

Church Staff

PASTOR	Dr. Barksdale Pullen
CHOIR DIRECTOR	Joan Byron
ORGANIST	Denny Ausman
OFFICE MANAGER	Debbie Rostad

**Here's Your Opportunity To Find
Your 'Perfect Fit' for Ministry**



**Ministry Fair
September 2020**



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



Save the Date



125 Year Anniversary

Sunday

October 18, 2020

Welcome Back Cookout

Saturday, November 14

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Details to Follow



Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,

The fall is upon us, but it is a new normal for the foreseeable future. The Church has survived for over 2000 years through all sorts of challenges, and yet Jesus' promise remains – The gates of Hell shall not prevail against it.

As we plan the future, we do so loosely, but nonetheless we do plan. In this little booklet you will find all sorts of ministries that are going on here at the church, and maybe a few seed ideas to get us thinking about how we can do church in the future.

I pray you will look over these opportunities and find a place to plug in at First Pres to share your gifts with the body of Christ, especially in this unusual season of ministry. Or if something sparks your imagination about starting a new ministry to the community, let us know about that as well.

In Christ,

Pastor Barksdale

To volunteer for any of the positions, or help in starting a new ministry, simply contact the person over that ministry, phone the church office (941)-639-1959, or email the church office at first@fpcpunta.org, and we will put you in contact with the right person!



Connect With Our Community Missions

Elders

Bev Brady	Class of 2022
Jean LaMantia	Class of 2022
Don Washabaugh	Class of 2022
Rich Harris	Class of 2021
John Evans	Class of 2021
Diane Culver-Truby	Class of 2021
Gail Thornton — Clerk	Class of 2020
Ron Sixt	Class of 2020
Bruce Peters	Class of 2020

Deacons

Laurel Aumend	Flowers
Bonnie Brown	Prayer Shawls
George Fallenbeck	Communion
Phyllis Ehrhardt	Visitation
Helmut Ehrhardt	Helping Hands
Kay Callahan	Loaves & Fishes
Marjorie Haun	Communications
Patti Nuznoff	Library
Sharon Russell	Kitchen

Wheelchair Ministry in Peru - The Mission Committee thanks you for your generous donations to support the ministry of our missionary Lisa Alfonsi in Lima, Peru. You may learn more about this ministry at: <https://www.freewheelchairmission.org>

Lisa Alfonsi was called to participate in God's mission in Lima, Peru. She uses her experience as an occupational therapist to serve the disability community and their families in a variety of ways under the leadership of a local church. Lisa is also working with Free Wheelchair Mission, assembling, and distributing wheelchairs to people in need. Learn more about Lisa at www.theantiochpartners.org.

Crossroads Christian Academy - To learn about volunteer opportunities at Crossroads, visit their website at www.Crossroadspg.org or talk to First Presbyterian Church member Ron Beasom. Another way to help Crossroads - when you place an order from Amazon, please consider going to <https://smile.amazon.com> and select Crossroads Hope Academy as your charity. Crossroads earns a percentage of your purchase with no cost to you. Thank you!

Eric and Debbie Stone have served as missionaries in Guatemala for 21 years. Their mission is to facilitate Kingdom presence amid social crisis, and they envision a community of churches with whom they share close bonds of trust and fellowship. Learn more about Eric and Debbie Stone's ministry at www.theantiochpartners.org.

Connect With Our Community

Ideas



Ministry Teams

WORSHIP TEAM

(Diane Culver-Truby, Don Washabaugh)

At First Presbyterian Church (ECO) of Punta Gorda, our Worship Team offers a 10:30am traditional service with liturgy and choral music led by our outstanding choir. They plan our worship services with the pastor and music director while providing liturgists, ushers and communion servers for those services. We also have special services during Easter and Christmas (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and a Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service).

FELLOWSHIP TEAM

(Gail Evans, Bev Brady)

Our Fellowship Team has the joy of planning and hosting events at the church that build our sense of being God's family. They host monthly dinners with meaningful and/or entertaining programs tied to seasonal events as well as picnics, our all-church Christmas dinner and decorating the church for the Christmas and Easter season. This team has a lot of fun building the fellowship of Christ's church.

DISCIPLESHIP TEAM

(John Evans)

Our Discipleship Team oversees and plans all our educational events and studies for the members. We offer Bible studies and all-church learning events. We offer a weekly Wednesday Bible study, as well as a bi-weekly Women's Bible study on Tuesdays and a bi-weekly study on Thursdays in season. We also offer our Christian Life and Service Seminars, C.L.A.S.S. 201.

