

WORSHIP SERVICE – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT		
PRE-SERVICE MUSIC	Rachel Cox, Violin; Denny Ausman, Piano	
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS		
PRELUDE	<i>Rejoice and Crown Him King</i>	arr. Cathy DeRousse Rachel Cox, Violin; Denny Ausman, Piano
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE	Kathy and Roy Belville <i>Third Candle symbolizes Joy and is called the “Shepherd’s Candle”</i>	
CALL TO WORSHIP		
PRAYER OF INVOCATION		
*HYMN #249	<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful</i>	
*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	<i>Sing We Now of Christmas / God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen</i>	arr. Brent Adam Rachel Cox, Violin; Denny Ausman, Piano
PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER (<i>debts/debtors</i>)		
OFFERTORY - **	<i>A Song of Hope</i>	David H. Hegarty
*DOXOLOGY		
*PRAYER OF DEDICATION		
Father, these gifts we bring are our expression of our thanks for who You are and what You mean to us. As we present them to You, we also commit ourselves to love and serve You with grateful hearts, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.		
*HYMN #250	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	
SCRIPTURE	Matthew 12:15-21	
MESSAGE	<i>Hope – What are we waiting for?</i>	Pastor Barksdale Pullen
*HYMN #256	<i>Love Has Come!</i>	
*BENEDICTION		
*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #243	<i>Emmanuel</i>	
POSTLUDE	<i>Jesus Shall Reign</i>	James Mansfield

*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 #50550373

MINISTRY OF PRAYER		
Prayer Focus		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">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		
Rachel Pfaender	Phyllis Ehrhardt	Rick Berner
Lynn Lang	Ron Sixt	Dave Sifferd

NOTES

PRAYER QUOTE – “Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?” – Corrie ten Boom

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 Gail Thornton in memory of her father, Harold Herwig.

GUEST MUSICIAN – Welcome to Rachel Cox as our guest violinist today.

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.

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

	November 2025	Year-to-Date
Tithes & Offerings	\$29,713.19	\$235,292.76
Cash Expenditures	<u>\$22,984.63</u>	<u>\$241,293.72</u>
Net	\$6,728.56	(\$6,000.96)

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.

MISIÓN PENIEL – Our next trip to Immokalee is **Friday, December 19th, 12:00pm** Please meet at our church. We need 12 people to sign up.

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

- Gift Cards for Veterans Village
- 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 15th in order to be listed in a special bulletin insert.***

DEACON’S FUND SUNDAY – **Next Sunday, December 21st --** is our monthly collection to help support congregation, emergency needs, Misión Peniel, and others.

PLEDGE CARD – If you haven’t returned your pledge card for 2026, 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.

YEAR-END GIVING – To make sure your giving for 2025 gets credited for 2025, please have your offering/gift to the church by December 31, 2025. Any donations received after that date will be applied to one’s 2026 giving. For gifts of stock, please call the church office.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES – Available on the table in the foyer. If you don’t see your name, let the office know. Thank you.

GROUND’S CREW – If you want to be part of the team taking care of the church grounds in 2026, please sign up in the church foyer or see Sam Cessna.

ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY – **Tuesday, December 16th, 10:00am** – We are studying “Keep It Shut” by Karen Ehman, Lesson 5 (Chapters 9 & 10 in Book) “Pause Before You Pounce: On Cultivating Soft Speech”. We meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall. All ladies welcome!

DONUTS & DOCTRINE – **Wednesday, December 17th, at 10:00am** – *Join us as we explore the origins and traditions of Christmas.* Why do we have a Christmas tree? Why December 25? Why Christmas caroling? What’s up with Eggnog? When did the church start celebrating Advent? Why do we give presents? We will also share some of your family traditions and maybe add some new ones to your Christmas season. Join us in Fellowship Hall.

LADIES CARDS FELLOWSHIP – **Thursday, December 18th, at 10:00am ---** All ladies are welcome to join us Thursdays for cards and conversation.

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH – **Friday, December 19th, 11:30am** – Sign up for Carrabba’s Restaurant in Port Charlotte.

HELP TAKE THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS DOWN – Join us on **Saturday, January 3rd, at 9:00am**, to help take down and store our decorations. **Many hands make light work!** 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

December 14 – December 21

Sunday, December 14	Third Sunday of Advent
10:30am	Worship Service (Also Online)
11:30am	Fellowship Time
6:00pm	Prayer Meeting-FB
Monday, December 15	
1:00pm	Session
Tuesday, December 16	
10:00am	Women’s Bible Study
Wednesday, December 17	
10:00am	Donuts & Doctrine
10:00am	Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry
Thursday, December 18	
10:00am	Ladies Cards Fellowship
Friday, December 19	
11:30am	Ladies Lunch Bunch
12:00pm	Mission Trip to Immokalee
Sunday, December 21	Fourth Sunday of Advent
	Deacon’s Fund Sunday
	Worship Service (Also Online)
10:30am	
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

Matthew 12:15-21

Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. And many followed him, and he healed them all and ordered them not to make him known. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah:

“Behold, my servant whom I have chosen,
my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased.
I will put my Spirit upon him,
and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.
He will not quarrel or cry aloud,
nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a smoldering wick he will not quench,
until he brings justice to victory;
and in his name the Gentiles will hope.”



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.

December 14, 2025	10:30am
PASTOR	Dr. Barksdale Pullen
ORGANIST	Denny Ausman
OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN	Debbie Rostad
LITURGIST	Bev Brady
USHERS	Sharon Fant, Pete DeBree, Katie Schulte, Andy Schulte
A/V TECH	George Fallenbeck, Jim Nuznoff, Gene McPherson