The Messenger

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN Punta Gorda

SUMMER 2023

25250 Airport Road
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
941-639-1959
first@fpcpunta.org
www.fpcpunta.org

Worship Service in our Sanctuary at 10:30am
or watch our worship service LIVE! at:
www.fpcpunta.org and click on the logo "vimeo livestream"

Every Summer Has A Story

As I was looking at greeting cards the other day, I read one that had the quote, "Every Summer Has A Story". Curious as to the author, I googled it – I didn't get an answer, but apparently it is a pretty common saying – you could buy just about anything with that saying on it.

It may be common, but I like the message, especially as we are about to enter the summer of 2023 – What story will you write? I can remember childhood summers – the beach in Mississippi, Family BBQ's in Arkansas, Boy Scout Camp in New Mexico, and then the simpler things – ice cream, pools, sprinklers, fireflies, s'mores, camps, pick-up football games in the neighborhood, sleepovers at the grandparents, fishing, camping in the backyard, Vacation Bible School and no homework.

I look back with very fond memories, and a few sad ones as I think of those people who are no longer with us. How many of us would give just about anything to go back in time to relive just one of those days with family or friends? Great times. But great times are still ahead as well.

How will you use this summer? What story will you write? For many of us in Punta Gorda, we say the summer doesn't feel much different, except that it is hotter and some of our friends have headed back north – and there is less traffic. The pace does slow down a bit around here – but I want to encourage you to make some plans!

The writer of Ecclesiastes wrote in chapter three - *There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens*: The writer goes on to list positive and negative things that are done. As you look to this summer, what are the positive activities you can get done? Make those phone calls to check on friends? Have people over for a cook-out? Write notes of encouragement to your children or grandchildren or great-grandchildren? If possible, visit with family? The point is to be intentional about the summer, don't let it just slip away.

Also, the writer of Ecclesiastes ends the book with this verse: *Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.* To fear God, is to worship Him, not to be afraid of Him. This summer is also an opportunity to draw closer, to worship Him. So, with all the comings and goings of summer activities, don't forget about nurturing your faith – church, Bible Studies, Worship, SS offering, Wednesday evening activities, Bible readings, Fellowship times, etc.

As you write your story of the summer of 2023, I hope it includes not only great times of fun with family and friends, but a summer that you can also look back on and say that you grew closer to our Lord and Saviour.

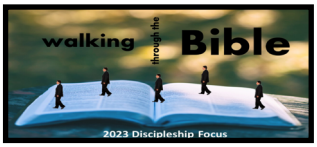
As Peter reminds us - *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.* As His disciples, let us grow this summer.

In His Name, Pastor Barksdale

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Sunday Mornings - 10:30am Worship Service (Also Online)
Sunday Evenings - 6:00pm Prayer Meeting (On Facebook)

Sermon Series



Fellowship Time

Join us for beverages, cookies and treats after Sunday's Worship Service

DISCIPLESHIP 2023

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

We will begin a new study (on Esther) in October - Have a blessed summer!

Call Kathy Belville at 508-733-0546 for more information - All are welcome!

DONUTS & DOCTRINE Bible Study

Wednesday mornings at 10:00am

"Questions"
from our Chronological Bible Reading and our Christian Faith

June 14, 28 — July 12, 19, 26 — August 2, 9, 16

Church Membership CLASS

Next Class will be in the Fall

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL - *Grandparents Matter*

As a Grandparent, you play an important role in your Grandchildren's lives - so important that your influence on them has eternal significance. Becoming an effective Grandparent isn't just another season of your life; it is a God-given calling! Come join us for inspiration, tools, and connection with others as we seek God's truth and guidance in becoming effective, loving Grandparents.

This will be a 12-week video presentation with open discussion facilitated by Barksdale & Bo.

