
WORSHIP SERVICE

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC Nancy Smith

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *The Penitent Heart* Esther S. Higgins

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

INTROIT *Our Song Shall Rise to Thee* Joseph M. Martin
Chancel Choir

***HYMN #92** *O How I Love Jesus*

***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 *Scenes from Gethsemane* Joseph M. Martin
Chancel Choir

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

OFFERTORY *Song of Devotion* James Denton

***DOXOLOGY**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Lord God, who has given to us so many gifts, Your generosity is sometimes even more than we can comprehend. We praise You for all Your loving gifts. Now we bring to You our gifts and our lives, dedicating them to You for service and ministry. May all that we do show to the world Your great love for all humankind. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

***HYMN #705** *It Is Well with My Soul*

SCRIPTURE Acts 9:1-22

MESSAGE *Saul's Conversion* Pastor Barksdale Pullen

***HYMN #56** *To God Be the Glory*

INSTALLATION OF DEACONS

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE** *Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing* Sicilian Mariners
Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE *Fantasia on Coronation* 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 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 Barbara Harris, who went home to the Lord on November 25, 2023.

Pray for the family of Donna Peterson, former member, and mother of Diane Curtis. Donna went home to the Lord on February 11, 2024.

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*

NOTES

FLOWERS – The flowers are given today by Matthew and Maria Greene in thanksgiving for their 40th wedding anniversary.

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

MARCH 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!

DEACON'S FUND – NEXT Sunday, March 17th, is our monthly collection to help support congregation and emergency needs, Misión Peniel, and others.

Comparative Financial Operations / Performance

	February 2024	Year-to-Date
Tithes & Offerings	\$24,914.42	\$49,460.58
Cash Expenditures	\$23,088.12	\$48,358.80
Net	\$1,826.30	\$1,101.78

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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

CHANCEL CHOIR – Singers are needed to balance out our church choir. Rehearsals are one hour long on Thursday and before services on Sunday. Call Joan at 941-661-1553 or talk to her on Sunday. **Come and join us in the pleasures of singing praises to God.**

SEASON OF LENT DEVOTIONALS – We have devotionals for you to choose from in the church foyer to help you prepare for Holy Week (**March 24 – March 30**).

SANCTUARY CROSS – 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. The purple cloth remains on the cross from Ash Wednesday to Maundy Thursday representing royalty – the King of kings has come. 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.

EASTER LILIES – We will be decorating the church with lilies for Easter. If you would like to donate one in remembrance or honor of a loved one, please use the offering envelopes on the back table of the sanctuary. Suggested donation is \$7 for each lily. **Please have your envelope back by Monday, March 25th**, in time for the bulletin insert.

LIVING CROSS – We are requesting flowers and greenery for the “living cross” for Easter morning. **Please bring both the flowers and greenery at 10:00am on Saturday, March 30th**. Sign up in the church foyer to help with the “living cross”.

EASTER POSTCARD – Pick up an Easter Postcard in the church foyer and invite a neighbor to church Easter Week.

*****MARK YOUR CALENDARS WITH OUR HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE*****

- **Palm Sunday – March 24 – 10:30am Worship Service**
- **Maundy Thursday – March 28 – 5:00pm Communion Service**
- **Good Friday – March 29 – 12:00pm Good Friday Service**
- **Easter Sunday – March 31 – 10:30am Easter Sunday Worship Service**

ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

PRAYER SHAWL GATHERING – If you like to knit or crochet, please gather with us in Fellowship Hall **Monday, March 11th at 10am**.

DONUTS & DOCTRINE – **Wednesday, March 13th at 10:00am**. We continue our study of the book of Daniel which tells Daniel's story—and a fascinating and instructive story it is. But the main purpose of Daniel is to reveal to us who God is—his character, his purposes, his way of working in the world for the good of his people. The main lesson of Daniel, then, is not, as is often assumed (and taught!), *Dare to be a Daniel!* Rather, the main point is this: *Dare to trust in Daniel's God! All are welcome!*

PULLEN UP A CHAIR – **Wednesday, March 13th at 5:00pm**. Barksdale and Bo host get-together dinners at their home for groups of eight. You can sign up in the church foyer, or call/email the church office 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.

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH – **Friday, March 15th, 12:00pm** – Please sign up and join us for lunch at Twisted Fork, Port Charlotte. **All ladies are invited!**

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – **Tuesday, March 19th at 10:00am** – **“Weeping and Wailing...and Warfare!”** – **Esther 4:1-8**. 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.**

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER – **Wednesday, March 20th, 5:00pm** – our annual dinner with corned beef and cabbage and fixings, along with “green” desserts. Nancy Smith will play piano, and we will sing Irish songs. Pastor Barksdale will do a trivia game. Suggested donation is \$7.00. Sign up in the church foyer.

CONCERT SERIES – **Sunday, April 7th, 3:00pm** – Stephanie Smith, our former organist, will present the last concert of our 2023-2024 Concert Series. Stephanie will share some of her favorite hymn-based compositions. Free will offering.

MISIÓN PENIEL – Our next trip to Immokalee is **Friday, April 26th** – 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.

MISSIONS SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

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.

EVENTS FOR THE COMING WEEK

March 10th to March 17th

Sunday, March 10

8:00am

10:30am

11:30am

6:00pm

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Sermon on the Sand – Fisherman Village

Worship Service (Also Online)

Fellowship Time

Prayer Meeting-FB

Monday, March 11

10:00am

Prayer Shawl Gathering

Tuesday, March 12

10:00am

Mission Team

Wednesday, March 13

10:00am

Donuts & Doctrine

10:00am

Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry

5:00pm

Pullen Up a Chair

Thursday, March 14

10:00am

Game Fellowship

3:30pm

Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, March 15

12:00pm

Ladies Lunch Bunch

Sunday, March 17

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Deacon’s Fund Sunday

10:30am

Worship Service (Also Online)

11:30am

Fellowship Time

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

Acts 9:1-22

¹ Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples. He went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. ³ As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” ⁵ “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. ⁶ “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.” ⁷ The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything. ¹⁰ In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, “Ananias!” “Yes, Lord,” he answered. ¹¹ The Lord told him, “Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ¹² In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.” ¹³ “Lord,” Ananias answered, “I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.” ¹⁵ But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. ¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.” ¹⁷ Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. ²⁰ At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. ²¹ All those who heard him were astonished and asked, “Isn’t he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn’t he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?” ²² Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.



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.

March 10, 2024

10:30am

PASTOR

Dr. Barksdale Pullen

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Joan Byron

ORGANIST

Denny Ausman

OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN

Debbie Rostad

LITURGIST

Don Washabaugh

USHERS

Marjorie Haun, Patti MacDonald, Sam Cessna, Billie Sixt