



Pilgrim Church



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

August 2026

Righteousness

Amos 5:24

Jesus affirms the Great Commandment found in Deuteronomy: we are to love God with our whole being. Then He adds a second commandment: "Love your neighbor as yourself." The love Jesus refers to is agape love—a self-sacrificing love that puts the needs of others before our own.

The question then becomes: How do we love God and our neighbor? What is the practical way we can live out these two great commandments?

The prophet Amos offers an answer in chapter 5, verse 24, when he declares: "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream."

Amos prophesied in Israel around 753 B.C. He proclaimed God's message in response to the transgressions of the surrounding nations, and especially the transgressions of Israel. It was a time when the rich were getting richer and the poor were becoming poorer. The people had also turned to the worship of other gods. Amos boldly spoke against both injustice and idolatry.

Through Amos, God called His people back to Himself. He made it clear that the way back to God, and the way they were to relate to one another, was through justice and righteousness. In practical terms, caring for our neighbor means treating every person with dignity, respect, fairness, and compassion. Righteousness also calls us to live in humble obedience to God, allowing our relationship with Him to shape our relationships with others.

From God's message through Amos, we learn how to love both God and our neighbor.

Amos' call to God's people is just as relevant today as it was in his own time. In light of the challenges and divisions we see in our world, we need to hear God's call once again: Let justice flow like a mighty river, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. May justice and right relationships be at the very heart of our lives before God and with our neighbors.

Amen.

Ewing's Doings

24515 Rampart Boulevard
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Office Hours:
Mon - Thurs 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Associate Pastor:
Rev. Ken Ewing

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Accompanist:
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Joyful Noise Learning Center
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jndirector@pilgrimonline.org

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

August Birthdays

- 1 Dee Ripley
- 4 Jessica Warne-Emard
- 7 Barbara Bluschke
- 7 Madeline Warne-Emard
- 9 Wanda Burns
- 10 Izzy Warne-Emard
- 20 Nettie Wineland
- 22 Pat Jones

August Anniversaries

- 17 Joe & Cherry Gillner
- 17 Tom & Sandy Jones
- 22 Kevin & Nancy Beaver

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.

Lectionary Readings

The readings help remind us that both the Old and New Testaments are telling one single, coherent story: God is rescuing humanity from sin and death.

August 2, 2026

Genesis 32:22-31 Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21

August 9, 2026

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 Psalm 85:8-13
Romans 10:5-15 Matthew 14:22-33

August 16, 2026

Genesis 45:1-15 Psalm 133
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15:10-28

August 23, 2026

Exodus 1:8-2:10 Psalm 124
Romans 12:1-8 Matthew 16:13-20

August 30, 2026

Exodus 3:1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 16:21-28

Ideas to Love Your Neighbors

- National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day, August 4, make and share this treat!
- Thank a teacher.
- Share a Bible Verse on social media.

Pilgrim Prayer List

May we faithfully lift one another before the Lord in prayer, trusting in His grace, mercy, and perfect will.

- Hurricane Recovery & Rebuild
- Caregivers - peace & strength
- Pastor Search
- Pilgrim Church & Leaders
- Beverly Weber - hospice
- Savina Krueger - cancer
- John Krueger - health
- Marge Trayner - dementia
- Joyce Faber - health
- Dawn Miller - health
- Sandee Ewing family and friends - sympathies
- Jim McLaughlin - heart
- Kyle Lyonaisse - health
- Jennifer Budd - cancer
- Lori McKinley - health
- Betty Dicico - health
- David Arango - cancer
- Pat Wheatcroft - cancer
- Judy Michaels - health
- James Fraser - health
- Christopher Fraser - peace
- Dan Gerry - recovery
- Josh Fraser - salvation
- Laurie Farrell - health
- Danny Wineland - health

Preaching Schedule August 2026

- 2 - Pastor Syl Estevez
- 9 - Rev. Lee Collins
- 16 - Rev. Lee Collins
- 23 - Rev. Lee Collins

Pilgrim Picnic - Report

A heartfelt thank you to all 73 Pilgrims and friends who joined us for our Fourth of July Picnic as we commemorated our nation's 250th birthday!



