



## MARCH 2022

**Worship Service in our Sanctuary at 10:30am  
or watch our worship service LIVE! at:  
[www.fpcpunta.org](http://www.fpcpunta.org) and click on the logo "vimeo livestream"**

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## Lenten Season



March 2, 2022 begins the Season of Lent – that 40 day period before Easter that Christians use to prepare for Holy Week – much like Advent Season is used to prepare for Christmas. This year we are providing several resources to help you prepare for Holy Week (April 10-17, 2022). We again have the Lenten Daily Devotional *Journey to the Cross* by Will Walker, but in addition we have available *To Seek and To Save* by Sinclair Ferguson and *The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel. I encourage you to use this time to reflect more deeply on the meaning of this season in the church calendar by using one of these resources. It is central to what being a Christian is all about. From the introduction to the book - *Journey to the Cross*, the author writes:

Lent is first and foremost about the gospel making its way deeper into our lives. This season is an opportunity to root ourselves in the good news that God saves sinners through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. It is a time to take stock, examine our hearts, repent of sin, turn to God, reflect on the suffering our Savior endured to accomplish our salvation, and finally, rest in the assurance of that salvation.

Observing Lent is not necessary or central to experiencing life in Christ. Furthermore, this is not a season of “doing penance.” Rather, having been sealed in Christ with the Holy Spirit, Lent is a season where we intentionally set aside time to remember Jesus and the grace that is found in Him alone. Lent is not about our faithfulness, but rather about the faithfulness of Jesus on our behalf.

Lent is the season leading up to Easter. We are all familiar with the celebration of Easter, and even the somber reflection of Good Friday. But Lent is an extended time of repentance and preparation leading up to those two days. In the fourth century, the church marked the beginning of Lent by counting back forty days from Easter (excluding Sundays), which takes you to the Wednesday seven weeks before Easter. Sundays themselves are not counted in these forty days, as they are generally set aside as days of renewal and celebration (“mini-Easters” of sorts).

The number forty carries great biblical significance based on: the forty days of rain Noah and his family endured in the flood, the forty years Israel spent in the wilderness, Jesus’ forty-day fast in the wilderness, the forty days Jesus spent on the earth after his resurrection, and so much more. Forty days has been used by God to represent a period of trial, testing, and preparation.

Likewise, Lent is a season of preparation and repentance during which we anticipate the death (Good Friday) and resurrection (Easter Sunday) of Jesus. It is this very preparation and repentance – aimed at grasping the intense significance of the crucifixion – that gives us a deep and powerful longing for the resurrection, the joy of Easter.

As the title of this devotional suggests, Lent is a journey to the cross: meditating on our sin and weakness, looking to Jesus as our perfect example and substitute, and being heightened in our worship of his victory over Satan, sin, and death. On the cross, Jesus took our place to appease God’s righteous anger toward our sin and rebellion. He was separated from God so that we could experience union with God. He was crushed by God so that we could be adopted by God. He was raised with God so that we too might walk in newness of life.

The journey of Lent is to immerse ourselves in this grand story so that it might increase our appreciation of Easter and love for Jesus. Throughout this journey, may we be “looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:2).

*These devotionals are in the church foyer, or we can mail one to you. It is not too late to start!*

In Christ, Pastor Barksdale

# WORSHIP MINISTRY



*Sunday Mornings - 10:30am Worship Service (Also Online)*  
*Sunday Evenings - 6:00pm Prayer Meeting (On Facebook)*



## *Fellowship Time*

*Join us for beverages, cookies and treats after Sunday's Worship Service*



• ASH •  
Wednesday



*March 2*

FIRST  
Sunday in Lent



*March 6*

SECOND  
Sunday in Lent



*March 13*

THIRD  
Sunday in Lent



*March 20*

FOURTH  
Sunday in Lent



*March 27*



## *Season of Lent Devotionals*

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd. We have devotionals to help you prepare for Holy Week (April 10 –17). Devotionals to choose from are:

Journey to the Cross by Will Walker

To Seek and to Save by Sinclair Ferguson

The Case for Christ by Lee Strobel

These devotionals are available in the church foyer.

