



## FEBRUARY 2022

**Worship Service in our Sanctuary at 10:30am  
or watch our worship service LIVE! at:  
[www.fpcpunta.org](http://www.fpcpunta.org) and click on the logo "vimeo livestream"**

25250 Airport Road  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
941-639-1959  
[first@fpcpunta.org](mailto:first@fpcpunta.org)  
[www.fpcpunta.org](http://www.fpcpunta.org)

### *Importance of Bible Reading*



In a recent sermon I talked about the importance of daily reading your Bible. It is great to read and listen to devotions or sermons, or even reading a good theology book or Bible study book. But there is no substitute for reading the Word. After the sermon, I had several people comment how it was a good reminder to get back to their Bible. Below is a blog post by Dr. Daniel Diffy that I found which also speaks of the importance of daily Bible reading:

#### **Why do you read the Bible?**

Or maybe I should ask the question, why do you not read the Bible? As someone who teaches the Bible in both the context of the university and the church, it is clear that many Christians do not take reading their Bibles seriously. In this blog post, I want to briefly discuss a few reasons why you should be engaged in the spiritual discipline of Bible reading on a regular basis, how you can build the habit of regular Bible reading into your life and some ways to approach the Bible.

#### **Why You Should Read the Bible Regularly**

What you read impacts you. Think about how you feel when you read your news feed. Reading the Bible on a regular and consistent basis has several benefits. First, the Bible shows us God's character and provides us God's revelation of himself to his people. In each section of the Bible, we see God's holy, unchanging, faithful, gracious and loving character. Second, 2 Timothy 3:16–17 when discussing the topic of Scripture says that it is “profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness.” The next verse goes on to say that this leads to the completeness and equipping “for every good work” (ESV). Third, regularly reading God's word reorients our thinking so that we can grow in maturity, which is part of the Christian calling (Ephesians 4:14–16; Romans 12:1–2). Have you ever met a mature Christian who did not regularly read the Bible? These three things are really just the beginning, this list could include dozens of reasons why you should read the Bible on a regular basis.

#### **How You Can Build Regular Bible Reading Into Your Life**

Reading the Bible is a spiritual discipline, which means that we need to be disciplined in how we approach it. If you lack the desire to read the Bible, pray and ask that God would give you a desire for his word. Then, build a time into your day to read Scripture and make this time a priority. You should then find people to hold you accountable to a reading plan. Maybe even start a reading plan with someone.

#### **Approaching the Bible Rightly**

While reading the Bible on a regular basis is a great start, it is also important to approach the Bible in a proper manner. It is easy to get into a habit of trying to focus only on application when reading the Bible. It is absolutely necessary for the Christian to apply the Bible to his or her life, but sometimes we can make applications that are forced or unintended. In order to avoid misapplication of texts, it is good to read whole biblical books and try to understand the text in light of both its immediate context and in light of the entire biblical book. Always ask what the text says about the character and nature of God.

Pastor Barksdale Pullen

# WORSHIP MINISTRY / EVENTS



*Sunday Mornings - 10:30am Worship Service (Also Online)*

*Sunday Evenings - 6:00pm Prayer Meeting (On Facebook)*



## Fellowship Time

*Join us for beverages, cookies and treats after Sunday's Worship Service*

### FPC'S ANNUAL CONCERT SERIES



**Bluegrass in Punta Gorda**

**Sunday, February 27**

**3:00pm**



*Two Pianos  
Sunday, March 20*

*Pick up a Concert Series brochure  
in the church foyer*

Come celebrate Bluegrass in Punta Gorda!

A free will offering will be taken - suggested donation is \$15.00



ANNUAL MEETING

On **Sunday, February 6th**, we will have our **Congregational/  
Corporation Annual Meeting** at 11:30am. Please plan on attending.  
*Annual Reports are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary.*



**O**ur **Annual Valentine Memorial Service** will be held on  
**Sunday, February 13th at 11:30am**

This is a short service of remembrance for those who passed away  
in 2021 from our church family and in memory of other loved ones.  
We will begin in the Sanctuary and move to the Lowell Kvam Memorial Garden.



