
WORSHIP SERVICE

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC Nancy Smith

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *The Coventry Carol* Robert J. Hughes

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Roy and Kathy Belville
Third Candle symbolizes Joy and is called the "Shepherd's Candle"

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP *(Based on Isaiah 49:13 and Psalm 30:11-12)*

Pastor: Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;
break forth, O mountains, into singing!

All: *For the Lord has comforted his people
and will have compassion on his afflicted.*

Pastor: You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;

All: *you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness,*

Pastor: that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent.

All: *O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever!*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

INTROIT *Come to the Light* Joseph Martin
Chancel Choir

***HYMN #258** *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

*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 #813

ANTHEM *In the Silence, Wondrous Love* Ruth Elaine Schram
Chancel Choir

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

OFFERTORY *Tell It To Jesus* Edmund S. Lorenz

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Dear Lord, here and now we bring our gifts to You and to the church. We ask You to receive our gifts for ministry and service. But more, Lord, receive our love, and with our love and Your divine love, may we keep on building Your kingdom here as it is in heaven. In our Master's name, we pray. Amen.

***HYMN #265** *The First Noel*

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:8-20

MESSAGE *Joy* Pastor Barksdale Pullen

***HYMN #270** *Joy to the World!*

*BENEDICTION

***RESPONSE #425** *Bind Us Together*

POSTLUDE *Jesus Shall Reign* Lani Smith

*Please stand, if able

Hearing assist devices are available at the tech booth

CCLI #1140231 CVLI #5043864

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 and Eric Stone family, missionaries we support in Peru and Guatemala.
- 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 Chasen and Katie Brokaw, missionaries we support in Nicaragua.
- Pray for persecuted Christians throughout the world.

Those with Special Needs

Rachel Pfaender	Kay Callahan	Phyllis Ehrhardt	Dave Sifferd
Lynn Lang	Ron Sixt	Rick Berner	Jack Rothley
Irene Csontos	Barb Harris	Ernie Lehman	

Those who are in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes

Marion Brown, *Royal Palm*

NOTES

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS – *Advent Devotionals are available in the church foyer.*

NEW NAME TAGS – If you would like a name tag with magnets, please write your name on the sheet. Thanks!

FLOWERS – The flowers are given by Gail Thornton in loving memory of her father, Harold Herwig.

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

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

CHURCH DIRECTORY – 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 [vimeo livestream](https://www.vimeo.com/livestream).

PLEDGE CARD – If you haven't returned your pledge card for 2023, please do so as soon as possible. Pledge cards are available on the table in the back of the Sanctuary or in the church foyer. Thank you.

YEAR-END GIVING – To make sure your giving for 2022 gets credited for 2022, please have your offering/gift to the church before December 31, 2022. Any donations received after that date will be applied to one's 2023 giving. For gifts of stock, please call the church office.

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES – Available on the table in the foyer. If you don't see your name, let the office know. Thank you.

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!

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP CLASS – ***Next class will be January 29, 2023*** -- We will have a one class introduction to FPC. If you are interested in joining the church, or just finding out more information about FPC, please join us.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA – Remember a loved one this Christmas by giving a poinsettia to help decorate the church. Suggested donation is \$7 per poinsettia. Special envelopes are on the table in the back of the sanctuary. **Please return your envelope by Monday, December 12th** in order to be listed in a special bulletin insert.

TOYS FOR TOTS -- We are helping the Marine Corps Reserve celebrate their 75th Anniversary of *Toys for Tots*. Please bring an unwrapped gift, for infants up to teenagers and place in the special box. Let's bring smiles to many children this Christmas. **We will collect gifts until December 13th.**

CHRISTMAS OFFERING – This year's Christmas Offering will be used for Gift Cards for the Veterans Village and Christmas gifts for the children of Misión Peniel. Please use the Christmas Envelope in your Envelope Box or a Pew Envelope.

DEACON'S FUND – **NEXT Sunday, December 18th**, is our monthly collection to help support congregation and emergency needs, Misión Peniel, and others.

ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

PRAYER SHAWL GATHERING – If you like to knit or crochet, please gather with us in Fellowship Hall **Monday, December 12th at 10am.**

DONUTS AND DOCTRINE BIBLE STUDY – *Resumes in January.*

CHRISTMAS DINNER – ***This Wednesday, December 14th at 5:00pm*** – Turkey and ham will be provided. Please sign up in the church foyer to bring a side dish or dessert. We will have music. Following dinner we will show "The Chosen" Christmas movie.

