



SEPTEMBER 2022

**Worship Service in our Sanctuary at 10:30am  
or watch our worship service LIVE! at:  
[www.fpcpunta.org](http://www.fpcpunta.org) and click on the logo "vimeo livestream"**

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[www.fpcpunta.org](http://www.fpcpunta.org)



## *Fall: In Florida?*



I saw two memes online the other day about fall in Florida. The first read: It's fall in Florida; you know what that means? Absolutely nothing, it's still 90 degrees outside. And the other one read, It's officially fall\*, and then a little lower down \*Not valid in Florida!

Well we might not have the beautiful colors of the changing of the leaves, or the crisp chill in the air, but the calendar turns a page and the fall season is upon us. What does that mean in the life of the church here at FPC in Punta Gorda?

Well, the leaves don't change, but the color of the license plates do – our seasonal residents come back! I'm looking forward to re-connecting with many of our friends from up north as they return for a few months to escape the cold. Welcome home!

People are always moving into beautiful Southwest Florida – whether seasonally or year-round. If you have people moving into your neighborhood, invite them to church, or to one of the many activities our Ministry Teams are putting together for us. It is a great way to meet your neighbors and introduce them to a church home while they are in our area.

Speaking of activities: take a look inside this September Newsletter to a quick peek at some of the activities going on in the life of our church this fall. From the Concert Series, to opportunities to serve our community – like Burgers For Badges, to Lunch and Learn Events, to various opportunities with Mission Organizations that we are involved with – like the Shower Ministry with Jesus Loves You or Pickleball with the students from Crossroads, to fellowship time of playing cards or going out with the Lunch Bunch Ladies, to being a part of the choir, or joining one of our Bible Studies during the week.

We may not get that excited about Pumpkin Lattes in Florida, or maybe you do, but our fall provides lots of opportunities to be involved in the life of the church and invite your friends and neighbors to various activities at FPC.

Pastor Barksdale

# WORSHIP MINISTRY



**Sunday Mornings - 10:30am Worship Service (Also Online)**  
**Sunday Evenings - 6:00pm Prayer Meeting (On Facebook)**



## Fellowship Time

**Join us for beverages, cookies and treats after Sunday's Worship Service**

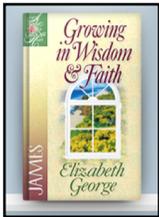


## From the Choir Loft:

How quickly summer has passed! A special thanks to all the people who volunteered to present special music to the congregation during the time that the choir was on hiatus. **Choir rehearsals will begin again on Thursday, September 8th at 4:30.** Rehearsals last approximately one hour. We are looking forward to seeing all the choir members back in their seats as well as some new voices. We are in need of new voices to join us. I know you are out there; I hear you singing! If you love to sing, please join us for rehearsals and Sunday mornings. Choir will begin singing anthems October 2nd.

We are a happy, fun group who really enjoy singing our praises to God. If you wish to join us, give me a call at 941-661-1553 or see me after Sunday service. Looking forward to seeing you all in the fall! Joan Byron

# DISCIPLESHIP 2022



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

**Tuesdays, September 6th (Lesson 8) and September 20th (Lesson 9)**

**10:00am at the church**

**Growing in Wisdom & Faith, a study of James by Elizabeth George from "A Woman After God's Own Heart" Series**

**Call Kathy Belville at 508-733-0546 for more information - All are welcome!**



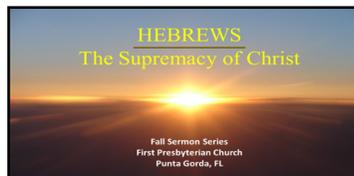
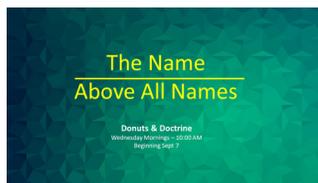
## DONUTS & DOCTRINE Bible Study

**Wednesday mornings at 10:00am**

**"The Name Above All Names"**

**Join us on Wednesday mornings at 10:00am beginning August 31st for Donuts & Doctrine**

**Also available online (see our website) — All are welcome!**



**Fall Sermon Series**  
**Hebrews**  
**The Supremacy of Christ**

## C.L.A.S.S. 101-Discovering Church Membership (ongoing)

Simply go to our website at [fpcpunta.org](https://www.fpcpunta.org) and look under the Home tab. There you will find all the information about becoming a Covenant Partner at FPC. (Link: <https://www.fpcpunta.org/membership> or if you prefer a DVD set of the videos, please see Pastor Barksdale.

