



The Messenger

AUGUST 2020

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”

Ministry Seasons

August is here. The news is all abuzz with what decisions parents are going to make about school for their children. I recently saw an article that said at this time of year there is usually a surge in sales for all those traditional back to school things. However, this year the surge is in laptops, with parents most likely getting ready for virtual school or homeschooling. In most churches, this is also usually a gearing up month for a new season of ministry, but not so much this year.

If you can remember back to January 1, which seems like an eternity ago, I said that my first year would be spent getting to know you as a congregation and the seasons of ministry here at First Presbyterian Church in Punta Gorda, FL, to learn traditions, holidays, and special church celebrations.

Then Covid-19 hit. I joked with someone the other day that when Easter rolls around in 2021 I will have been here almost a year and a half but not have had an Easter with the church. I will still be learning the traditions of our church. The virus has certainly created a different kind of first year.

But being different is not all that bad, after all when you, and I, became a Christian, we were made different. In 2 Cor 5, we read: *17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;*

There is no end to the number of articles being written now on the new normal of the church, how

it will be different, which in some ways seems funny to me as we are still in the midst of the pandemic. But we do plan, and set out vision, and look to the future. No matter the differences, our purpose is still the same. We were given the *ministry of reconciliation*.

You remember when Jesus called His first disciples, He called them to be *fishers of men*. They most likely did not have a clue what He meant by that statement, they simply knew there was something different about this man, and they wanted to know more. So, they followed Him.

Before He returned to heaven, He gave them the same mission, Matt 28 records: *19 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, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*

Things are different, and they will be changing even more. Who knows what the new normal for church will look like? However, our mission stays the same, even if the way we go about being the church changes. God has placed our church at this location for a reason. I want to encourage you to put on your thinking caps, and get creative. How will First Presbyterian Church carry out the ministry of reconciliation in the Punta Gorda area? Exciting times await us in this new normal – whatever that may be.

In His Grip,
Pastor Barksdale

MEMBER CARE AND ACTIVITIES

Keep us informed on:

Prayer Requests and Hospital / Rehab Information
 Address, Phone, Email changes
 Birthdays and Anniversaries
 Email to first@fpcpunta.org



To watch the
 Worship Service online,
 go to our webpage at
www.fpcpunta.org and click
 the Vimeo logo:



First Pres is now on Facebook!

You may now see posts about the life of our church....
 Go to facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurch-PuntaGorda

Giving to FPC - Punta Gorda

Mail to the church office: 25250 Airport Rd; Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Online Giving through our website: fpcpunta.org, click Donate



Joy In The Morning

Joy in the morning
 Dew glistening on dark green leaves.
 The sun is rising
 And its rays pierce the trees.
 Awaken heart and soul
 To moments of joy to come
 Abound with gladness everywhere
 Reach out to everyone.

Joy is everywhere
 Look within to see
 And you will always know
 A time at peace to be.

Listen inward spirit
 Go forth and meet with me
 And send your joy abounding
 To lay at someone's feet.

Bring joy together evermore
 Unite with love and peace
 Hold close this treasured moment
 Then sing to set it free.

Holy Spirit / Nancy Beasom



Patricia
 MacDonald
 and
 Samuel
 Cessna



Bo Pullen



Sign-Up in the Church Foyer, or call/email the church office.
 Our August dates are Wednesdays, August 5th and 26th.
 We will provide a light meal/dessert at the Pullen's home,
 please join us 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm.

Dear Folks,
 I truly appreciate the
 wonderful sympathy cards
 you sent to me and my family.
 They were beautiful and heart-felt
 and Nancy would have truly had
Joy in her heart for all of you.

God Bless, Ron Beasom

Donuts & Doctrine

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study
 will conclude the study of Colossians on
 August 5th at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall.
[A new study will begin on September 9th.](#)



Game Fellowship

Thursday Mornings
 at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall

AUGUST 2020

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 Art & Fran Koon	11 Steve MacDonald	21 David Osweiler
2 Carolyn Kvam	12 Gene & Barbara McPherson	22 David & Jane Otoupal
3 Jean LaMantia	13 Larry & Sue Mesler	23 Nelson & Florence Parker
4 David & Lynn Lang	14 Glee Miller	24 Jim & Marge Parks
5 Ernie & DeAnn Lehman	15 Bob & Sammi Mischler	25 Bruce Peters
6 Paul & Pat Longergan	16 Steve & Joanie Mock	26 Rachel Pfaender
7 Al & Susie Lorenz	17 Nancy Murphy	27 Linda Potthoff
8 Connie Luther	18 Edwina Norton	28 Larry & Pat Pritchard
9 Myles MacDonald	19 Jim & Patti Nuznoff	29 Barksdale & Bo Pullen
10 Patricia MacDonald	20 Marguerite O'Brien	30 Bill & Pauli Purcell
		31 David & Milanne Richards



17—Susie Lorenz	28—Georgia Cherny
22—Neta Gensemer	30—Marion Brown
25—Gayle Rosa	30—Pauli Purcell
26—Joanie Mock	



5—Larry & Sue Mesler	61 yrs.
11—Joe & Georgia Cherny	8 yrs.
16—Andy & Nancy Smith	62 yrs.
18—Charlie & Doris Costa	58 yrs.
29—Ron & Neta Gensemer	67 yrs.



25250 Airport Road
Punta Gorda, Florida 33950

OUR MISSION AND PURPOSE

LOVING...GROWING...GOING...in JESUS!