If you would like one mailed to you, please contact the church office.

## *FPC'S ANNUAL CONCERT SERIES*

### *Two Pianos*

*Sunday, March 20 at 3:00pm*

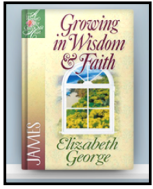


Judy Kaff and Al Rozier present selections on two pianos from Classical to Current musical styles.

Judy and Al have given many concerts together, including concerts with the Two Piano Group of Charlotte County.

*A free will offering will be taken - suggested donation is \$15.00*

# DISCIPLESHIP 2022



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

***Tuesday, March 15th from 10:00am - 11:30am at the church***  
***Growing in Wisdom & Faith, a study of James by Elizabeth George***  
***from "A Woman After God's Own Heart" Series (Lessons 2 and 3)***  
***Call Kathy Belville at 508-733-0546 for more information - All are welcome!***  
***Note - we are not meeting March 1st***



## DONUTS & DOCTRINE Bible Study

***Wednesday mornings at 10:00am***

The History of the Bible in the history of the world. Ever wonder where Biblical events and world events intersect? How does the rule of Joseph in Egypt relate to the rule of King Tut? Do other religions in other parts of the world record a great flood? What was going on in Asia and Europe when the prophets were calling Israel back to the Lord? How did the beginning of the Greek and Roman Empires set events up so 'that when in the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.'

***Join us as we explore the rise of the Kingdom of God  
thru the Bible in the context of world history.***

## SUNDAY SCHOOL 2022

***We will be offering three Christian Life And Service Seminars this winter/spring***

### **C.L.A.S.S. 101-Discovering Church Membership (ongoing)**

Simply go to our website at [fpcpunta.org](http://fpcpunta.org) and look under the Home tab. There you will find all the information about becoming a Covenant Partner at FPC. (Link: <https://www.fpcpunta.org/membership>) or if you prefer a DVD set of the videos, please see Pastor Barksdale.

### **C.L.A.S.S. 301-Discovering My Ministry (This will be rescheduled for a future date)**

God did not design ministry for just a few with seminary degrees. At FPC, we believe that every member of our church is a minister. During 301 you will learn how God can use your Spiritual Gifts, your Heart (passions), your Abilities, your Personality and your Experiences to minister to the needs of others. God gives you gifts for you to use to build up His Church. God also gave you passion for particular activities and subjects. Having the heart for specific things, people or circumstances is to be used to guide us into a ministry that we really care about. In C.L.A.S.S. 301, you will be shown how to assess your abilities, gifts and passions to see where in ministry you will love to serve. Facilitated by Bev Brady.

### **C.L.A.S.S. 201- Discovering Spiritual Maturity, Sunday (9:15-10:15), March 6 - 27**

In Colossians we read, "That you may become mature Christians and that you may fulfill God's will for you." That's what God wants us to do, to become mature believers. In Ephesians we read, "We are not meant to remain as children but to grow up in every way into Christ." In this CLASS we're going to focus on four basic habits that every Christian needs to develop in order to grow to spiritual maturity. This class will equip you with the skills you need to begin these habits and will explain the tools you will need to continue these habits. Facilitated by John Evans.

# FPC ACTIVITIES



## PRAYER SHAWL GATHERINGS

*Monday, March 14th, at 10:00am* in Fellowship Hall to knit or crochet



## GAME FELLOWSHIP

*Thursday mornings at 10:00am* in Fellowship Hall *All are welcome!*

## LADIES LUNCH BUNCH

*LUNCH - 1st and 3rd Friday of each month*

*Sign up in the church foyer*

*Friday, March 4th, 12:00pm*  
Pioneer Pizza  
4560 Tamiami Trail  
Port Charlotte

*Friday, March 18th, 12:00pm*  
Los Mariachi's Mexican  
Publix Plaza - Burnt Store  
Punta Gorda



