



NOVEMBER 2022

**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"**

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



Reformation Day



On October 31, 1517 Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses to the Castle door in Wittenberg, Germany. In those days that was not a radical act, but rather the Community Bulletin Board, where people posted things of interest. For Martin Luther, a young monk, he saw some abuses in the Roman Catholic Church of his day and wanted to discuss them. His small act led to the beginning of the Protestant Reformation.

Although not authored by Luther, the Five Solas, summed up the principles of protestant theology and became the rallying cry of the Protestant Reformation. They were: Sola scriptura; Sola fide; Sola gratia; Solus Christus; Soli Deo gloria.

"These five statements of the evangelical faith lay at the center of what distinguished the theology of the Reformation from the theology of the Roman Catholic church in the 16th century. Sola scriptura is the belief that because Scripture is God's inspired Word, it is the only inerrant, sufficient, and final authority for the church. Solus Christus is the assertion that Christ alone is the basis on which the ungodly are justified in God's sight. Sola fide maintains that the believer receives the redemption Christ has accomplished only through faith. Sola gratia proclaims that all of our salvation, from beginning to end, is by grace and grace alone. Because of these things, the Reformers held fast to the phrase soli Deo gloria, that only God receives glory for our salvation.

The five solas form the nucleus of the evangelical faith. They not only capture the gospel of Jesus Christ and explain how that gospel takes root in the sinner, but they also define where the authority of that gospel resides and to what end that gospel is preached and proclaimed. Although the phrase "five solas" may be more recent in its usage, the concepts are rooted in the 16th century Reformation. These five solas distinguished Reformers like Martin Luther, Philip Melancthon, John Calvin, and so many others from the teachings of Rome. But at the heart of this divide was not merely a theological dispute, but a celebration of the gospel itself. The reformers were willing to lay their lives down for these solas first and foremost because they believed the gospel itself was at stake." (from The Gospel Coalition Website by Matthew Barret)

So, on the last Sunday of the month of October we remember our heritage and celebrate Reformation Day, and more importantly the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In Christ,

Barksdale Pullen

WORSHIP MINISTRY



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



Fellowship Time

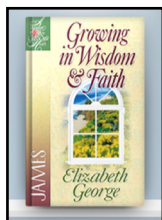
Join us for beverages, cookies and treats after Sunday's Worship Service



From the Choir Loft:

We are looking for extra singers for our Christmas Cantata, **Tapestry of Light**. The cantata, including singers and instrumentalists, will be at our Worship Service on Sunday, December 18th.
All singers are welcome. Rehearsals are Thursdays at 4:30pm.

DISCIPLESHIP 2022



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays, November 1st (Lesson 12) and November 15th (Lesson 13)

"Speaking with Wisdom" James 3:1-4 / "Taming the Tongue" - James 3:5-8

10:00am at the church

**Growing in Wisdom & Faith, a study of James by Elizabeth George
from "A Woman After God's Own Heart" Series**

Call Kathy Belville at 508-733-0546 for more information - All are welcome!



**Donuts &
Doctrine**

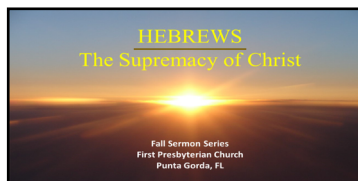
DONUTS & DOCTRINE Bible Study

Wednesday mornings at 10:00am

"Preparing for Advent"

**Looking at Old Testament prophecies
regarding the coming of the Messiah - Jesus**

Join us on Wednesday mornings at 10:00am



Fall Sermon Series

**Hebrews
The Supremacy of Christ**



Church Membership CLASS

Next class in January 2023

FPC'S ANNUAL CONCERT SERIES 2022 - 2023



**** Sunday, October 23, 2022, 3:00pm**

The Dunnemans

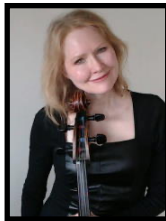
Reg and Gretchen Dunneman sing their own special blend of gospel music, including southern gospel, traditional, hymn, and classical Christian styles. Their full-time ministry presents concerts from Ontario to Florida, to Maine, to Texas.



**** Sunday, December 4, 2022, 3:00pm**

The Two Piano Group

The Cultural Center's Two Piano Group unites once again to perform their traditional mix of contemporary and traditional favorites, plus some new and innovative selections. These area musicians come from a professional pianistic musical background and are joined together by their love of playing the enhanced orchestral like sound created by the two-piano repertoire.