*Some Events require Sign-ups  
in the church foyer*

**Wednesday, March 16**

**St. Patrick's Dinner at 5:00pm**



**Monday, March 28**

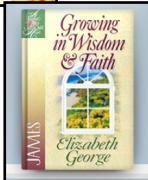
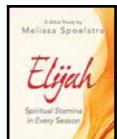
**Burgers and Badges**



**Wednesday, April 13**

**Seder Meal at 5:00pm**

# DISCIPLESHIP 2022



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

**Tuesdays, February 1st and 15th from 10:00am - 11:30am at the church**

*Elijah: Spiritual Stamina in Every Season* by Melissa Spoelstra

On February 1st we will complete this study with Lessons 6

On February 15th we will begin a new study:

***Growing in Wisdom & Faith, a study of James by Elizabeth George  
from "A Woman After God's Own Heart" Series***

*Call Kathy Belville at 508-733-0546 for more information - All are welcome!*



**Donuts &  
Doctrine**

## DONUTS & DOCTRINE Bible Study

***Wednesday mornings at 10:00am***

The History of the Bible in the history of the world. Ever wonder where Biblical events and world events intersect? How does the rule of Joseph in Egypt relate to the rule of King Tut? Do other religions in other parts of the world record a great flood? What was going on in Asia and Europe when the prophets were calling Israel back to the Lord? How did the beginning of the Greek and Roman Empires set events up so 'that when in the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.'

***Join us this winter/spring as we explore the rise of the Kingdom of God thru the Bible in the context of world history.***

## SUNDAY SCHOOL 2022

***We will be offering three Christian Life And Service Seminars this winter/spring***

### C.L.A.S.S. 101-Discovering Church Membership (ongoing)

*Simply go to our website at [fpcpunta.org](http://fpcpunta.org) and look under the Home tab. There you will find all the information about becoming a Covenant Partner at FPC. (Link: <https://www.fpcpunta.org/membership>) or if you prefer a DVD set of the videos, please see Pastor Barksdale.*

### C.L.A.S.S. 301-Discovering My Ministry (This will be rescheduled for a future date)

*God did not design ministry for just a few with seminary degrees. At FPC, we believe that every member of our church is a minister. During 301 you will learn how God can use your Spiritual Gifts, your Heart (passions), your Abilities, your Personality and your Experiences to minister to the needs of others. God gives you gifts for you to use to build up His Church. God also gave you passion for particular activities and subjects. Having the heart for specific things, people or circumstances is to be used to guide us into a ministry that we really care about. In C.L.A.S.S. 301, you will be shown how to assess your abilities, gifts and passions to see where in ministry you will love to serve. Facilitated by Bev Brady.*

### C.L.A.S.S. 201- Discovering Spiritual Maturity, Sunday (9:15-10:15), March 6 - 27

*In Colossians we read, "That you may become mature Christians and that you may fulfill God's will for you." That's what God wants us to do, to become mature believers. In Ephesians we read, "We are not meant to remain as children but to grow up in every way into Christ." In this CLASS we're going to focus on four basic habits that every Christian needs to develop in order to grow to spiritual maturity. This class will equip you with the skills you need to begin these habits and will explain the tools you will need to continue these habits. Facilitated by John Evans.*

# FPC ACTIVITIES



Prayer  
Shawl  
Ministry

## PRAYER SHAWL GATHERINGS

Monday, February 14th, at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall to knit or crochet



## GAME FELLOWSHIP

Thursday mornings at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall All are welcome!

## LADIES LUNCH BUNCH

LUNCH - 1st and 3rd Friday of each month

Sign up in the church foyer

Friday, February 4th, 12:00pm

Outback Steakhouse  
1481 Tamiami Trail  
Port Charlotte

Friday, February 18th, 12:00pm

Monty's Restaurant & Pizzeria  
2515 Tamiami Trail  
Punta Gorda



## CHILI COOK- OFF

### Valentines Day Chili Cook-Off

Wednesday, February 16th at 4:30pm

SIGN UP IN THE CHURCH FOYER FOR CHILI OR CORNBREAD

You want to be part of this PRIZE WINNING Chili Cookoff!

Or, maybe you just want to be a part of the good eatings!

Everyone has a fave in a chili recipe...come share yours on Wednesday night February 16th.

Be sure to make enough for 4-6 servings.

Everyone votes and there is a prize for the

1) hottest, 2) most creative, 3) yummiest of both the "red" and "white" types.

Cornbread will also be served, so if you have a fave recipe for that, bring that instead of chili, but be sure to sign up so we know we have enough of everything.

