or <i>John 5:1-9</i>

How to Pray for America

As we Pray for America, whose pledge of allegiance recounts that we are “one nation under God,” and whose currency states that it is “in God we trust,” we want Americans to encounter the God who rules over their country. “He who forms the mountains, creates the wind, and reveals His thoughts to man, He who turns dawn to darkness, and treads the high places of the earth— the LORD God Almighty is His name.”—Amos 4:13 NIV

CHURCH: Pray for unity among believers in the Body of Christ. Pray for His Word to spread.

GOVERNMENT: Pray for leaders, as well as the judges in our courts. Ask God to grant them wisdom and hearts that are open to His leading.

EDUCATION: Pray for God’s presence in our schools, colleges, and universities. May He be the foundation of the present and the future.

MEDIA: Ask God to honor actors and artists who stand for Christ in film, tv, news and social media communications. Pray for clean, uplifting productions and honest reports.

FAMILY: Ask God to strengthen marriages, encourage parents toward His priorities, heal relationships, and secure traditional values in the home.

BUSINESS: Pray for divine intervention in our nation’s economy. Ask God to reward honest work and provide for His people.

MILITARY: Pray for the brave men and women serving in our armed forces. Ask God to grant courage, protection and strength for them and their families. Pray for local, national, world peace.



Contact Us

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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.joyfulnoiseic.org
indirector@pilgrimonline.org

May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Every Sunday 9:00am Worship Service 9:00am Children's Worship				1 National Day of Prayer 1:00pm Bulletin Team 6:00pm Pilgrim Women's Book Club 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	2 9:00am TOPS	3 9:00am Worship Set Up 9:00am CPR Class
4	5	6 12:00pm Care Group 2:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	7 9:00am Church Work Day 10:00am Prayer Partners	8 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	9 9:00am TOPS	10 9:00am Worship Set Up
11 Mother's Day 10:00am Adult Bible Study	12 6:30pm Missions Meeting	13 12:00pm Care Group	14 9:00am Church Work Day 10:00am Property & Grounds Meeting 10:00am Prayer Partners	15 10:00am Pilgrim Women's Fellowship 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	16 9:00am TOPS	17 9:00am Worship Set Up 9:00am CPR Class
18 10:00am Adult Bible Study	19 6:30pm Finance Committee Meeting	20 12:00pm Care Group 2:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	21 Newsletter Article Deadline 9:00am Church Work Day 10:00am Prayer Partners	22 9:15am PBJ Sandwich Makers 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	23 VPK Graduation 9:00am TOPS 12:00pm Joyful Noise Learning Center Closed	24 9:00am Worship Set Up
25 8:00am Fellowship Breakfast 10:00am Adult Bible Study	26 Memorial Day Office Closed Joyful Noise Closed	27 12:00pm Care Group 6:30pm Council Meeting	28 9:00am Church Work Day 10:00am Prayer Partners	29 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	30 Joyful Noise Learning Center Closed 9:00am TOPS	31 9:00am Worship Set Up