Ministry Teams

MINISTRY TEAM

(Jean LaMantia)

Our Ministry Team encourages all to service in God's kingdom. They support and oversee the work of the Deacons. Our Deacons are commissioned to specific ministries. We have a Deacon of Communion who is responsible for preparing all the elements for our communion services. We have a Deacon of Loaves and Fishes who organizes meals to be delivered to members in need due to illness or recent hospital visit. Other Deacons are: Communication, Helping Hands, Kitchen, Library, Visitation, Flowers and Prayer Shawls. The Ministry Team also offers a seminar to help members find the best place to serve God. It's C.L.A.S.S. 301 Discovering Your Ministry that seeks to help people discover how God has S.H.A.P.E.D. (Spiritual gifts, Heart/passions, Abilities, Personality, Experiences) for service.

MISSION TEAM

(Diane Sizemore, Gail Thornton)

Our Mission Team has the privilege to reach out in Jesus' name and help people within and outside our church in practical ways. They support both local and international missions through financial support and donations of time and resources. We support overseas missionaries and mission organizations near us. We are actively involved with Crossroads New Hope Academy, a foster home for boys and young men in Punta Gorda, FL. The Mission Team also reaches out with the Good News of Salvation in Christ in the community and offers to those wanting to become Covenant Partners (members) of our church, C.L.A.S.S. 101 Becoming a Covenant Partner.

ADMINISTRATION TEAM

(Ron Sixt, Rich Harris, Bruce Peters)

The Administration Team handles finances, property and personnel through three sub-teams by those names. Finance also oversees the stewardship ministry of the church.

Connect with Our Community Ideas



What is a Covenant Partner?

As an ECO church, we call our members “covenant partners” as we believe that each person joining the church is entering into a covenantal relationship with all other covenant partners to nurture understanding, encouragement, correction, and discipleship-in-mission.

Becoming a covenant partner is important not only to the congregation but even more so for the covenant partner. In committing to the cause of a life lived in and through Jesus Christ, members grow in Christian community together to become more Christ-like. In Christian community, we realize the fullness of life together and life in Christ and discover our unique place in a common mission and narrative of God’s work.

Four Reasons to Be a Covenant Partner...

It’s Biblical - Christ is committed to the church. “...Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.” (Ephesians 5:25 ESV)

It’s Countercultural - It is an antidote to our society. We live in an age when people resist being committed to anything – a job, a marriage, our country. Partnership swims against the current of America’s “consumer religion.” It is an unselfish decision to become part of a community that will encourage you to make God and his will the focus of your life.

It’s Practical - It defines those upon whom we can depend. Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Even our country takes a census and requires voter registration. Membership identifies our church family.

It’s Healthy - It produces spiritual growth. The Bible gives major emphasis for the need of Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You cannot be accountable when you’re not committed to a specific church family.

If you are ready to make this commitment, or have questions about membership, please let us know!

Deacon Activities

DEACON OF COMMUNION: George Fallenbeck prepares the 'bread and wine' for all the communion services.

DEACON OF VISITATION: Phyllis Ehrhardt visits members who are homebound or in hospitals. With her team, they welcome newcomers in our nearby communities with gift bags containing information about our Church and community.

DEACON OF FLOWERS: Laurel Aumend delivers the chancel flowers every Sunday to those in hospitals, nursing homes and shut-ins.

DEACON OF PRAYER SHAWLS: Bonnie Brown heads up this group of women who crochet or knit prayer shawls for those in the hospitals or are in need of prayer comfort.

DEACON OF LOAVES AND FISHES: Kay Callahan and her team furnish meals for families of a lost loved one, someone returning home from hospital or suffering an illness at home.

DEACON OF HELPING HANDS: Helmut Ehrhardt helps those in need of some minor job that they no longer are able to do. He will also help in finding someone to help you if he can't.

DEACON OF COMMUNICATIONS: Marjorie Haun sends us the lovely cards for birthdays, anniversaries, sympathy and to the shut ins.

DEACON OF LIBRARY: Patti Nuznoff is our librarian who keeps our church library up to date and well organized.

DEACON OF KITCHEN: Sharon Russell – helps keep the kitchen in order and organizes meals and our Fellowship Time.

Connect With Our Church

Officers at First Presbyterian Church

When pastors, elders and deacon begin their service in the church, they are ordained during a service of worship. Commitments are made by the new leader to the people and by the people to the new leader. If you are interested in becoming an officer at FPC, please let Pastor Barksdale know.

