

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC Christmas is Joy

WELCOME

PRELUDE *A Carol Fantasy* Gilbert M. Martin
Nancy Smith, Piano; Denny Ausman, Organ

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE
Patti MacDonald and Sam Cessna
*Fifth Candle symbolizes **Light and Purity** and is called the “Christ Candle”*

CALL TO WORSHIP – ISAIAH 9
Pastor: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called
People: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Pastor: Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.

People: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION

NEW TESTAMENT READING *Luke 2:1-7*
Gail Thornton

***CAROL #262** *Away in a Manger*

NEW TESTAMENT READING *Luke 2:8-14*
John Evans

***CAROL #277** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (vs. 1 and 3)*

NEW TESTAMENT READING *Luke 2:15-20*
Kathy Belville

***CAROL #278** *Angels We Have Heard on High (vs. 1,3 and 4)*

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER (debt/debtors)

OFFERTORY *O Holy Night* Adolphe Adam

SCRIPTURE *Galatians 4:4-7*

MESSAGE *Hope Has Come* Pastor Barksdale Pullen

***CAROL #281** *What Child Is This? (vs. 1 and 3)*

COMMUNION *A Communion Hymn for Christmas*

***CANDLELIGHTING CAROL #253** *Silent Night! Holy Night!*

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE #243** *Emmanuel*

POSTLUDE *A Festive Voluntary* H. Purcell, arr. Lani Smith

*Please stand, if able Hearing assist devices are available at the tech booth
CCLI #1140231 CVLI #505503731

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 Jesus Loves You Ministry for the homeless in Charlotte County and their Shower Ministry on Wednesdays at FPC.
- Pray for Ground Up Ministries, a ministry for human trafficking in Florida.
- Pray for Misión Peniel, the mission that we support in Immokalee.
- Pray for persecuted Christians throughout the world.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

CHRISTMAS OFFERING – This year's Christmas Offering will be divided between Veterans Village and our Missionary partners. Please use the Christmas Envelope in your Box or a Christmas Gifting envelope in the church foyer.

YEAR-END GIVING – Please have your offering/gifts to the church by December 31, 2025. Any donations received after that date will be applied to one's 2026 giving.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES – Available on the table in the foyer.

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH – *Friday, January 2nd, 11:30am* – Salty Tarpon in P.G.

HELP TAKE THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS DOWN – Join us *on Saturday, January 3rd, at 9:00am* to help take down our decorations. *Thank you!*

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – *Tuesday, January 6th, 10:00am in Fellowship Hall.* We are studying "Keep It Shut" by Karen Ehman, Lesson 6 (Chapters 11 & 12 in Book) "As Sweet As Honey: Wonderful Ways to Use Your Words". *We meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month.* Call Kathy Belville at 508-733-0546 for more information – All are welcome!

MISIÓN PENIEL – Our next trip to Immokalee is *Friday, January 9th* – we will help at the Mission in the afternoon. Please meet at the church at *12:00pm.* *We need 12 people to sign up for these mission trips!* Sign up in the church foyer.

DONUTS & DOCTRINE – *Resumes Wednesday, January 14th, at 10:00am* – Join us as we journey through Paul's powerful letter to the Galatians! This study will explore the heart of Christian freedom, the grace of God through faith, and what it means to live by the Spirit rather than the law. Together, we'll unpack the historical context, key theological themes, and practical lessons that speak directly to our lives today. Everyone welcome.

MISSIONS SUPPORT – If you would like to donate to the missionaries and organizations we support, 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 Ground Up Ministries Jesus Loves You Ministry

Missionary Ventures - Chasen & Katie Brokaw (Nicaragua). Misión Peniel

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

STREAMING MINISTRY – Live stream our services on our website homepage (www.fpcpunta.org) by clicking the logo *vimeo livestream*.

EVENTS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Thursday, December 25 – Christmas Day

Sunday, December 28 – Worship Service at 10:30am

Fellowship Time at 11:30am

Prayer Meeting at 6:00pm-FB

The Church Office will be closed December 25th through January 2nd

If a need arises, please call the pastor or leave a message at the church voicemail. Messages are checked daily.

First Presbyterian Church – 25250 Airport Road – Punta Gorda, FL 33950
941-639-1959 (phone) 941-637-3763 (fax)

Email: first@fpcpunta.org — Website: www.fpcpunta.org



Loving...Growing...Going...in Jesus!

This evening 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.

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025

5:00pm

PASTOR

Dr. Barksdale Pullen

ORGANIST

Denny Ausman

OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN

Debbie Rostad

USHERS

Kathy Belville, Roy Belville, Patti MacDonald, Sam Cessna