WORSHIP SERVICE

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC Rachel Cox, Violin; Denny Ausman, Piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Gentle Shepherd* William J. Gaither

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

***HYMN #221** *All Praise to Our Redeeming Lord (vs. 1,2,3,1)*

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

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. 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. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**

SPECIAL MUSIC *Here I Am, Lord* Daniel L. Schutte
Rachel Cox, Violin; Denny Ausman, Piano

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

OFFERTORY - ** *In Christ Alone* Keith Getty/Stuart Townend

***DOXOLOGY**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Let the gift of grace, which has been so lavishly given to us, touch our hearts as we give of our gifts. May the needs of others become our needs; their poverty, our poverty; their hunger, our hunger; their longings for a better life, our longings. May we always give in gratitude for the abundance of grace that is ours through the gift of the life of Christ. Amen.

***HYMN #597** *Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated (vs. 1,2,3,6)*

SCRIPTURE Ephesians 4:17-32

MESSAGE *Christian Living* Pastor Barksdale Pullen

***HYMN #415** *We Are Called to Be God's People*

ORDINATION/INSTALLATION OF ELDERS

***BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #656** *Take Time to Be Holy (vs. 1)*

POSTLUDE *Spring Praise* C. Chester Nordman

*Please stand, if able

**You may give securely online at www.fpcpunta.org

Hearing assist devices are available at the tech booth
CCLI #1140231 CVLI #50550373

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 and Clever Alfonsi, Eric and Debbie Stone, 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 Ground Up Ministries, a ministry for human trafficking in Florida.
- 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	Phyllis Ehrhardt	Rick Berner
Lynn Lang	Ron Sixt	Dave Sifferd

NOTES

CLASS OF 2028 ELDERS – Kathy Belville, Bev Brady, Merrilyn Ellison, and Andy Schulte.

PRAYER EMAIL LIST – If you would like to be on Pastor Barksdale's prayer email list, email Pastor Barksdale at bmpullen3@fpcpunta.org.

PRAYER REQUESTS – Email your praise or petition to first@fpcpunta.org. Indicate if your prayer is for the Pastor only, church email prayer list, or prayer team on Sundays – or all of the above.

FLOWERS – The flowers are given by Ramona Vazquez in memory of Charles.

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

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

CHURCH DIRECTORIES – 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.

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 ***YouTube***.

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!

Comparative Financial Operations / Performance

	February 2026	Year-to-Date
Tithes & Offerings	$21,549.17	$44,050.36
Cash Expenditures	$20,872.61	$41,971.85
Net	$676.56	$2,078.51

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AND NOTES

GATHER FOR PRAYER – **A prayer meeting is held Sundays at 6pm** (FaceBook online). Please submit any prayer requests to first@fpcpunta.org.

ST. VINCENT FOOD DRIVE – March 29th to April 12th **--** Bring any non-perishable food item to Fellowship Hall.

SERMON ON THE SAND – Pastor Barksdale delivers the message on ***Sunday, March 15th at 8:00am at Fishermen's Village.***

MISIÓN PENIEL – Our next trip to Immokalee is ***Friday, March 27th, 12:30pm***. Please meet at our church. We need 12 people to sign up in the church foyer.

SANCTUARY CROSS -- The Colors of the Cross are a symbolic depiction of the Easter season. For the beginning of the Lenten Season the cross is draped in purple. The purple cloth remains from Ash Wednesday to Maundy Thursday - representing royalty - the King of kings has come. The black cloth remains on the cross from Good Friday through Saturday - representing His death. The white cloth is placed on Easter Sunday - representing His resurrection - His victory over sin, death and Satan.

EASTER LILIES FOR EASTER SUNDAY - You may donate one in remembrance or honor of a loved one. The cost per lily is $7.00. Special envelopes can be found in the back of the Sanctuary or foyer. Please return by Monday, March 30th.

LIVING CROSS FOR EASTER SUNDAY - Please bring flowers and greenery for the "living cross" which will be presented on Easter morning. Please bring both flowers and greenery on Saturday, April 4th, at 9:00am. Also, please sign up in the foyer to help with the cross.

ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

DONUTS & DOCTRINE – Wednesday, March 11th, at 10:00am – Join us as we begin a study on Holy Week. Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday (March 29) and goes through Easter Sunday (April 5). In the Biblical account, significant activities happen every day that week. Come and explore the week with us on Wednesdays in March as we prepare to celebrate Easter (April 5). Everyone is welcome.

ST. PATRICK DAY DINNER – Wednesday, March 11th, 5:00pm – Join us for our annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner of corned beef and sides. Suggested donation is $7.00. Sign up in the church foyer.

LADIES CARDS FELLOWSHIP – Thursday, March 12th, at 10:00am -- All ladies are welcome to join us Thursdays for cards and conversation.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – Tuesday, March 17th, at 10:00am – Our study is: "Heaven – When Faith Becomes Sight" (Lesson 3) by Jennifer Rothschild. We meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall. All ladies are welcome! See Kathy Belville for more information.

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH – Friday, March 20th, 11:30am – Sign up for LongHorn Steakhouse in Port Charlotte. All ladies welcome!

