
WORSHIP SERVICE

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC Nancy Smith

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Morning Star* Dorothy Wells

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Don & Sue Willecke
First Candle symbolizes Hope and is called the "Prophecy Candle"

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP #246 – Prince of Peace - Isaiah 9:6

Worship Leader: For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called:
Everyone: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

***HYMN #244** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

* **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious God, we know we ought to be watching for signs of Your presence and of Your Son's coming. But we are so easily distracted by what is none of our business, like Peter worrying about the Master's love for John; or even by what is our business, like Martha cooking up a storm in her kitchen; or by sheer fatigue, like the disciples in Gethsemane. Forgive our distraction, most patient Lord, and let this Advent season find us alert to Your presence and eagerly looking forward to the coming of Your Son, both at Christmas and at the end of time. (Silent Confession)

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

***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**

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY *The Quiet Sanctuary* Dorothy Wells

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Holy One, like Abraham and Sarah, we have heard Your call. We respond with fledgling faith, offering what we have as we step into the unknown future with You. Bless and multiply these gifts of faith, we pray, to accomplish more than we dare think or ask. In Jesus' name. Amen.

***HYMN #251** *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9:6

MESSAGE *Wonderful Counselor* Pastor Barksdale Pullen

COMMUNION AND HYMN *A Communion Hymn for Christmas*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER (*debt/debtors*)

***HYMN #270** *Joy to the World!*

***BENEDICTION**

CHRISTMAS INVITE

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #243** *Emmanuel*

POSTLUDE *Festive Postlude* Edward Broughton

*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 and Clever Alfonsi, Eric and Debbie Stone, 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 Misi3n 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 |

NOTES

FLOWERS – The flowers are given today by Andrew and Nancy Smith in memory of their Parents.

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

DECEMBER 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

| | October 2024 | Year-to-Date |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Tithes & Offerings | \$15,859.44 | \$236,497.05 |
| Cash Expenditures | <u>\$20,482.83</u> | <u>\$217,438.24</u> |
| Net | (\$4,623.39) | \$ 19,058.81 |

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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

CHRISTMAS OFFERING – This year's Christmas Offering will be divided between the Veterans Village and Ground Up Ministry. Please use the Christmas Envelope in your Envelope Box or a Christmas Gifting envelope in the church foyer.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA – Remember a loved one this Christmas by giving a poinsettia to help decorate the church. Suggested donation is \$7 per poinsettia. Special envelopes are available on the table in the back of the Sanctuary or in the church foyer. **Please return your envelope by Monday, December 16th** in order to be listed in a special bulletin insert.

PLEDGE CARD – If you haven't returned your pledge card for 2025, please do so as soon as possible. Pledge cards and Narrative Budgets are available on the table in the back of the Sanctuary or in the church foyer. Thank you.

YEAR-END GIVING – To make sure your giving for 2024 gets credited for 2024, please have your offering/gift to the church before December 31, 2024. Any donations received after that date will be applied to one's 2025 giving. For gifts of stock, please call the church office.

ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

SERMON ON THE SAND – Sunday, December 1st, at 8:00am - every Sunday from 8:00-8:30am at Fishermen's Village. Pastor Barksdale delivers the Message.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – Tuesday, December 3rd, 10:00am in Fellowship Hall We are studying "Becoming A Woman of Beauty & Strength" (a book about *Esther*) by Elizabeth George. We meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. On December 3rd we will study Lesson 19, Esther 8:9-17, "Sending Glad Tidings". Call Kathy Belville at 508-733-0546 for more information – All are welcome!

LUNCH 'N' LEARN – Tuesday, December 3rd at 12:00pm. Join us for lunch and a seminar on "Wills & Trusts". Sign up in the church foyer.

DONUTS & DOCTRINE – Wednesday, December 4th at 10:00am – Join us on Wednesday mornings for Donuts & Doctrine as we study "A Healthy Church" using I and II Timothy. *All are welcome!*

HOLIDAY ENSEMBLE – Thursday, December 5th at 4:00pm. Sign up in the church foyer to sing in our Holiday Ensemble to work on music from "A New and Glorious Morn", by Lloyd Larson. We will sing on December 8th and 15th. This will help prepare our congregation for Advent and Christmas and will welcome people interested in singing with others and sharing together.

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH – Friday, December 6th, 12:00pm – Sign up for Peter's Restaurant in Port Charlotte.

MISI3N PENIEL – Our next trip to Immokalee is Friday, December 6th – we will help at the Mission in the afternoon. Please meet at the church at 12:15pm. *We need 12 people to sign up for these mission trips!* Sign up in the church foyer.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE at the Pullen's Home – Sundays, December 8th and 15th from 1:30pm – 3:30pm at 16323 Perdida Ct., Punta Gorda. Sign up in the church foyer to stop by the Pullen's home.

CHRISTMAS DINNER – Wednesday, December 11th at 5:00pm. Join us for a Turkey Noodle Dinner in Fellowship Hall. Sign up in the church foyer.

TWO PIANO GROUP CONCERT – This concert is being rescheduled for Spring 2025.

MISSIONS SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

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

December 1st – December 8th

Sunday, December 1

**First Sunday in Advent
Communion Sunday**

- 8:00am Sermon on the Sand
- 10:30am Worship Service (Also Online)
- 11:30am Fellowship Time
- 6:00pm Prayer Meeting-FB

Tuesday, December 3

- 10:00am Women’s Bible Study
- 12:00pm Lunch ‘n’ Learn
- 1:00pm Fellowship Team

Wednesday, December 4

- 10:00am Donuts & Doctrine
- 10:00am Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry

Thursday, December 5

- 10:00am Game Fellowship
- 4:00pm Holiday Ensemble

Friday, December 6

- 12:00pm Ladies Lunch Bunch
- 12:15pm Mission Trip to Immokalee

Sunday, December 8

Second Sunday in Advent

- 10:30am Worship Service (Also Online)
- 11:30am Fellowship Time
- 1:30pm – 3:30pm Open House at the Pullen’s Home
- 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

Isaiah 9:6

*For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*



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.

December 1, 2024

10:30am

PASTOR
ORGANIST
OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN
LITURGIST
USHERS

Dr. Barksdale Pullen
Denny Ausman
Debbie Rostad
Bev Brady

Patti MacDonald, Sam Cessna, Katie Schulte, Andy Schulte