# FPC'S ANNUAL CONCERT SERIES 2022 - 2023



**\*\* Sunday, October 23, 2022, 3:00pm**

## *The Dunnemans*

*Reg and Gretchen Dunneman sing their own special blend of gospel music, including southern gospel, traditional, hymn, and classical Christian styles. Their full-time ministry presents concerts from Ontario to Florida, to Maine, to Texas.*



**\*\* Sunday, December 4, 2022, 3:00pm**

## *The Two Piano Group*

*The Cultural Center's Two Piano Group unites once again to perform their traditional mix of contemporary and traditional favorites, plus some new and innovative selections. These area musicians come from a professional pianistic musical background and are joined together by their love of playing the enhanced orchestral like sound created by the two-piano repertoire.*



**\*\* Sunday, January 15, 2023, 3:00pm**

## *Matrick Thorpe and Ann Alton, Cellists*

*Matrick Thorpe is a 15 year old cellist from the Sarasota area. He is a classical student who recently toured abroad in 11 countries and has his own YouTube channel, [Matrickplayscello](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMtrickplayscello). Matrick will be joined in this concert by his teacher and returning artist Ann Alton.*



**\* Sunday, February 12, 2023, 3:00pm**

## *The Goldtones*

*The Goldtones are one of Florida's premiere vocal harmony groups singing songs ranging from the traditional doo-wop tunes of the 50s and 60s to those melodies sung by later groups of the 70s and 80s. Audiences love them not only for their vocal talents, but for their humor and their audience interaction.*



**\*\* Sunday, March 12, 2023, 3:00pm**

## *Patti Page and the Joyful Ringers*

*Patti Page is a Handbell Soloist, playing her own set of 30 English Handbells along the East Coast. The Joyful Ringers are a Handbell Choir from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Port Charlotte.*

**\* Goldtones - Ticketed Event - \$15.00 Donation Tickets available in the church office**

**\*\* All other concerts - Free Will Offering - \$15.00 Suggested Donation**

# FPC ACTIVITIES



**PRAYER SHAWL GATHERINGS -**  
*Monday, September 12th, 10:00am*



## GAME FELLOWSHIP

*Thursday mornings at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall All are welcome!*



## LADIES LUNCH BUNCH

*1st and 3rd Friday of each month*

*Sign up in the church foyer*

*Friday, September 2nd  
12:00pm  
Los Mariachis  
3575 Tamiami Trail  
Port Charlotte*

*Friday, September 16th  
12:00pm  
Riviera Bar & Grill  
5500 Deltona Drive  
Punta Gorda*



## PULLEN UP A CHAIR

*Barksdale and Bo will host a get-together dinner for a group of eight at their home  
Wednesdays, September 7th, October 7th, November 2nd at 5:00pm*

*Sign up in the church foyer or call/email the church office*

*There is no agenda, lesson, or study,  
just a time to get together for fellowship and to learn more about one another*



## BURGERS for BADGES

*Monday, September 19th, 11am to 1pm*

*Help us show our appreciation to our Fire and Sheriff Departments  
as we grill out hamburgers and hotdogs. Have lunch with us  
by the BBQ Pit and say thank-you to our local first responders.*

*Sign up to help in these ways:*

*Setup - Serve - Bake Cookies - Takedown*



## CROSSROADS Bar-B-Que

*Monday, October 17th, 11:30am*

*Join us for a Barbecue lunch with the boys from  
Crossroads Hope Academy at our church's barbecue pit.*

*Sign up to help in these ways:*

*Setup - Serve - Bake Cookies - Takedown*



## LUNCH 'N' LEARN

*Thursday, October 20th - Presented by Charlotte Funeral Home on "Final Arrangements"  
Wednesday, November 30th - Presented by the Sheriff's Department on  
"Scams & Crimes Pulled on Seniors"*

# MISSIONS MINISTRY



First Presbyterian Church proudly supports  
Missions from our church budget.  
If you would personally like to make additional  
donations, please make checks payable to FPC  
and indicate the mission on the memo line.



**Shower & Lunch  
Ministry**



*Gail Thornton with two  
of her great-grandchildren*

**Crossroads  
HOPE  
Academy**      **CROSSROADS ACTIVITIES**  
*Pickleball at the YMCA*       Pickleball  
*Call Patti MacDonald at 240-994-6387 for more information*

## Monthly Mission Support



**CROSSROADS HOPE ACADEMY (PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA)**

[Crossroadspg.org](http://Crossroadspg.org)



**JESUS LOVES YOU MINISTRY (PORT CHARLOTTE, FLORIDA)**

[Jesuslovesyouministryinc.com](http://Jesuslovesyouministryinc.com)



**MISIÓN PENIEL (IMMOKALEE, FLORIDA)**

[Misionpeniel.com](http://Misionpeniel.com)

**ANTIOCH PARTNERS MISSIONARIES**



*Eric and Debbie Stone, Guatemala*  
*Lisa Alfonsi, Lima, Peru*  
[theantiochpartners.org](http://theantiochpartners.org)



**MISSIONARY VENTURES INTERNATIONAL**

*Chasen and Katie Brokaw*  
*Nicaragua*  
[mvi.org](http://mvi.org)  
[breakingborders.org](http://breakingborders.org)



# MILITARY PRAYER LIST

## Prayer

O Prince of Peace, we humbly ask Your protection for all our men and women in military service. Give them unflinching courage to defend with honor, dignity and devotion the rights of all who are imperiled by injustice and evil. Guard our churches, our homes, our schools, our hospitals, our factories, our buildings, and all those within from harm and peril. Protect our land and its people from enemies within and without. Grant an early peace with victory founded upon justice. Instill in the hearts and minds of men and women everywhere a firm purpose to live forever in peace and good will towards all. Amen.

