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**WORSHIP SERVICE**

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**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC** Nancy Smith

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** *Heaven Came Down and Glory Filled My Soul* John Peterson  
Nancy Smith

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

**\*HYMN #207** *We Have Come to Join in Worship*

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - The Nicene Creed (Unison)**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**\*GLORIA PATRI****PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER** *(debts/debtors)*

**OFFERTORY - \*\*** *Help Me To Remember* Muriel Dillon

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

You have blessed us with every good gift, generous God. Our hearts overflow with joy and love for the privilege of walking with You and being called Your own. Receive these gifts, we pray, as our faithful and grateful response to Your gifts of grace and mercy in our lives. Amen.

**\*HYMN** *In Christ Alone*

**SCRIPTURE** Ephesians 5:1-20

**MESSAGE** *Christian Living 2* Pastor Barksdale Pullen

**\*HYMN #774** *When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #656** *Take Time to Be Holy (vs. 1)*

**POSTLUDE** *Come, Ye Faithful* Edward Broughton

\*Please stand, if able

\*\*You may give securely online at [www.fpcpunta.org](http://www.fpcpunta.org)

Hearing assist devices are available at the tech booth

CCLI #1140231 CVLI #505541137

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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 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 Ground Up Ministries, a ministry for human trafficking in Florida.
- 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 with Special Needs**

Rachel Pfaender	Phyllis Ehrhardt	Rick Berner
Lynn Lang	Ron Sixt	Dave Sifferd

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**NOTES**

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**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).

**PRAYER REQUESTS** – Email your praise or petition to [first@fpcpunta.org](mailto:first@fpcpunta.org). Indicate if your prayer is for the Pastor only, church email prayer list, or prayer team on Sundays – or all of the above.

**FLOWERS** – The flowers are given by Roy and Kathy Belville in celebration of their 57th 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.

**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**

	February 2026	Year-to-Date
Tithes & Offerings	\$21,549.17	\$44,050.36
Cash Expenditures	<u>\$20,872.61</u>	<u>\$41,971.85</u>
Net	\$676.56	\$2,078.51

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**MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AND NOTES**

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

**ST. VINCENT FOOD DRIVE** – March 29th to April 12th -- Bring any non-perishable food item to Fellowship Hall.

**SERMON ON THE SAND** – Pastor Barksdale delivers the message on **Sunday, March 15th at 8:00am at Fishermen’s Village**.

**MISIÓN PENIEL** – Our next trip to Immokalee is **Friday, March 27th, 12:30pm**. Please meet at our church. We need 12 people to sign up in the church foyer.

**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 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 Easter Sunday - representing His resurrection - His victory over sin, death and Satan.*

**EASTER LILIES FOR EASTER SUNDAY** - *You may donate one in remembrance or honor of a loved one. The cost per lily is \$7.00. Special envelopes can be found in the back of the Sanctuary or foyer. Please return by Monday, March 30th.*

**LIVING CROSS FOR EASTER SUNDAY** - *Please bring flowers and greenery for the “living cross” which will be presented on Easter morning. Please bring both flowers and greenery on Saturday, April 4th, at 9:00am. Also, please sign up in the foyer to help with the cross.*

**DEACON’S FUND SUNDAY** – **TODAY** -- is our monthly collection to help support congregation, emergency needs, Misión Peniel, and others.

**ACTIVITIES / EVENTS**

**WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY** – **Tuesday, March 17th, at 10:00am** – Our study is: “Heaven – When Faith Becomes Sight” (Lesson 3) by Jennifer Rothschild. We meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall. All ladies are welcome! See Kathy Belville for more information.

**DONUTS & DOCTRINE** – **Wednesday, March 18th, at 10:00am** – Join us as we begin a study on Holy Week. Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday (March 29) and goes through Easter Sunday (April 5). In the Biblical account, significant activities happen every day that week. Come and explore the week with us on Wednesdays in March as we prepare to celebrate Easter (April 5). Everyone is welcome.

**LADIES CARDS FELLOWSHIP** – **Thursday, March 19th, at 10:00am** -- All ladies are welcome to join us Thursdays for cards and conversation.

