
WORSHIP SERVICE

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC Christmas Carol Hymn Sing

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Star of Wondrous Light* Esther S. Higgins

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

INTROIT *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* arr. Lloyd Larson
Chancel Choir

***HYMN #224** *We Have Come into His House*

*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 *Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming* M. Praetorius
Chancel Choir

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

OFFERTORY *Great Hope is Mine* Roger C. Wilson

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord God, You give us so much love. You fill us with abundance and mercy. Your gifts to us are constant and numerous. Now we bring to You our dollars and our talents. We bring to You our love and our skills. We bring to You our devotion and our time. Take all of this and take all of us and dedicate us and our gifts to ministry and service. In the name of Jesus Christ, we offer all now. Amen.

***HYMN #240** *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

SCRIPTURE 1 John 1:1-4

MESSAGE *Christmas Means Salvation* Pastor Barksdale Pullen

***HYMN #648** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

*BENEDICTION

***RESPONSE #243** *Emmanuel*

POSTLUDE *Lift Up Your Heads* arr. David Paxton

*Please stand, if able

Hearing assist devices are available at the tech booth

CCLI #1140231 CVLI #50542933

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 those who are still recovering from Hurricane Ian.
- 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

Please pray for the family of Diane Culver-Truby, who went home to the Lord on October 25th.

Those with Special Needs

Rachel Pfaender	Kay Callahan	Phyllis Ehrhardt
Lynn Lang	Ron Sixt	Rick Berner
Irene Csontos	Barb Harris	Dave Sifferd

Those who are in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes

Marion Brown, *Truewood by Merrill, Port Charlotte*

NOTES

FLOWERS – The flowers are given today by Bruce Peters in memory of Myrna.

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

DECEMBER 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@fcpunta.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 (fcpunta.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

	October 2023	Year-to-Date
Tithes & Offerings	\$19,143.15	\$227,175.00
Cash Expenditures	\$21,795.99	\$228,625.26
Net	(\$2,652.84)	(\$1,450.26)

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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

BIBLE READING PLAN -- Reading guides and Bibles are in the church foyer.

CHRISTMAS JOY-DRIVE – **Misión Peniel (Immokalee)** – Be a blessing to needy children and families this Christmas. Choose a gift tag on the tree in the church foyer, buy a gift, and return it in a gift bag by November 26th. Donations are also accepted.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING – This year's Christmas Offering will be used for Gift Cards for the Veterans Village. Please use the Christmas Envelope in your Envelope Box or a Pew Envelope.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA – Remember a loved one this Christmas by giving a poinsettia to help decorate the church. Suggested donation is \$7 per poinsettia. Special envelopes are available on the table in the church foyer. **Please return your envelope by Monday, December 18th** in order to be listed in a special bulletin insert.

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.

PLEDGE CARD – If you haven't returned your pledge card for 2024, please do so as soon as possible. Pledge cards and Narrative Budgets are available on the table in the back of the Sanctuary or in the church foyer. Thank you.

YEAR-END GIVING – To make sure your giving for 2023 gets credited for 2023, please have your offering/gift to the church before December 31, 2023. Any donations received after that date will be applied to one's 2024 giving. For gifts of stock, please call the church office.

ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

PEACE RIVER GARDENS – **Tuesday, November 28th at 9:30am** – Sign up to tour the beautiful Peace River Gardens (their "Glass in the Gardens" show) in Punta Gorda.

DONUTS AND DOCTRINE BIBLE STUDY – Because of Bethlehem, by Max Lucado. Join us on Wednesday mornings at 10:00am (November 29, December 6, 13, 20) as we prepare for Advent. No one expected the Messiah to come the way he did. Yet the way he came was every bit as important as the coming itself. The manger is the message. Because of Bethlehem, God knows what it's like to be human. Because of Bethlehem, when we talk to him about tough times, he understands. He's been there. He's been here. Because of Bethlehem, we no longer have marks on our record...just grace.

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH – **Friday, December 1st, 12:00pm** – Please sign up and join us for lunch at Los Mariachi's in Punta Gorda. **All ladies are invited!**

MISIÓN PENIEL – Our next trip to Immokalee is **Friday, December 1st** – we will be helping at the Mission in the afternoon. Please meet at the church at 12:30pm. We will return about 8-9pm. Sign up in the church foyer.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – **Tuesday, December 5th at 10:00am** – **"Looking for a Queen" – Esther 2:1-4 and "Discovering 'Diamonds in the Dust'" – Esther 2:5-7**. 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.**

CHRISTMAS DINNER – **Wednesday, December 6th, 5:00pm**. Turkey and ham will be provided. Sign up in the church foyer to bring a side dish, salad, or dessert.

PUNTA GORDA CHRISTMAS TRADITION - Join us for a tour of the residential canals in Punta Gorda to view Christmas lights, displays and decorations on homes, boats, seawalls and docks. The cost is \$27/person. We will gather at **6:30pm on Friday, December 15th** at the dock at Fishermen's Village. **Sign up and pay by December 1st.**

ANNUAL CONCERT SERIES – **Sunday, December 17th at 3:00pm, featuring The Two Piano Group**. A free will offering will be taken – suggested donation is \$15.00.

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 2022 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)

EVENTS FOR THE COMING WEEK

November 26th to December 3rd

Sunday, November 26

10:15am Hymn Sing
10:30am Worship Service (Also Online)
11:30am Fellowship Time
6:00pm Prayer Meeting (Facebook)

Tuesday, November 28

9:30am Peace River Garden Tour

Wednesday, November 29

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

Thursday, November 30

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

Friday, December 1

12:00pm Ladies Lunch Bunch

Sunday, December 3

First Sunday in Advent
Communion Sunday
10:30am Worship Service (Also Online)
11:30am Fellowship Time
6:00pm Prayer Meeting (Facebook)

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

1 John 1:1-4

¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—² the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—³ that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

Bible Readings

November 26 Romans 8:18-10:21
November 27 Romans 11:1-14:23
November 28 Romans 15:1-16:27
2 Corinthians 1:1-2:4
November 29 2 Corinthians 2:5-6:13
November 30 2 Corinthians 6:14-10:18
December 1 2 Corinthians 11:1-13:13
Acts 20:7-12
December 2 Acts 20:13-21:36



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.

November 26, 2023

10:30am

PASTOR	Dr. Barksdale Pullen
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Joan Byron
ORGANIST	Denny Ausman
OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN	Debbie Rostad
LITURGIST	Don Washabaugh
USHERS	Sharon Albright, Kathy Belville, Roy Belville, Bev Brady