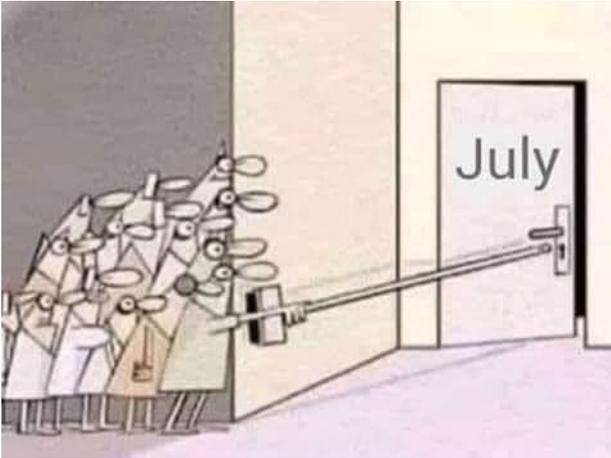




# The Messenger

JULY 2020

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"



## What's Next?

Let's be honest. We peer around the corner at the start of a new month in 2020, and wonder what does it hold? We have to admit this is a tough time in our nation. We are dealing with a pandemic, protests, riots, racial injustice, and the political rhetoric of an election year. What's next?

I prefer the words of the Teacher in Eccl 1:9, *What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun.* All one has to do is look at the history of our nation, the history of our world, or just Biblical history and see sin has always been present since the Fall. What we are experiencing today is just the next chapter, nothing new. So, what is our attitude?

For the Christian, we simply cannot throw our hands up in the air and say all is vanity, all is hopeless. (Eccl 1:1) The Teacher at the conclusion of the book of Ecclesiastes, finally concludes: *The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.* (Eccl 12:13)

As a Christian we face all this turmoil in the world with the hope of the Gospel. The Teacher tried to find meaning in worldly things, but came up short. His conclusion, it is only found in God. I often talk of the four relationships that were destroyed in the Fall: with God, with one another,

with ourselves, and with creation. However, in Christ those relationships are being restored. As a Christian, we must mature spiritually, that means to Worship (fear) God and keep His commandments.

Only through Christ can the relationship with God be restored. Do we love our neighbor enough, that we are willing to risk sharing the Gospel with them? We may be rejected, labeled as a fanatic, or put into a category – "one of those". In today's tempestuous world we may have to lay a lot of groundwork with people before we ever get an opportunity to share the Gospel. Do people see us as caring for their needs? Emotional, physical, or spiritual?

What about restoring relationships with one another? The Bible tells us we are all made in the image of God; do we treat one another with that reality?

What about restoring the relationship with creation? In the Garden God gave mankind dominion over the earth, that is a privilege and a responsibility. He gave intellect to us to use creation to find medicines to cure disease, intellect to use the resources of this planet wisely. Do we use creation to His glory?

What about the relationship with ourselves? This is perhaps the hardest. At our core we are sinners, looking out for number one. But thru the Gospel, our worldview begins to change. The Holy Spirit begins to do heart surgery, to conform us more to the image of Christ. Are we seeking to grow in our faith?

During this new month, don't be hopeless. The Teacher looked at all of life, and saw there was nothing new, and that finding meaning outside of God, was vanity. It is a confusing time, but we serve a God who is in control of all things. As Christians, we seek to reflect the light of Christ to a watching world. That implies that we are growing in our faith and are involved in the world. So, this month let our focus be on Jesus and be open to what the Spirit is teaching you about restoration of relationship through the Gospel.

*Pastor Barksdale*

# MEMBER CARE

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



To watch the  
 Worship Service online,  
 go to our webpage at  
[www.fpcpunta.org](http://www.fpcpunta.org) and click  
 the Vimeo logo:



## First Pres is now on Facebook!

You may now see posts about the life of our church....  
 Go to [facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurch-PuntaGorda](https://facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurch-PuntaGorda)



## Giving to FPC - Punta Gorda

Mail to the church office: 25250 Airport Rd; Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
 Online Giving through our website: [fpcpunta.org](http://fpcpunta.org), click Donate



Please pray for Ron Beasom and family,  
 whose wife Nancy went home to the Lord  
 on May 27th.



Congratulations to Jene Shafer  
 Two new great-great grandsons  
 River Paul - May 3rd  
 to Jenna & Greg Jennings in Ohio  
 Jonathon Cyrus - May 18th  
 to Gabe & Alexis Stone in Indiana



Reopening June 14th!



Welcome to  
 Denny Ausman  
 June 21st



Sign-Up for a Wednesday in the Church Lobby, or call/email the  
 church office. Meeting dates are July 1, July 8, July 15, July 22,  
 July 29, and August 5. We will provide a light meal/dessert at  
 the Pullen's home, please join us 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm.



Donuts & Doctrine - "Colossians"  
 The Wednesday Morning Bible Study,  
 led by Pastor Barksdale Pullen, meets in Fellowship Hall  
 on Wednesdays at 10:00am

# JULY 2020

## 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 Kay Callahan	11 John & Ramona Douglas	21 Ron & Neta Gensemer
2 Bonnie Carey	12 Helmut & Phyllis Ehrhardt	22 Rich & Barb Harris
3 Joe & Georgia Cherny	13 Alan Engstrom	23 Marjorie Haun
4 David & Cathy Coleman	14 John & Gail Evans	24 Anna Hill
5 Cara Coletti and Family	15 George & Beverly Fallenbeck	25 Jean Hinman
6 Charlie & Doris Costa	16 Tim Farris	26 Joan Hoffman
7 Irene Csontos	17 Dick & Sandy Fisher	27 Bob & Jean Humphreys
8 Diane Culver-Truby	18 Ray & Cheri Foley	28 Bill & Ellen Hutt
9 Robert Cuzner	19 Frances Frost	29 Pat Ihrie
10 Bill & Sonja Dosse	20 Arlene Gebel	30 Bob & Beverly Ingalls
		31 Tom & Carol Kerr



11—Billie Sixt	20—Marjorie Haun
13—Bonnie Brown	20—Jim Nuznoff
16—Ernie Lehman	20—Bruce Peters
18—Sandy Fisher	20—Dave Woods
18—John Douglas	23—Ron Beasom



7—Charles & Evelyn Zietsma	47 yrs.
11—Don & Mary Anne Washabaugh	45 yrs.



25250 Airport Road  
Punta Gorda, Florida 33950

**OUR MISSION AND PURPOSE**

***LOVING...GROWING...GOING...in JESUS!***