



FEBRUARY 2021

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

25250 Airport Road
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
941-639-1959
first@fpcpunta.org
www.fpcpunta.org

Eye On Eternity

In our current series on I Thessalonians, one of the overarching principles is that the Thessalonians live with an eye on eternity. This month, in the devotional I am using this year – New Morning Mercies by Paul Tripp – there was a great devotion along this theme, and I thought I would share it with you this month.

When we ask the present to give us what only eternity can give, we end up driven, frustrated, discouraged, and ultimately hopeless.

It's a case of modern evangelical schizophrenia. It causes us so much confusion, frustration, and discouragement. It leaves us with unrealistic expectations, naivete toward temptation, and regular disappointment. It leads us to ask far too much from the people around us and to expect more than we should from the situations and locations in our lives. It makes us search over and over again for what we will not find and spend endless hours wondering why we haven't found it. It even results in some of us beginning to doubt the goodness of God.

"What is this schizophrenia?" you ask. It is the fact that we declare that we believe in forever, yet we live as if this is all there is. This functional contradiction between our belief system and our daily living cannot work. Here's why.

First, you cannot make any sense out of the Christian life without eternity. This is the whole argument of 1 Corinthians 15. If the One you've given your life to doesn't ultimately fix all that sin has broken, so that you can live with him forever without its effects, what is your faith worth?

Second, you and I have been hardwired for eternity. Ecclesiastes 3:11 declares that God has placed eternity in every person's heart. That means everyone hungers for paradise. No one is satisfied with things the way they are. So either you try your hardest to turn your life right here, right now into the paradise it will never be and therefore become driven and disappointed, or you live in this broken world with the rest and peace that comes from knowing that a guaranteed place in paradise is in your future. You're sad that things are as broken as they are, so you work to be an agent of change in God's gracious and powerful hands, but you're not anxious or driven. You know that this world is not stuck and that it hasn't been abandoned by God. You know that God is working his eternal plan. He is moving things toward their final conclusion. You can't see it every day, but you know it's true. In the middle of your sadness there is celebration because you've read the final chapter and you know how God's grand story is going to end.

So you get up every morning and give yourself to doing the things that God says are good, because you know that if grace has put eternity in your future there's nothing that you could ever do in God's name that is in vain.

For further study and encouragement: 1 Corinthians 15:12-34

In Christ, Pastor Barksdale

WORSHIP MINISTRY



Worship
Schedule

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



Our church is planning a **Valentine's Cookie Outreach** for **FIRST RESPONDERS** on or near February 14th. We are asking our congregation to make cookies and to bring one or two batches to church on **Sunday, February 7th**. The cookies will be boxed by the half dozen and delivered to the stations in Punta Gorda (Police, Fire, and Sheriff) for them to distribute to their deserving personnel.



On **Sunday, February 7th, "Souper Bowl Sunday"**, come prepared to put your cans of soup in the food bin and/or \$\$\$\$ in the empty soup pots, to be used to feed the hungry of Charlotte County.



ANNUAL MEETING

On **Sunday, February 7th**, we will have our **Called Congregational Annual Meeting** at 11:30am. The purpose of this meeting is to elect Ruling Elders (Gail Thornton and Bruce Peters), act on changes to the By-laws, and answer questions regarding the Annual Report. Please plan on attending. *Annual Reports/By-laws are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary.*



SERVICE OF
Remembrance

Our **Annual Valentine Memorial Service** will be held on **Sunday, February 14th at 11:30am**

This is a short service of remembrance for those who passed away in 2020 from our church family and in memory of other loved ones. We will begin in the Sanctuary and move to the Lowell Kvam Memorial Garden.



GOD'S LOVE

GOD'S LOVE IS EVERYWHERE
IN THE DARKNESS AND IN THE LIGHT
WHERE WE GO THROUGHOUT OUR LIFE.

IN BIRDS ON FLIGHT
AND FLOWER BLOOMS
THE MIRACLE SUNSETS BRIGHT.