LUNCH 'N' LEARN – Wednesday, March 25th, Noon – Detective Chris Farley from the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office will give a presentation on the latest Senior Scams. Sign up in the church foyer.

PALM SUNDAY CONCERT – Sunday, March 29th, 3:00pm. "Great Christian Music Remembered" by Joshua Shenkle, retired NY Opera singer, James McDuffy, Gospel recording artist, and Denny and Minty Ausman. *No tickets needed -- Just come and enjoy the music in our Sanctuary!*

PEACE RIVER BOTANICAL GARDENS – Monday, April 6th, 10:00am. Sign up to meet us at the Gardens for the "Origami in the Garden" event. The cost is $15.00.

PULLEN UP A CHAIR – April 15th at 5:00pm - Barksdale and Bo will host get-together dinners for groups of eight at their home. There is no agenda, lesson, or study, just a time to get together for fellowship. Sign up in the church foyer or call/email the church office.

MISSIONS SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

***DISASTER RELIEF SUPPORT* –** Our trusted partners at World Renew are ECO's go-to resource for long-term disaster relief.
https://worldrenew.net/disaster-response-services-us/disaster-response-services

***JESUS LOVES YOU MINISTRY SHOWER MINISTRY* – (Wednesday mornings in our parking lot)** – Please place "shower" items on the table in Fellowship Hall.

***MISSIONS SUPPORT* –** If you would like to donate to the missionaries and organizations that we are supporting in 2025 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)
Ground Up Ministries (Cape Coral) Jesus Loves You Ministry (Port Charlotte)
Misión Peniel (Immokalee)
Missionary Ventures (Chasen & Katie Brokaw – Nicaragua)

***STAND IN THE GAP FUND* –** The purpose of this fund is to assist supported missionaries and ministries of our church, when they face unexpected financial burdens. To donate to this fund, please mark your gift as SITG.

EVENTS FOR THE COMING WEEK

March 8 – March 15

Sunday, March 8	**THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**
	Daylight Savings Time
10:30am	**Worship Service (Also Online)**
11:30am	Fellowship Time
6:00pm	Prayer Meeting-FB
Monday, March 9	
10:00am	Prayer Shawl Gathering
Tuesday, March 10	
10:00am	Mission Team
Wednesday, March 11	
10:00am	Donuts & Doctrine
10:00am	Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry
5:00pm	St. Patrick's Dinner
Thursday, March 12	
10:00am	Ladies Cards Fellowship
Sunday, March 15	**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**
8:00am	Sermon on the Sand
10:30am	**Worship Service (Also Online)**
11:30am	Fellowship Time
6:00pm	Prayer Meeting-FB

First Presbyterian Church of Punta Gorda
Member of ECO (A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians)
25250 Airport Road Punta Gorda, FL 33950
941-639-1959 (phone) 941-637-3763 (fax)
Email: first@fpcpunta.org Website: fpcpunta.org
Office hours: 9:00am to 1:00pm Monday – Thursday
(and by appointment)

SERMON NOTES

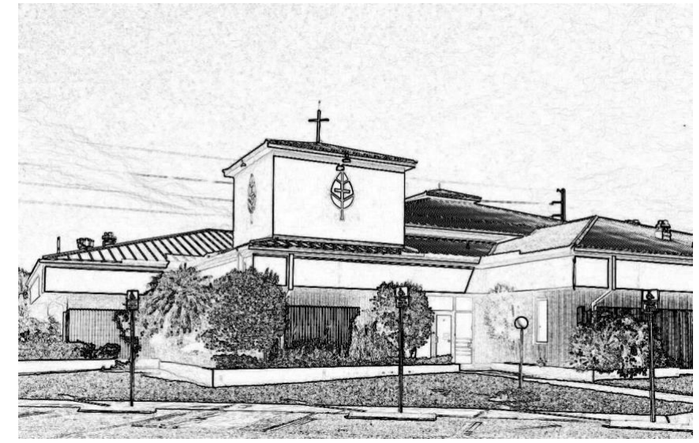
Ephesians 4:17-32

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed. That, however, is not the way of life you learned when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS *(details to follow)*

March 29th to April 12th – St. Vincent Food Drive
March 29th – Palm Sunday
March 29th – Palm Sunday Concert, 3:00pm
April 2nd – Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00pm
April 3rd – Good Friday Service, Noon
April 5th – Easter Sunday
April 6th – Peace River Botanical Gardens Outing, 10:00am
April 20th - Burgers For Badges, 11:00am – 1:00pm
May 10th – Mother's Day
June 17th – Church Picnic at Ponce de Leon Park, 5:00pm
June 21st – Father's Day
July 15th – Christmas in July Supper & Movie, 5:00pm

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Punta Gorda



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
as we lift our hearts and voices in praise.

We are glad to welcome each guest and friend,
and that you have chosen to worship God with this congregation.

March 8, 2026 **10:30am**

PASTOR	Dr. Barksdale Pullen
ORGANIST	Denny Ausman
OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN	Debbie Rostad
LITURGIST	Sam Cessna
USHERS	Donna DeBree, Pete DeBree, Katie Schulte, Andy Schulte
A/V TECH	George Fallenbeck, Jim Nuznoff, Gene McPherson