
WORSHIP SERVICE – Third Sunday in Lent

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC Classical Music

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *A Lenten Melody* Gilbert M. Martin

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (*Isaiah 40:28-29; Psalm 5:2*)

Pastor: The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

All: *He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.*

Pastor: He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might he increases strength.

All: *Lift up your voice and cry out to your King and your God,
and to him offer your prayers.*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

INTROIT *Christ, Be Our Light!* Bernadette Farrell
Chancel Choir

***HYMN #8** *Come, Thou Almighty King*

***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 #813**

MISSION MOMENT Antioch Partners – Peru – Lisa Alfonsi
Video Presentation

ANTHEM *God so Loved the World* John Stainer
Chancel Choir

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

OFFERTORY *Trio* Josef Rheinberger

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 #635** *In the Garden*

SCRIPTURE Numbers 22

MESSAGE *From the Mouth of Donkeys* Pastor Barksdale Pullen

***HYMN #128** *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE #419** The Family of God

POSTLUDE *Festal Piece* G. F. Handel

*Please stand, if able

Hearing assist devices are available at the tech booth
CCLI #1140231 CVLI #505429337

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 those who are recovering from Hurricane Ian.
- 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	Dave Sifferd
Lynn Lang	Ron Sixt	Rick Berner	Jack Rothley
Irene Csontos	Barb Harris	Ernie Lehman	

Those who are in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes

Marion Brown, *Royal Palm*

NOTES

FLOWERS – The flowers are given by Robert Cuzner to the Glory of God.

ROSE -- The rose on the organ is in celebration of the birth of Ada Berit Blomberg, 2nd great granddaughter to Sue and Larry Mesler. Ada was born on March 1st to Annelise and Niklas of Lund, Sweden.

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

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

CHURCH DIRECTORY – 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 **vimeo livestream**.

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>February</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
*Tithes & Offerings	\$20,500.57	\$59,112.08
Cash Expenditures	<u>\$22,168.10</u>	<u>\$48,541.12</u>
Net	\$ (1,667.53)	\$10,570.96

*The YTD amount includes \$20,700 in fulfilled annual pledges given in January

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP CLASS – *Next Class will be on May 21st.* We will have a one class introduction to FPC. If you are interested in joining the church, or just finding out more information about FPC, please join us. (For Seasonal Residents, we have an Affiliate Membership, so you can maintain your Membership back home.)

SANCTUARY CROSS – The Colors of the Cross are a symbolic depiction of the Easter season. For the beginning of the Lenten Season the cross is draped in purple. The purple cloth remains on the cross from Ash Wednesday to Maundy Thursday representing royalty – the King of kings has come. The black cloth remains on the cross from Good Friday through Saturday – representing His death. The white cloth is placed on the cross Easter Sunday representing His resurrection – His victory over sin, death and Satan.

SEASON OF LENT DEVOTIONALS – We have devotionals for you to choose from in the church foyer to help you prepare for Holy Week (April 2-9).

EASTER LILIES – We will be decorating the church with lilies for Easter. If you would like to donate one in remembrance or honor of a loved one, please use the offering envelopes on the back table of the sanctuary. Suggested donation is \$7 for each lily. **Please have your envelope back by Monday, April 3rd**, in time for the bulletin insert.

LIVING CROSS – We are requesting flowers and greenery for the “living cross” for Easter morning. **Please bring both the flowers and greenery at 10:00am on Saturday, April 8th.** Sign up in the church foyer to help with the “living cross”.

*****MARK YOUR CALENDARS WITH OUR HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE*****

- **Palm Sunday – April 2 – 10:30am Worship Service**
- **Maundy Thursday – April 6 – 7:00pm Communion Service**
- **Good Friday – April 7 – 12:00pm Good Friday Service**
- **Easter Sunday – April 9 – 10:30am Easter Sunday Worship Service**

ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

ANNUAL CONCERT SERIES – THIS AFTERNOON at 3:00pm – For our last concert of the 2022-2023 series, come to hear Patti Page (a Handbell Soloist) and The Joyful Ringers (a Handbell Choir from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Port Charlotte). A free will offering will be taken.

PRAYER SHAWL GATHERING – If you like to knit or crochet, please gather with us in Fellowship Hall **tomorrow, March 13th at 10am.**

DONUTS AND DOCTRINE BIBLE STUDY – *Wednesday, March 15th, at 10:00am.* Join us on Wednesday mornings as we continue our study on John's epistles.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER – *This Wednesday, March 15th, 5:00pm* – Sign up to attend our annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner with corned beef and cabbage and fixings, along with “green” desserts. Nancy Smith will play piano, and we will sing Irish songs. Pastor Barksdale will do a trivia game. Suggested donation is \$7.00.

