



# Pilgrim Church



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

March 2026

24515 Rampart Boulevard

Port Charlotte, FL 33980

941-629-2633

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## Ewing's Doings

*"...faith, hope and love abide, these three; and the greatest is love."*  
1 Corinthians 13:13

The Ides of March, a day in the ancient Roman calendar, falls on March 15, and has long been associated with misfortune and doom. It marked the death of Emperor Julius Caesar and was further immortalized in Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare. He wrote, "Beware the Ides of March," as a warning of impending doom. This may serve as a warning for us even today.

We are in the middle of the Lenten season, in which we face the coming sacrifice of Jesus the Christ on the cross. As we proceed through this season, we encounter tribulations, trials, and discord. We live in a time marked by violence, distrust, hatred, great self-centeredness, and self-righteousness. At times, it may seem we have lost our moral compass.

It was in such a time, over two thousand years ago, that God came into this world humbly in human form. As Jesus Christ, He experienced what it was like to be human and to suffer as we suffer. It is comforting to know that He understands our situation and can be a source of comfort and healing. Jesus came to show us the way to live before God and with one another. He did not come to take away our suffering; rather, He came to guide us through difficult times and died to save us from our separation from God.

It is the agape love of God that is stronger than the hate and suffering encountered in this world. The apostle Paul affirms in his letter to the Corinthians that "faith, hope, and love abide, these three, and the greatest of these is love." Amen.

Office Hours:

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

*Associate Pastor:*

Rev. Ken Ewing

*Bridge Pastor:*

Rev. Merci Hotckin

*Moderator:*

Jessica Warne-Emard  
[jawarne77@gmail.com](mailto:jawarne77@gmail.com)

*Maintenance Technician:*

Gene Burnell

*Office Administrator:*

Cat Foster  
[office@pilgrimonline.org](mailto:office@pilgrimonline.org)

*Pianist:* Shirley Donohue

*Children's Ministry Director:*

Jessica Warne-Emard

*Bell Choir Director:*

Russ Whittaker

Joyful Noise Learning Center

941-629-4821

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

## Prayer List

- Hurricane Recovery & Rebuild
- Caregivers - peace & strength
- Pastor Search
- Pilgrim Church & Leaders
- Beverly Weber - hospice
- Savina Krueger - cancer
- John Krueger - health
- Joyce Faber - health
- Judy Michaels - health
- Carole Worster - peace
- Kathy Phillips - hospice
- Bill Epps - health
- Darla Johnson - hospice
- Sheryl Staples - rehab
- Mike Faber - health
- Pat Wheatcroft - cancer
- Doug Terry - cancer
- Jake Mauer - cancer
- Laine Nipper - health
- Peace

## Celebrating Pilgrims

### 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

### Anniversary

27 Carrol & Cheryl Eastman

Did we miss your special date? Please contact the church office—by phone or email—so we can update our records. We'll be glad to make sure your special day is included!

## Learn and Grow

As spring unfolds and Easter draws near, we begin to notice signs of new life around us — tender leaves, grass turning green, and the delicate blossoms of the dogwood tree.



Tradition has connected the dogwood with the story of Christ's crucifixion, offering a visual reminder of both sacrifice and hope. Look closely at a dogwood bloom. Its four petals form the shape of a cross. Each bears a mark at the edge, recalling the wounds of Christ, and at the center rests a crown-like cluster — a reminder of the thorns He bore for us.

Scripture calls us to remember the sacrifice:

“But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the punishment that made us whole.” — Isaiah 53:5

During this season of preparation, the dogwood invites us to pause — to remember the cost of grace and to reflect on the depth of Christ's love:

“God proves His love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.” — Romans 5:8

Yet the dogwood blooms not in sorrow alone. It blossoms in spring, reminding us that the cross is never the end of the story. Resurrection follows. Hope rises. Life is restored:

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By His great mercy He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” — 1 Peter 1:3

As you journey toward Easter, may the dogwood's beauty call you to reflection, repentance, and renewed faith — preparing your heart to rejoice in the victory of Christ.

Daily Prayer: Lord, as the dogwood blooms, help me remember Your sacrifice and Your victory. Shape my hearts in humility, renew my spirit in hope, and prepare us all to receive the joy of resurrection. May we carry both the cross and the promise of new life within us. Amen.

