
WORSHIP SERVICE – Fifth Sunday in Lent

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC Hymn Sing

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECEPTION OF NEW COVENANT PARTNERS

PRELUDE *Refiner's Fire* Brian Doerksen

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

INTROIT *Christ, Be Our Light!* Bernadette Farrell
Chancel Choir

***HYMN #686** *O God, Our Help in Ages Past (vs. 1,2,4,6)*

***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 #813**

MISSION MOMENT Breaking Borders – Nicaragua – Chasen & Katie Brokaw
Video Presentation

ANTHEM *I Only Looked Away* Mary Kay Beall/John Carter
Chancel Choir

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

OFFERTORY *In The Holy Presence* Lani Smith

***DOXOLOGY**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Lord, receive our tithes and offerings as a token of our devotion and love for You. Multiply them and use them to build Your church in this community. May they extend Your love and grace to those in need as well as empower the witness to Jesus of Your people. In His name we pray. Amen.

***HYMN #684** *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

SCRIPTURE Joshua 24:14-31

MESSAGE *Serving the Lord* Pastor Barksdale Pullen

***HYMN #552** *I Am Thine, O Lord*

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE #419** *The Family of God*

POSTLUDE *Fantasia on "Truro"* Roger C. Wilson

*Please stand, if able

Hearing assist devices are available at the tech booth
CCLI #1140231 CVLI #505429337

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 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 with Special Needs

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

Those who are in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes

Marion Brown, *Truewood by Merrill, Port Charlotte*

NOTES

WELCOME TO OUR NEW COVENANT PARTNERS – Peter and Donna DeBree and Donald and Susan Willecke.

FLOWERS – The flowers are given today by Pat Ihrie in loving memory of her husband Dale.

CHURCH DIRECTORY – We will print new directories in the next couple of weeks, so please let us know of any updates to your information.

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

MARCH NEWSLETTER – Available in the church foyer and on our website.

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 **vimeo livestream**.

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</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
*Tithes & Offerings	\$20,500.57	\$59,112.08
Cash Expenditures	<u>\$22,168.10</u>	<u>\$48,541.12</u>
Net	\$ (1,667.53)	\$10,570.96

*This amount includes \$20,700 in fulfilled annual pledges given in January

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 – Next Class will be on May 21st. We will have a one class introduction to FPC. If you are interested in joining the church, or just finding out more information about FPC, please join us. (For Seasonal Residents, we have an Affiliate Membership, so you can maintain your Membership back home.)

SANCTUARY CROSS – The Colors of the Cross are a symbolic depiction of the Easter season. For the beginning of the Lenten Season the cross is draped in purple. The purple cloth remains on the cross from Ash Wednesday to Maundy Thursday representing royalty – the King of kings has come. The black cloth remains on the cross from Good Friday through Saturday – representing His death. The white cloth is placed on the cross Easter Sunday representing His resurrection – His victory over sin, death and Satan.

SEASON OF LENT DEVOTIONALS – We have devotionals for you to choose from in the church foyer to help you prepare for Holy Week (April 2-9).

EASTER LILIES – We will be decorating the church with lilies for Easter. If you would like to donate one in remembrance or honor of a loved one, please use the offering envelopes on the back table of the sanctuary. Suggested donation is \$7 for each lily. **Please have your envelope back by Monday, April 3rd**, in time for the bulletin insert.

LIVING CROSS – We are requesting flowers and greenery for the “living cross” for Easter morning. **Please bring both the flowers and greenery at 10:00am on Saturday, April 8th.** Sign up in the church foyer to help with the “living cross”.

EASTER POSTCARD – Pick up an Easter Postcard in the church foyer and invite a neighbor to church Easter Week.