The Ministry of Pastors

Pastors are to use their spiritual gifts for ministry, with a particular emphasis on the gifts of apostleship, prophecy, evangelism, shepherding, and teaching (Ephesians 4:11-12). A pastor is to nurture the spiritual health and maturity of the body of Christ in order that the body may be equipped to partner with God in His redemptive work in the world.

The Ministry of Elders

Elders are given authority and responsibility, along with pastors, to oversee the spiritual health of the congregation as well as the congregation's faithfulness to God's mission. Elders may also be asked to preach and teach. Elders shall be elected by the congregation.

The Ministry of Deacons

Ordinarily, the biblical office of Deacon shall be utilized by the congregation. Deacons lead ministries that nurture fellowship and caregiving within and beyond the congregation. Deacons may also be asked to preach and teach. The congregation shall determine the manner in which they are selected for service. The session shall oversee and direct the ministry of the deacons.

Connect With God

Worship – Sunday at 10:30 am

Women's Bible Study - Tuesday Mornings (twice a month) in members' homes at 10:00 am beginning October 20. (contact Kathy Belville)

2nd Cup Bible Study – Thursday mornings (twice a month) at the church, 9:15 am beginning in October. (contact Dave Sifferd)

Donuts & Doctrine – Wednesday morning Bible Study, weekly, with Pastor Barksdale at the church, 10:00 am beginning September 9.

Prayer Meeting – Sunday evenings at 6:00 pm in the Conference Room or online.

Wednesday Night Discipleship – Join us on Wednesday nights beginning October 7 from 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm for study. This semester, *DVD series & discussion Go Fish* with Andy Stanley.

Christian Life and Service Seminars

C.L.A.S.S. 101–Discovering Church Membership (Covenant Partner) class, Sunday, November 8, from 4:00 - 6:00 pm.

C.L.A.S.S. 201- Discovering Spiritual Maturity

C.L.A.S.S. 301 -Discovering My Ministry

Connect With Our Church

Chancel Choir

Choir Season – November – May

Practice – Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm

Contact: Joan Bryon



Special Music – If you play an instrument or have a song you would like to share in Worship, please let Joan or Barksdale know.

R.O.M.E.O.S - (Retired Old Men Eating Out Someplace) will meet for breakfast at TBD. We meet at 8am on Thursday mornings every other week. Watch the bulletin for more details. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship.

J.U.L.I.E.T.S - (Joyful Understanding Ladies Inconspicuously Eating Together Someplace) will meet for breakfast at TBD. We meet at 8am on Thursday mornings every other week. Watch the bulletin for more details. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship.

Sociable Singles – Single ladies get together for LUNCH - 1st and 3rd Friday of each month, starting again in October.

Game Fellowship - Game Fellowship is held Thursdays from 10am to Noon in Fellowship Hall. Join us to play or just to observe.

Connect With Our Church



Hanging the Greens

Church Decorating

November 27 and 28

10:00 AM

Undecorating – January 8

10:00 AM

Connect With Our Church

Tech Booth – Are you tech-y? Enjoy working with audio and video equipment? Computers? We need you to join the rotation on Sunday mornings in the tech booth.

Office Help – When we are able to open the front office again, we will need people to help answer the phones and help with basic clerical jobs, Monday – Thursday from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm.

Liturgist – Enjoy Worship? Like leading? As we begin to add more elements back to the Worship Service, we will need people who will help lead the Service.

Communion/Usher Help – Be part of the rotation that helps to prepare the communion elements and/or assists people/guests on Sunday mornings.

Fellowship Time/Kitchen Helpers - Be part of the rotation that helps to prepare the coffee/cookies on Sunday mornings.



Stephen Ministry was founded in 1975 by Rev. Kenneth C. Haugk, Ph.D. to train lay people to provide quality, one-to-one Christian care to individuals experiencing a life crisis. Today, more than 13,000 congregations representing more than 170 Christian denominations are enrolled in the Stephen Ministry program. More than 500,000 laypersons have been trained as Stephen Ministers, who in turn have ministered to more than a million care receivers. Stephen Ministry is now in all 50 states, 10 Canadian provinces, and 30 other countries. *If you are in need of a Stephen Minister, please contact the church office.*

Great Commandment

*'Love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your mind.'*

This is the first and greatest commandment.

And the second is like it:

'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

Matthew 22:37-39

Great Commission

Then Jesus came to them and said,

*"All authority in heaven and on earth has been
given to me.*

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the
Son and of the Holy Spirit,
and teaching them to obey everything I have
commanded you.*

*And surely I am with you always, to the very end
of the age."*

Matthew 28:18-20

Loving... Growing... Going...

in Jesus!