
WORSHIP SERVICE

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC Classical Music

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Lenten Meditation* Louise E. Stairs

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

INTROIT *Our Song Shall Rise to Thee* Joseph M. Martin
Chancel Choir

***HYMN #682** *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - The Apostles' Creed (Unison)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

SPECIAL MUSIC *Be Thou My Vision* Slane / arr. Joel Raney
Rachel Cox, Violin; Denny Ausman, Piano

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER (*debt/debtors*)

OFFERTORY *Let The Savior In* E. O. Excell

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We honor You, O gracious God. Accept these gifts, we pray, as a sign of our obedience to You, our love for You and our desire to take Your reign into the world. Transform them into Your blessing for others. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

***HYMN #553** *Nearer, My God, to Thee*

SCRIPTURE Acts 11:19-30

MESSAGE *Christian* Pastor Barksdale Pullen

***HYMN #672** *What a Mighty God We Serve*

*BENEDICTION

***RESPONSE** *Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing* Sicilian Mariners
Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE *With Pomp and Ceremony* John E. Boalt

*Please stand, if able

Hearing assist devices are available at the tech booth

CCLI #1140231 CVLI #505465757

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Prayer Focus

- Pray for those who serve in the military and their families.
- Pray for First Responders and Healthcare Workers. Pray for our church as we seek to be a flourishing church that makes disciples of Jesus Christ.
- Pray for Lisa Alfonsi, Eric Stone family, and Chasen and Katie Brokaw, missionaries we support in Peru, Guatemala, and Nicaragua.
- Pray for Crossroads, the mission for foster boys in Punta Gorda.
- Pray for Jesus Loves You Ministry for the homeless in Charlotte County.
- Pray for Misión Peniel, the mission that we support in Immokalee.
- Pray for persecuted Christians throughout the world.

Those with Special Needs

Rachel Pfaender Phyllis Ehrhardt Rick Berner
Lynn Lang Ron Sixt Dave Sifferd

Those who are in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes

Marion Brown - *Life Care, Punta Gorda*

NOTES

FLOWERS – The flowers are given today by Barbara Reynolds in loving memory of her father, George Fallor.

CELL PHONES – Please remember to silence or turn off your mobile devices.

MARCH NEWSLETTER – Available in the church foyer and on our website.

CHURCH DIRECTORIES – Available in the church office.

FLOWERS – May be sponsored for **\$37.50**. To make a donation, sign up in the church foyer, listing the flowers in honor and/or in memory of something or someone.

BULLETIN BOARD – Check out notes and messages of interest on the Bulletin Board in the church foyer.

PRAYER EMAIL LIST – If you would like to be on Pastor Barksdale's prayer email list, email Pastor Barksdale at bmpullen3@fpcpunta.org.

OUR DAILY BREAD – This booklet of daily devotionals is on the table in the back of the Sanctuary.

STREAMING MINISTRY – Live stream our services on our website homepage (fpcpunta.org) by clicking the logo **YouTube**.

FELLOWSHIP TIME – Following the Worship Service, join us in Fellowship Hall for a time of fellowship and refreshments. You may bring cookies / treats to share!

Comparative Financial Operations / Performance

	February 2024	Year-to-Date
Tithes & Offerings	\$24,914.42	\$49,460.58
Cash Expenditures	\$23,088.12	\$48,358.80
Net	\$1,826.30	\$1,101.78

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

GATHER FOR PRAYER – A prayer meeting is held **Sundays at 6pm online**. Please submit any prayer requests to first@fpcpunta.org.

CHANCEL CHOIR – Singers are needed to balance out our church choir. Rehearsals are one hour long on Thursday and before services on Sunday. Call Joan at 941-661-1553 or talk to her on Sunday. *Come and join us in the pleasures of singing praises to God.*

SEASON OF LENT DEVOTIONALS – We have devotionals for you to choose from in the church foyer to help you prepare for Holy Week (**March 24 – March 30**).

