

WORSHIP SERVICE		
PRE-SERVICE MUSIC		
Classical Music		
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS		
PRELUDE	<i>Fantasia on “Old Hundredth”</i>	Roger C. Wilson
CALL TO WORSHIP		
PRAYER OF INVOCATION		
*HYMN #8	<i>Come, Thou Almighty King</i>	
*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 <i>(debt/debtors)</i>		
OFFERTORY - **	<i>To God All Praise and Glory</i>	Roger C. Wilson
*DOXOLOGY		
*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 #719	<i>Children of the Heavenly Father</i>	
SCRIPTURE	1 John 3:1-10	
MESSAGE	<i>The Pretenders</i>	Pastor Barksdale Pullen
*HYMN #676	<i>O Jesus, I Have Promised</i>	
*BENEDICTION		
*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE		
<i>Let There be Peace on Earth</i>		
POSTLUDE	<i>Lead On, O King Eternal</i>	Lani Smith
*Please stand, if able		

**You may give securely online at www.fpcpunta.org

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

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 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 Who Grieve		
Pray for the family of Jean LaMantia, who went home to the Lord on September 3rd.		
Pray for the family of David Otoupal, who went home to the Lord on May 27th.		
Those with Special Needs		
Rachel Pfaender	Phyllis Ehrhardt	Rick Berner
Lynn Lang	Ron Sixt	Dave Sifferd
NOTES		
PRAYER QUOTE – “Worship and intercession must go together; the one is impossible without the other. Intercession means that we rouse ourselves up to get the mind of Christ about the one for whom we pray.” – Oswald Chambers		
PRAYER EMAIL LIST – If you would like to be on Pastor Barksdale’s prayer email list, email Pastor Barksdale at bmpullen3@fpcpunta.org .		
PRAYER REQUESTS – Email your praise or petition to 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 Marguerite O’Brien in loving memory of John J. O’Brien.		
CELL PHONES – Please remember to silence or turn off your mobile devices.		
SEPTEMBER 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) 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		
	August 2025	Year-to-Date
Tithes & Offerings	\$17,596.15	\$157,059.28
Cash Expenditures	\$21,427.26	\$174,605.85
Net	(\$3,831.11)	(\$17,546.57)

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AND NOTES	
GATHER FOR PRAYER – <u>A prayer meeting is held Sundays at 6pm</u> (FaceBook online). Please submit any prayer requests to first@fpcpunta.org .	
DEACON’S FUND SUNDAY – <i>Next Sunday, September 21st</i> , is our monthly collection to help support congregation and emergency needs, Misión Peniel, and others.	
MISIÓN PENIEL – Our next trip to Immokalee is <i>Friday, October 31st, 9:00am</i> – Please meet at our church. We need 6 people to sign up.	
SERMON ON THE SAND – Pastor Barksdale delivers the message on <i>Sunday, October 5th at 8:00am at Fishermen’s Village</i> .	
HURRICANE SEASON – As we are still in Florida’s hurricane season, we want to remind everyone that if a storm is in the area, please don’t travel if you are not comfortable, but you may join us online. Also, we have a text messaging system to notify folks if Services/Events are canceled. If you do not want to receive a text message, please notify the church office. <i>Please note: You cannot reply to these text messages.</i>	
ACTIVITIES / EVENTS	
DONUTS & DOCTRINE – <i>Wednesday, September 17th at 10:00am</i> – God’s Unfolding Plan of Redemption - The story of salvation is more than the Easter story, God’s plan of salvation stretches back in the Old Testament. Join us as we explore the characters, events and history leading up to the promised Messiah. All are welcome!	
LADIES CARDS FELLOWSHIP – <i>Join us on Thursday, September 18th at 10:00am</i> – We meet every Thursday morning for cards and conversation. All ladies are welcome!	
LADIES LUNCH BUNCH – <i>Friday, September 19th, 11:30am</i> – Sign up for LongHorn Steakhouse in Port Charlotte.	
WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY – <i>Resumes Tuesday, October 7th, 10:00am</i> – We are studying the book “Keep It Shut” by Karen Ehman. On October 7th we will do Session 2 – “On Filling Gaps and Zipping Lips: Listen to Others, Talk to God”. We meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall. All ladies are welcome!	
GRIEFSHARE GROUP – <i>Begins Monday, October 20th, 10:00am to Noon in the Choir Room</i> . See the September Newsletter for more information.	
BURGERS FOR BADGES – <i>Monday, October 20th, 11:00am to 1:00pm</i> . Help us show our appreciation to our local and retired First Responders as we grill out hamburgers and hotdogs. Sign up to bring cookies or desserts. If you would like to attend and thank our First Responders, please sign up (suggested donation of \$5.00 for members).	
LEGACY WRITING WORKSHOP – <i>Wednesday, October 29th, 12:00pm – 1:00pm</i> . Our guest speaker is Christopher Parent, a Community Partnership Specialist from Empath Health. Materials will be provided to help you create a legacy workbook for your children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.	

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

September 14 – September 21

Sunday, September 14	
10:30am	Worship Service (Also Online)
11:30am	Fellowship Time
6:00pm	Prayer Meeting-FB
Monday, September 15	
1:00pm	Session
Wednesday, September 17	
10:00am	Donuts & Doctrine
10:00am	Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry
Thursday, September 18	
10:00am	Ladies Cards Fellowship
Friday, September 19	
11:30am	Ladies Lunch Bunch
Sunday, September 21	
10:30am	Deacon’s Fund Sunday
11:30am	Worship Service (Also Online)
6:00pm	Fellowship Time
	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 Website: fpcpunta.org
Office hours: 9:00am to 1:00pm Monday – Thursday
(and by appointment)

SERMON NOTES

1 John 3:1-10

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.



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.

September 14, 2025	10:30am
PASTOR	Dr. Barksdale Pullen
ORGANIST	Denny Ausman
OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN	Debbie Rostad
LITURGIST	Don Washabaugh
USHERS	Merrilyn Ellison, Marjorie Haun, Billie Sixt, Linda Wagar
A/V TECH	George Fallenbeck, Jim Nuznoff