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## WORSHIP SERVICE

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**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC** Christian Country

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE** *Pie Jesu (Blessed Jesus)* Faure / arr. Franklin Ritter

### CALL TO WORSHIP

### PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**\*HYMN #224** *We Have Come into His House*

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

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. Amen.

### \*GLORIA PATRI

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

**OFFERTORY** *Behold, A Broken World* Dudley-Smith/Miller

### \*DOXOLOGY

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Thanks be to you, O God, for all good gifts, and especially for Your inexpressible gift of the Lord Jesus. Help us, O Lord, to see how we have been blessed and use our offering as a blessing to others. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**\*HYMN #78** *I Love You, Lord (Repeat)*

**SCRIPTURE** Ecclesiastes 3:7

**MESSAGE** *In Between* Pastor Barksdale Pullen

**\*HYMN #624** *His Eye Is on the Sparrow*

### \*BENEDICTION

**\*RESPONSE #232** *God Be with You (vs. 2)*

**POSTLUDE** *God is Our Refuge* Benton Price

\*Please stand, if able

Hearing assist devices are available at the tech booth

CCLI #1140231 CVLI #50542933

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## MINISTRY OF PRAYER

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### 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 still 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
Lynn Lang	Ron Sixt	Rick Berner
Irene Csontos	Barb Harris	Dave Sifferd

### Those who are in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes

Marion Brown, *Truewood by Merrill, Port Charlotte*

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## NOTES

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**FLOWERS** – The flowers are given today by Marguerite O'Brien in loving memory of John J. O'Brien.

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

**SEPTEMBER 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](mailto: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](http://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

	August 2023	Year-to-Date
*Tithes & Offerings	\$13,789.43	\$195,015.59
Cash Expenditures	\$21,919.86	\$183,633.71
Net	(\$8,130.43)	\$ 11,381.88

\*The YTD amount includes \$20,700 in fulfilled annual pledges given in January

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## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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

**HURRICANE SEASON** – We are in the heart 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, join us online. Also, we have a text messaging system to notify members 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.**

**CHURCH MEMBERSHIP CLASS** – *Sunday, October 29th at 9:15am.* If you are interested in joining the church, or just finding out more information about FPC, please join us for a one class introduction to FPC. (For Seasonal Residents, we have an Affiliate Membership, so you can maintain your Membership back home.)

### ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

**DONUTS AND DOCTRINE BIBLE STUDY** – *Wednesday, September 20th, at 10:00am.* We continue our study of Mark. Mark is written primarily to Gentiles, and the ultimate purpose and theme of Mark's Gospel is to present and defend Jesus' universal call to discipleship.

**WEDNESDAY EVENING DINNER AND MOVIE** – *Wednesday, September 20th at 5:00pm* – Join us for a Potluck Dinner and stay to watch the new movie *Jesus Revolution*. Sign up in the church foyer.

**CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS** – *Thursdays at 4:30pm.* Rehearsals last about an hour. If you love to sing, please join us for rehearsals on Thursdays and church services on Sunday mornings. The choir begins singing anthems on October 8th. Call Joan Byron at 941-661-1553 for more information.

**CHURCH WORK DAY** – If you have a couple of hours to spend, we will have a church work day on *Saturday, September 23rd, from 8-10am.* Our main focus will be the landscaping beds around the church. Sign up in the church foyer. (*Rumor has it there will be sausage biscuits.*)

**MISIÓN PENIEL** – Our next trip to Immokalee is *Friday, September 29th* – we will be helping at the Mission from 11:00am – 1:00pm. Please meet at the church between 9:15-9:30am. Sign up in the church foyer.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** – *Tuesday, October 3rd at 10:00am.* Join us for an introduction to our new study on the Bible book of "Esther". This study is based on "*Becoming a Woman of Beauty & Strength*" by Elizabeth George. We will 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.**

**PULLEN UP A CHAIR** – *Wednesday, October 4th at 5:00pm.* Barksdale and Bo host a get-together dinner 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. 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, October 6th, 12:00pm* – Please sign up and join us for lunch at Riviera's Restaurant in Punta Gorda. **All ladies are invited!**

**BURGERS FOR BADGES** – *Monday, October 16th, 11:00am – 1:00pm* – Help us show our appreciation to our Sheriff's Department as we grill out hamburgers and hotdogs. Have lunch with us in Fellowship Hall and say thank-you to our local first responders. Sign up in the church foyer for a shift – see the sign-up sheet for specific jobs. **If you would like to make a donation to help defray the costs of this outreach event, please designate it as "B4B".**

**ANNUAL CONCERT SERIES** for 2023-2024 is set. The Season Brochure is available in the church foyer or on our website [www.fpcpunta.org](http://www.fpcpunta.org) under Ministries / Concert Series. **The first concert is Sunday, November 19th at 3:00pm, featuring the Barefoot Trio.**

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**MISSIONS SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES**

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**DISASTER RELIEF SUPPORT** – A reminder that our trusted partners at World Renew are ECO’s go-to resource for long-term disaster relief. We echo their current request for prayer for those affected by the Maui wildfires and Hurricane Idalia. We will keep our ECO family updated if they are able to respond or if they will recommend partner organizations to support. You may learn more about how World Renew Disaster Response Services rebuilds hope and shares God’s love through holistic disaster recovery work here:

<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 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)

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**EVENTS FOR THE COMING WEEK**

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**September 17th to September 24th**

<b>Sunday, September 17</b>	<b>Deacon’s Fund Sunday</b>
10:30am	Worship Service (Also Online)
11:30am	Fellowship Time
6:00pm	Prayer Meeting (FaceBook)
<b>Monday, September 18</b>	
2:00pm	Session
<b>Tuesday, September 19</b>	
10:00am	Mission Team
<b>Wednesday, September 20</b>	
10:00am	Donuts & Doctrine
10:00am	Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry
5:00pm	Dinner and Movie
<b>Thursday, September 21</b>	
10:00am	Game Fellowship
4:30pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
<b>Saturday, September 23</b>	
8:00am	Church Work Day
<b>Sunday, September 24</b>	
10:15am	Hymn Sing
10:30am	Worship Service (Also Online)
11:30am	Fellowship Time
6:00pm	Prayer Meeting (FaceBook)

**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](mailto:first@fpcpunta.org) Website: [fpcpunta.org](http://fpcpunta.org)  
Office hours: 9:00am to 1:00pm Monday – Thursday

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**SERMON NOTES**

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**Ecclesiastes 3:7**

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak

**Bible Readings**

September 17	Ezra 9:1-10:44 Nehemiah 1:1-2:20
September 18	Nehemiah 3:1-5:13 Nehemiah 6:1-7:3
September 19	Nehemiah 7:4-8:12
September 20	Nehemiah 8:13-10:39
September 21	Nehemiah 11:1-12:26 1 Chronicles 9:1-34
September 22	Nehemiah 12:27-13:6 Nehemiah 5:14-19 Nehemiah 13:7-31
September 23	Malachi 1:1-2:9 Malachi 2:10-4:6 Joel 1:1-3:21



***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.*

**September 17, 2023**

**10:30am**

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<b>PASTOR</b>	Dr. Barksdale Pullen
<b>MUSIC DIRECTOR</b>	Joan Byron
<b>ORGANIST</b>	Denny Ausman
<b>OFFICE &amp; WORSHIP ADMIN</b>	Debbie Rostad
<b>LITURGIST</b>	Kathy Belville
<b>USHERS</b>	Roy Belville, Sam Cessna, Marjorie Haun, Patti MacDonald