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH – *Friday, March 17th, 12:00pm* – Please sign up and join us at Luigi's in Port Charlotte. **All ladies are invited!**

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – *Tuesday, March 21st at 10:00am* with Lesson 20 (James 4:13-17 “Planning with Wisdom” of *Growing in Wisdom & Faith, a study of James* by Elizabeth George from her “A Woman After God's Own Heart” series. Call Kathy Belville at 508-733-0546 for more information. **All women are invited for study, fellowship, and refreshments.**

BURGERS FOR BADGES – *Monday, April 17th, 11:00am – 1:00pm* – Help us show our appreciation to our Sheriff's Department as we grill out hamburgers and hotdogs. Have lunch with us by the BBQ Pit and say thank-you to our local first responders. Sign up in the church foyer. **If you would like to make a donation to help defray the costs of this outreach event, please designate it as “B4B”.**

SERVING IN IMMOKALEE – *Friday, April 21st* – Join us for our next trip to Misión Peniel in Immokalee to help bag groceries to the migrant farm workers. **We will carpool from our church at 9:30am.** On our way back, we will stop for lunch at Cracker Barrel. Please sign up in the church foyer.

MISSIONS SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

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

March 12th to March 19th

Sunday, March 12

10:30am
11:30am
3:00pm
6:00pm

Third Sunday in Lent

Worship Service (Also Online)
Fellowship Time
Concert Series - Handbells
Prayer Meeting - FaceBook

Monday, March 13

10:00am

Prayer Shawl Gathering

Tuesday, March 14

10:00am

Mission Team

Wednesday, March 15

10:00am
10:00am
5:00pm

Donuts & Doctrine
Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry
St. Patrick Day's Dinner

Thursday, March 16

10:00am
4:30pm

Game Fellowship
Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, March 17

12:00pm

Ladies Lunch Bunch

Sunday, March 19

10:30am
11:30am
6:00pm

Fourth Sunday in Lent Deacon's Fund

Worship Service (Also Online)
Fellowship Time
Prayer Meeting – FaceBook

Bible Readings

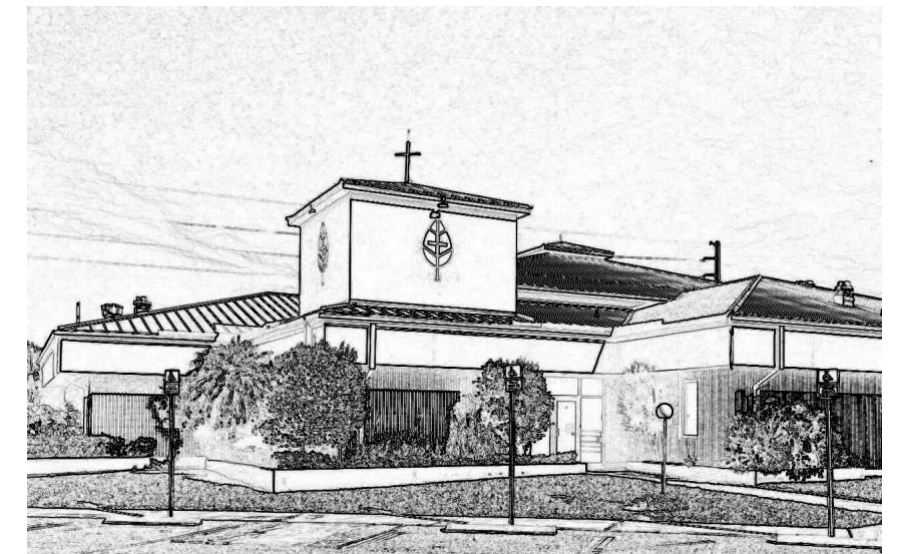
March 12 Deuteronomy 1:1-3:20
March 13 Deuteronomy 3:21-5:33
March 14 Deuteronomy 6:1-9:29
March 15 Deuteronomy 10:1-12:32
March 16 Deuteronomy 13:1-16:17
March 17 Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9
March 18 Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19

