
WORSHIP SERVICE

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC Christmas Songs

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *A World Where Love Abides* Carl Simone

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Sam Cessna and Patti MacDonald
Fourth Candle symbolizes Love and is called the "Angel's Candle"

CALL TO WORSHIP

***HYMN #277** *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing, vs. 1-2*

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERTORY *Blow, Ye Winds, Softly* Ruth Keys Kennerly
(A Christmas Pastorale)

MESSAGE IN SCRIPTURE AND MUSIC The Chancel Choir

Tapestry of Light *A Celtic Christmas Celebration*

by Joseph M. Martin
Music Director – Joan Byron
Narrator – Pastor Barksdale Pullen
Chamber Ensemble:

Rachel Cox, Violin; Ann Alton, Cello; Denny Ausman, Keyboard
Beth Morrison – Flute/Penny Whistle; Scott Crawford - Percussion

Carols of Hope and Light

Longing for the Light

An Advent Garden
Chamber Ensemble

The Holy Child of Mary

O Wondrous Night
Sue Mesler, Soloist

A Celtic Noel

Carols of the Quest

A Celtic Gloria!

Bethlehem Light
Ray Byron, Soloist

Carols of Celebration

***HYMN #277** *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing, vs. 3*

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE #243** *Emmanuel*

POSTLUDE *Praise to the Lord of Heaven* David Paxton

*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 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, *Royal Palm*

NOTES

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

FLOWERS – The flowers are given by Frances Frost in memory of Bill Frost.

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.

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES – Available on the table in the foyer. If you don't see your name, let the office know. Thank you.

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!

THANK YOU – What an incredible blessing! Thank you, ladies, so much for blessing Bailey and me with such a sweet baby shower. It was very special to celebrate with y'all from afar. Thank you for the backpack, baby goodies, your incredible generosity, and prayers. Those are sweet memories I'll cherish. Thank you! *Katie Brokaw*

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.

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

DEACON'S FUND OFFERING TODAY – Our monthly collection supports our efforts to help congregation needs, emergency needs, Misión Peniel Spanish devotionals, and others.

ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – *This Tuesday, December 20th at 10:00am* with Lesson 14 (James 3:9-12 "Blessing...or Cursing?...") 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.*

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

CHRISTMAS DAY BREAKFAST – *Next 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.

DONUTS AND DOCTRINE BIBLE STUDY – Join us *Wednesday, January 4th, at 10:00am*, as we begin a study of the Book of Job. The Book of Job presents us with several tough questions about life. We look forward to some good discussion around God's Word, and we trust that at the end of our study we can say with Job, "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

PULLEN UP A CHAIR – *Wednesdays, January 4th and February 1st at 5:00pm.* Barksdale and Bo will be hosting get-together dinners this winter at their home. This will be in groups of eight, and you can sign up in the church foyer, or call/email the church office to reserve a night. There is no agenda, lesson, or study; just a time to get together for fellowship and to learn more about one another.

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH – *Friday, January 6th, 12:00pm* – Join us for lunch. Please sign up. *All ladies are invited!*

HELP TAKE THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS DOWN – Join us *on Saturday, January 7th, at 9:00am* to help take down and store our decorations. *Many hands make light work!* Sign up in the church foyer. *Thank you!*

CONCERT SERIES – Our next concert will be *Sunday, January 15, 2023 at 3:00pm.* Ann Alton, cellist, returns with her very talented 15-year-old cello student, Matrick Thorpe. A free will offering will be taken – suggested donation is \$15.00. Refreshments will be served following the concert.

LUNCH 'N' LEARN – *Thursday, January 26th, 12:00pm* – Presented by the Sheriff's Department on "Scams & Crimes Pulled on Seniors". Sub sandwiches will be served. There will be a \$5.00/person donation. Please sign up in the church foyer.

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.

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 18th to December 25th

Sunday, December 18

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

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Deacon’s Fund Sunday

Worship Service with Christmas Cantata
Fellowship Time
Prayer Meeting – FaceBook

Monday, December 19

2:00pm

Session

Tuesday, December 20

10:00am

Women’s Bible Study

Wednesday, December 21

10:00am

Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry

Thursday, December 22

10:00am
4:30pm

Game Fellowship
Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, December 24

5:00pm

Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 25

9:30am
10:30am

Christmas Day

Christmas Breakfast
Worship Service (Also Online)

The Church Office will be closed December 26th through January 2nd

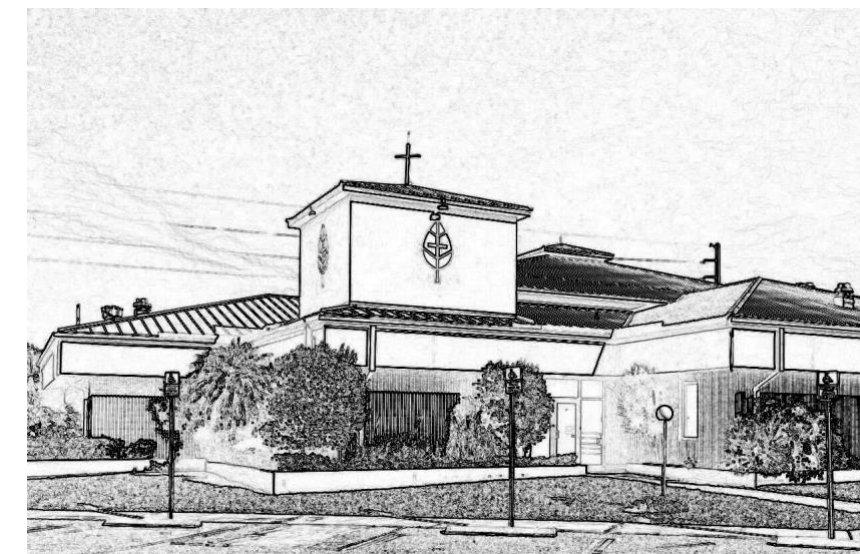
First Presbyterian Church of Punta Gorda

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



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.

December 18, 2022

10:30am

PASTOR

Dr. Barksdale Pullen

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Joan Byron

ORGANIST

Denny Ausman

OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN

Debbie Rostad

USHERS

Kathy Belville, Roy Belville, Marjorie Haun, Billie Sixt