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**WORSHIP SERVICE**

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**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC** Nancy Smith

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** *O How He Loves You And Me* arr. Fred Bock  
Nancy Smith

**CALL TO WORSHIP****PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**\*HYMN #3** *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty*

**\*CONFESSION OF SIN**

Wondrous and generous God, You have blessed us with gentle rains, glorious sunsets and sun-warmed days. You bless us with loving families, kind friends and a caring church. Let us receive these gifts with thankfulness and humility. We cannot earn nor do we deserve such generosity, but we graciously open our hearts and hands to receive. Forgive us when we are hardhearted and tight-handed, when we don't let Your goodness flow through us, when we hide our talents and turn away from the needs of the world. Release us, Holy One, from fear, and create a contagious spirit of giving that touches the world with hope. *(Silent Confession)*

**\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE****\*GLORIA PATRI****PASTORAL PRAYER**

**OFFERTORY - \*\*** *Beside Still Waters* John M. Rasley

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Accept these gifts we offer, gracious God. We dedicate this offering to You, the giver of all good gifts, and pray that it would be a scattering of seeds in good and fertile soil. Use both the work of our hands and the giving of our resources, so that the gospel may bloom and its roots grow deep, both in this place, and throughout the world. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**\*HYMN #105** *We Will Glorify*

**SCRIPTURE** Romans 15:7; Ephesians 2:19

**MESSAGE** *Welcome From God* Pastor Barksdale Pullen

**\*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.

**COMMUNION AND HYMN** *Count Your Blessings*

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER** *(debts/debtors)*

**\*HYMN #179** *Awesome God*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *Shalom To You*

**POSTLUDE** *Praise to God the Father* Franklin Ritter

\*Please stand, if able

\*\*You may give securely online at [www.fpcpunta.org](http://www.fpcpunta.org)

Hearing assist devices are available at the tech booth

CCLI #1140231 CVLI #505541137

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**MINISTRY OF PRAYER**

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**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 Billie Sixt and family, whose husband Ron went home to the Lord on April 1st. A Celebration of Life Service was held on April 7th at Charlotte Memorial.

Pray for Charlie Costa and family, whose wife Doris went home to the Lord on April 7th.

**Those with Special Needs**

Rachel Pfaender Phyllis Ehrhardt Rick Berner  
Lynn Lang Dave Sifferd

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**NOTES**

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**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).

**PRAYER REQUESTS** – Email your praise or petition to [first@fpcpunta.org](mailto: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 by Bev and George in celebration of their wedding anniversary.

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

**MAY 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** – A booklet of daily devotionals is 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**.

**FACEBOOK PAGE** – If you are on Facebook, don't forget to follow our page for the latest happenings – <https://www.facebook.com/FPCPGFL>.

**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>March 2026</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Tithes & Offerings	\$25,964.41	\$70,014.77
Cash Expenditures	<u>\$20,900.00</u>	<u>\$62,871.85</u>
Net	\$5,064.41	\$7,142.92

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**MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AND NOTES**

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**GATHER FOR PRAYER** – A prayer meeting is held Sundays at 6pm (FaceBook online). Please submit any prayer requests to [first@fpcpunta.org](mailto:first@fpcpunta.org).

**MISIÓN PENIEL** – Our next trip to Immokalee is **Friday, May 29th, 9:30am**. Please meet at our church. We need 6 - 8 people to sign up in the church foyer.

**IN NEED OF A BIBLE?** – Our library has many different translations and large print editions. If you are thinking of getting a new Bible and want to take one for a 'test drive', drop by the library and check one out. You can search the catalog at: <https://www.librarycat.org/lib/FPCPG>.

**CHOIR OPPORTUNITY** - If you would like to sing in a choir once a month in our Worship Service starting in September, please sign up in the foyer or let Denny know.

**SPRING MISSION PROJECTS** – Our Spring Projects will focus on Wheelchairs for Peru and Grocery Carts for Misión Peniel. Use a Special envelope on the back table or in the church foyer.

**ACTIVITIES / EVENTS**

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** – **Tuesday, May 5, at 10:00am** – Our study is: "Heaven – When Faith Becomes Sight" (Lesson 5) by Jennifer Rothschild. We meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall. All ladies are welcome! See Kathy Belville for more information.

**DONUTS & DOCTRINE** – **Wednesday, May 6th, at 10:00am** – the book of *Nehemiah*. Nehemiah was a layman, not a priest like Ezra nor a prophet like Malachi. He served the Persian king in a secular position before leading a group of Jews to Jerusalem in order to rebuild the city walls. Everyone is welcome.

**LADIES CARDS FELLOWSHIP** – **Thursday, May 7th, at 10:00am** -- All ladies are welcome to join us Thursdays for cards and conversation.

**LADIES LUNCH BUNCH** – **Friday, May 18th, 11:30am** – Sign up for Riviera Restaurant in Punta Gorda. All ladies welcome!

**CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE** – **Saturday, May 23rd, 10:00am** – A Celebration of Life Service and Reception will be held for Richard Wagar, who went home to the Lord on March 16th.

**CHURCH PICNIC** – **Wednesday, June 17th, at 5:00pm** – Join us at Ponce de Leon Park for a picnic! Our church will provide fried chicken. Please bring a side dish or dessert. Sign up in the church foyer.

**CHRISTMAS IN JULY** – **Wednesday, July 15th, at 5:00pm** – Join us as we celebrate Christmas in July with supper and the movie "The Christmas Ring" based on the book by Karen Kingsbury. Our church will provide turkey. Please bring a side dish or dessert. Sign up in the church foyer.

**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**

*May 3 – May 10*

**Sunday, May 3**      **Communion Sunday**  
 10:30am      **Worship Service (Also Online)**  
 11:30am      Fellowship Time  
 6:00pm      Prayer Meeting-FB

**Tuesday, May 5**  
 10:00am      Women’s Bible Study

**Wednesday, May 6**  
 10:00am      Donuts & Doctrine  
 11:00am      Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry

**Thursday, May 7**  
 10:00am      Ladies Cards Fellowship

**Sunday, May 10**      **HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY**  
 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](mailto:first@fpcpunta.org)      Website: [fpcpunta.org](http://fpcpunta.org)  
 Office hours: 9:00am to 1:00pm Monday – Thursday  
 (and by appointment)

**SERMON NOTES**

**Romans 15:7**

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

**Ephesians 2:19**

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household,

**ELDERS**

Kathy Belville – Deacons  
 Bev Brady – Worship  
 Sam Cessna – Property  
 Merrilyn Ellison - Missions  
 John Evans – Discipleship  
 Bruce Peters – Admin / Finance  
 Andy Schulte - Property  
 Gail Thornton – Clerk of Session / Missions

**DEACONS**

Merrilyn Ellison – Deacon of Visitation  
 Linda Wagar – Deacon of Loaves and Fishes  
 Katie Schulte – Deacon of Parish Nursing  
 Marjorie Haun – Deacon of Communications  
 Patti MacDonald – Deacon of Bereavement  
 Laurel Aumend – Deacon of Flowers  
 Roy Belville – Deacon of Helping Hands  
 Kathy Belville – Deacon of Communion  
 Lili Bush – Deacon of Kitchen  
 Maria Greene – Deacon of Library  
 Deacon of Stephen Ministry

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

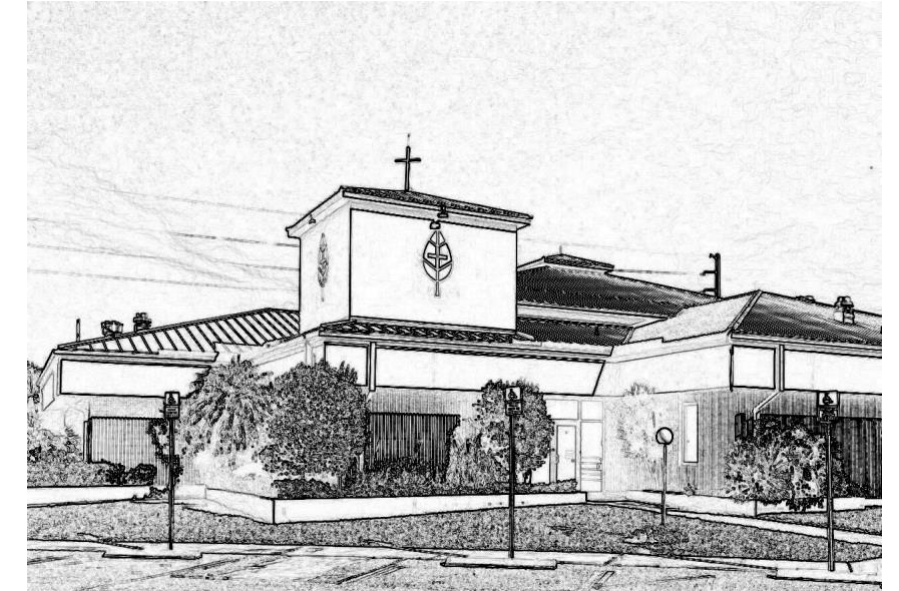
May 10th – Mother’s Day



June 17th – Church Picnic at Ponce de Leon Park, 5:00pm

June 21st – Father’s Day

July 15th – Christmas in July Supper & Movie, 5:00pm



***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.*

**May 3, 2026**

**10:30am**

**PASTOR**  
**ORGANIST**  
**OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN**  
**LITURGIST**  
**USHERS**  
**AV TECH**

Dr. Barksdale Pullen  
 Denny Ausman  
 Debbie Rostad  
 John Evans  
 Marjorie Haun, Billie Sixt, Patti MacDonald, Sam Cessna  
 George Fallenbeck, Jim Nuznoff, Gene McPherson