- \* Capt. Alex Treadwell, grandson-in-law of Diane Culver-Truby, retired from the Army and is now a civilian!
- \* Major John McPherson, Air Force, great nephew of Marguerite O'Brien, stationed at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas
- \* Major Ryan Swisher, Army Ranger, grandson of Rachel Pfaender, stationed in North Carolina
- \* Major Eric Engstrom, Army Intel., son of Alan Engstrom, stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas
- \* Captain Zadick Self, Marines, grandson-in-law of Ron Beasom, stationed in Peoria, Illinois
- \* Navy Seaman Tyler Beasom, Navy, grandson of Ron Beasom, stationed in San Diego, California
- \* MSgt. Nick Weiss, Air Force, grandson of Gail Thornton, is home based
- \* Lt. Col. David Sifferd, Jr., Army Reserve, son of David Sifferd, stationed in Ft. Knox, KY
- \* Pvt. Michael Robert Wagner, U.S. Marine Corp., great-grandson of Robert and Jean Humphreys

*Do you have a family member serving in the military?*

*If so, we'd like to add them to the newsletter prayer list. Fill out the form that's on the sign-up table in the church foyer and place it in the HELMET or let the church office know.*

## MEMBER CARE



*Prayer Requests and Hospital / Rehab Information  
Address, Phone, Email changes, Birthdays and Anniversaries*  
Email to [first@fpcpunta.org](mailto:first@fpcpunta.org)



*First Pres is on Facebook!*  
[facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurch-Punta Gorda](https://facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurch-PuntaGorda)



*Giving to FPC - In person  
Mail to the church office: 25250 Airport Rd; PG, FL 33950  
Online Giving through our website: [fpcpunta.org](http://fpcpunta.org), click Donate*



*Please pray for Bo Pullen and family, whose mother Barbara Sizemore went home to the Lord on July 31, 2022.*

*Please pray for Neta Gensemer and family, whose husband Ron went home to the Lord on August 1, 2022. A Celebration of Life Service will be held for Ron on Wednesday, December 7th.*

# SEPTEMBER 2022

## CHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR AND CELEBRATIONS

**Prayer is the place where burdens change shoulders - We pray for....**  
*The elderly, the infirm, the hospitalized, those in nursing homes, the homebound and lonely,  
 and all those who have requested our prayerful support.*

Each month we remember church members and friends on a rotating basis...



1 Dave Sifferd	11 Carol Zutter	21 Duane & Wanda Boyles
2 Ron & Billie Sixt	12 George & Sharon Albright	22 Bonnie Brown
3 Andy & Nancy Smith	13 Jay Aldridge	23 Marion Brown
4 Margie Smith	14 Rex & Helen Anderson	24 Ray & Joan Byron
5 Bo & Karen Sostar	15 Laurel Aumend	25 Kay Callahan
6 Gail Thornton	16 Denny & Minty Ausman	26 Bonnie Carey
7 Larrie & Marjorie Tisdale	17 Ron Beasom	27 Sam & Patti Cessna
8 Don & Mary Anne Washabaugh	18 Roy & Kathy Belville	28 Charlie & Doris Costa
9 Dave Woods	19 Shirley Berg	29 Irene Csontos
10 Teri York	20 Rick & Kay Berner	30 Diane Culver-Truby

*Congratulations to Rex and Helen Anderson on the birth of their 2nd great grandchild  
 Lana Edie Duncan was born June 7th to Cole and Nakeisha of Spring, TX*

*Congratulations to John and Gail Evans on the birth of their granddaughter  
 Macy Elizabeth Madison was born on June 27th to Josh and Noella of Vincennes, IN*

*Congratulations to Larrie and Marjorie Tisdale on the birth of their 8th great-grandson  
 Beck Leo Basham was born on July 9th to Jake and Meghan of Bowling Green, KY*



SEPTEMBER  
BIRTHDAYS

- 2—Pat Ihrie
- 2—Patricia Rothley
- 11—Carolyn Ann Maupin
- 13—Jane Otoupal

- 20—Cathy Coleman
- 22—Rich Harris
- 26—Karen Sostar
- 27—Valerie Neeley
- 29—Ken Lambert



- 9—Ernie & DeAnn Lehman 61 yrs.
- 15—Ken & Lynda Lambert 10 yrs.
- 30—Dick & Sandy Fisher 56 yrs.