**** Sunday, January 15, 2023, 3:00pm**

Matrick Thorpe and Ann Alton, Cellists

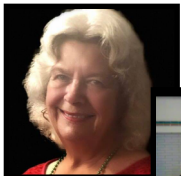
Matrick Thorpe is a 15 year old cellist from the Sarasota area. He is a classical student who recently toured abroad in 11 countries and has his own YouTube channel, [Matrickplayscello](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMtrickplayscello). Matrick will be joined in this concert by his teacher and returning artist Ann Alton.



*** Sunday, February 12, 2023, 3:00pm**

The Goldtones

The Goldtones are one of Florida's premiere vocal harmony groups singing songs ranging from the traditional doo-wop tunes of the 50s and 60s to those melodies sung by later groups of the 70s and 80s. Audiences love them not only for their vocal talents, but for their humor and their audience interaction.



**** Sunday, March 12, 2023, 3:00pm**

Patti Page and the Joyful Ringers

Patti Page is a Handbell Soloist, playing her own set of 30 English Handbells along the East Coast.

The Joyful Ringers are a Handbell Choir from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Port Charlotte.

*** Goldtones - Ticketed Event - \$15.00 Donation Tickets available in the church office**

**** All other concerts - Free Will Offering - \$15.00 Suggested Donation**

FPC ACTIVITIES



PRAYER SHAWL GATHERINGS -
Monday, November 14th, 10:00am



GAME FELLOWSHIP

Thursday mornings at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall All are welcome!



LADIES LUNCH BUNCH

1st and 3rd Friday of each month

Sign up in the church foyer

*Friday, November 4th
12:00pm
Brooklyn Joe's
1133 Bal Harbour Blvd.
Punta Gorda*

*Friday, November 18th
12:00pm
Hurricane Charley's
300 W. Retta Esplanade
Punta Gorda*



PULLEN UP A CHAIR

Barksdale and Bo will host a get-together dinner for a group of eight at their home

Wednesday, November 2nd at 5:00pm

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



WELCOME BACK DINNER — Wednesday, November 16th

"Chili with fixins"

Sign up in the church foyer



LUNCH 'N' LEARN - 12:00pm

***Wednesday, November 30th - Presented by the Sheriff's Department on
"Scams & Crimes Pulled on Seniors"***

Sign up in the church foyer



CROSSROADS Bar-B-Que

Stay tuned for our rescheduled date!

***Join us for a Barbecue lunch with the boys from
Crossroads Hope Academy at our church's barbecue pit.***

Sign up to help in these ways:

Setup - Serve - Bake Cookies - Takedown

MISSIONS MINISTRY



First Presbyterian Church proudly supports
Missions 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.



MISIÓN PENIEL

*Serving in Immokalee
Friday, December 9th
11:00am - 1:00pm
Join us to hand out
groceries to the workers
Sign up - we will carpool
from the church*



THANKSGIVING SPECIAL GIFTING

Jesus Loves You Ministry - "Blue Jeans Project"

St. Vincent de Paul - "Thanksgiving Meals Project"

Use the Special Gifting envelopes. Thank you for your generosity!
Collections through November 20th.

Monthly Mission Support



CROSSROADS HOPE ACADEMY (PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA)

Crossroadspg.org



JESUS LOVES YOU MINISTRY (PORT CHARLOTTE, FLORIDA)

Jesuslovesyouministryinc.com

*Shower & Lunch
Ministry*



MISIÓN PENIEL (IMMOKALEE, FLORIDA)

Misionpeniel.com

ANTIOCH PARTNERS MISSIONARIES



Eric and Debbie Stone, Guatemala

Lisa Alfonsi, Lima, Peru

theantiochpartners.org



MISSIONARY VENTURES INTERNATIONAL

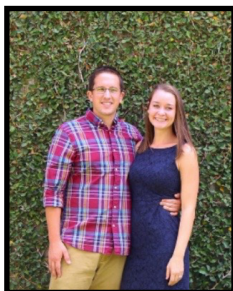
Chasen and Katie Brokaw

Nicaragua

mvi.org

breakingborders.org

*Save the Date!
Thursday, December 8th
2pm
"Zoom" Baby Shower
for Katie and Chasen*



MILITARY PRAYER LIST

Prayer

O Prince of Peace, we humbly ask Your protection for all our men and women in military service. Give them unflinching courage to defend with honor, dignity and devotion the rights of all who are imperiled by injustice and evil. Guard our churches, our homes, our schools, our hospitals, our factories, our buildings, and all those within from harm and peril. Protect our land and its people from enemies within and without. Grant an early peace with victory founded upon justice. Instill in the hearts and minds of men and women everywhere a firm purpose to live forever in peace and good will towards all. Amen.

