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\*Please stand, if able

Hearing assist devices are available at the tech booth  
CCLI #1140231 CVLI #505503731

MINISTRY OF PRAYER		
Prayer Focus		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Pray for those who serve in the military and their families.</li><li>Pray for First Responders and Healthcare Workers.</li><li>Pray for our church as we seek to be a flourishing church that makes disciples of Jesus Christ.</li><li>Pray for Lisa and Clever Alfonsi, Eric and Debbie Stone, and Chasen and Katie Brokaw, missionaries we support in Peru, Guatemala, and Nicaragua.</li><li>Pray for Crossroads, the mission for foster boys in Punta Gorda.</li><li>Pray for Ground Up Ministries, a ministry for human trafficking in Florida.</li><li>Pray for Jesus Loves You Ministry for the homeless in Charlotte County.</li><li>Pray for Misión Peniel, the mission that we support in Immokalee.</li><li>Pray for persecuted Christians throughout the world.</li></ul>		
Those Who Grieve		
Please pray for Bill Dossé and family, whose wife Sonja went home to the Lord on March 14, 2025.		
Those with Special Needs		
Rachel Pfaender Lynn Lang	Phyllis Ehrhardt Ron Sixt	Rick Berner Dave Sifferd
NOTES		

**PRAYER QUOTE** – “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” – Philippians 4:6

**FLOWERS** – The flowers are given today by Laurel Aumend in memory of her father Lester Blenman.

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

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

**CHURCH DIRECTORY** – 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		
	March 2025	Year-to-Date
Tithes & Offerings	\$20,611.73	\$68,395.41
Cash Expenditures	<u>\$21,636.59</u>	<u>\$67,846.03</u>
Net	\$ (1,024.86)	\$ 549.38

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES	
<b>GATHER FOR PRAYER</b> – <b>A prayer meeting is held Sundays at 6pm online.</b> Please submit any prayer requests to <a href="mailto:first@fpcpunta.org">first@fpcpunta.org</a> .	
<b>SEASON OF LENT DEVOTIONALS</b> – We have devotionals for you to choose from in the church foyer to help you prepare for Holy Week ( <i>April 13th – April 20th</i> ).	
<b>SANCTUARY CROSS</b> – 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. <b>The purple cloth remains on the cross from Ash Wednesday to Maundy Thursday representing royalty – the King of kings has come.</b> 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.	
<b>EASTER LILIES</b> – We will be decorating the church with lilies for Easter. To donate one in remembrance or honor of a loved one, please use the offering envelopes on the back table of the sanctuary or church foyer. Suggested donation is \$7 for each lily. <b>Please have your envelope back by Monday, April 14th</b> , in time for the bulletin insert.	
<b>LIVING CROSS</b> – We are requesting flowers and greenery for the “living cross” for Easter morning. <b>Please bring both the flowers and greenery at 9:00am on Saturday, April 19th.</b> Sign up in the church foyer to help with the “living cross”.	
<b>EASTER POSTCARD</b> – Pick up an Easter Postcard in the church foyer and invite a neighbor to church Easter Week.	
<b>CHORAL ENSEMBLE</b> – You are invited to join with others in singing a song on Easter Sunday. We will rehearse on Thursday, April 17th at 3:30pm.	
*** <b>MARK YOUR CALENDARS WITH OUR HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE</b> ***	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Palm Sunday – April 13 – 10:30am Worship Service</b></li><li><b>Maundy Thursday – April 17 – 5:00pm Communion Service</b></li><li><b>Good Friday – April 18 – 12:00pm Good Friday Service</b></li><li><b>Easter Sunday – April 20 – 10:30am Easter Sunday Worship Service</b></li></ul>	

ACTIVITIES / EVENTS	
<b>PRAYER SHAWL GATHERING</b> – If you like to knit or crochet, please gather with us in Fellowship Hall <i>Monday, April 14th at 10am.</i>	
<b>WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY</b> – <i>Tuesday, April 15th, 9:30am in Fellowship Hall.</i> <u><b>We meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month.</b></u> We will view a video on the summary of Esther. A new study begins in May on “Keep It Shut” by Karen Ehman. Call Kathy Belville at 508-733-0546 for more information – <i>All are welcome!</i>	
<b>BURGERS FOR BADGES</b> – <i>Monday, April 21st, from 11:00am – 1:00pm.</i> Help us show our appreciation to our local and retired FPC First Responders as we grill out hamburgers and hotdogs. Sign up in the church foyer to bring cookies/desserts. To make a donation to help defray the costs of this outreach event, please designate it as “B4B”.	
<b>DONUTS &amp; DOCTRINE</b> – <i>Wednesday, April 23rd at 10:00am</i> ( <u><b>We will not meet on April 16th</b></u> ) – Join us on Wednesday mornings as we begin a new study on the “ <b>History of the Early Church – Christ, Characters &amp; Confessions</b> ”. <i>All are welcome!</i>	
<b>CHURCH MEMBERSHIP CLASS</b> – <i>Sunday, April 27th at Noon.</i> If you are interested in joining the church, or just finding out more information about FPC, <b><i>sign up to join us for lunch and a one class introduction to FPC.</i></b> (Seasonal Residents, we have an Affiliate Membership, so you can keep your Membership back home.)	
<b>LADIES LUNCH BUNCH</b> – <i>Friday, May 2nd, 11:30am</i> – Sign up in the church foyer for Captain’s Table in Punta Gorda.	
<b>PULLEN UP A CHAIR</b> – <i>Wednesday, May 7th at 5:00pm.</i> Barksdale and Bo host get-together dinners at their home for groups of eight. Sign up in the church foyer, or call/email the church 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.	
<b>MOTHER’S DAY BRUNCH</b> – <i>Sunday, May 11th at 9:15am.</i> <i>Sign up to attend.</i>	
<b>MISIÓN PENIEL</b> – Our next trip to Immokalee is <b><i>Friday, May 30th</i></b> – we will help at the Mission in the <b><u>morning</u></b> . Meet at the church at <b><i>9:00am.</i></b> <i>We need 6 people for this mission trip!</i> Sign up in the church foyer.	

