
WORSHIP SERVICE

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC Hymn Sing

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Here I Am To Worship* Tim Hughes

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

INTROIT *To God Be the Glory* Wm. Doane/Mary McDonald
Chancel Choir

***HYMN #435** *God of Grace and God of Glory*

***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**

ANTHEM *Behold the King of Zion Comes* Joseph M. Martin
Chancel Choir

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

OFFERTORY *The Healing Hand of God* Franklin Ritter

***DOXOLOGY**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Holy One, like Abraham and Sarah, we have heard Your call. We respond with fledgling faith, offering what we have as we step into the unknown future with You. Bless and multiply these gifts of faith, we pray, to accomplish more than we dare think or ask. In Jesus' name. Amen.

***HYMN #330** *Are You Washed in the Blood?*

SCRIPTURE Acts 7:54-8:1

MESSAGE *First Martyr* Pastor Barksdale Pullen

***HYMN #235** *Take the name of Jesus with You*

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE** *Peace, God's Wonderful Peace* William M. Runyan
Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE *He Shall Feed His Flock* G. F. Handel

*Please stand, if able

Hearing assist devices are available at the tech booth
CCLI #1140231 CVLI #505465757

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, 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 who Grieve

Pray for the family of Barbara Harris, who went home to the Lord on November 25, 2023.

Pray for the family of Donna Peterson, former member, and mother of Diane Curtis. Donna went home to the Lord on February 11, 2024.

Those with Special Needs

Rachel Pfaender Phyllis Ehrhardt Rick Berner
Lynn Lang Ron Sixt Dave Sifferd

Those who are in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes

Marion Brown - *Life Care, Punta Gorda*

NOTES

FLOWERS – The flowers are given by Kay and Rick Berner in memory of their daughter, Sharon, who passed 2-24-99 at age 26.

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

MARCH 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.

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

	<u>January 2024</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Tithes & Offerings	\$24,546.16	\$24,546.16
Cash Expenditures	<u>\$25,270.68</u>	<u>\$25,270.68</u>
Net	(\$724.52)	(\$724.52)

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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

CHANCEL CHOIR – Singers are needed to balance out our church choir. Rehearsals are one hour long on Thursday and before services on Sunday. We sing from October through May. Call Joan Byron at 941-661-1553 or see her after services on Sunday. ***Come and join us in the pleasures of singing praises to God.***

SEASON OF LENT DEVOTIONALS – We have devotionals for you to choose from in the church foyer to help you prepare for Holy Week (**March 24 – March 30**).

SANCTUARY CROSS – The Colors of the Cross are a symbolic depiction of the Easter season. For the beginning of the Lenten Season the cross is draped in purple. The purple cloth remains on the cross from Ash Wednesday to Maundy Thursday representing royalty – the King of kings has come. The black cloth remains on the cross from Good Friday through Saturday – representing His death. The white cloth is placed on the cross Easter Sunday representing His resurrection – His victory over sin, death and Satan.

EASTER LILIES – We will be decorating the church with lilies for Easter. If you would like to donate one in remembrance or honor of a loved one, please use the offering envelopes on the back table of the sanctuary. Suggested donation is \$7 for each lily. **Please have your envelope back by Monday, March 25th**, in time for the bulletin insert.

LIVING CROSS – We are requesting flowers and greenery for the “living cross” for Easter morning. **Please bring both the flowers and greenery at 10:00am on Saturday, March 30th**. Sign up in the church foyer to help with the “living cross”.

EASTER POSTCARD – Pick up an Easter Postcard in the church foyer and invite a neighbor to church Easter Week.

*****MARK YOUR CALENDARS WITH OUR HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE*****

- **Palm Sunday – March 24 – 10:30am Worship Service**
- **Maundy Thursday – March 28 – 5:00pm Communion Service**
- **Good Friday – March 29 – 12:00pm Good Friday Service**
- **Easter Sunday – March 31 – 10:30am Easter Sunday Worship Service**

ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

DONUTS & DOCTRINE – **Wednesday, February 28th at 10:00am**. We continue our study of the book of Daniel which tells Daniel's story—and a fascinating and instructive story it is. But the main purpose of Daniel is to reveal to us who God is—his character, his purposes, his way of working in the world for the good of his people. The main lesson of Daniel, then, is not, as is often assumed (and taught!), *Dare to be a Daniel!* Rather, the main point is this: *Dare to trust in Daniel's God! All are welcome!*

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH – **Friday, March 1st, 12:00pm** – Please sign up and join us for lunch at Olive Garden, Port Charlotte. **All ladies are invited!**

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – **Tuesday, March 5th at 10:00am – “Plotting a Pogrom”** – **Esther 3:7-15**. Join us for our study of “Esther”, based on “*Becoming a Woman of Beauty & Strength*” by Elizabeth George. We 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.**

MISIÓN PENIEL – Our next trip to Immokalee is **Friday, March 8th** – we will help at the Mission in the morning. Please meet at the church at 9:15am. *We need 12 people to go*, so please sign up in the church foyer.

PULLEN UP A CHAIR – **Wednesday, March 13th at 5:00pm**. Barksdale and Bo host get-together dinners at their home for groups of eight. 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.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER – **Wednesday, March 20th, 5:00pm** – our annual dinner with corned beef and cabbage and fixings, along with “green” desserts. Nancy Smith will play piano, and we will sing Irish songs. Pastor Barksdale will do a trivia game. Suggested donation is \$7.00. Sign up in the church foyer.

CONCERT SERIES – **Sunday, April 7th, 3:00pm** – Stephanie Smith, our former organist, will present the last concert of our 2023-2024 Concert Series. Stephanie will share some of her favorite hymn-based compositions. Free will offering.

MISSIONS SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

DISASTER RELIEF SUPPORT – A reminder that 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 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)

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

February 25th to March 3rd

Sunday, February 25

10:15am
10:30am
11:30am
6:00pm

Second Sunday in Lent

Hymn Sing
Worship Service (Also Online)
Fellowship Time
Prayer Meeting-FB

Wednesday, February 28

10:00am
10:00am

Donuts & Doctrine
Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry

Thursday, February 29

10:00am
3:30pm

Game Fellowship
Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, March 1

12:00pm

World Day of Prayer

Ladies Lunch Bunch

Sunday, March 3

10:30am
11:30am
6:00pm

**Third Sunday in Lent
Communion Sunday**

Worship Service (Also Online)
Fellowship Time
Prayer Meeting-FB

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 Website: fpcpunta.org
Office hours: 9:00am to 1:00pm Monday – Thursday

SERMON NOTES

Acts 7:54-8:1

⁵⁴ When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” ⁵⁷ At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, ⁵⁸ dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep.

¹ And Saul approved of their killing him. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.



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.

February 25, 2024

10:30am

PASTOR
MUSIC DIRECTOR
ORGANIST
OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN
LITURGIST
USHERS

Dr. Barksdale Pullen
Joan Byron
Denny Ausman
Debbie Rostad
Kathy Belville

Sharon Albright, Judith Cornell, Billie Sixt, Don Willecke