WORSHIP SERVICE

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC Hymn Sing

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Thy Mercy I Seek* Bertha R. Frick

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

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

***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 *Jesus Loves Me*
Nancy Smith

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

OFFERTORY - ** Hymn of Promise Natalie Sleeth

***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 #563** *Open My Eyes That I May See*

SCRIPTURE Mark 4:1-20

MESSAGE *Parables* Pastor Barksdale Pullen

***HYMN #552** *I Am Thine, O Lord*

***BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #507** *Something Beautiful*

POSTLUDE *Go Ye in Peace* Steven Otis

*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 who Grieve

Please pray for Denny Ausman, whose wife Minty went home to the Lord on October 6th. Her Celebration of Life Service was on October 23rd.

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 today are given by Barbara Floyd in memory of my Father John Bowser.

ROSE – Congratulations to Andy and Katie Schulte, on the birth of their first great-grandchild, Stellen Wayne Dykstra, born on October 17th.

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

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER – Available in the church foyer and on our website.

CHURCH DIRECTORIES – *We are working on an updated directory. If your contact information has changed, please let the office know. Thank you!*

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

	September 2026	Year-to-Date
Tithes & Offerings	$16,611.19	$182,710.07
Cash Expenditures	$18,924.22	$186,136.92
Net	($2,313.03)	($3,426.85)

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.

HURRICANE SEASON – If a storm is in the area, please don't travel if you are not comfortable, but you may join us online. We have a text messaging system to notify folks if Services/Events are canceled. ***Please note: You cannot reply to these text messages.***

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***.

GROUND UP MINISTRIES – Ground Up is a ministry for girls rescued from sex trafficking. 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 for Tuesday, November 10th at 2:00pm.***

ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

DONUTS & DOCTRINE – Wednesday, October 28th at 10:00am. We are studying Paul's letter to the Romans. Everyone is invited, led by Pastor Barksdale.

LUNCH 'N' LEARN – Wednesday, October 28th, 11:45am – "Care for the Caregiver". Did you plan on becoming a family caregiver? Caring for a family member with a chronic or advanced illness is usually a sudden life change we never saw coming. It can be a rewarding experience, but also confusing and overwhelming. During this presentation, you will have the opportunity to explore self-care strategies, connect with others and learn about resources that could make the caregiving journey a bit lighter. Sign up in the church foyer.

LADIES CARDS FELLOWSHIP – Thursday, October 29th, 10:00am -- All ladies are welcome!

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

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – Tuesday, November 2nd – Joshua! *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!*

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH – Friday, November 6th, 11:30am – Sign up for Lime Tequila in Port Charlotte.

GRIEFSHARE SEMINAR – Monday, November 9th, 10am – 12pm – "Surviving The Holidays". This seminar offers practical, actionable help for navigating the holiday season after loss. The two-hour program includes a video featuring people who have experienced grief during the holidays, as well as insight from Christian counselors, pastors, and psychologists. Participants will receive a *Holiday Survival Guide* with practical strategies, encouraging words, exercises, questions and answers, and journaling ideas. The holiday season may not be easy, but you can walk through it in a way that honors your loved one and supports health and healing. Sign up now.

CHOIR – Rehearses Thursday, November 12th, 4:30pm and Sings on Sunday, November 15th. Our anthem is "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms".

STAINED CLASS DEDICATION BREAKFAST -- Sunday, November 8th, 9:00am. Join us early this Sunday for a potluck breakfast as we celebrate the installation of our stained-glass windows in the Sanctuary. Crafted by church members Rick and Kay Berner. Sign up in the church foyer. ***(If you would like to contribute to the cost of materials, just put "glass" on the check memo line, or online in the comment section. Thanks)***

WELCOME BACK SUPPER -- Wednesday, November 18th, 5:00pm. Join us at this church potluck as we reconnect with our seasonal friends. Sign up now.

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

October 25 – November 1

Sunday, October 25	**Reformation Sunday**
10:30am	**Worship Service (Also Online)**
11:30am	Fellowship Time
6:00pm	Prayer Meeting-FB
Wednesday, October 28	
10:00am	Donuts & Doctrine
10:00am	Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry
11:45am	Lunch 'n' Learn
Thursday, October 29	
10:00am	Ladies Cards Fellowship
Friday, October 30	
9:30am	Mission Trip to Immokalee
Sunday, November 1	**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

Parables
Mark 4:1-20

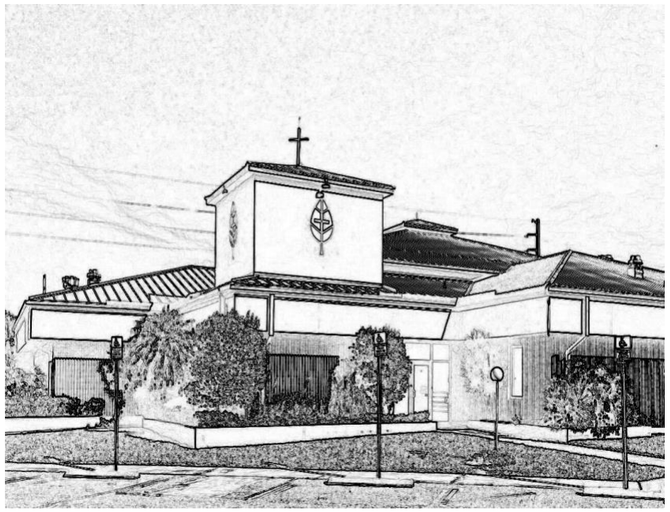
ELDERS

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.

October 25, 2026 **10:30am**

PASTOR	Dr. Barksdale Pullen
ORGANIST	Denny Ausman
OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN	Debbie Rostad
LITURGIST	Katie Schulte
USHERS	Kathy Belville, Roy Belville, Patti MacDonald, Sam Cessna
A/V TECH	George Fallenbeck, Jim Nuznoff, Gene McPherson