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH – ***This Friday, December 16th, 12:00pm*** – Join us for lunch at LongHorn Steakhouse, PC. Please sign up. ***All ladies are invited!***

CHRISTMAS CANTATA – ***Sunday, December 18th, during the Worship Service***, the Chancel Choir and orchestra ensemble will present the Christmas Cantata "*Tapestry of Light*" by Joseph Martin.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – ***Tuesday, December 20th at 10:00am*** with Lesson 14 (James 3:9-12 "Blessing...or Cursing?...") of *Growing in Wisdom & Faith, a study of James* by Elizabeth George from her "A Woman After God's Own Heart" series. Call Kathy Belville at 508-733-0546 for more information. ***All women are invited for study, fellowship, and refreshments.***

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE – ***Saturday, December 24th, 5:00PM.***

CHRISTMAS DAY BREAKFAST – ***Sunday, December 25th, 9:30am.*** You are welcome to join us for breakfast on Christmas morning and stay for our Worship Service at 10:30am. Please sign up in the church foyer.

PULLEN UP A CHAIR – ***Wednesdays, January 4th and February 1st at 5:00pm.*** Barksdale and Bo will be hosting get-together dinners this winter 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 to reserve a night. There is no agenda, lesson, or study; just a time to get together for fellowship and to learn more about one another.

CONCERT SERIES – Our next concert will be ***Sunday, January 15, 2023 at 3:00pm.*** Ann Alton, cellist, returns with her very talented 15-year-old cello student, Matrick Thorpe. A free will offering will be taken – suggested donation is \$15.00. Refreshments will be served following the concert.

MISSIONS SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

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.

Shower Ministry “Lunches” – Please consider a financial donation to support the lunches that we provide weekly for the Shower Ministry. (mark as “lunches”)

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)

EVENTS FOR THE COMING WEEK

December 11th to December 18th

Sunday, December 11

10:30am

11:30am

6:00pm

Third Sunday in Advent

Worship Service

Fellowship Time

Prayer Meeting – FaceBook

Monday, December 12

10:00am

Prayer Shawl Gathering

Tuesday, December 13

10:00am

Missions Team

Wednesday, December 14

10:00am

5:00pm

Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry

Christmas Dinner

Thursday, December 15

10:00am

7:00pm

Game Fellowship

Christmas Cantata Rehearsal

Friday, December 16

12:00pm

Ladies Lunch Bunch

Saturday, December 17

1:00pm

Christmas Cantata Rehearsal

Sunday, December 18

10:30am

11:30am

6:00pm

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Christmas Cantata

Deacon’s Fund Sunday

Worship Service (Also Online)

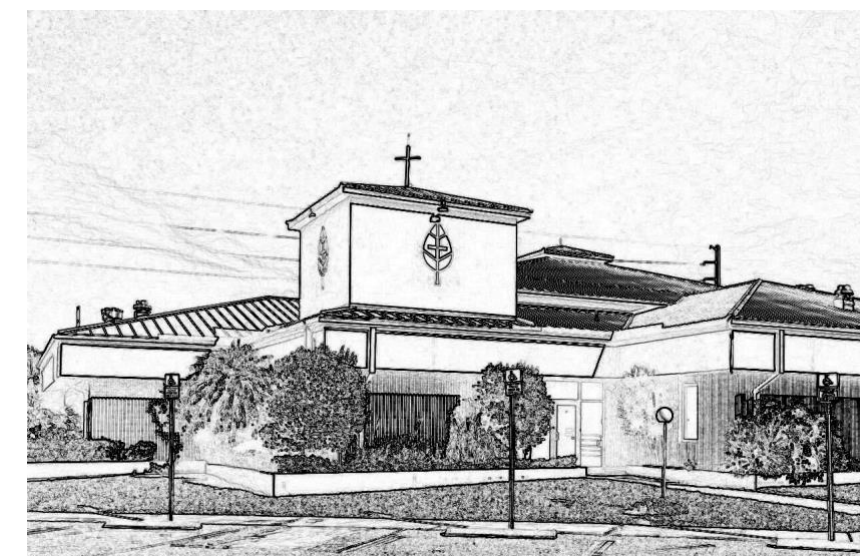
Fellowship Time

Prayer Meeting – FaceBook

SERMON NOTES

Luke 2:8-20

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.



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.

First Presbyterian Church of Punta Gorda

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Punta Gorda, FL 33950

941-639-1959 (phone)

941-637-3763 (fax)

Email: first@fpcpunta.org

Office hours: 9:00am to 1:00pm Monday – Thursday

Website: fpcpunta.org

December 11, 2022

10:30am

PASTOR

Dr. Barksdale Pullen

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Joan Byron

ORGANIST

Denny Ausman

OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN

Debbie Rostad

LITURGIST

John Evans

USHERS

Bev Brady, Maria Greene, Matthew Greene, Marjorie Haun