
WORSHIP SERVICE

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC Classical Music

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Fugue in C Major* George F. Handel

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Matthew and Maria Greene
Second Candle symbolizes Peace and is called the "Bethlehem Candle"

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

INTROIT *Come to the Light* Joseph Martin
Chancel Choir

***HYMN #249** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we know we ought to be watching for signs of Your presence and of Your Son's coming. But we are so easily distracted by what is none of our business, like Peter worrying about the Master's love for John; or even by what is our business, like Martha cooking up a storm in her kitchen; or by sheer fatigue, like the disciples in Gethsemane. Forgive our distraction, most patient Lord, and let this Advent season find us alert to Your presence and eagerly looking forward to the coming of Your Son, both at Christmas and at the end of time. (Silent Confession)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - The Nicene Creed (Unison)**

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. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI #813**

ANTHEM *This Moment of Remembrance* Nancy Price & Don Besig
Chancel Choir

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

OFFERTORY *Come To My Heart, Lord Jesus*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Blessed God, we stand before You as Your people, offering to You what we can in anticipation of Your coming again to earth. You give us much, we give You little - yet You are gracious to bless what we give. Please accept these small gifts and transform them into the work of Your reign on this earth, as we make ready for the newborn Christ. In His name we pray. Amen.

***HYMN #250** *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

SCRIPTURE Micah 5:2; Luke 2:4

MESSAGE *Peace* Pastor Barksdale Pullen

COMMUNION HYMN *Isn't He?*

COMMUNION

***HYMN #267** *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE #425** *Bind Us Together*

POSTLUDE *Grant Us Thy Peace* James Denton

*Please stand, if able

Hearing assist devices are available at the tech booth
CCLI #1140231 CVLI #5043864

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 Alfonsi and Eric Stone family, missionaries we support in Peru and Guatemala.
- 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 Misi3n Peniel, the mission that we support in Immokalee.
- Pray for Chasen and Katie Brokaw, missionaries we support in Nicaragua.
- 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, *Royal Palm*

NOTES

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS – *Advent Devotionals are available in the church foyer.*

NEW NAME TAGS – If you would like a name tag with magnets, please write your name on the sheet. Thanks!

ROSE – The rose on the organ is in celebration of the birth of Marjorie Haun's 12th great grandchild. Thomas Sasso Jr. was born on November 20th to Thomas and Leanne of Canastota, NY.

FLOWERS – The flowers are given by Andy and Katie Schulte in loving memory of their parents.

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

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

CHURCH DIRECTORY – 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.

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**.

PLEDGE CARD – If you haven't returned your pledge card for 2023, please do so as soon as possible. Pledge cards are available on the table in the back of the Sanctuary or in the church foyer. Thank you.

YEAR-END GIVING – To make sure your giving for 2022 gets credited for 2022, please have your offering/gift to the church before December 31, 2022. Any donations received after that date will be applied to one's 2023 giving. For gifts of stock, please call the church office.

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!

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 January 29, 2023** -- 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.

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY – A new ministry team has been formed that will be responsible for the planning and serving of the receptions that follow Memorial Services. Joan Hoffman is the Chairperson. If you are interested in helping her, please sign up in the church foyer. This is a good opportunity for someone to be involved with a simple ministry but also a much appreciated one.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA – Remember a loved one this Christmas by giving a poinsettia to help decorate the church. Suggested donation is \$7 per poinsettia. Special envelopes are on the table in the back of the sanctuary. **Please return your envelope by Monday, December 12th** in order to be listed in a special bulletin insert.

TOYS FOR TOTS -- We are helping the Marine Corps Reserve celebrate their 75th Anniversary of *Toys for Tots*. Please bring an unwrapped gift, for infants up to teenagers and place in the special box. Let's bring smiles to many children this Christmas. **We will collect gifts until December 13th.**

CHRISTMAS OFFERING – This year's Christmas Offering will be used for Gift Cards for the Veterans Village and Christmas gifts for the children of Misi3n Peniel. Please use the Christmas Envelope in your Envelope Box or a Pew Envelope.

ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

DONUTS AND DOCTRINE WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY – *Resumes in January.*

CONCERT SERIES – THIS AFTERNOON at 3:00pm – *The Two Piano Group (with 8 pianists!)* Come hear their mix of contemporary and traditional favorites, plus new and innovative ones. A free will offering will be taken – suggested donation is \$15.00. Christmas cookies will be served following the concert.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – *This Tuesday, December 6th at 10:00am* with Lesson 13 (James 3:5-8 "Taming the Tongue" 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.**

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR RON GENSEMER – *This Wednesday, December 7th at 2:00pm* – A Celebration of Life Service for Ron Gensemer will be held in our Sanctuary.

BABY SHOWER FOR MISSIONARIES KATIE AND CHASEN BROKAW – *This Thursday, December 8th at 2:00pm by ZOOM* -- Due to shipping issues, we are asking for financial donations and a card instead of gifts. Katie will then be able to get the things she needs. Please sign up in the church foyer.

SERVING IN IMMOKALEE – *This Friday, December 9th, 11:00am – 1:00pm* – FPC has an opportunity to serve the workers in Immokalee handing out groceries. If you are interested, please sign up in the church foyer.

CHRISTMAS DINNER – *Wednesday, December 14th at 5:00pm* – Turkey and ham will be provided. Please sign up in the church foyer to bring a side dish or dessert. We will have music. Join us for our annual Christmas Dinner.

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH – *Friday, December 16th, 12:00pm* – Join us for lunch at LongHorn Steakhouse in Port Charlotte. Please sign up. **All ladies are invited!**

CHRISTMAS CANTATA – *Sunday, December 18th, during the Worship Service*, the Chancel Choir will present "*Tapestry of Light*" by Joseph Martin.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE – *Saturday, December 24th, 5:00PM.*

CHRISTMAS DAY BREAKFAST – *Sunday, December 25th, 9:30am.* You are welcome to join us for breakfast on Christmas morning and stay for our Worship Service at 10:30am. Please sign up in the church foyer, starting December 4th.

MISSIONS SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

HURRICANE IAN RELIEF: For those wanting to help those in need, you may support relief agencies that are doing work here. One serving locally in Punta Gorda, Englewood, and Fort Myers is Samaritan's Purse (<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/>).

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.

Shower Ministry “Lunches” – Please consider a financial donation to support the lunches that we provide weekly for the Shower Ministry. (mark as “lunches”)

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

December 4th to December 11th

Sunday, December 4

10:30am
11:30am
3:00pm
6:00pm

Second Sunday in Advent

Communion Sunday

Worship Service

Fellowship Time

Concert Series – The Two Piano Group

Prayer Meeting – FaceBook

Tuesday, December 6

10:00am
1:30pm

Women's Bible Study

Fellowship Team

Wednesday, December 7

10:00am
2:00pm

Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry

Celebration Service for Ron Gensemer

Thursday, December 8

10:00am
2:00pm
4:30pm

Game Fellowship

“Zoom” Baby Shower for Katie Brokaw

Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 9

11:00am

Misión Peniel Mission Day

Sunday, December 11

10:30am
11:30am
6:00pm

Third Sunday in Advent

Worship Service (Also Online)

Fellowship Time

Prayer Meeting – FaceBook

SERMON NOTES

Micah 5:2; Luke 2:4

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,



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.

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

Office hours: 9:00am to 1:00pm Monday – Thursday

Website: fpcpunta.org

December 4, 2022

10:30am

PASTOR

Dr. Barksdale Pullen

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Joan Byron

ORGANIST

Denny Ausman

OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN

Debbie Rostad

LITURGIST

Don Washabaugh

USHERS

Jean LaMantia, Susie Lorenz, Patti Nuznoff, Billie Sixt