

WORSHIP SERVICE		
PRE-SERVICE MUSIC		
Hymn Sing		
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS		
PRELUDE	Brightly Beams Our Father’s Mercy	Lani Smith
CALL TO WORSHIP		
PRAYER OF INVOCATION		
*HYMN #224		
We Have Come into His House		
*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 (debt/debtors)		
OFFERTORY - **	Peace Within My Soul	Edward Broughton
*DOXOLOGY		
*PRAYER OF DEDICATION		
Generous God, we have given to You what is Yours. You entrust us with so much abundance; accept what we offer to You now as signs of our love for You and our desire to serve You. You alone are Lord of our lives. It is already so; make it so even more for us, day by day. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.		
*HYMN #655		
Sanctuary		
SCRIPTURE		
1 John 4:1-16		
MESSAGE	Core of the Matter	Pastor Barksdale Pullen
*HYMN #410		
Standing on the Promises		
*BENEDICTION		
*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE		
Let There be Peace on Earth		
POSTLUDE		
Rejoice! Be Glad!		
Todd Kendall		
*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 – “Work, work, from morning until late at night. In fact, I have so much to do that I shall have to spend the first three hours in prayer.” – Martin Luther		
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 today by Patti and Jim Nuznoff in memory of Patti's sister.		
ROSE – The rose is in celebration of the birth of Cora Mabel Nuznoff, granddaughter of Jim and Patti Nuznoff. Cora was born on September 23rd to Scott and Hannah.		
CELL PHONES – Please remember to silence or turn off your mobile devices.		
OCTOBER 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 .	
MISIÓN PENIEL – Our next trip to Immokalee is Friday, October 31st, 9:00am – Please meet at our church. We need 6 people to sign up.	
SERMON ON THE SAND – Pastor Barksdale delivers the message on Sunday, October 5th at 8:00am at Fishermen’s Village .	
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.	
Please note: You cannot reply to these text messages.	
ACTIVITIES / EVENTS	
DONUTS & DOCTRINE – Wednesday, October 1st at 10:00am – 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 – Thursday, October 2nd at 10:00am – All ladies are welcome to join us Thursdays for cards and conversation.	
LADIES LUNCH BUNCH – Friday, October 3rd, 11:30am – Sign up for Carrabba’s Italian Restaurant in Port Charlotte.	
WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY – Resumes Tuesday, October 7th, 10:00am – We are studying the book “Keep It Shut” by Karen Ehman. On October 7th we will do Session 1 – “Sparks, Squabbles, Spats, and Such: Our Words Matter”. We meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall. All ladies are welcome!	
GRIEFSHARE GROUP – Begins Monday, October 20th, 10:00am to Noon in the Choir Room . GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life after losing a loved one. This group is led by caring people who have experienced grief and want to help you through the difficult days ahead. See the website for more information.	
BURGERS FOR BADGES – Monday, October 20th, 11:00am to 1:00pm . 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 – Wednesday, October 29th, 12:00pm – 1:00pm . 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.	
WELCOME BACK POTLUCK – Wednesday, November 12th at 5:00pm . Mark your calendars now.	

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 28 – October 5

Sunday, September 28

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

Wednesday, October 1

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

Thursday, October 2

- 10:00am Ladies Cards Fellowship

Friday, October 3

- 11:30am Ladies Lunch Bunch

Sunday, October 5

- 8:00am Communion Sunday
- 10:30am Sermon on the Sand
- 10:30am Worship Service (Also Online)
- 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 Website: fpcpunta.org
Office hours: 9:00am to 1:00pm Monday – Thursday
(and by appointment)

SERMON NOTES

1 John 4:1-16 (NIV)

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood. Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.



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 28, 2025		10:30am
PASTOR	Dr. Barksdale Pullen	
ORGANIST	Denny Ausman	
OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN	Debbie Rostad	
LITURGIST	Kathy Belville	
USHERS	Merrilyn Ellison, Patti MacDonald, Sam Cessna, Linda Wagar	
A/V TECH	George Fallenbeck, Jim Nuznoff	