## *St. Patrick's Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner by Chef Bonnie Brown*

*Wednesday, March 16th, 5:00pm*  
*Fellowship Hall*

*Suggested Donation - \$7.00*

*Sign up in the Church Foyer*



## *Badges and Burgers - Monday, March 28th, 11am to 1pm*

*Help us show our appreciation to our Sheriff's Department as we grill out hamburgers and hotdogs. Have lunch with us by the BBQ Pit and say thank-you to our local first responders. Sign up in the church foyer.*



## *Seder Dinner - April 13th at 5:00pm*

*Mark Your Calendars  
for this special Passover Meal*



# MISSIONS MINISTRY



First Presbyterian Church proudly supports  
Missions from our church budget.  
If you would personally like to make additional  
donations, please make checks payable to FPC  
and indicate the mission on the memo line.



Please consider donating small travel size bottles of shampoo, conditioner, body lotion, small bars of soap, toothpaste, dental floss, shaving gel, razors, shaving cream, lip balm, combs, etc. You may want to clean out your bathroom drawer or purchase a few items for the homeless who come to the shower ministry once a week. A marked container will be left on the back table in Fellowship Hall. *Blessings*

## Shower Ministry

## Backpack Ministry Easter Project

As an Easter outreach project, please consider becoming a "Backpack" sponsor. FPC's Mission Committee will purchase the backpacks in bulk. To donate any amount to this project, please mark "backpack" on your check or pew envelope.

## Monthly Mission Support



## CROSSROADS HOPE ACADEMY (PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA)

[Crossroadspg.org](http://Crossroadspg.org)



## JESUS LOVES YOU MINISTRY (PORT CHARLOTTE, FLORIDA)

[Jesuslovesyouministryinc.com](http://Jesuslovesyouministryinc.com)



## MISIÓN PENIEL (IMMOKALEE, FLORIDA)

[Misionpeniel.com](http://Misionpeniel.com)

## ANTIOCH PARTNERS MISSIONARIES



Eric and Debbie Stone, Guatemala

Lisa Alfonsi, Lima, Peru

[theantiochpartners.org](http://theantiochpartners.org)



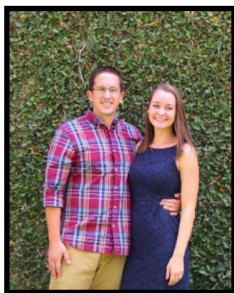
## MISSIONARY VENTURES INTERNATIONAL

Chasen and Katie Brokaw

Nicaragua

[mvi.org](http://mvi.org)

[breakingborders.org](http://breakingborders.org)



# MILITARY PRAYER LIST

## Prayer

O Prince of Peace, we humbly ask Your protection for all our men and women in military service. Give them unflinching courage to defend with honor, dignity and devotion the rights of all who are imperiled by injustice and evil. Guard our churches, our homes, our schools, our hospitals, our factories, our buildings, and all those within from harm and peril. Protect our land and its people from enemies within and without. Grant an early peace with victory founded upon justice. Instill in the hearts and minds of men and women everywhere a firm purpose to live forever in peace and good will towards all. Amen.

- \* Capt. Alex Treadwell, Army, grandson-in-law of Diane Culver-Truby, stationed at Fort Hood, Texas
- \* Major John McPherson, Air Force, great nephew of Marguerite O'Brien, stationed at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas
- \* Major Ryan Swisher, Army Ranger, grandson of Rachel Pfaender, stationed in North Carolina
- \* Major Eric Engstrom, Army Intel., son of Alan Engstrom, stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas
- \* Captain Zadick Self, Marines, grandson-in-law of Ron Beasom, stationed in Peoria, Illinois
- \* Navy Seaman Tyler Beasom, Navy, grandson of Ron Beasom, stationed in San Diego, California
- \* MSgt. Nick Weiss, Air Force, grandson of Gail Thornton, is home based

*Do you have a family member serving in the military?  
If so, we'd like to add them to the newsletter prayer list. Fill out the form that's on the sign-up table  
in the church foyer and place it in the HELMET or let the church office know.*