SANCTUARY CROSS – The Colors of the Cross are a symbolic depiction of the Easter season. For the beginning of the Lenten Season the cross is draped in purple. The purple cloth remains on the cross from Ash Wednesday to Maundy Thursday representing royalty – the King of kings has come. The black cloth remains on the cross from Good Friday through Saturday – representing His death. The white cloth is placed on the cross Easter Sunday representing His resurrection – His victory over sin, death and Satan.

EASTER LILIES – We will be decorating the church with lilies for Easter. If you would like to donate one in remembrance or honor of a loved one, please use the offering envelopes on the back table of the sanctuary. Suggested donation is \$7 for each lily. **Please have your envelope back by Monday, March 25th**, in time for the bulletin insert.

LIVING CROSS – We are requesting flowers and greenery for the “living cross” for Easter morning. **Please bring both the flowers and greenery at 9:00am on Saturday, March 30th**. Sign up in the church foyer to help with the “living cross”.

EASTER POSTCARD – Pick up an Easter Postcard in the church foyer and invite a neighbor to church Easter Week.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS WITH OUR HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- **Palm Sunday – March 24 – 10:30am Worship Service**
- **Maundy Thursday – March 28 – 5:00pm Communion Service**
- **Good Friday – March 29 – 12:00pm Good Friday Service**
- **Easter Sunday – March 31 – 10:30am Easter Sunday Worship Service**

ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

DEACON'S FUND OFFERING TODAY – Our monthly collection supports our efforts to help congregation needs, emergency needs, Misión Peniel Spanish devotionals, and others.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – *Tuesday, March 19th at 10:00am* – “Weeping and Wailing...and Warfare!” – *Esther 4:1-8*. Join us for our study of “Esther”, based on “*Becoming a Woman of Beauty & Strength*” by Elizabeth George. We meet the first and third Tuesdays of each month in Fellowship Hall. Call Kathy Belville at 508-733-0546 for more information. **All women are invited for study, fellowship, and refreshments.**

DONUTS & DOCTRINE – *Wednesday, March 20th at 10:00am*. We continue our study of the book of Daniel which tells Daniel's story—and a fascinating and instructive story it is. But the main purpose of Daniel is to reveal to us who God is—his character, his purposes, his way of working in the world for the good of his people. The main lesson of Daniel, then, is not, as is often assumed (and taught!), *Dare to be a Daniel!* Rather, the main point is this: *Dare to trust in Daniel's God! All are welcome!*

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER – *Wednesday, March 20th, 5:00pm* – our annual dinner with corned beef and cabbage and fixings, along with “green” desserts. Nancy Smith will play piano, and we will sing Irish songs. Pastor Barksdale will do a trivia game. Suggested donation is \$7.00. Sign up in the church foyer.

PULLEN UP A CHAIR – *Wednesday, April 3rd at 5:00pm*. Barksdale and Bo host get-together dinners at their home for groups of eight. You can sign up in the church foyer, or call/email the church office to reserve a night. There is no agenda, lesson, or study; just a time to get together for fellowship and to learn more about one another.

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH – *Friday, April 5th, 12:00pm* – Please sign up and join us for lunch at Riviera in Punta Gorda. **All ladies are invited!**

CONCERT SERIES – *Sunday, April 7th, 3:00pm* – Stephanie Smith, our former organist, will present the last concert of our 2023-2024 Concert Series. Stephanie will share some of her favorite hymn-based compositions. Free will offering.

MISIÓN PENIEL – Our next trip to Immokalee is **Friday, April 26th** – we will help at the Mission in the morning. Please meet at the church at 9:15am, leaving at 9:30am. *We need 5-6 people to go*, so please sign up in the church foyer.

MISSIONS SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

DISASTER RELIEF SUPPORT – A reminder that our trusted partners at World Renew are ECO’s go-to resource for long-term disaster relief.

<https://worldrenew.net/disaster-response-services-us/disaster-response-services>

JESUS LOVES YOU MINISTRY SPECIAL NEEDS – Shower Ministry (Wednesday mornings in our parking lot) – Please place “shower” items in the donation box in Fellowship Hall.

MISSIONS SUPPORT – If you would like to donate to the missionaries and organizations that we are supporting in 2024 in our church budget, please make checks payable to FPC and on the memo line write the name of the mission.