We are especially grateful to all of our wonderful volunteers who made the day such a success, including Noah, Linda B.'s grandson; Diane, Vicki's daughter; "Big Dave"; Ken R. (he's a beast!); and all the ladies who stayed afterward to fold tables and help with cleanup.

A special thank you to Pastor Ken for offering the opening prayer and leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance. During his remarks, he reminded us that when people gather to break bread together, so much more happens than simply sharing a meal. Fellowship, friendship, encouragement, and community are strengthened around the table.

There was plenty of delicious food for everyone, with enough left over for many to take a meal home. As always, your singing was outstanding! We truly felt the camaraderie, joy, and unity that gatherings like this create.

It was truly our pleasure and honor to serve our Pilgrim Church family in this way. We were deeply moved by your participation, laughter, and fellowship, and we thank each of you for making the day so memorable.

With gratitude, **The Care Group**
Pat, Linda, Vicki, Wanda, Jacque, and Bud

P.S. Mark your calendars and watch for our next event on **October 10!**

Property & Grounds

The property and grounds team is dedicated to providing a safe and welcoming environment for our church and school campus staff and visitors.

This is a summary of our accomplishments for the past month:

Church

- Used red tape to mark off food pantry floor area (access to fire sprinkler system THAT CANNOT BE BLOCKED) as per fire code requirements
- Installed the counter top in the audio control booth in the back of church
- Removed remaining tiles in church entrance
- Made a face plate for under the audio booth top
- Sanded and applied urethane coating to the top and face plate
- Installed the handicap grab bars in both the men's and women's bathrooms
- Made and installed door trim boards for the church coffee room and kitchenette
- Adjusted the sliding door dividers between the coffee area and sanctuary that were sticking and not sliding properly, they now work much better

Joyful Noise

- Installed a lock clip to the fire protection circuit breaker in the school electrical panel
- Repaired gate in Goodell room playground
- Repaired outside door to the Goodell room
- We also maintain the plantings by the Joyful Noise entrance sign

From the Mailbox

Dear Pilgrim Church Prayer Shawl Family,
Thank you for the most beautiful shawl! I started using it right away. Black is my favorite color!
Forever grateful, Love, Charles

Adult Bible Study

Sundays | 10:15 a.m. | Conference Room

Adult Bible Study will resume in Luke 23 on August 16th. Come together for faith, fellowship, and open discussions as we explore the Word of the Lord. Whether you're a long-time believer or just curious about the Bible, you are warmly welcome to attend.

Pilgrim Women

Thursday, August 27 | 10:00 a.m. | Library

Whether you are looking to grow deeper in your faith, connect with other women in our church, or simply enjoy some great conversation, we would love for you to be a part of this community. We will be sharing coffee, opening up the Word, and taking time to support and pray for one another. The first meeting of the 2026-2027 session is on August 27, (note the date change from previously published) at 10:00 a.m. in the Library. At this meeting we will also plan our Women's Sunday.



July 19 Special Music "The Only Name"



Shoes for Kids (16 pair received by 7/22)

Missions

The Little Free Food Pantry is very busy. Food is provided daily from our closet to the pantry.

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.

Suggested items are:

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

PBJ Mission: A group of Pilgrims meet on the fourth Thursday of each month to make 160 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches! Sandwiches are delivered to our partner the Charlotte Care Center and the Jesus Loves You Ministry in Punta Gorda.

July's Mission Moment: C.A.R.E. The Center for Abuse & Rape Emergencies, Inc. [C.A.R.E.] works to create safety in our community by helping survivors and by promoting non-violent healthy relationships by education and example. C.A.R.E. provide hope, help, & healing to survivors in Charlotte County. The 24-hour Crisis Hotline: (941) 627-6000. Go to their website <https://carefl.org/> for additional information.

August's Mission Moment: Gideons International. Their single mission is to win others for the Lord Jesus Christ by strengthening one another, sharing the Gospel message, and distributing copies of God's Word in hotels, hospitals, shelters, and other places where people often seek hope. Be sure to join us August 16 for their presentation on how Pilgrims can support sharing God's word.

Watch for the report on the Shoes for Kids Sneaker Collection. Printing of this newsletter will be before the collection is over. The July Sneakers project will be collected by the Kiwanis on July 28.

The Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14–30) challenges how we use what we have. In the lesson from Jesus, a master gives three servants wealth based on their abilities. Two servants invest their portions and double them. The third servant is terrified of failing, so he buries his talent in the dirt. When the master returns, he praises the investors but rebukes the fearful servant. The master does not demand perfection, but he does demand active stewardship over passive safety.

The Core Reflection

Fear forces us to bury our potential. We often hide our time, skills, or resources because we worry we are not good enough.

True faith requires taking risks with the gifts we have been given. God does not want you to play it safe out of fear. He wants you to step out in courage to serve others.

Many people assume "talents" only mean extraordinary abilities. In God's kingdom, ordinary gifts faithfully used become extraordinary blessings.

Talents of the Heart

- Being patient with difficult people.
- Forgiving someone who has wronged you.
- Welcoming newcomers and helping them feel included.

Talents of Service

- Cooking meals for someone recovering from illness.
- Driving someone to appointments.
- Visiting those who are lonely.

Talents of Encouragement

- Writing thoughtful cards.
- Making phone calls to check on someone.
- Celebrating another person's success.

Talents of Leadership

- Organizing a ministry.
- Teaching a Bible study.
- Leading a committee.

Talents of Creativity

- Playing an instrument.
- Singing in worship.
- Decorating church for special seasons.

Talents of Wisdom

- Sharing life experience.
- Offering sound advice.
- Teaching practical skills.

Talents of Presence

Sometimes your greatest talent is simply:

- showing up,
- sitting beside someone in grief,
- praying faithfully,
- Smiling... making others feel seen and loved.

These quiet gifts often have an impact far beyond what we realize.

Action to Take

Identify one specific talent you are currently burying because of fear, insecurity, or hesitation. Then, take one concrete step today to put that gift into action:

- **Talent of the Heart:** Reach out to someone who is lonely, grieving, or struggling. Send a note of encouragement, make a phone call, or spend time listening with compassion.
- **Talent of Leadership:** Volunteer to organize a church project, lead a committee meeting, mentor someone who is new to the faith, or step forward to coordinate a ministry where help is needed.
- **Talent of Wisdom:** Share your life experience with someone seeking guidance. Encourage a younger person, offer thoughtful advice to a friend facing a difficult decision, or teach a skill that God has helped you develop over the years.

These simple acts may seem small, but when offered in faith, they become powerful ways of investing the gifts God has entrusted to you.

Heavenly Father, You are the giver of every good and perfect gift. You have created me with unique abilities, opportunities, and experiences that can be used for the good of others, for Your glory.

Lord, I confess that there are times when fear has held me back. I have worried about making mistakes, being rejected, or not measuring up. Too often I have buried the gifts You entrusted to me instead of using them faithfully. Forgive me for allowing fear to become stronger than my trust in You.

Give me courage to take the next step, even when I cannot see the outcome. Remind me that You do not ask for perfection - You ask for obedience. When I stumble, help me to continue serving with confidence that Your grace is sufficient. Show me opportunities to become a faithful steward of my time, my abilities, my resources, and my compassion. May I hear Your words one day: "Well done, good and faithful servant." (Matthew 25:21)

*In the name of Jesus Christ, who faithfully fulfilled the Father's will,
Amen.*



August 2026

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Every Sunday 9:00am Worship 9:00am Children's Worship						1
2	3	4 12:00pm Care Group	5	6 12:00pm Bulletin Team 7:00pm NA	7 9:00am TOPS 9:30am Celebration of Life: Sandee Ewing	8
9 1:00pm Joyful Noise Open House	10 1st Day of School 6:30pm Missions Mtg	11 12:00pm Care Group	12	13 12:00pm Bulletin Team 7:00pm NA	14 9:00am TOPS	15
16 10:15am Adult Bible Study	17 Ministry Reports due for Council Mtg	18 12:00pm Care Group 6:30pm Finance Mtg	19 Newsletter Article Deadline	20 12:00pm Bulletin Team 7:00pm NA	21 9:00am TOPS	22
23 10:15am Adult Bible Study	24	25 12:00pm Care Group 6:30pm Council Mtg	26	27 9:15am PBJ Sandwich Makers 10:00am Pilgrim Women 12:00pm Bulletin Team 7:00pm NA	28 9:00am TOPS	29 DCCA Bingo
30	31					