
WORSHIP SERVICE

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC Gospel Music

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Trusting in Jesus* Lani Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

INTROIT *O Worship the Lord (Psalm 96)* Robert McCutchen
Chancel Choir

***HYMN #65** *Stand Up and Bless the Lord*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - The Apostles' Creed (Unison)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

ANTHEM *Treasure Each Moment* Joseph Martin
Chancel Choir

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

OFFERTORY *Open My Eyes, That I May See* David H. Hegarty

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord, receive our tithes and offerings as a token of our devotion and love for You. Multiply them and use them to build Your church in this community. May they extend Your love and grace to those in need as well as empower the witness to Jesus of Your people. In His name we pray. Amen.

***HYMN #552** *I Am Thine, O Lord*

SCRIPTURE Acts 23:23-35; 24:22-27

MESSAGE *Paul in Custody* Pastor Barksdale Pullen

***HYMN #391** *Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

*BENEDICTION

***RESPONSE** *God Be with You till We Meet Again* Rankin/Vaughan Williams
Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE *You Are the Light of the World* Edward Broughton

*Please stand, if able

Hearing assist devices are available at the tech booth

CCLI #1140231 CVLI #505465757

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, 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 Phyllis Ehrhardt Rick Berner
Lynn Lang Ron Sixt Dave Sifferd

Those who are in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes

Marion Brown - *Life Care, Punta Gorda*

NOTES

FLOWERS – The flowers are given today by Joan Hoffman in memory of George.

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

MAY 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.

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 **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

	April 2024	Year-to-Date
Tithes & Offerings	\$16,136.71	\$90,636.30
Cash Expenditures	\$22,455.08	\$92,650.98
Net	(\$6,318.37)	(\$2,014.68)

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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

HURRICANE SEASON – We are nearing the beginning of hurricane season and wanted to remind everyone that if a storm is in the area, please don't travel if you are not comfortable, but you may join us online. Also, we have a text messaging system to notify folks if Services/Events are canceled. If you do not want to receive a text message, please notify the church office.

Please note: You cannot reply to these text messages.

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS - Person First Aid Kit - Stop by the Fellowship Hall after Service and see what a good Personal First Aid Kit looks like for your household as we prepare for Hurricane Season, or any mishap at home. Our church nurse, Katie, will be there to answer any questions.

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 – *Tuesday, May 21st at 10:00am* – **“Taking the High Road”** – *Esther 5:9-14*. Join us for our study of “Esther”, based on *“Becoming a Woman of Beauty & Strength”* by Elizabeth George. We meet the first and third Tuesdays of each month in Fellowship Hall. Call Kathy Belville at 508-733-0546 for more information. *All women are invited for study, fellowship, and refreshments. (We will take a break for the summer and resume in October.)*

DONUTS & DOCTRINE – *Wednesday, May 22nd at 10:00am* -- We are studying the *Psalms – Prayers of the Heart*, which will take us through May 29th.

MISIÓN PENIEL – Our next trip to Immokalee is *Friday, May 31st* – we will help at the Mission in the morning. Please meet at the church at 9:15am, leaving at 9:30am. *We need 5-6 people to go*, so please sign up in the church foyer.

MEMORIAL SERVICE – A Memorial Service for former member Fran Koon will be held in our Sanctuary on *Friday, May 31st, at 11:00am*. A Burial Service will follow at the National Cemetery in Sarasota at 2:30pm.

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH – *Friday, June 7th, 12:00pm* – Please sign up and join us for lunch at Beef 'O' Bradys in Punta Gorda. *All ladies are invited!*

THE CHOSEN SEASON 4 – *Wednesday, June 12th*. Dinner will be served at 5:00pm, followed by the first episode of The Chosen Series - Season 4. Sign up in the church foyer.

SERMON ON THE SAND – *Sunday, June 30th at 8:00am*. Sermon on the Sand is held every Sunday from 8:00-8:30am at Fishermen's Village. Pastor Barksdale will deliver the Message on June 30th.

MISSIONS SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

DISASTER RELIEF SUPPORT – A reminder that 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 SPECIAL NEEDS – Shower Ministry (Wednesday mornings in our parking lot) – Please place “shower” items in the donation box in Fellowship Hall.

MISSIONS SUPPORT – If you would like to donate to the missionaries and organizations that we are supporting in 2024 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)

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

May 19th to May 26th

Sunday, May 19

10:30am

11:30am

6:00pm

Deacon’s Fund Sunday

Worship Service (Also Online)

Fellowship Time

Prayer Meeting-FB

Monday, May 20

2:00pm

Session

Tuesday, May 21

10:00am

Women’s Bible Study

Wednesday, May 22

10:00am

10:00am

Donuts & Doctrine

Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry

Thursday, May 23

10:00am

3:30pm

Game Fellowship

Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, May 26

10:15am

10:30am

11:30am

6:00pm

Memorial Day Weekend

Hymn Sing

Worship Service (Also Online)

Fellowship Time

Prayer Meeting-FB

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 Website: fpcpunta.org
Office hours: 9:00am to 1:00pm Monday – Thursday

SERMON NOTES

Acts 23:23-35; 24:22-27

²³ Then he called two of his centurions and ordered them, “Get ready a detachment of two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen to go to Caesarea at nine tonight. ²⁴ Provide horses for Paul so that he may be taken safely to Governor Felix.” ²⁵ He wrote a letter as follows:

²⁶ Claudius Lysias,

To His Excellency, Governor Felix: Greetings.

²⁷ This man was seized by the Jews and they were about to kill him, but I came with my troops and rescued him, for I had learned that he is a Roman citizen. ²⁸ I wanted to know why they were accusing him, so I brought him to their Sanhedrin. ²⁹ I found that the accusation had to do with questions about their law, but there was no charge against him that deserved death or imprisonment. ³⁰ When I was informed of a plot to be carried out against the man, I sent him to you at once. I also ordered his accusers to present to you their case against him.

³¹ So the soldiers, carrying out their orders, took Paul with them during the night and brought him as far as Antipatris. ³² The next day they let the cavalry go on with him, while they returned to the barracks. ³³ When the cavalry arrived in Caesarea, they delivered the letter to the governor and handed Paul over to him. ³⁴ The governor read the letter and asked what province he was from. Learning that he was from Cilicia, ³⁵ he said, “I will hear your case when your accusers get here.” Then he ordered that Paul be kept under guard in Herod’s palace.

²² Then Felix, who was well acquainted with the Way, adjourned the proceedings. “When Lysias the commander comes,” he said, “I will decide your case.” ²³ He ordered the centurion to keep Paul under guard but to give him some freedom and permit his friends to take care of his needs. ²⁴ Several days later Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish. He sent for Paul and listened to him as he spoke about faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁵ As Paul talked about righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and said, “That’s enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you.” ²⁶ At the same time he was hoping that Paul would offer him a bribe, so he sent for him frequently and talked with him. ²⁷ When two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, but because Felix wanted to grant a favor to the Jews, he left Paul in prison.



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.

May 19, 2024

10:30am

PASTOR
MUSIC DIRECTOR
ORGANIST
OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN
LITURGIST
USHERS

Dr. Barksdale Pullen
Joan Byron
Denny Ausman
Debbie Rostad
Bev Brady
Kathy Belville, Roy Belville, Merrilyn Ellison, Linda Wagar