

---

---

## WORSHIP SERVICE

---

---

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC** Hymn Sing

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* arr. Matt Hyzer

### CALL TO WORSHIP

### PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**\*HYMN #271** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

### \*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

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

**OFFERTORY** *Blessed Day* John Scriveyner

### \*DOXOLOGY

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loving God, as You have shared life and love with us, lead us to share even more generously our lives and our love. May we know that as we give and share, others come to know You in our lives and our love. Direct our steps in discipleship and renew our devotion to You so that through Your church we might be helpful and generous in love to a world in great need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**\*HYMN #256** *Love Has Come!*

**SCRIPTURE** Luke 1:5-45

**MESSAGE** *Silence is Broken* Pastor Barksdale Pullen

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

### \*BENEDICTION

**\*RESPONSE #232** *God Be with You (vs. 2)*

**POSTLUDE** *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* arr. Matt Hyzer

\*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 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 George Fallenbeck in memory of Clare.

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

**SEPTEMBER 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](mailto: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](http://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 2023	Year-to-Date
*Tithes & Offerings	\$13,789.43	\$195,015.59
Cash Expenditures	<u>\$21,919.86</u>	<u>\$183,633.71</u>
Net	(\$8,130.43)	\$ 11,381.88

\*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](mailto: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.)

**BIBLE READING PLAN** – In our church wide chronological reading of the Bible – Walking Thru the Bible – I want to encourage those of you that may have stopped to pick it back up. This month we get into the New Testament; so set a personal goal to finish out 2023 reading the New Testament. Reading guides and Bibles are on the Church Information Table.

### ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

**DONUTS AND DOCTRINE BIBLE STUDY** – *Wednesday, September 27th, at 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.

**CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS** – *Thursdays 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 8th. Call Joan Byron at 941-661-1553 for more information.

**MISIÓN PENIEL** – Our next trip to Immokalee is *Friday, September 29th* – we will be helping at the Mission from 11:00am – 1:00pm. Please meet at the church between 9:15-9:30am. Sign up in the church foyer.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** – *Tuesday, October 3rd at 10:00am.* Join us for an introduction to our new study on the Bible book of "Esther". This study is based on "*Becoming a Woman of Beauty & Strength*" by Elizabeth George. We will 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.**

**PULLEN UP A CHAIR** – *Wednesday, October 4th 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.

**LADIES LUNCH BUNCH** – *Friday, October 6th, 12:00pm* – Please sign up and join us for lunch at Riviera's Restaurant in Punta Gorda. **All ladies are invited!**

**BURGERS FOR BADGES** – *Monday, October 16th, 11:00am – 1:00pm* – Help us show our appreciation to our Sheriff's Department as we grill out hamburgers and hotdogs. Have lunch with us in Fellowship Hall and say thank-you to our local first responders. Sign up in the church foyer for a shift – see the sign-up sheet for specific jobs. **If you would like to make a donation to help defray the costs of this outreach event, please designate it as "B4B".**

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

---

---

## 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. We echo their current request for prayer for those affected by the Maui wildfires and Hurricane Idalia. We will keep our ECO family updated if they are able to respond or if they will recommend partner organizations to support. You may learn more about how World Renew Disaster Response Services rebuilds hope and shares God’s love through holistic disaster recovery work here:

<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)

---

---

## EVENTS FOR THE COMING WEEK

---

---

### September 24th to October 1st

#### Sunday, September 24

10:15am Hymn Sing  
10:30am Worship Service (Also Online)  
11:30am Fellowship Time  
6:00pm Prayer Meeting (FaceBook)

#### Wednesday, September 27

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

#### Thursday, September 28

10:00am Game Fellowship  
4:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

#### Friday, September 29

9:15am Misión Peniel (Immokalee)

#### Sunday, October 1

10:30am **Communion Sunday**  
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](mailto:first@fpcpunta.org) Website: [fpcpunta.org](http://fpcpunta.org)  
Office hours: 9:00am to 1:00pm Monday – Thursday