Sunday Mornings, 9:15am - 10:15am, beginning June 11th in Fellowship Hall

TOPICS:
Vision - The Amazing Influence of a Grandparent
Foundation - What the Bible says about grandparenting
Strategy - Reaching the heart of your grandchild
Obstacles - Overcoming barriers of Distance
Application - The 8 Best practices of Christian Grandparents
Commitment - Becoming an Intentional Christian Grandparent

DISCIPLESHIP WISDOM

Making Disciples: 10 Future Trends for Church Leaders to Embrace by Bobby Harrington

#6 - Make Scripture Your Curriculum - Evangelical Christians Do Not Know Scripture Like They Did in the Past

A big part of the reason why the cultural progressives are winning over more and more evangelical Christians to their beliefs and worldview is that fewer and fewer evangelical Christians are regularly reading their Bibles and actually learning the teachings of Scripture. For the last several decades, the typical evangelical church has dropped much of its programming that focused on Scripture (such as Sunday school and Wednesday night services) and they are relying just on Sunday morning sermons to get their people into the Bible. And the sermons are often dependent upon inspiration, personal stories, and practical applications- -without a steady diet of biblical teaching. The sermons inspire people, but too often they do not teach people how to read and understand God's Word. The net result is that people are spending less and less time in the Bible.

At the same time, individuals and families tend to be reading less and less Scripture at home.

Into this environment, the dominant voices of social media, universities, and entertainment are speaking progressive values. They are discipling the minds of more and more people into ideals built on other worldviews (such as the ideology of intersectional feminism, which you can see played out in many Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity trainings).

Although many of our Western ideals (e.g., the equal value of all people; all ethnicities being of the same family) arise from Christian influence, many newer secular and intersectional ideals do not fit in with the teaching of the Word of God, and many actually work to inflame tensions and divide people into tribalistic camps.

The church must point to a better way. We must provide a genuine countercultural alternative to what is happening in the world. We recommend a strategy to disciple everyone in Scripture and what it teaches. Here are six specific recommendations that come from my experiences as the lead pastor of my local church.

• Make sermons primarily expository, teaching through books of the Bible.

• Make Scripture the primary curriculum for discipling groups (not just books about Scripture). Get everyone to regularly apply Scripture to life.

• Develop supplemental discipleship groups (small, I'd recommend 3-5 people only) where Scripture engagement and memorization become the norm.

• Develop Scripture reading plans that encourage individuals and families to be in the Word daily (e.g., reading through the entire New Testament in 2023).

• Provide in-depth Bible study classes that require extra reading and Scripture memorization for those who are willing and able to join.

• Provide special 1.5 to 2-hour, in-depth seminars grounded in Scripture at least six times a year.

We want to encourage everyone to personally learn the teachings of Jesus--and put them into practice.

FPC ACTIVITIES AND OUTREACH

PRAYER SHAWL GATHERING

Mondays - June 12th, July 10th, August 14th at 10:00am

GAME FELLOWSHIP

Thursday mornings at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall ***All are welcome!***

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH

1st and 3rd Friday of each month

Sign up in the church foyer

Friday, June 16th	Friday, July 7th	Friday, July 21st
12:00pm	12:00pm	12:00pm
Laishley's	Monty's	Los Mariachi's
Punta Gorda	Punta Gorda	Punta Gorda

Watch the Bulletin for August Dates & Locations

PULLEN UP A CHAIR

Barksdale and Bo host get-together dinners for groups of eight at their home

June 8th, July 5th, August 2nd, — at 5:00pm

Sign up in the church foyer or call/email the church office

There is no agenda, lesson, or study, just a time to get together for fellowship

WEDNESDAY EVENING DINNER AND A MOVIE

The Chosen Season 3

June 14 and 28 —
July 12 and 26 — August 9 and 23

Join us at 5:00pm for dinner

Following dinner, at 5:45pm, we will watch *The Chosen* Season 3 with discussion afterwards

From the Choir Loft:

This has been a productive year for the Chancel Choir. We have been fortunate to be able to sing at most of the services and to perform a Christmas Cantata.
Now it is time for us to take a break for the summer.
We will resume rehearsals in September (or earlier if we can).
For the summer we are looking for special music a couple of times a month.
All you need is a love to sing or play praises to our God!
If you are interested contact me at 941-661-1553 or jfbyron@comcast.net.
Have a peaceful and restful summer!

Joan Byron

MISSIONS MINISTRY

First Presbyterian Church proudly supports Missions from our church budget. If you would personally like to make additional donations, please make checks payable to FPC and indicate the mission on the memo line.

