
WORSHIP SERVICE – SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC Christmas Favorites arr. E. Rocherolle

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *O Little Town of Bethlehem* arr. Carol Tornquist

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Kathy and Roy Belville
Second Candle symbolizes Peace and is called the “Bethlehem Candle”

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

INTROIT *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* arr. Lloyd Larson
Chancel Choir

***HYMN #271** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You*

*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

ANTHEM *Will We Know Him?* Nancy Besig/Don Besig
Chancel Choir

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

OFFERTORY *What Child Is This!* arr. E. Rocherolle

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We give our gifts in love and thanksgiving for all that we have been given. Let our giving, gracious God, be not the end point but rather the beginning. Let our gifts of love and gratitude travel where we do not, making pathways of hope where there is none. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN #244** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9:2

MESSAGE *Symbols of the Season: A Candle* Pastor Barksdale Pullen

***HYMN #250** *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

*BENEDICTION

***RESPONSE #243** *Emmanuel*

POSTLUDE *The First Noel* arr. Betty Colley

*Please stand, if able

Hearing assist devices are available at the tech booth

CCLI #1140231 CVLI #5054293

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 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

GUEST ORGANIST/PIANIST – We welcome Debbie Rostad to our service today.

FLOWERS – The flowers are given today by Gail Thornton in memory of her father, Harold Herwig.

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

DECEMBER 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>November 2023</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Tithes & Offerings	\$22,043.19	\$249,218.19
Cash Expenditures	<u>\$22,912.57</u>	<u>\$251,537.83</u>
Net	(\$869.38)	(\$2,319.64)

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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

BIBLE READING PLAN – Reading guides and Bibles are in the church foyer.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS – *We have Advent Devotionals available in the church foyer. Please take one for your family for daily reflections on the reason for the season.*

CHRISTMAS OFFERING – This year’s Christmas Offering will be used for Gift Cards for the Veterans Village. Please use the Christmas Envelope in your Envelope Box or a Special Christmas Envelope on the table in the church foyer.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA – Remember a loved one this Christmas by giving a poinsettia to help decorate the church. Suggested donation is \$7 per poinsettia. Special envelopes are available on the table in the church foyer. **Please return your envelope by Monday, December 18th** in order to be listed in a special bulletin insert.

DEACON’S FUND – NEXT Sunday, December 17th, is our monthly collection to help support congregation and emergency needs, Misión Peniel, and others.

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.

PLEDGE CARD – If you haven’t returned your pledge card for 2024, please do so as soon as possible. Pledge cards and Narrative Budgets 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 2023 gets credited for 2023, please have your offering/gift to the church before December 31st. Donations received after that date will be applied to one’s 2024 giving. For gifts of stock, please call the church office.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES – Available on the table in the foyer. If you don’t see your name, let the office know. Thank you.

ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

DONUTS AND DOCTRINE BIBLE STUDY – Because of Bethlehem, by Max Lucado. Join us on Wednesday mornings at 10:00am (**December 13 and 20**) as we prepare for Advent. No one expected the Messiah to come the way he did. Yet the way he came was every bit as important as the coming itself. The manger is the message. Because of Bethlehem, God knows what it's like to be human. Because of Bethlehem, when we talk to him about tough times, he understands. He's been there. He's been here. Because of Bethlehem, we no longer have marks on our record...just grace.

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH – **Friday, December 15th, 12:00pm** – Please sign up and join us for lunch at LongHorn Steakhouse in Port Charlotte. **All ladies are invited!**

PUNTA GORDA CHRISTMAS TRADITION – Join us for a tour of the residential canals in Punta Gorda to view Christmas lights, displays and decorations on homes, boats, seawalls and docks. The cost is \$27/person. We will gather at **6:30pm on Friday, December 15th** at the Pier at Fishermen’s Village. **There are a few tickets left!**

ANNUAL CONCERT SERIES – **Sunday, December 17th at 3:00pm, featuring The Two Piano Group.** A free will offering will be taken – suggested donation is \$15.00.

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY – **Tuesday, December 19th at 10:00am** – **“Moving from the Mundane to the Mysterious”** – **Esther 2:8-11.** 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, January 26th** – we will be helping at the Mission in the afternoon. Please meet at the church at 12:15pm. We will return about 8-9pm. *We need 12 people to go*, so please sign up in the church foyer.

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)

EVENTS FOR THE COMING WEEK

December 10th to December 17th

Sunday, December 10

10:30am

11:30am

6:00pm

Second Sunday in Advent

Worship Service (Also Online)

Fellowship Time

Prayer Meeting (Facebook)

Monday, December 11

10:00am

Prayer Shawl Gathering

Tuesday, December 12

10:00am

Mission Team

Wednesday, December 13

10:00am

10:00am

Donuts & Doctrine

Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry

Thursday, December 14

10:00am

3:30pm

Game Fellowship

Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 15

12:00pm

6:30pm

Ladies Lunch Bunch

Christmas Lights Cruise

Sunday, December 17

10:30am

11:30am

3:00pm

6:00pm

Third Sunday in Advent

Deacon’s Fund Sunday

Worship Service (Also Online)

Fellowship Time

Concert Series – The Two Piano Group

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

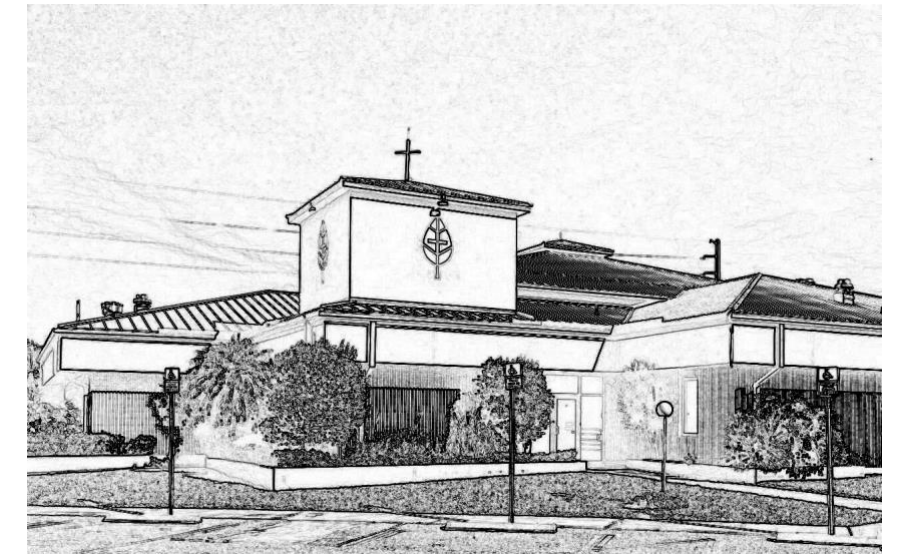
SERMON NOTES

Isaiah 9:2

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.

Bible Readings

December 10	Philemon 1:1-25 Philippians 1:1-2:11
December 11	Philippians 2:12-4:23
December 12	James 1:1-3:18
December 13	James 4:1-5:20 1 Timothy 1:1-2:15
December 14	1 Timothy 3:1-6:10
December 15	1 Timothy 6:11-21 Titus 1:1-3:15 2 Timothy 1:1-18
December 16	2 Timothy 2:1-4:18



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 10, 2023

10:30am

PASTOR

MUSIC DIRECTOR

ORGANIST

OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN

LITURGIST

USHERS

Dr. Barksdale Pullen

Joan Byron

Denny Ausman

Debbie Rostad

Kathy Belville

Marjorie Haun, Katie Schulte, Andy Schulte, Billie Sixt