**LADIES LUNCH BUNCH** – **Friday, March 20th, 11:30am** – Sign up for LongHorn Steakhouse in Port Charlotte. All ladies welcome!

**LUNCH ‘N’ LEARN** – **Wednesday, March 25th, Noon** – Detective Chris Farley from the Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office will give a presentation on the latest Senior Scams. Sign up in the church foyer.

**PALM SUNDAY CONCERT** – **Sunday, March 29th, 3:00pm**. “Great Christian Music Remembered” by Joshua Shenkle, retired NY Opera singer, James McDuffy, Gospel recording artist, and Denny and Minty Ausman. *No tickets needed -- Just come and enjoy the music in our Sanctuary!*

**PEACE RIVER BOTANICAL GARDENS** – **Monday, April 6th, 10:00am**. Sign up to meet us at the Gardens for the “Origami in the Garden” event. The cost is **\$18.00**.

**PULLEN UP A CHAIR** – **April 15th at 5:00pm** - Barksdale and Bo will host get-together dinners for groups of eight at their home. There is no agenda, lesson, or study, just a time to get together for fellowship. Sign up in the church foyer or call/email the church office.

**BURGERS FOR BADGES** – **April 20th from 11:00am – 1:00pm** – **Save the Date!**

**MISSIONS SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES**

**DISASTER RELIEF SUPPORT** – 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 SHOWER MINISTRY** – (Wednesday mornings in our parking lot) – Please place “shower” items on the table in 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**

**March 15 – March 22**

<b>Sunday, March 15</b>	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT</b>
8:00am	Deacon’s Fund Sunday
10:30am	Sermon on the Sand
11:30am	<b>Worship Service (Also Online)</b>
6:00pm	Fellowship Time
	Prayer Meeting-FB
<b>Monday, March 16</b>	
1:00pm	Session
<b>Tuesday, March 17</b>	
10:00am	Women’s Bible Study
<b>Wednesday, March 18</b>	
10:00am	Donuts & Doctrine
10:00am	Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry
<b>Thursday, March 19</b>	
10:00am	Ladies Cards Fellowship
<b>Friday, March 20</b>	
11:30am	Ladies Lunch Bunch
<b>Sunday, March 22</b>	<b>FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT</b>
10:15am	Hymn Sing
10:30am	<b>Worship Service (Also Online)</b>
11:30am	Fellowship Time
6:00pm	Prayer Meeting-FB

**First Presbyterian Church of Punta Gorda**  
 Member of ECO (A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians)  
 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  
 (and by appointment)

**SERMON NOTES**

**Ephesians 5:1-20**

Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them. For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper,  
 rise from the dead,  
 and Christ will shine on you.”

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS** (details to follow)

- March 25th – Lunch ‘n’ Learn - Noon
- March 29th to April 12th – St. Vincent Food Drive
- Holy Week Schedule**
- March 29th – Palm Sunday
- March 29th – Palm Sunday Concert, 3:00pm
- April 2nd – Maundy Thursday Service, 5:00pm
- April 3rd – Good Friday Service, Noon
- April 5th – Easter Sunday
- April 6th – Peace River Botanical Gardens Outing, 10:00am
- April 15th – Pullen Up a Chair
- April 20th - Burgers For Badges, 11:00am – 1:00pm
- May 10th – Mother’s Day
- June 17th – Church Picnic at Ponce de Leon Park, 5:00pm
- June 21st – Father’s Day
- July 15th – Christmas in July Supper & Movie, 5:00pm



**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 as we lift our hearts and voices in praise.*

*We are glad to welcome each guest and friend, and that you have chosen to worship God with this congregation.*

**March 15, 2026**

**10:30am**

<b>PASTOR</b>	Dr. Barksdale Pullen
<b>ORGANIST</b>	Denny Ausman
<b>OFFICE &amp; WORSHIP ADMIN</b>	Debbie Rostad
<b>LITURGIST</b>	John Evans
<b>USHERS</b>	Merrilyn Ellison, Sharon Fant, Billie Sixt, Don Willecke
<b>A/V TECH</b>	George Fallenbeck, Jim Nuznoff, Gene McPherson