OUR FRIENDS NEXT DOOR
THE GROCERY CLERK
THE SICK AND POOR.

IN TROUBLED TIMES
AND FEARFUL DAYS
IN SUFFERINGS OF EVERY KIND.

IT IS WRAPPED AROUND US
AS WE GO OUR WAY
FILLING US WITH HOPE EACH DAY.

THANK YOU GOD
FOR YOUR EVERLASTING LOVE
MAY WE SHOW YOUR LOVE FROM UP ABOVE.

HOLY SPIRIT AND NANCY BEASOM

MISSIONS MINISTRY FOR 2021



First Presbyterian Church proudly supports
the following Missions for 2021
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.



Crossroads
HOPE
Academy



CROSSROADS HOPE ACADEMY (PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA)

Crossroadspg.org



JESUS LOVES YOU MINISTRY (PORT CHARLOTTE, FLORIDA)

Jesuslovesyouministryinc.com



MISIÓN PENIEL (IMMOKALEE, FLORIDA)

Misionpeniel.com



ANTIOCH PARTNERS MISSIONARIES

Eric and Debbie Stone, Guatemala
Lisa Alfonsi, Lima, Peru
theantiochpartners.org



MISSIONARY VENTURES INTERNATIONAL

Chasen and Katie Brokaw
Nicaragua
mvi.org
breakingborders.org

MEMBER CARE AND ACTIVITIES

Prayer Requests and Hospital / Rehab Information
Address, Phone, Email changes
Birthdays and Anniversaries
Email to first@fpcpunta.org

First Pres is now on Facebook!
Go to:
[facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurch-Punta Gorda](https://facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurch-PuntaGorda)

Giving to FPC - In person or
Mail to the church office: 25250 Airport Rd; Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Online Giving through our website: fpcpunta.org, click Donate

PRAYER SHAWL GATHERINGS

Monday, February 8th, at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall to knit or crochet.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays, February 2nd and 16th - Our study is entitled *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat* by John Ortberg. We will meet at the church from **10:00am - 11:30am**.

For additional information, please call Kathy at 508-733-0546.

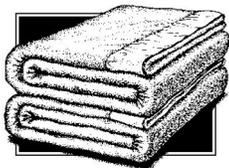
All women are invited to join us for study, fellowship, and refreshments!

DONUTS & DOCTRINE

Our Wednesday Morning Bible Study meets at **10:00am** both at the church and online. In February, we will look at the stories of familiar hymns and the lives of the Apostles. How did they carry out the Great Commission? In March and April, we will continue with the stories of familiar hymns and look at the Book of James. **Note - we will not meet on Wednesday, February 3rd.**

Please join us in person or online!

GAME FELLOWSHIP — *Thursday mornings at 10:00am* in Fellowship Hall. *All welcome!*



SAVE THE DATES

Sunday, March 7th *Blanket Sunday - Donations for Church World Services*

FEBRUARY 2021

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 Ernie & DeAnn Lehman	11 Nancy Murphy	21 Barksdale & Bo Pullen
2 Paul & Pat Longergan	12 Jim & Patti Nuznoff	22 Bill & Pauli Purcell
3 Al & Susie Lorenz	13 Marguerite O'Brien	23 David & Milanne Richards
4 Connie Luther	14 David Osweiler	24 Jack & Patty Rothley
5 Myles MacDonald	15 David & Jane Otoupal	25 Sharon Russell
6 Steve MacDonald	16 Nelson & Florence Parker	26 Barbara Ryan
7 Gene & Barbara McPherson	17 Bruce Peters	27 Charles Sampsel
8 Larry & Sue Mesler	18 Rachel Pfaender	28 Elaine Schultz
9 Bob & Sammi Mischler	19 Linda Potthoff	
10 Steve & Joanie Mock	20 Larry & Pat Pritchard	



2—Debbie Rostad	23—Bill Purcell
8—Doris Costa	24—Jack Rothley
15—Jene Shafer	25—DeAnn Lehman
16—Sharon Russell	28—Roy Belville
17—Margie Smith	