## Pilgrim Women's Fellowship

The March meeting will be held on March 19, at 10:00 a.m. in the Church Library. There will be devotion, prayer, and review of the church calendar for Holy Week activities. The group will continue in their video study by Bruce Wilkerson with the lesson: Places of the Old Testament. The group will then adjourn for lunch at a nearby restaurant.

All women of the church are encouraged and welcomed to attend. We are saving you a seat! Bring a friend!

As a community outreach and support, women of the group are also attending the Zonta Yellow Rose luncheon to raise scholarship funds for women and girls. That event is on March 11, any interested in attending should contact Judi Wilson or Pat Smith.

## Adult Bible Study

This small group continues to read and discuss the gospel of Luke. This study is closely examining the ministry of Jesus in the same fashion as our Sunday sermons are studying the expansion of the early church.

The class immediately follows the Sunday morning worship service with a 11:00 a.m. ending time.

Each lesson stands alone and visitors are welcomed to see if this is a good learning opportunity for them.

## Sanctuary Rebuild

Thank you for your continued prayers as we move forward in hurricane recovery.

Please watch for notifications about upcoming workdays — there is something for everyone to do! If you're unable to attend a scheduled workday but would still like to give of your time, please contact Cat in the church office to learn what help is needed next and to ensure no contractors or conflict in work will be happening when you are available.

We're grateful for the progress being made: beyond what Property & Grounds have accomplished, the sprinkler installation should be completed soon, and carpet installation is scheduled for March!

## Property & Grounds

The property and grounds group is dedicated to providing a safe and welcoming environment for our church and school campus staff and visitors. We also provide maintenance and repairs to the church and school property's as needed.

The following is a summary of our accomplishments for the past month:

### Church

- Repaired damage to steps in sanctuary caused by contractors
- Refinished the steps with a polyurethane floor finish
- Installed drinking fountain in church entrance
- Removed broken toilet flanges damaged during demolition and installed new ones
- Installed new water shut offs for toilets and sinks in women's and men's bathrooms
- Installed all the toilets and a urinal in the church bathrooms
- Bolted Safe in Finance Office to Cabinet
- Caulked crack in Narthex
- Moved pews so they could be cleaned
- Repaired holes in church sanctuary drywall where the old light control panels were removed
- Began work on main door

### School/Community Center

- Modified the sink drains in the school kitchen to meet new state regulations
- Repaired a leaky faucet in the school kitchen
- Installed new door stops on kitchen doors
- Repaired sink support leg in room 3 school bathroom
- Made a sled to make it easier to move the Christmas items up and down the stairway to the upstairs storage area

## Young Life Gala

Monday, March 9, doors open 6:00 p.m.  
Port Charlotte Global Methodist Church

We have a table of eight that we want to fill. If you would like to come out this night and celebrate how the program has changed lives this year see Pastor Ken to reserve your seat!

# March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10:00am Al-Anon 12:00pm Care Group 2:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 12:00pm Bulletin Team 7:00pm NA	<b>6</b> 9:00am TOPS	<b>7</b> 9:00am Worship Set Up
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 6:30pm Missions Meeting	<b>10</b> 10:00am Al-Anon 12:00pm Care Group	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 12:00pm Bulletin Team 7:00pm NA	<b>13</b> 9:00am TOPS	<b>14</b> 9:00am Worship Set Up
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Ministry Reports due for Council Meeting	<b>17</b> <span style="color: green;">St Patrick's Day</span> 10:00am Al-Anon 12:00pm Care Group 2:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30pm Finance Committee Meeting	<b>18</b> Newsletter Article Deadline	<b>19</b> 10:00am Pilgrim Women's Fellowship 9:30am Bulletin Team 7:00pm NA	<b>20</b> 9:00am TOPS	<b>21</b> 9:00am Worship Set Up
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10:00am Al-Anon 12:00pm Care Group 6:30pm Council Meeting	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9:15am PBJ Sandwich Makers 12:00pm Bulletin Team 7:00pm NA	<b>27</b> 9:00am TOPS	<b>28</b> 9:00am Worship Set Up
<b>29</b> <span style="color: purple;">Palm / Passion Sunday</span> 8:00am Fellowship Breakfast	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 10:00am Al-Anon 12:00pm Care Group	<p><b>Every Sunday</b></p> <p>8:00am Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>9:00am Children's Worship</p> <p>9:00am Worship</p> <p>10:15am Adult Bible Study</p>			