- * Major John McPherson, Air Force, great nephew of Marguerite O'Brien, stationed at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas
- * Major Ryan Swisher, Army Ranger, grandson of Rachel Pfaender, stationed in North Carolina
- * Major Eric Engstrom, Army Intel., son of Alan Engstrom, stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas
- * Captain Zadick Self, Marines, grandson-in-law of Ron Beasom, stationed in Peoria, Illinois
- * Navy Seaman Tyler Beasom, Navy, grandson of Ron Beasom, stationed in San Diego, California
- * MSgt. Nick Weiss, Air Force, grandson of Gail Thornton, is home based
- * Lt. Col. David Sifferd, Jr., Army Reserve, son of David Sifferd, stationed in Ft. Knox, KY
- * Pvt. Michael Robert Wagner, U.S. Marine Corp., great-grandson of Robert and Jean Humphreys

Do you have a family member serving in the military?

If so, we'd like to add them to the newsletter prayer list. Fill out the form that's on the sign-up table in the church foyer and place it in the HELMET or let the church office know.

THANKSGIVING TIME



*"Blessing and glory and
wisdom and thanksgiving and
honor and power and might
be to our God
forever and ever! Amen."*

Revelation 7:12, NRSV

GOLDEN TONES
AND PUMPKINS RIPE
TREES AGLOW
OF EVERY TYPE

HARVEST TIME
LOOK HOMEWARD TIME
AS FROM MY WINDOW
PRAYERS TO GOD DO CLIMB

GOD IS GOOD
AND GOD IS GREAT
LET US ALL SING PRAISES
NO MATTER OUR FATE

FRIENDSHIP, FAMILY
SONGS OF LOVE
SENT TO US
FROM HIM ABOVE

TENDER SMILES
AS SOFT EYES GLEAM
FROM EACH OTHER'S
FACE IT SEEMS

AROUND OUR TABLE
EACH BOWS HIS HEAD
TO THANK OUR LORD
FOR OUR DAILY BREAD

Nancy Beasom and the HOLY SPIRIT

MEMBER CARE



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



First Pres is on Facebook!

Go to:

[facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurch-Punta Gorda](https://facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurch-PuntaGorda)



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



Dear Barksdale, the Session and the covenant partners and friends of First Presbyterian,

To say I was totally surprised is an understatement as well as overwhelmed by the act of the Session and congregation to grant me Pastor Emeritus status. I was not expecting it and feel so honored and touched by the love and affection of the congregation. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I was the one truly blessed to serve God's people at FPCPG for so many years. I have never felt so loved and appreciated by a church in my entire ministry. It was a privilege to serve you all, and all I ever hoped was to hear from my Savior, "Well done, good and faithful servant." This honor is more than I deserve or desired, but I am humbled to receive it.

It has always been and will always be my prayer that God's blessings and hand will continue to empower, guide and grow the work and ministry of Barksdale and of FPCPG, to the glory of God and the blessings of all.

Your humble servant in Christ, Pastor Steve



BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

A new ministry team has been formed that will be responsible for the planning and serving of the receptions that follow Memorial Services. Joan Hoffman is the Chairperson. If you are interested in helping her, please sign up in the church foyer. This is a good opportunity for someone to be involved with a simple ministry but also a much appreciated one.



Please pray for Barb Harris and family, whose husband Rich went home to the Lord on October 6th.

The Memorial Service for Ron Gensemer will be on Wednesday, December 7th, at 2:00pm in our Sanctuary.

OCTOBER 2022

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 Steve & Valerie Neeley	11 Barksdale & Bo Pullen	21 Margie Smith
2 Jim & Patti Nuznoff	12 Pete & Debbie Rostad	22 Bo & Karen Sostar
3 Marguerite O'Brien	13 Jack & Patty Rothley	23 Gail Thornton
4 David Osweiler	14 Barbara Ryan	24 Larrie & Marjorie Tisdale
5 David & Jane Otoupal	15 Charles Sampsel	25 Don & Mary Anne Washabaugh
6 Nelson & Florence Parker	16 Elaine Schultz	26 Dave Woods
7 Bruce Peters	17 Jene Shafer	27 Teri York
8 Rachel Pfaender	18 Dave Sifferd	28 Carol Zutter
9 Linda Potthoff	19 Ron & Billie Sixt	29 George & Sharon Albright
10 Pat Pritchard	20 Andy & Nancy Smith	30 Jay Aldridge



2—Larry Mesler	7—Alan Engstrom	17—Barksdale Pullen	2—Ray & Joan Byron	37 yrs.
2—David Otoupal	9—Myles MacDonald	27—Maria Greene		
4—Ray Byron	13—Barbara McPherson	30—John Evans		
5—Diane Culver-Truby	14—Ron Sixt			