MISSIONS SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

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

MISSIONS SUPPORT – If you would like to donate to the missionaries and organizations that we are supporting in 2025 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)
- Ground Up Ministries (Cape Coral)
- 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

April 13th – April 20th

<b>Sunday, April 13</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>
10:30am	Worship Service (Also Online)
11:30am	Fellowship Time
6:00pm	Prayer Meeting-FB
<b>Monday, April 14</b>	
10:00am	Prayer Shawl Gathering
<b>Tuesday, April 15</b>	
10:00am	Women’s Bible Study
<b>Wednesday, April 16</b>	
10:00am	Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry
<b>Thursday, April 17</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>
	<b>Day of Prayer</b>
10:00am	Game Fellowship
3:30pm	Choral Ensemble Rehearsal
5:00pm	Communion Service
<b>Friday, April 18</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>
12:00pm	Good Friday Service
<b>Saturday, April 19</b>	
9:00am	Living Cross
<b>Sunday, April 20</b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b>
10:30am	Worship Service (Also Online)
11:30am	Fellowship Time

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

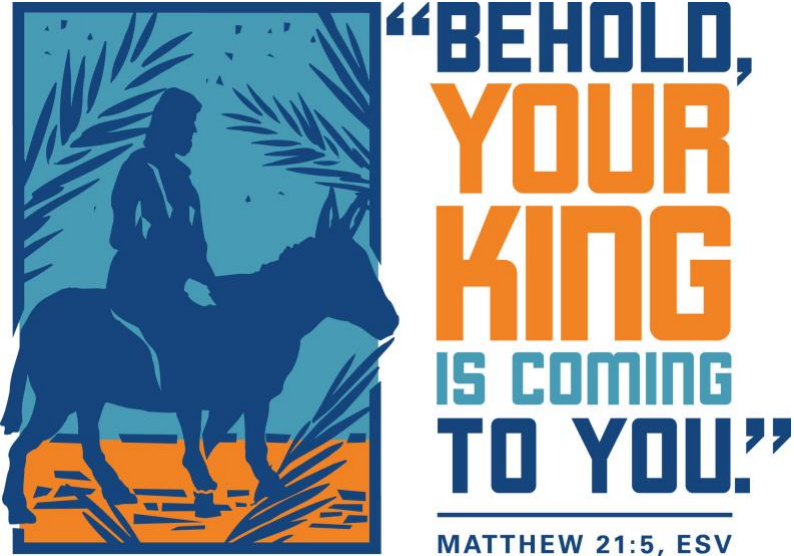
SERMON NOTES

Luke 19:28-40

And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, saying, “Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you shall say this: ‘The Lord has need of it.’” So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, “Why are you untying the colt?” And they said, “The Lord has need of it.” And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”

DAY OF PRAYER – Thursday, April 17th, 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM

During Holy Week we will set aside Maundy Thursday as a Day of Prayer. So, as we navigate the complexities of life, I want to extend a heartfelt invitation to you to join us and set aside Maundy Thursday as a special Day of Prayer where our church family can come together in united prayer, seeking God's guidance and provision for our families, our church, our ministry partners, our community and the world around us. You are welcome to pray at home, or with a group of friends, or individually in the church sanctuary. In the church foyer is a sign-up sheet where you can sign up for an hour from 7:00AM – 4:00PM. (If you choose to pray at the church, the sanctuary will have soft music playing in the background, and the lights will be dimmed.) When we think of praying for an hour, that can be a bit daunting. So, we will also provide a prayer book to help guide your prayers during that hour that you can use at home or at the church, available Sunday, April 13th.



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 13, 2025	Palm Sunday	10:30am
PASTOR	Dr. Barksdale Pullen	
ORGANIST	Denny Ausman	
OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN	Debbie Rostad	
LITURGIST	Johns Evans	
USHERS	Kathy Belville, Roy Belville, Susie Lorenz, Billie Sixt	
AV TECH	George Fallenbeck, Gene McPherson, Jim Nuznoff	