

WORSHIP SERVICE		
PRE-SERVICE MUSIC		
		Hymn arrangements
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS		
PRELUDE	Prelude on Hanover	Tom Birchwood
CALL TO WORSHIP		
PRAYER OF INVOCATION		
*HYMN #790	We Gather Together	
* PRAYER OF CONFESSION		
Merciful God, you have called us to be conformed to the image of your Son, yet we confess how often we resist that transformation. We choose comfort over courage, self-interest over self-giving, and pride over humility. You have shown us the way of Jesus—the path of compassion, forgiveness, and sacrificial love—but we have wandered onto our own roads seeking what pleases us rather than what honors you. Forgive us, Lord. By your Spirit, renew our minds, soften our hearts, and shape our lives so that we reflect your grace. Teach us to love as Christ loves, serve as Christ serves, and forgive as Christ forgives. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen. <i>(Silent Confession)</i>		
*WORDS OF ASSURANCE		
*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		
PASTORAL PRAYER		
OFFERTORY - **	Flute Pastorale	Lani Smith
*PRAYER OF DEDICATION		
We give our gifts in love and thanksgiving for all that we have been given. Let our giving, gracious God, be not the end point but rather the beginning. Let our gifts of love and gratitude travel where we do not, making pathways of hope where there is none. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.		
*HYMN #548	As the Deer	
SCRIPTURE	1 John 4:17-5:5	
MESSAGE	Perfecting Love	Pastor Barksdale Pullen
COMMUNION AND HYMN		
Let Us Break Bread Together		
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD’S PRAYER <i>(debt/debtors)</i>		
*HYMN #391	Sweet, Sweet Spirit	
*BENEDICTION		
*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #419	The Family of God	
POSTLUDE	Shine On Us	Michael W. Smith
*Please stand, if able		
**You may give securely online at www.fpcpunta.org		
Hearing assist devices are available at the tech booth		
CCLI #1140231 CVLI #505503731		

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 and Clever Alfonsi, Eric and Debbie Stone, 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 Ground Up Ministries, a ministry for human trafficking in Florida. - 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 Who Grieve		
Pray for the family of Jean LaMantia, who went home to the Lord on September 3rd.		
Pray for the family of David Otoupal, who went home to the Lord on May 27th.		
Those with Special Needs		
	Rachel Pfaender Lynn Lang	Phyllis Ehrhardt Ron Sixt
		Rick Berner Dave Sifferd
NOTES		
PRAYER QUOTE – “To get nations back on their feet, we must first get down on our knees.” – Billy Graham		
PRAYER EMAIL LIST – If you would like to be on Pastor Barksdale’s prayer email list, email Pastor Barksdale at bmpullen3@fpcpunta.org .		
PRAYER REQUESTS – Email your praise or petition to first@fpcpunta.org . Indicate if your prayer is for the Pastor only, church email prayer list, or prayer team on Sundays – or all of the above.		
FLOWERS – The flowers are given today by Larrie and Marjorie Tisdale in honor of their 65th wedding anniversary on October 3rd.		
CELL PHONES – Please remember to silence or turn off your mobile devices.		
OCTOBER 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.		
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		
	August 2025	Year-to-Date
Tithes & Offerings	\$17,596.15	\$157,059.28
Cash Expenditures	\$21,427.26	\$174,605.85
Net	(\$3,831.11)	(\$17,546.57)

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AND NOTES	
GATHER FOR PRAYER – <u>A prayer meeting is held Sundays at 6pm</u> (FaceBook online). Please submit any prayer requests to first@fpcpunta.org .	
MISIÓN PENIEL – Our next trip to Immokalee is Friday, October 31st, 9:00am – Please meet at our church. We need 6 people to sign up.	
SERMON ON THE SAND – Pastor Barksdale delivers the message on Sunday, October 5th at 8:00am at Fishermen’s Village .	
HURRICANE SEASON – As we are still in Florida’s hurricane season, we want 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.	
ACTIVITIES / EVENTS	
WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY – This Tuesday, October 7th, 10:00am – We are studying the book “Keep It Shut” by Karen Ehman. On October 7th we will do Session 1 – “Sparks, Squabbles, Spats, and Such: Our Words Matter”. We meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall. All ladies are welcome!	
DONUTS & DOCTRINE – Wednesday, October 8th at 10:00am – God’s Unfolding Plan of Redemption - The story of salvation is more than the Easter story, God’s plan of salvation stretches back in the Old Testament. Join us as we explore the characters, events and history leading up to the promised Messiah. All are welcome!	
LADIES CARDS FELLOWSHIP – Thursday, October 9th at 10:00am --- All ladies are welcome to join us Thursdays for cards and conversation.	
LADIES LUNCH BUNCH – Friday, October 17th, 11:30am – Sign up for Salty Tarpon in Punta Gorda.	
GRIEFSHARE GROUP – Begins Monday, October 20th, 10:00am to Noon in the Choir Room . GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life after losing a loved one. This group is led by caring people who have experienced grief and want to help you through the difficult days ahead. Sign up in the church foyer.	
BURGERS FOR BADGES – Monday, October 20th, 11:00am to 1:00pm . Help us show our appreciation to our local and retired First Responders as we grill out hamburgers and hotdogs. Sign up to bring cookies or desserts. If you would like to attend and thank our First Responders, please sign up (suggested donation of \$5.00 for members).	
LEGACY WRITING WORKSHOP – Wednesday, October 29th, 12:00pm – 1:00pm . Our guest speaker is Christopher Parent, a Community Partnership Specialist from Empath Health. Materials will be provided to help you create a legacy workbook for your children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Sign up in the church foyer.	
WELCOME BACK POTLUCK – Wednesday, November 12th at 5:00pm . Mark your calendars now.	

MISSIONS SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

DISASTER RELIEF SUPPORT – 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 SHOWER MINISTRY – (Wednesday mornings in our parking lot) – Please place “shower” items on the table in Fellowship Hall.

MISSIONS SUPPORT – If you would like to donate to the missionaries and organizations that we are supporting in 2025 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)
- Ground Up Ministries (Cape Coral)
- 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

October 5 – October 12

Sunday, October 5
8:00am World Communion Sunday
10:30am Sermon on the Sand
11:30am Worship Service (Also Online)
6:00pm Fellowship Time
Prayer Meeting-FB

Tuesday, October 7
10:00am Women’s Bible Study
1:00pm Fellowship Team

Wednesday, October 8
10:00am Donuts & Doctrine
10:00am Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry

Thursday, October 9
10:00am Ladies Cards Fellowship

Sunday, October 12
10:30am Worship Service (Also Online)
11:30am Fellowship Time
6:00pm Prayer Meeting-FB

First Presbyterian Church of Punta Gorda

Member of ECO (A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians)

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

(and by appointment)

SERMON NOTES

1 John 4:17-5:5

This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister. Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.



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 as we lift our hearts and voices in praise.

We are glad to welcome each guest and friend, and that you have chosen to worship God with this congregation.

October 5, 2025		10:30am
PASTOR	Dr. Barksdale Pullen	
ORGANIST	Denny Ausman	
OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN	Debbie Rostad	
LITURGIST	Bev Brady	
USHERS	Sharon Fant, Marjorie Haun, Patti MacDonald, Sam Cessna	
A/V TECH	George Fallenbeck, Jim Nuznoff	