SERMON NOTES

Numbers 22

¹ Then the Israelites traveled to the plains of Moab and camped along the Jordan across from Jericho. ² Now Balak son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites, ³ and Moab was terrified because there were so many people. Indeed, Moab was filled with dread because of the Israelites. ⁴ The Moabites said to the elders of Midian, “This horde is going to lick up everything around us, as an ox licks up the grass of the field.” So Balak son of Zippor, who was king of Moab at that time, ⁵ sent messengers to summon Balaam son of Beor, who was at Pethor, near the Euphrates River, in his native land. Balak said: “A people has come out of Egypt; they cover the face of the land and have settled next to me. ⁶ Now come and put a curse on these people, because they are too powerful for me. Perhaps then I will be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land. For I know that whoever you bless is blessed, and whoever you curse is cursed.” ⁷ The elders of Moab and Midian left, taking with them the fee for divination. When they came to Balaam, they told him what Balak had said. ⁸ “Spend the night here,” Balaam said to them, “and I will report back to you with the answer the Lord gives me.” So the Moabite officials stayed with him. ⁹ God came to Balaam and asked, “Who are these men with you?” ¹⁰ Balaam said to God, “Balak son of Zippor, king of Moab, sent me this message: ¹¹ ‘A people that has come out of Egypt covers the face of the land. Now come and put a curse on them for me. Perhaps then I will be able to fight them and drive them away.’” ¹² But God said to Balaam, “Do not go with them. You must not put a curse on those people, because they are blessed.” ¹³ The next morning Balaam got up and said to Balak’s officials, “Go back to your own country, for the Lord has refused to let me go with you.” ¹⁴ So the Moabite officials returned to Balak and said, “Balaam refused to come with us.” ¹⁵ Then Balak sent other officials, more numerous and more distinguished than the first. ¹⁶ They came to Balaam and said: “This is what Balak son of Zippor says: Do not let anything keep you from coming to me, ¹⁷ because I will reward you handsomely and do whatever you say. Come and put a curse on these people for me.” ¹⁸ But Balaam answered them, “Even if Balak gave me all the silver and gold in his palace, I could not do anything great or small to go beyond the command of the Lord my God. ¹⁹ Now spend the night here so that I can find out what else the Lord will tell me.” ²⁰ That night God came to Balaam and said, “Since these men have come to summon you, go with them, but do only what I tell you.” ²¹ Balaam got up in the morning, saddled his donkey and went with the Moabite officials. ²² But God was very angry when he went, and the angel of the Lord stood in the road to oppose him. Balaam was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him. ²³ When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road with a drawn sword in his hand, it turned off the road into a field. Balaam beat it to get it back on the road. ²⁴ Then the angel of the Lord stood in a narrow path through the vineyards, with walls on both sides. ²⁵ When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, it pressed close to the wall, crushing Balaam’s foot against it. So he beat the donkey again. ²⁶ Then the angel of the Lord moved on ahead and stood in a narrow place where there was no room to turn, either to the right or to the left. ²⁷ When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, it lay down under Balaam, and he was angry and beat it with his staff. ²⁸ Then the Lord opened the donkey’s mouth, and it said to Balaam, “What have I done to you to make you beat me these three times?” ²⁹ Balaam answered the donkey, “You have made a fool of me! If only I had a sword in my hand, I would kill you right now.” ³⁰ The donkey said to Balaam, “Am I not your own donkey, which you have always ridden, to this day? Have I been in the habit of doing this to you?” “No,” he said. ³¹ Then the Lord opened Balaam’s eyes, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road with his sword drawn. So he bowed low and fell facedown. ³² The angel of the Lord asked him, “Why have you beaten your donkey these three times? I have come here to oppose you because your path is a reckless one before me. ³³ The donkey saw me and turned away from me these three times. If it had not turned away, I would certainly have killed you by now, but I would have spared it.” ³⁴ Balaam said to the angel of the Lord, “I have sinned. I did not realize you were standing in the road to oppose me. Now if you are displeased, I will go back.” ³⁵ The angel of the Lord said to Balaam, “Go with the men, but speak only what I tell you.” So Balaam went with Balak’s officials. ³⁶ When Balak heard that Balaam was coming, he went out to meet him at the Moabite town on the Arnon border, at the edge of his territory. ³⁷ Balak said to Balaam, “Did I not send you an urgent summons? Why didn’t you come to me? Am I really not able to reward you?” ³⁸ “Well, I have come to you now,” Balaam replied. “But I can’t say whatever I please. I must speak only what God puts in my mouth.” ³⁹ Then Balaam went with Balak to Kiriath Huzoth. ⁴⁰ Balak sacrificed cattle and sheep, and gave some to Balaam and the officials who were with him. ⁴¹ The next morning Balak took Balaam up to Bamoth Baal, and from there he could see the outskirts of the Israelite camp.

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



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.

March 12, 2023

10:30am

PASTOR
MUSIC DIRECTOR
ORGANIST
OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN
LITURGIST
USHERS

Dr. Barksdale Pullen
Joan Byron
Denny Ausman
Debbie Rostad
Don Washabaugh
Sharon Albright, Bev Brady, Marjorie Haun, Billie Sixt