*****MARK YOUR CALENDARS WITH OUR HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE*****

- **Palm Sunday – April 2 – 10:30am Worship Service**
- **Maundy Thursday – April 6 – 7:00pm Communion Service**
- **Good Friday – April 7 – 12:00pm Good Friday Service**
- **Easter Sunday – April 9 – 10:30am Easter Sunday Worship Service**

ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

DONUTS AND DOCTRINE BIBLE STUDY – *Wednesday, March 29th, at 10:00am.* Join us on Wednesday mornings at 10:00am for our weekly Bible study. We continue our study on John's epistles.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – *Tuesday, April 4th at 10:00am* with Lesson 21 (James 5:1-6 “Calculating the Truth About Wealth” of *Growing in Wisdom & Faith, a study of James* by Elizabeth George from her “A Woman After God's Own Heart” series. Call Kathy Belville at 508-733-0546 for more information. **All women are invited for study, fellowship, and refreshments**

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH – *Friday, April 7th, 1:15pm* – Please sign up and join us for lunch at Riviera in Punta Gorda. **All ladies are invited!**

BURGERS FOR BADGES – *Monday, April 17th, 11:00am – 1:00pm* – Help us show our appreciation to our Sheriff's Department as we grill out hamburgers and hotdogs. Have lunch with us in Fellowship Hall and say thank-you to our local first responders. Sign up in the church foyer. **If you would like to make a donation to help defray the costs of this outreach event, please designate it as “B4B”.**

SERVING IN IMMOKALEE – *Friday, April 21st* – Join us for our next trip to Misión Peniel in Immokalee to help bag groceries to the migrant farm workers. **We will carpool from our church at 9:30am.** On our way back, we will stop for lunch at Cracker Barrel. Please sign up in the church foyer.

PEACE GARDENS – *Tuesday, May 9th at 10:00am* – Fellowship Team has a tour scheduled to visit Peace Gardens here in Punta Gorda. Watch for more details.

MISSIONS SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

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

March 26th to April 2nd

Sunday, March 26

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

Wednesday, March 29

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

Thursday, March 30

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|---------|-------------------------|
| 10:00am | Game Fellowship |
| 4:30pm | Chancel Choir Rehearsal |

Sunday, April 2

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|---------|-------------------------------|
| 10:30am | Worship Service (Also Online) |
| 11:30am | Fellowship Time |
| 6:00pm | Prayer Meeting – FaceBook |

Fifth Sunday in Lent

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

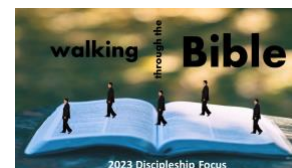
Palm Sunday

- | | |
|---------|-------------------------------|
| 10:30am | Worship Service (Also Online) |
| 11:30am | Fellowship Time |
| 6:00pm | Prayer Meeting – FaceBook |

SERMON NOTES

Joshua 24:14-31

¹⁴ “Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. ¹⁵ But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” ¹⁶ Then the people answered, “Far be it from us to forsake the Lord to serve other gods! ¹⁷ It was the Lord our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled. ¹⁸ And the Lord drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the Lord, because he is our God.” ¹⁹ Joshua said to the people, “You are not able to serve the Lord. He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. ²⁰ If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you.” ²¹ But the people said to Joshua, “No! We will serve the Lord.” ²² Then Joshua said, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the Lord.” “Yes, we are witnesses,” they replied. ²³ “Now then,” said Joshua, “throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.” ²⁴ And the people said to Joshua, “We will serve the Lord our God and obey him.” ²⁵ On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people, and there at Shechem he reaffirmed for them decrees and laws. ²⁶ And Joshua recorded these things in the Book of the Law of God. Then he took a large stone and set it up there under the oak near the holy place of the Lord. ²⁷ “See!” he said to all the people. “This stone will be a witness against us. It has heard all the words the Lord has said to us. It will be a witness against you if you are untrue to your God.” ²⁸ Then Joshua dismissed the people, each to their own inheritance. ²⁹ After these things, Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of a hundred and ten. ³⁰ And they buried him in the land of his inheritance, at Timnath Serah in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash. ³¹ Israel served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had experienced everything the Lord had done for Israel.



Bible Readings

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| March 26 | Joshua 12:7-15:19 |
| March 27 | Joshua 15:20-17:18 |
| March 28 | Joshua 18:1-19:48 |
| March 29 | Joshua 19:49-21:45
1 Chronicles 6:54-81 |
| March 30 | Joshua 22:1-24:33 |
| March 31 | Judges 1:1-3:30 |
| April 1 | Judges 3:31-6:40 |

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



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.

March 26, 2023

10:30am

PASTOR
MUSIC DIRECTOR
ORGANIST
OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN
LITURGIST
USHERS

Dr. Barksdale Pullen
Joan Byron
Denny Ausman
Debbie Rostad
Kathy Belville

Roy Belville, Sam Cessna, Marjorie Haun, Patti MacDonald