Antioch Partners – Stone Family (Guatemala) or Lisa Alfonsi (Peru)

Crossroads Hope Academy (Punta Gorda)

Jesus Loves You Ministry (Port Charlotte) Misión Peniel (Immokalee)

Missionary Ventures (Chasen & Katie Brokaw – Nicaragua)

STAND IN THE GAP FUND – The purpose of this fund is to assist supported missionaries and ministries of our church, when they face unexpected financial burdens. To donate to this fund, please mark your gift as SITG.

EVENTS FOR THE COMING WEEK

March 17th to March 24th

Sunday, March 17

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Deacon’s Fund Sunday

10:30am Worship Service (Also Online)
11:30am Fellowship Time
6:00pm Prayer Meeting-FB

Monday, March 18

2:00pm Session

Tuesday, March 19

10:00am Women’s Bible Study

Wednesday, March 20

10:00am Donuts & Doctrine
10:00am Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry
5:00pm St. Patrick’s Dinner

Thursday, March 21

10:00am Game Fellowship
3:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, March 24

Palm Sunday

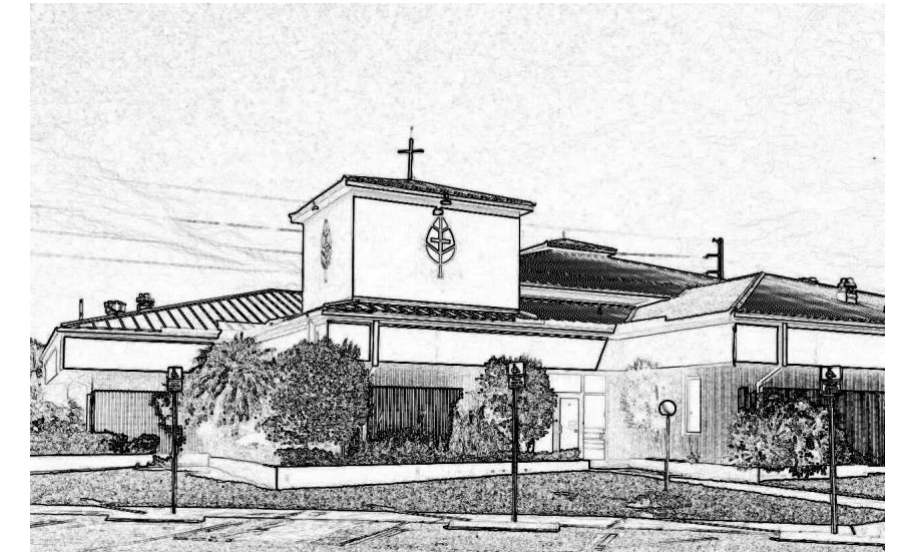
10:15am Hymn Sing
10:30am Worship Service (Also Online)
11:30am Fellowship Time
6:00pm Prayer Meeting-FB

First Presbyterian Church of Punta Gorda
25250 Airport Road Punta Gorda, FL 33950
941-639-1959 (phone) 941-637-3763 (fax)
Email: first@fpcpunta.org Website: fpcpunta.org
Office hours: 9:00am to 1:00pm Monday – Thursday

SERMON NOTES

Acts 11:19-30

¹⁹ Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews. ²⁰ Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. ²¹ The Lord’s hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord. ²² News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. ²³ When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. ²⁴ He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord. ²⁵ Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶ and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch. ²⁷ During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸ One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.) ²⁹ The disciples, as each one was able, decided to provide help for the brothers and sisters living in Judea. ³⁰ This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.



Loving...Growing...Going...in Jesus!

This morning as we join in worship, our hope is that each of us will find renewed life, health and strength in God.

We are glad to welcome each guest and friend, and that you have chosen to hear God’s call with this congregation.

March 17, 2024

10:30am

PASTOR
MUSIC DIRECTOR
ORGANIST
OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN
LITURGIST
USHERS

Dr. Barksdale Pullen
Joan Byron
Denny Ausman
Debbie Rostad
John Evans
Judith Cornell, Susie Lorenz, Linda Wagar, Don Willecke