---

---

## SERMON NOTES

---

---

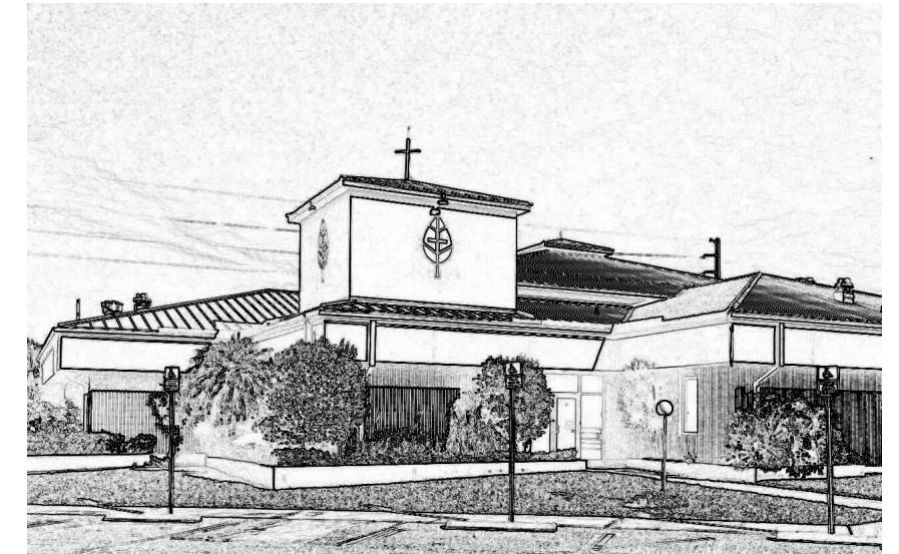
### Luke 1:5-45

<sup>5</sup> In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup> And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. <sup>7</sup> But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years. <sup>8</sup> Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, <sup>9</sup> according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. <sup>10</sup> And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. <sup>11</sup> And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup> And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. <sup>13</sup> But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. <sup>14</sup> And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, <sup>15</sup> for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. <sup>16</sup> And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, <sup>17</sup> and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.” <sup>18</sup> And Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” <sup>19</sup> And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. <sup>20</sup> And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.” <sup>21</sup> And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. <sup>22</sup> And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. <sup>23</sup> And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home. <sup>24</sup> After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, <sup>25</sup> “Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.”

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” <sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” <sup>34</sup> And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” <sup>35</sup> And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup> And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her. <sup>39</sup> In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup> and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup> and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup> And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

### Bible Readings

September 24 Mark 1:1  
Luke 1:1-4; 3:23-38; 1:5-38  
John 1:1-18; Matthew 1:1-17  
September 25 Luke 1:39-80; 2:1-40  
Matthew 1:18-25  
September 26 Matthew 2:1-23; 3:1-17  
Luke 2:41-52; 3:1-18; 3:21-22  
Mark 1:2-11  
September 27 Mark 1:12-13; Matthew 4:1-11  
Luke 4:1-15; John 1:19-2:25  
September 28 John 3:1-4:45; Luke 3:19-20  
September 29 Mark 1:14-39  
Matthew 4:12-25; 8:14-17  
Luke 3:23; 4:16-44  
John 4:46-54  
September 30 Luke 5:1-39  
Mark 1:40-45; 5:12-39  
Matthew 8:1-4; 9:1-17



### *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.*

---

**September 24, 2023**

**10:30am**

**PASTOR**

Dr. Barksdale Pullen

**MUSIC DIRECTOR**

Joan Byron

**ORGANIST**

Denny Ausman

**OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN**

Debbie Rostad

**LITURGIST**

Bev Brady

**USHERS**

Patti MacDonald, Sam Cessna, Katie Schulte, Andy Schulte