CROSSROADS HOPE ACADEMY

Pickleball at the PG YMCA
Meal Prep at Crossroads

Watch Sunday Bulletins for Summer Activiites

Monthly Mission Support

CROSSROADS HOPE ACADEMY *(PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA)*

Crossroadspg.org

JESUS LOVES YOU MINISTRY *(PORT CHARLOTTE, FLORIDA)*

Jesuslovesyouministryinc.com

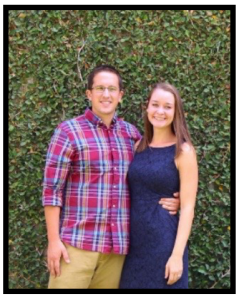
Shower & Lunch Ministry

MISIÓN PENIEL *(IMMOKALEE, FLORIDA)*

Misionpeniel.com

ANTIOCH PARTNERS MISSIONARIES

Eric and Debbie Stone, Guatemala
Lisa Alfonsi, Lima, Peru
theantiochpartners.org



MISSIONARY VENTURES INTERNATIONAL

Chasen and Katie Brokaw
Nicaragua
mvi.org
breakingborders.org

MILITARY PRAYER LIST

Prayer

O Prince of Peace, we humbly ask Your protection for all our men and women in military service. Give them unflinching courage to defend with honor, dignity and devotion the rights of all who are imperiled by injustice and evil. Guard our churches, our homes, our schools, our hospitals, our factories, our buildings, and all those within from harm and peril. Protect our land and its people from enemies within and without. Grant an early peace with victory founded upon justice. Instill in the hearts and minds of men and women everywhere a firm purpose to live forever in peace and good will towards all. Amen.

* Major John McPherson, Air Force, great nephew of Marguerite O'Brien, stationed at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas
* Major Ryan Swisher, Army Ranger, grandson of Rachel Pfaender, stationed in North Carolina
* Major Eric Engstrom, Army Intel., son of Alan Engstrom, stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas
* Captain Zadick Self, Marines, grandson-in-law of Ron Beasom, stationed in Peoria, Illinois
* Navy Seaman Tyler Beasom, Navy, grandson of Ron Beasom, stationed in San Diego, California
* MSgt. Nick Weiss, Air Force, grandson of Gail Thornton, is home based
* Lt. Col. David Sifferd, Jr., Army Reserve, son of David Sifferd, stationed in Ft. Knox, KY
* Pvt. Michael Robert Wagner, U.S. Marine Corp., great-grandson of Robert and Jean Humphreys, stationed in Hawaii.

Do you have a family member serving in the military?
If so, we'd like to add them to the newsletter prayer list. Fill out the form that's on the sign-up table in the church foyer and place it in the HELMET or let the church office know.

MEMBER CARE

Prayer Requests and Hospital / Rehab Information
Address, Phone, Email changes
Birthdays and Anniversaries

Email to first@fpcpunta.org

First Pres is on Facebook!

Go to:
facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurch-Punta Gorda

YouTube

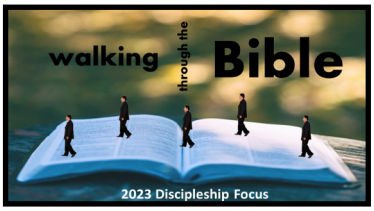
To watch the current Service:

1) Follow the link: https://www.youtube.com/@FPCPG
(This link is also on our website in the top right corner,
simply press the YouTube button.)

2) When you land on the FPC YouTube page you will see a small screen with the word LIVE, click it and it will fill up your screen.
The Service will begin at approximately 10:30 AM.
(If you don't see a small screen with the word LIVE,
we have not started streaming.)

Giving to FPC - In person
Mail to the church office: 25250 Airport Rd; PG, FL 33950
Online Giving through our website: fpcpunta.org, click Donate

Happy Father's Day
Sunday, June 18th



The One Year Chronological Bible Reading Plan for Summer 2023

Pick up a copy of the Reading Plan in the church foyer

For June, July, and August we will read from these books:

1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah

JUNE 2023
CHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR AND CELEBRATIONS

Prayer is the place where burdens change shoulders - We pray for….

The elderly, the infirm, the hospitalized, those in nursing homes, the homebound and lonely, and all those who have requested our prayerful support.

