
WORSHIP SERVICE

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC Hymn Festival
Bill Gaither and his music from the 20th Century

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Contemplation* Franklin Ritter

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

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

*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 *Breath of Heaven* Amy Grant
Janet Wilcox, Vocal and Judy Kaff, Piano

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

OFFERTORY *Offertory Chimes* David H. Hegarty

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord, receive our tithes and offerings as a token of our devotion and love for You. Multiply them and use them to build Your church in this community. May they extend Your love and grace to those in need as well as empower the witness to Jesus of Your people. In His name we pray. Amen.

***HYMN #291** *O Sing a Song of Bethlehem*

SCRIPTURE Revelation 22:20-21

MESSAGE *Come Quickly* Pastor Barksdale Pullen

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

*BENEDICTION

***RESPONSE #243** *Emmanuel*

POSTLUDE *The Joyful Morn* George Blake

*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 Misi3n Peniel, the mission that we support in Immokalee.
- Pray for persecuted Christians throughout the world.

Those who Grieve

Pray for Debbie Rostad, whose mother went home to the Lord on December 17th.

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

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

JANUARY 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.

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 by **TODAY**. Any 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

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – Tuesday, January 2nd at 10:00am – “Preparing for an Audience with the King” – Esther 2:12-15. 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.**

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH – Friday, January 5th, 12:00pm – Please sign up and join us for lunch at St. Andrew's Country Club in Punta Gorda. **All ladies are invited!**

HELP TAKE THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS DOWN – Join us **on Saturday, January 6th, at 9:00am** to help take down and store our decorations. **Many hands make light work!** Sign up in the church foyer. *Thank you!*

DONUTS & DOCTRINE – Will resume Wednesday, January 10th, at 10:00am. The book of Daniel is a favorite for Sunday school teachers and students alike. And for good reason. It has all the makings of a great story—memorable characters, cliff-hanger drama, and science fiction-like visions. Yet therein lies a potential danger. Because the human actors and events are so fascinating, we are tempted when studying this book to fix our gaze on the human plane. But when this happens, we can inadvertently lose sight of the fact that this book is ultimately not about Daniel or his three friends, but about God and his victory in the world. Sure, the book of Daniel tells Daniel's story—and a fascinating and instructive story it is. But the main purpose of Daniel is to reveal to us who God is—his character, his purposes, his way of working in the world for the good of his people. The main lesson of Daniel, then, is not, as is often assumed (and taught!), *Dare to be a Daniel!* Rather, the main point is this: *Dare to trust in Daniel's God! All are welcome!*

SAVE THE DATE – Wednesday, January 17th. We are planning a Dessert Night followed by a movie.

ANNUAL CONCERT SERIES – Sunday, January 21st at 3:00pm, featuring Cahal Dunne, “Ireland's Piano Man”. **This is a ticketed event.** Tickets are available in the Church office (9-12 Monday-Thursday) or call the ticket line at 941-625-4945.

MISI3N 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.

PULLEN UP A CHAIR – Wednesday, February 7th at 5:00pm. Barksdale and Bo host get-together dinners at their home. This will be in groups of eight. 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.

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 31st to January 7th

Sunday, December 31

10:15am

10:30am

11:30am

New Year’s Eve

Hymn Festival

Worship Service (Also Online)

Fellowship Time

Monday, January 1

New Year’s Day (Office Closed)

Tuesday, January 2

10:00am

Women’s Bible Study

Wednesday, January 3

10:00am

Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry

Thursday, January 4

10:00am

3:30pm

Game Fellowship

Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 5

12:00pm

Ladies Lunch Bunch

Saturday, January 6

9:00am

Take Down Christmas Decorations

Sunday, January 7

10:30am

11:30am

6:00pm

Communion Sunday

Worship Service (Also Online)

Fellowship Time

Prayer Meeting-FB

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

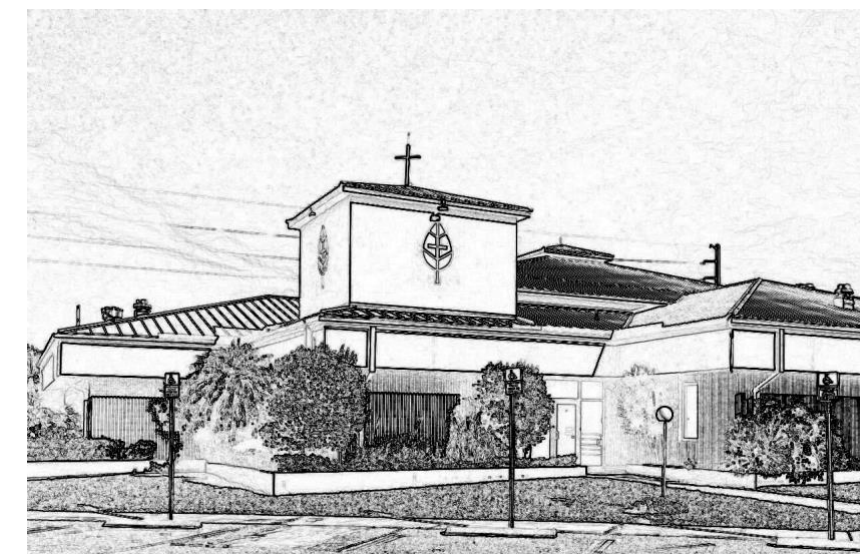
SERMON NOTES

Revelation 22:20-21

²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.”

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

²¹ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.



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 31, 2023

10:30am

PASTOR

Dr. Barksdale Pullen

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Joan Byron

ORGANIST

Denny Ausman

OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN

Debbie Rostad

LITURGIST

Bev Brady

USHERS

Sharon Albright, Marjorie Haun, Susie Lorenz, Billie Sixt