
WORSHIP SERVICE

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC Christmas Carols

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Christmas Melodies* Adapted by Chester Norman

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

***HYMN #261** *Away in a Manger*

*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

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

***HYMN #281** *What Child Is This?*

OFFERTORY *Cantique de Noel* arr. Matt Hyzer

*DOXOLOGY

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

SCRIPTURE Luke 2

MESSAGE *Christ's Birth* Pastor Barksdale Pullen

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

*BENEDICTION

***RESPONSE #243** Emmanuel

POSTLUDE *Joy to the World* George F. Handel

*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 those who are 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 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

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

JANUARY 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*.

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 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.

ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – *Tuesday, January 3rd at 10:00am* with Lesson 15 (James 3:13-18 "Defining True Wisdom" 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.*

DONUTS AND DOCTRINE BIBLE STUDY – Join us *Wednesday, January 4th, at 10:00am*, as we begin a study of the Book of Job. The Book of Job presents us with several tough questions about life. We look forward to some good discussion around God's Word, and we trust that at the end of our study we can say with Job, "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

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.

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH – *Friday, January 6th, 12:00pm* – Join us for lunch at River City Grill, Punta Gorda. Please sign up. *All ladies are invited!*

HELP TAKE THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS DOWN – Join us *on Saturday, January 7th, at 9:00am* to help take down and store our decorations. *Many hands make light work!* Sign up in the church foyer. *Thank you!*

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.

LUNCH 'N' LEARN – *Thursday, January 26th, 12:00pm* – Presented by the Sheriff's Department on "Scams & Crimes Pulled on Seniors". Sub sandwiches will be served. There will be a \$5.00/person donation. Please sign up in the church foyer.

SAVE THE DATE – *Monday, January 30th* – We plan to "Deep Clean" the Kitchen, so please consider helping us out! You may sign up in the church foyer.

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 25th to January 1st

Sunday, December 25

9:30am

10:30am

Christmas Day

Christmas Breakfast

Worship Service (Also Online)

The Church Office will be closed December 26th through January 2nd

Thursday, December 29

10:00am

4:30pm

Game Fellowship

Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, January 1

10:30am

11:30am

New Year's Day

Worship Service (Also Online)

Fellowship Time

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

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

Website: fpcpunta.org

SERMON NOTES

Luke 2

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” ¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. ²¹ And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. ²² And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, ²⁹ “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.” ³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.” ³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷ and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹ And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. ⁴¹ Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³ And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴ but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵ and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.” ⁴⁹ And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?” ⁵⁰ And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹ And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.



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.

December 25, 2022

10:30am

PASTOR

MUSIC DIRECTOR

ORGANIST

OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN

USHERS

Dr. Barksdale Pullen

Joan Byron

Denny Ausman

Debbie Rostad

Sharon Albright, Kathy Belville, Roy Belville, Marjorie Haun