Each month we remember church members and friends on a rotating basis…

1	Alan Engstrom	11	Bob & Jean Humphreys	21	Steve MacDonald
2	John & Gail Evans	12	Pat Ihrie	22	Carolyn Ann Maupin
3	George & Bev Fallenbeck	13	Bob & Lois Jornlin	23	Gene & Barbara McPherson
4	Dick & Sandy Fisher	14	Tom & Carol Kerr	24	Larry & Sue Mesler
5	Frances Frost	15	Jean LaMantia	25	Steve & Joanie Mock
6	Neta Gensemer	16	David & Lynn Lang	26	Steve & Valerie Neeley
7	Matthew & Maria Greene	17	Ernie & DeAnn Lehman	27	Jim & Patti Nuznoff
8	Barb Harris	18	Al & Susie Lorenz	28	Marguerite O'Brien
9	Marjorie Haun	19	Connie Luther	29	David Osweiler
10	Joan Hoffman	20	Myles MacDonald	30	David & Jane Otoupal

1—Laurel Aumend

2—Gail Thornton

10—Mary Anne Washabaugh

12—Rick Berner

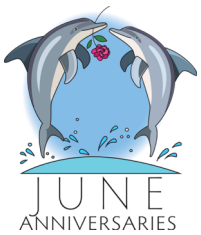
13—Bo Pullen

15—Pete Rostad

16—Donna DeBree

21—Ramona Douglas

29—Joan Byron



6—Bob & Jean Humphreys	59 yrs.
15—Steve & Valerie Neeley	50 yrs.
24—Bo & Karen Sostar	19 yrs.
26—Steve & Joanie Mock	47 yrs.
28—Rex & Helen Anderson	66 yrs.
28—Bill & Sonja Dosse	65 yrs.
30—Jim & Patti Nuznoff	44 yrs.

JULY 2023
CHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR AND CELEBRATIONS

Prayer is the place where burdens change shoulders - We pray for….

The elderly, the infirm, the hospitalized, those in nursing homes, the homebound and lonely, and all those who have requested our prayerful support.

Each month we remember church members and friends on a rotating basis…

1	Bruce Peters	11	Jene Shafer	21	Donald & Susan Willecke
2	Rachel Pfaender	12	Dave & Sharon Sifferd	22	Teri York
3	Linda Potthoff	13	Ron & Billie Sixt	23	Charles & Evelyn Zietsma
4	Barksdale & Bo Pullen	14	Andy & Nancy Smith	24	Lois Zietz
5	Tim Ronan	15	Margie Smith	25	Carol Zutter
6	Pete & Debbie Rostad	16	Bo & Karen Sostar	26	George & Sharon Albright
7	Barbara Ryan	17	Gail Thornton	27	Jay Aldridge
8	Charles Sampsel	18	Larrie & Marjorie Tisdale	28	Rex & Helen Anderson
9	Andy & Katie Schulte	19	Richard & Linda Wagar	29	Laurel Aumend
10	Elaine Schultz	20	Don & Mary Anne Washabaugh	30	Denny & Minty Ausman
				31	Ron Beasom

1—Irene Csontos
11—Billie Sixt
13—Bonnie Brown
13—Matthew Greene
16—Ernie Lehman
18—Sandy Fisher
18—John Douglas
20—Marjorie Haun
20—Jim Nuznoff
20—Bruce Peters
21—Patti MacDonald
23—Ron Beasom
27—Stephen MacDonald
31—Susan Willecke

11—Don & Mary Anne Washabaugh	48 yrs.
20—Sam & Patti Cessna	3 yrs.
25—Richard & Linda Wagar	31 yrs.
30—Andy & Katie Schulte	18 yrs.

AUGUST 2023
CHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR AND CELEBRATIONS

Prayer is the place where burdens change shoulders - We pray for….

The elderly, the infirm, the hospitalized, those in nursing homes, the homebound and lonely, and all those who have requested our prayerful support.

Each month we remember church members and friends on a rotating basis…

1	Roy & Kathy Belville	11	Judith Cornnell	21	Alan Engstrom
2	Shirley Berg	12	Charlie & Doris Costa	22	John & Gail Evans
3	Rick & Kay Berner	13	Irene Csontos	23	George & Bev Fallenbeck
4	Duane & Wanda Boyles	14	Diane Culver-Truby	24	Dick & Sandy Fisher
5	Bonnie Brown	15	Robert Cuzner	25	Frances Frost
6	Marion Brown	16	Sheila Dabney	26	Neta Gensemer
7	Ray & Joan Byron	17	Peter & Donna DeBree	27	Matthew & Maria Greene
8	Kay Callahan	18	Bill & Sonja Dosse	28	Barb Harris
9	Bonnie Carey	19	John & Ramona Douglas	29	Marjorie Haun
10	Sam & Patti Cessna	20	Phyllis Ehrhardt	30	Joan Hoffman
				31	Bob & Jean Humphreys

17—Susie Lorenz

22—Neta Gensemer

24—Donald Willecke

26—Joanie Mock

30—Marion Brown

5—Larry & Sue Mesler	64 yrs.
16—Andy & Nancy Smith	65 yrs.
18—Charlie & Doris Costa	61 yrs.
23—Pete & Debbie Rostad	48 yrs.

