WORSHIP SERVICE – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC Hymns and Choruses

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Paraphrase on "Terra Beata"* Robert J. Hughes

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Don and Sue Willecke

*First Candle symbolizes **Hope** and is called the "Prophecy Candle"*

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP *(Based on Psalm 130)*

Pastor: Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord;
People: Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.
Pastor: If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?
People: But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you.
Pastor: I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.
People: I wait for the Lord.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

***HYMN #790** *We Gather Together*

***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**

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

OFFERTORY - ** *"O Little Jesus Sweet"* Georg Friedrich Kauffmann

***DOXOLOGY**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

You have blessed us with every good gift, generous God. Our hearts overflow with joy and love for the privilege of walking with You and being called Your own. Receive these gifts, we pray, as our faithful and grateful response to Your gifts of grace and mercy in our lives. Amen

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

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 53:6; Ezekiel 34:11-16; Luke 19:10

MESSAGE *Home* Pastor Barksdale Pullen

***HYMN #282** *O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful*

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE #243** *Emmanuel*

POSTLUDE *Joyful Tidings* James Moffatt

*Please stand, if able

**You may give securely online at www.fpcpunta.org

Hearing assist devices are available at the tech booth.

CCLI #1140231 CVLI #50554113

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 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 with Special Needs

Phyllis Ehrhardt Rick Berner Lynn Lang Dave Sifferd

NOTES

PRAYER EMAIL LIST – If you would like to be on Pastor Barksdale's prayer email list, email Pastor Barksdale at bmpullen3@fpcpunta.org.

PRAYER REQUESTS – Email your praise or petition to 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 today by Marjorie Haun in Memory of my husband Ken and both of our parents.

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 **$45.00***. 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 Missions Newsletters, 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) 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

	October 2026	Year-to-Date
Tithes & Offerings	$23,883.19	$206,593.26
Cash Expenditures	$21,791.97	$207,928.89
Net	$2,091.22	($1,335.63)

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AND NOTES

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

CHURCH LIBRARY – Looking for a good book, help with a theological question, Christian biography, or a devotional? Just log on to this website and search: https://www.librarycat.org/lib/FPCPG. ***Check out our book display in the foyer***.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS – *Advent Devotionals are 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 divided between

1. Gift Cards for Veterans Village
2. Missionaries
   Eric and Debbie Stone (Guatemala)
   Lisa and Clever Alfonsi (Peru)
   Chasen and Katie Brokaw (Nicaragua)

Please use your Christmas or Special Gifting envelopes (located on the back table or in the church foyer) and return by December 24th.

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 ack of the Sanctuary or in the church foyer* ***Please return your envelope by Monday, December 13th*** **in order to be listed in a special bulletin insert.**

PLEDGE CARD – If you haven't returned your pledge card for 2027, please do so as soon as possible. Pledge cards and Narrative Budgets are available on the table in the back of the Sanctuary and in the church foyer. Thank you.

GROUND UP MINISTRIES – The Ground Up Ministry provides a safe home for girls. At their safe house in Cape Coral, we will do activities such as crafts and baking. (We will sign an NDA (Non-disclosure agreement). ***See Patti MacDonald to sign up.***

ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – Tuesday, December 1st – Joshua! (Lesson 4)
This study by Jen Wilkin is led by Kathy Belville. We meet the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 10:00am. All are welcome!

DONUTS & DOCTRINE – Wednesday, December 2nd at 10:00am. We are studying Paul's letter to the Romans. led by Pastor Barksdale.

LADIES CARDS FELLOWSHIP – Thursday, December 3rd, 10:00am .

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH – Friday, December 4th, 11:30am – Sign up for King's Roadhouse in Port Charlotte. See Barbara Floyd for more info or to sign up.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE AT THE PULLENS -- Saturdays, December 12th, and December 19th, 12:00 – 2:00pm. **Sign up in the church foyer.**

CHRISTMAS DINNER -- Wednesday, December 16th, 5:00pm. Sign up now!

CHOIR – Rehearses Thursday, December 17th, 4:30pm and Sings on Sunday, December 20th. Our anthem is "How Great Our Joy / Joy To The World".

MISIÓN PENIEL – Our next trip to Immokalee is ***Friday, December 18th, 12:30pm***. Please meet at church. We need 12 people to sign up in the church foyer.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE -- December 24th at 5:00pm.

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 2026 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)
St. Vincent de Paul (Punta Gorda)
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

November 29 – December 6

Sunday, November 29	**First Sunday of Advent**
10:30am	**Worship Service (Also Online)**
11:30am	Fellowship Time
6:00pm	Prayer Meeting-FB
Tuesday, December 1	
10:00am	Women's Bible Study
1:00pm	Fellowship Team
Wednesday, December 2	
10:00am	Donuts & Doctrine
10:00am	Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry
Thursday, December 3	
10:00am	Ladies Cards Fellowship
Friday, December 4	
11:30am	Ladies Lunch Bunch
Sunday, December 6	**Second Sunday of Advent**
	Communion Sunday
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 Website: fpcpunta.org
Office hours: 9:00am to 1:00pm Monday – Thursday
(and by appointment)

SERMON NOTES

Home
Isaiah 53:6; Ezekiel 34:11-16; Luke 19:10

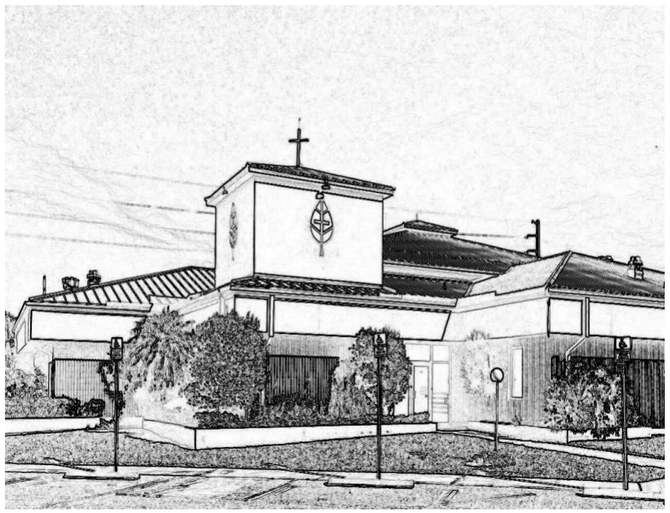
ELDERS

Kathy Belville – Deacons / Missions
Bev Brady – Fellowship / Worship / Finance
Sam Cesssna – Admin / Property / Worship
Merrilyn Ellison – Missions / Fellowship
Bruce Peters – Admin / Finance
Barksdale Pullen – Discipleship / Worship
Andy Schulte – Admin / 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
Susie Lorenz – Deacon of Prayer Shawl
Maria Greene – Deacon of Library
Sharon Fant – Assistant Librarian

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN Punta Gorda



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.

November 29, 2026 **10:30am**

PASTOR	Dr. Barksdale Pullen
ORGANIST	Denny Ausman
OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN	Debbie Rostad
LITURGIST	Don Willecke
USHERS	Merrilyn Ellison, Patti MacDonald, Katie Schulte, Andy Schulte
A/V TECH	George Fallenbeck, Jim Nuznoff, Gene McPherson