
WORSHIP SERVICE

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC Praise Songs and Scriptural References
Gail Thornton, accompanied by Denny Ausman

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *High In The Heavens* Franklin Ritter

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

***HYMN #213** *We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise*

*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

SPECIAL MUSIC *Holiness Unto the Lord* Vineyard Music
Gail Thornton

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

OFFERTORY *Pastel* David H. Hegarty

*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 #718** *Day by Day*

SCRIPTURE Daniel 3:8-30

MESSAGE *How far would you go?* Pastor Barksdale Pullen

***HYMN #793** *For the Beauty of the Earth*

*BENEDICTION

***RESPONSE #232** *God Be with You (vs. 1)*

POSTLUDE *Rejoice! Be Glad!* Todd Kendall

*Please stand, if able

Hearing assist devices are available at the tech booth

CCLI #1140231 CVLI #50542933

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 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 who Grieve

Please pray for DeAnn Lehman and family, whose husband Ernie went home to the Lord on July 20th.

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*

NOTES

FLOWERS – The flowers are given today by Bev Brady in memory of Bill Brady.

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

SUMMER 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

	July 2023	Year-to-Date
*Tithes & Offerings	\$22,011.12	\$181,226.16
Cash Expenditures	<u>\$24,622.99</u>	<u>\$161,713.85</u>
Net	(\$2,611.87)	\$ 19,512.31

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

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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

PRAYER SHAWL GATHERING – If you like to knit or crochet, please gather with us in Fellowship Hall *tomorrow, August 14th at 10am.*

DONUTS AND DOCTRINE BIBLE STUDY – *Wednesday, August 16th, 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. For Mark, discipleship is essentially a relationship with Jesus, not merely following a certain code of conduct. Fellowship with Jesus marks the heart of the disciple's life, and this fellowship includes trusting Jesus, confessing him, observing his conduct, following his teaching, and being shaped by a relationship with him. Discipleship also means being prepared to face the kind of rejection that Jesus faced.

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH – *Friday, August 18th, 12:00pm* – Please sign up and join us for lunch at Beef O'Bradys in Punta Gorda. **All ladies are invited!**

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS DINNER AND MOVIE – *Wednesday, August 23rd at 5:00pm* – Join us for dinner and then stay for the last episode of Season 3 of *The Chosen*. Sign up in the church foyer.

THE CHOSEN ON TV – For those who have missed the first two seasons of *The Chosen*, it is now on TV, on the CW channel. The three existing seasons of the series are airing on the CW network on Sundays at 8:00pm, ET/PT, with the Season 3 finale scheduled to air on Christmas Eve. A fourth season of the series is currently in production, with seven seasons planned.

MISIÓN PENIEL – Mark your calendar for *Friday, August 25th* -- we will be helping at the Mission bagging groceries from 11:00am - 1:00pm. More details to follow. Sign up in the church foyer.

PULLEN UP A CHAIR – *Wednesday, September 6th 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.

CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS – *Resume on Thursday, September 7th 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 1st. Call Joan Byron at 941-661-1553 for more information.

SAVE THE DATE -- 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*.

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

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.

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

August 13th to August 20th

Sunday, August 13

- 10:30am Worship Service (Also Online)
- 11:30am Fellowship Time
- 6:00pm Prayer Meeting (FaceBook)

Monday, August 14

- 10:00am Prayer Shawl Gathering

Wednesday, August 16

- 10:00am Donuts & Doctrine
- 10:00am Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry

Thursday, August 17

- 10:00am Game Fellowship

Friday, August 18

- 12:00pm Ladies Lunch Bunch

Sunday, August 20

- Deacon’s Fund Sunday**
- 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 Website: fpcpunta.org
Office hours: 9:00am to 1:00pm Monday – Thursday

SERMON NOTES

Daniel 3:8-30

⁸ At this time some astrologers came forward and denounced the Jews. ⁹ They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “May the king live forever! ¹⁰ Your Majesty has issued a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music must fall down and worship the image of gold, ¹¹ and that whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a blazing furnace. ¹² But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—who pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up.” ¹³ Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, ¹⁴ and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? ¹⁵ Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?” ¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷ If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand. ¹⁸ But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.” ¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual ²⁰ and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. ²¹ So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. ²² The king’s command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, ²³ and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace. ²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, “Weren’t there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?” They replied, “Certainly, Your Majesty.” ²⁵ He said, “Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.” ²⁶ Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, “Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!” So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, ²⁷ and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them. ²⁸ Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king’s command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. ²⁹ Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way.” ³⁰ Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

Bible Readings

- August 13 Jeremiah 31:15-40
Jeremiah 49:34-51:14
- August 14 Jeremiah 51:15-58
2 Chronicles 36:10
2 Kings 24:10-17
1 Chronicles 3:10-16
2 Chronicles 36:11-14
Jeremiah 52:1-3
2 Kings 24:18-20
Jeremiah 37:1-10
- August 15 Jeremiah 37:11-38:28
Ezekiel 1:1-3:15
- August 16 Ezekiel 3:16-4:17
Jeremiah 27:1-28:17
Jeremiah 51:59-64
- August 17 Ezekiel 5:1-9:11
- August 18 Ezekiel 10:1-13:23
- August 19 Ezekiel 14:1-16:63



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.

August 13, 2023

10:30am

PASTOR
MUSIC DIRECTOR
ORGANIST
OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN
LITURGIST
USHERS

Dr. Barksdale Pullen
 Joan Byron
 Denny Ausman
 Debbie Rostad
 Bev Brady
 Sam Cessna, Judy Cornell, Marjorie Haun, Billie Sixt