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**WORSHIP SERVICE**

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**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC** Hymn Sing

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** *What A Friend We Have in Jesus* arr. Larry E. Newman

**CALL TO WORSHIP****PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**INTROIT** *Rejoice the Lord is King* C. Wesley/J. Darwell  
Chancel Choir

**\*HYMN #225** *Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

**\*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**

**ANTHEM** *The Church's One Foundation* S. Wesley/arr. R. Nichols  
Chancel Choir

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

**OFFERTORY** *Grace Alone* Dustin Kensrue

**\*DOXOLOGY****\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Generous God, we have given to You what is Yours. You entrust us with so much abundance; accept what we offer to You now as signs of our love for You and our desire to serve You. You alone are Lord of our lives. It is already so; make it so even more for us, day by day. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**\*HYMN #63** *All Creatures of Our God and King*

**SCRIPTURE** Acts 17:16-34

**MESSAGE** *In Athens* Pastor Barksdale Pullen

**\*HYMN #503** *Since Jesus Came into My Heart*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*RESPONSE** *Lord, Let Us Now Depart in Peace* George Whelpton  
Chancel Choir

**POSTLUDE** *Ye Servants of God* Roger C. Wilson

\*Please stand, if able

Hearing assist devices are available at the tech booth

CCLI #1140231 CVLI #505465757

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**MINISTRY OF PRAYER**

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**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 who Grieve**

Pray for the family of Ron Beasom, who went home to the Lord on April 22nd. A Memorial Service will be held in our Sanctuary on Saturday, May 11th at 10:00am.

**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*

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**NOTES**

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**ROSE** - The rose on the organ is in celebration of the birth of Vivian Jane Powell, the tenth great-grandchild of Larrie and Marjorie Tisdale. Vivian was born April 21st to Kelly and Bradley Powell in Louisville, KY.

**FLOWERS** – The flowers are given today by Bev and George in celebration of their anniversary, shared with Gene and Barbara McPherson.

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

**MAY 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](mailto: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](http://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**

	<u>March 2024</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Tithes & Offerings	\$25,039.01	\$74,499.59
Cash Expenditures	<u>\$21,837.10</u>	<u>\$70,195.90</u>
Net	\$3,201.91	\$4,303.69

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**MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES**

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

**MISSION COMMITTEE** – The Mission Committee is planning to give Gift Certificates to the Vets in Veterans Village to say “Thank you” on Memorial Day. If you want to help, we are in need of an additional \$350.00. Any extra donations will be saved for our annual Christmas gift to them. **Thanks and many blessings.**

**ACTIVITIES / EVENTS**

**CHURCH MEMBERSHIP CLASS** – Sunday, April 28th at 9:30am. If you are interested in joining the church, or just finding out more information about FPC, please join us for a one class introduction to FPC. (For Seasonal Residents, we have an Affiliate Membership, so you can maintain your Membership back home.)

**CROSSROADS HOPE ACADEMY** – Monday, April 29th, 4:00pm – 8:00pm – We will be providing and serving dinner to the boys. Please sign up in the church foyer to provide food or serve dinner to the boys at the Davidson Campus. We will meet at the church parking lot at 4:00pm and return around 8:00pm.

**DONUTS & DOCTRINE** – Wednesday, May 1st at 10:00am -- We have just begun a new study on *Psalms – Prayers of the Heart*, which will take us through May 29th.

**LADIES LUNCH BUNCH** – Friday, May 3rd, 12:00pm – Please sign up and join us for lunch at Kings Roadhouse in Port Charlotte. **All ladies are invited!**

**THE TWO PIANO GROUP** – Next Sunday, May 5th, 3:00pm – The Two Piano Group returns for a “Spring Concert”. A Freewill offering will be taken – suggested donation is \$15.00.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** – Tuesday, May 7th at 10:00am – **“Taking the High Road” – Esther 5:9-14.** 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.**

**MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST** – Sunday, May 12th at 9:00am – Sign up now!

**MISIÓN PENIEL** – Our next trip to Immokalee is **Friday, May 31st** – 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.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE** – A Memorial Service for former member Fran Koon will be held in our Sanctuary on **Friday, May 31st, at 11:00am.** A Burial Service will follow at the National Cemetery in Sarasota at 2:30pm.

**THE CHOSEN SEASON 4** – Postponed due to technical issues. Stay tuned!

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### MISSIONS SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

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**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.

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### EVENTS FOR THE COMING WEEK

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#### *April 28th to May 5th*

#### **Sunday, April 28**

9:30am      Membership Class  
10:15am      Hymn Sing  
10:30am      Worship Service (Also Online)  
11:30am      Fellowship Time  
6:00pm      Prayer Meeting-FB

#### **Wednesday, May 1**

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

#### **Thursday, May 2**

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

#### **Friday, May 3**

12:00pm      Ladies Lunch Bunch

#### **Sunday, May 5**

10:30am      **Communion Sunday**  
Worship Service (Also Online)  
11:30am      Fellowship Time  
3:00pm      The Two Piano Group Spring Concert  
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](mailto:first@fpcpunta.org)      Website: [fpcpunta.org](http://fpcpunta.org)  
Office hours: 9:00am to 1:00pm Monday – Thursday

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### SERMON NOTES

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#### Acts 17:16-34

<sup>16</sup> While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup> So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup> A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, “What is this babbler trying to say?” Others remarked, “He seems to be advocating foreign gods.” They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. <sup>19</sup> Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?” <sup>20</sup> You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean.” <sup>21</sup> (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.) <sup>22</sup> Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup> For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. <sup>25</sup> And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. <sup>26</sup> From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. <sup>27</sup> God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. <sup>28</sup> ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’ <sup>29</sup> “Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. <sup>30</sup> In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. <sup>31</sup> For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.” <sup>32</sup> When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, “We want to hear you again on this subject.” <sup>33</sup> At that, Paul left the Council. <sup>34</sup> Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.



### *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.*

**April 28, 2024**

**10:30am**

**PASTOR**

Dr. Barksdale Pullen

**MUSIC DIRECTOR**

Joan Byron

**ORGANIST**

Denny Ausman

**OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN**

Debbie Rostad

**LITURGIST**

Don Washabaugh

**USHERS**

Sharon Albright, Judith Cornell, Susie Lorenz, Linda Wagar