
WORSHIP SERVICE

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC	Blended Christian Music	
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS		
PRELUDE	<i>Alleluia, Christ is Risen</i>	Franklin Ritter
CALL TO WORSHIP		
PRAYER OF INVOCATION		
INTROIT	<i>Rejoice the Lord is King</i>	C. Wesley/J. Darwell
	Chancel Choir	
*HYMN #12	<i>Praise Him! Praise Him!</i>	
* PRAYER OF CONFESSION		
Merciful Savior, we confess that in the heat of the moment, we allow our tempers, our impatience and our selfishness to overcome the heart of goodness and compassion You have created within us. We respond in ways that hurt one another and do not honor You. We confess that though we long to have the mind of Christ and to respond in all situations as He has modeled for us, we sometimes fail. We are short-sighted, forgetful and fearful. We ask for Your forgiveness, Lord. Restore to us the joy of Your salvation and the love of all humankind. <i>(Silent Confession)</i>		
*WORDS OF ASSURANCE		
*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	<i>Celtic Laud</i>	P. Martin/C. Courtney
	Chancel Choir	
PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER <i>(debt/debtors)</i>		
OFFERTORY	<i>The Year's at The Spring</i>	Benton Price
*PRAYER OF DEDICATION		
Great and eternal God, we bring forth gifts of praise and thanks for Your presence and Your love. We praise You for Your church and its witness and ministry to all. May our gifts and our lives be strengthened by Your Spirit and further the ministries of Your church through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.		
*HYMN #336	<i>There Is a Fountain</i>	
SCRIPTURE	Acts 12:1-17	
MESSAGE	<i>It Gets Real</i>	Pastor Barksdale Pullen
COMMUNION HYMN	<i>For the Beauty of the Earth</i>	
COMMUNION		
*HYMN #353	<i>Victory in Jesus</i>	
*BENEDICTION		
*RESPONSE	<i>Lord, Let Us Now Depart in Peace</i>	George Whelpton
	Chancel Choir	
POSTLUDE	<i>Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty</i>	H. Livingston, Jr.

*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 former member, Art Koon and family, whose wife Fran went home to the Lord on March 28th. Fran is the sister and sister-in-law of Andy and Nancy Smith. A Memorial Service will be held at FPC on Friday, May 31st at 11:00am and at the National Cemetery in Sarasota at 2:30pm.

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

ROSE - The rose on the organ is in celebration of the birth of Wylder Hazel Basham, the ninth great-grandchild of Larrie and Marjorie Tisdale. Wylder was born February 6th to Meghan and Jake Basham in Bowling Green, KY.

FLOWERS – The flowers are given today by Phyllis Ehrhardt.

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

APRIL 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!

Comparative Financial Operations / Performance

	<u>February 2024</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Tithes & Offerings	\$24,914.42	\$49,460.58
Cash Expenditures	<u>\$23,088.12</u>	<u>\$48,358.80</u>
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.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP CLASS -- **Sunday, April 28th at 9:30am**. If you are interested in joining the church, or just finding out more information about FPC, please join us for a one class introduction to FPC. (For Seasonal Residents, we have an Affiliate Membership, so you can maintain your Membership back home.)

PRESERVATION COMMITTEE - During Workday a couple of weeks ago, the team ran across many items that were saved from the church pre-Hurricane Charley. If you would like to be on a committee to help decide what will happen to these items - use in church, save, donation, etc. - contact Gene McPherson.

ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

CONCERT SERIES – **THIS AFTERNOON AT 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.

DONUTS & DOCTRINE – **Wednesday, April 10th 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!*

THE CHOSEN SEASON 4 – Postponed due to technical issues. Stay tuned!

BURGERS FOR BADGES – **Monday, April 15th, 11:00am – 1:00pm**. Help us show our appreciation to our Sheriff's Department as we grill out hamburgers and hotdogs. Sign up in the church foyer to bring cookies or desserts. If you would like to make a donation to help defray the costs of this outreach event, please designate it as "B4B".

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – **Tuesday, April 16th at 10:00am** – **"Turning Point to Greatness"** – **Esther 5:1-8**. 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.**

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH – **Friday, April 19th, 12:00pm** – Please sign up and join us for lunch at Red Lobster in Port Charlotte. **All ladies are invited!**

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.

MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST – **Sunday, May 12th at 9:00am** – Sign up now!

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

April 7th to April 14th

Sunday, April 7

10:30am

11:30am

3:00pm

6:00pm

Communion Sunday

Worship Service (Also Online)

Fellowship Time

Concert Series – Stephanie Smith

Prayer Meeting-FB

Monday, April 8

10:00am

1:00pm

Prayer Shawl Gathering

Worship Team

Tuesday, April 9

10:00am

Mission Team

Wednesday, April 10

10:00am

10:00am

Donuts & Doctrine

Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry

Thursday, April 11

10:00am

3:30pm

Game Fellowship

Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, April 14

10:30am

11:30am

6:00pm

Worship Service (Also Online)

Fellowship Time

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 12:1-17

¹ Around that time, King Herod began to use violence towards some members of the church. ² He killed James the brother of John with the sword. ³ When he saw that it pleased the Judaeans, he proceeded to arrest Peter, too. (This was around the time of the Festival of Unleavened Bread.) ⁴ So, when he had seized him, he put him in prison, and gave four squads of soldiers the job of guarding him, with the intention of bringing him out to the people after Passover. ⁵ So Peter was kept in prison. But the church prayed earnestly to God on his behalf. ⁶ On the night when Herod was intending to bring Peter out, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains. There were guards on the doors, watching the prison. ⁷ Suddenly an angel of the Lord stood there, and a light shone in the cell. The angel hit Peter on the side and woke him up. “Get up quickly!” he said. The chains fell off his hands. ⁸ Then the angel spoke again. “Get dressed and put on your sandals,” he said. So Peter did. “Put on your cloak and follow me,” said the angel. ⁹ So he went out, following the angel. He didn’t think all this business with the angel was really happening. He thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰ They went through the first set of guards; then the second; and then they came to the iron gate that led into the city. It opened all by itself. They went out and walked along a street. Suddenly the angel left him. ¹¹ Then Peter came to his senses. “Now I know it’s true!” he said. “The Lord sent his angel and snatched me out of Herod’s hands. He rescued me from all the things the Judaeans were intending to do.” ¹² Once he had realized this, he went to the house of Mary, John Mark’s mother. Lots of people were gathered there, praying. ¹³ Peter knocked at the door in the outer gate, and a maid called Rhoda came to answer it. ¹⁴ When she heard Peter’s voice, she was so excited that she didn’t open the gate. Instead, she ran back in and told them that Peter was standing outside the gate. ¹⁵ “You’re mad!” they said to her. But she insisted that it really was true. “It must be his angel!” they said. ¹⁶ Meanwhile Peter carried on knocking. They opened the door and saw him, and were astonished. ¹⁷ He made a sign with his hand for them to be quiet. Then he told them how the Lord had led him out of the prison. “Tell this to James, and to the other brothers and sisters,” he said. Then he left, and went somewhere else.



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 7, 2024

10:30am

PASTOR

Dr. Barksdale Pullen

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Joan Byron

ORGANIST

Denny Ausman

OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN

Debbie Rostad

LITURGIST

Bev Brady

USHERS

Sharon Albright, Patti MacDonald, Sam Cessna, Don Willecke