## COME WITH ME

COME WITH ME  
A VOICE WAS HEARD  
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

FOLLOW ME  
A FEELING CAME  
TO LEAD WITHOUT SIGHT

COME WITH ME  
A HAND REACHED OUT  
THAT I MIGHT SEE THE LIGHT

I CAME, I FOLLOWED  
GOD WAS THERE  
AND ALL MY WORLD WAS RIGHT

Holy Spirit and Nancy Beasom



# MEMBER CARE



Prayer Requests and Hospital / Rehab Information  
Address, Phone, Email changes  
Birthdays and Anniversaries  
Email to [first@fpcpunta.org](mailto:first@fpcpunta.org)



**First Pres is on Facebook!**

Go to:

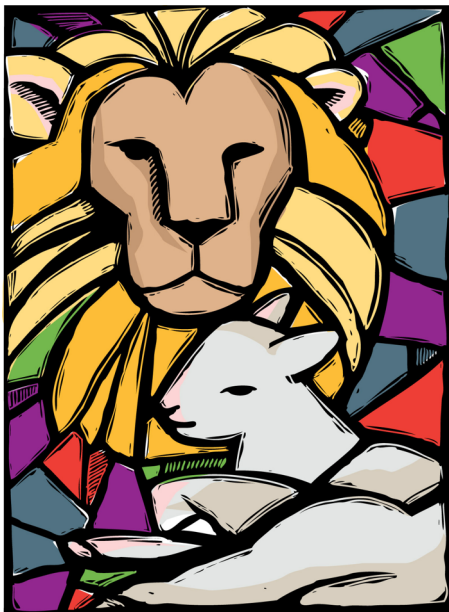
[facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurch-Punta Gorda](https://facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurch-PuntaGorda)



Giving to FPC - In person  
Mail to the church office: 25250 Airport Rd; PG, FL 33950  
Online Giving through our website: [fpcpunta.org](https://fpcpunta.org), click Donate



Congratulations to Marjorie Haun on the birth of her 11th great grandchild. Harper Brian Haun was born January 26th to Kyle and Samantha of East Syracuse, NY.



"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,  
to receive power and...  
honor and glory and praise!"

Revelation 5:12, NIV



**Christian Symbol - 40 -**

In Scripture, this number often indicates a time of trial or testing, or simply marks significance. It rained 40 days and nights during the Flood. Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Jesus fasted for 40 days and was with the disciples for 40 days between his resurrection and ascension. The Christian church has long observed 40 days of Lent (not counting Sundays).

# MARCH 2022

## 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 Tom & Carol Kerr	11 Gene & Barbara McPherson	21 Linda Potthoff
2 Jean LaMantia	12 Larry & Sue Mesler	22 Larry & Pat Pritchard
3 Ken & Lynda Lambert	13 Steve & Joanie Mock	23 Barksdale & Bo Pullen
4 David & Lynn Lang	14 Jim & Patti Nuznoff	24 Pete & Debbie Rostad
5 Ernie & DeAnn Lehman	15 Marguerite O'Brien	25 Jack & Patty Rothley
6 Al & Susie Lorenz	16 David Osweiler	26 Barbara Ryan
7 Connie Luther	17 David & Jane Otoupal	27 Charles Sampsel
8 Myles MacDonald	18 Nelson & Florence Parker	28 Elaine Schultz
9 Steve MacDonald	19 Bruce Peters	29 Jene Shafer
10 Carolyn Ann Maupin	20 Rachel Pfaender	30 Dave Sifferd
		31 Ron & Billie Sixt



3—George Fallenbeck	15—Sonja Dosse
8—Sue Mesler	15—Barb Harris
8—Carol Zutter	19—Kay Berner
9—Nelson Parker	19—Marjorie Tisdale
10—Don Washabaugh	30—Linda Potthoff
12—Al Lorenz	31—Patti Nuznoff



10—Matthew & Maria Greene	38 yrs.
15—Roy & Kathy Belville	53 yrs.
21—Ron & Billie Sixt	58 yrs.