JUNE 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Church Office Hours Monday - Thursday 9:00am to 1:00pm				1 10:00am Game Fellowship	2	3
4 Communion Sunday 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Fellowship Time 6:00pm Prayer Meeting-FB	5	6	7 10:00am Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry	8 10:00am Game Fellowship 5:00pm Pullen Up a Chair	9	10
11 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Fellowship Time 6:00pm Prayer Meeting-FB	12 10:00am Prayer Shawl Gathering	13 10:00am Missions Team	Flag Day 14 10:00am Donuts & Doctrine Bible Study 10:00am Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry 5:00pm Dinner & Movie	15 10:00am Game Fellowship	16 12:00pm Ladies Lunch Bunch at Laishley's in Punta Gorda	17
Happy Father's Day! 18 Deacon's Fund 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Fellowship Time 6:00pm Prayer Meeting-FB	19	20	21 10:00am Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry	22 10:00am Game Fellowship	23	24
25 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Hymn Sing 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Fellowship Time 6:00pm Prayer Meeting-FB	26	27	28 10:00am Donuts & Doctrine Bible Study 10:00am Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry 5:00pm Dinner & Movie	29 10:00am Game Fellowship	30	July 2023 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

JULY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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2 Communion Sunday 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Fellowship Time 6:00pm Prayer Meeting-FB	3	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5 10:00am Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry 5:00pm Pullen Up a Chair	6 10:00am Game Fellowship	7 12:00pm Ladies Lunch Bunch at Monty's in Punta Gorda	8
9 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Fellowship Time 6:00pm Prayer Meeting-FB	10 10:00am Prayer Shawl Gathering	11 10:00am Missions Team	12 10:00am Donuts & Doctrine Bible Study 10:00am JLY Shower Min. 5:00pm Dinner & Movie	13 10:00am Game Fellowship	14	15
16 Deacon's Fund 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Fellowship Time 6:00pm Prayer Meeting-FB	17 2:00pm Session	18	19 10:00am Donuts & Doctrine Bible Study 10:00am Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry	20 10:00am Game Fellowship	21 12:00pm Ladies Lunch Bunch at Los Mariachi's in PG	22
23 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Hymn Sing 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Fellowship Time 6:00pm Prayer Meeting-FB	24	25	26 10:00am Donuts & Doctrine Bible Study 10:00am JLY Shower Min. 5:00pm Dinner & Movie	27 10:00am Game Fellowship	28	29
30 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Hymn Festival 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Fellowship Time 6:00pm Prayer Meeting-FB	31				**Church Office Hours** Monday - Thursday 9:00am to 1:00pm	

August 2023

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
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AUGUST 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 1:00pm Fellowship Team	2 10:00am Donuts & Doctrine Bible Study 10:00am Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry 5:00pm Pullen Up a Chair	3 10:00am Game Fellowship	4 12:00pm Ladies Lunch Bunch	5
6 Communion Sunday 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Fellowship Time 6:00pm Prayer Meeting-FB	7	8 10:00am Missions Team	9 10:00am Donuts & Doctrine Bible Study 10:00am Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry 5:00pm Dinner & Movie	10 10:00am Game Fellowship	11	12
13 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Fellowship Time 6:00pm Prayer Meeting-FB	14 10:00am Prayer Shawl Gathering	15	16 10:00am Donuts & Doctrine Bible Study 10:00am Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry	17 10:00am Game Fellowship	18 12:00pm Ladies Lunch Bunch	19
20 Deacon's Fund 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Fellowship Time 6:00pm Prayer Meeting-FB	21 2:00pm Session	22	23 10:00am Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry 5:00pm Dinner & Movie	24 10:00am Game Fellowship	25	26
27 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Hymn Sing 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Fellowship Time 6:00pm Prayer Meeting-FB	28	29	30 10:00am Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry	31 10:00am Game Fellowship	**Church Office Hours** Monday - Thursday 9:00am to 1:00pm	

September 2023

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30