Plus a surprise treat for dessert! Starts at 4:30 P.M. so you can be home before dark!

# MISSIONS MINISTRY



First Presbyterian Church proudly supports  
Missions from our church budget.  
If you would personally like to make additional  
donations, please make checks payable to FPC  
and indicate the mission on the memo line.



## Monthly Mission Support



### CROSSROADS HOPE ACADEMY (PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA)

[Crossroadspg.org](http://Crossroadspg.org)



### JESUS LOVES YOU MINISTRY (PORT CHARLOTTE, FLORIDA)

[Jesuslovesyouministryinc.com](http://Jesuslovesyouministryinc.com)



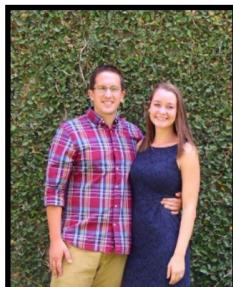
### MISIÓN PENIEL (IMMOKALEE, FLORIDA)

[Misionpeniel.com](http://Misionpeniel.com)



### ANTIOCH PARTNERS MISSIONARIES

Eric and Debbie Stone, Guatemala  
Lisa Alfonsi, Lima, Peru  
[theantiochpartners.org](http://theantiochpartners.org)



### MISSIONARY VENTURES INTERNATIONAL

Chasen and Katie Brokaw  
Nicaragua  
[mvi.org](http://mvi.org)  
[breakingborders.org](http://breakingborders.org)

# MILITARY PRAYER LIST

## Prayer

O Prince of Peace, we humbly ask Your protection for all our men and women in military service. Give them unflinching courage to defend with honor, dignity and devotion the rights of all who are imperiled by injustice and evil. Guard our churches, our homes, our schools, our hospitals, our factories, our buildings, and all those within from harm and peril. Protect our land and its people from enemies within and without. Grant an early peace with victory founded upon justice. Instill in the hearts and minds of men and women everywhere a firm purpose to live forever in peace and good will towards all. Amen.

- \* Capt. Alex Treadwell, Army, grandson-in-law of Diane Culver-Truby, stationed at Fort Hood, Texas
- \* Major John McPherson, Air Force, great nephew of Marguerite O'Brien, stationed at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas
- \* Major Ryan Swisher, Army Ranger, grandson of Rachel Pfaender, stationed in North Carolina
- \* Major Eric Engstrom, Army Intel., son of Alan Engstrom, stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas
- \* 2nd Lt. Zadick Self, Marines, grandson-in-law of Ron Beasom, stationed in Peoria, Illinois
- \* Navy Seaman Tyler Beasom, Navy, grandson of Ron Beasom, stationed in San Diego, California
- \* MSgt. Nick Weiss, Air Force, grandson of Gail Thornton, is home based

*Do you have a family member serving in the military?  
If so, we'd like to add them to the newsletter prayer list. Fill out the form that's on the sign-up table  
in the church foyer and place it in the HELMET or let the church office know.*



GOD'S LOVE

GOD'S LOVE IS EVERYWHERE  
IN THE DARKNESS AND IN THE LIGHT  
WHERE WE GO THROUGHOUT OUR LIFE.

IN BIRDS ON FLIGHT  
AND FLOWER BLOOMS  
THE MIRACLE SUNSETS BRIGHT.

OUR FRIENDS NEXT DOOR  
THE GROCERY CLERK  
THE SICK AND POOR.



IN TROUBLED TIMES  
AND FEARFUL DAYS  
IN SUFFERINGS OF EVERY KIND.

IT IS WRAPPED AROUND US  
AS WE GO OUR WAY  
FILLING US WITH HOPE EACH DAY.

THANK YOU GOD  
FOR YOUR EVERLASTING LOVE  
MAY WE SHOW YOUR LOVE FROM UP ABOVE.  
HOLY SPIRIT AND NANCY BEASOM

# MEMBER CARE



**CONTACT**  
information



Prayer Requests and Hospital / Rehab Information  
Address, Phone, Email changes  
Birthdays and Anniversaries  
Email to [first@fpcpunta.org](mailto:first@fpcpunta.org)



*First Pres is on Facebook!*

Go to:

[facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurch-Punta Gorda](https://facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurch-PuntaGorda)



Giving to FPC - In person  
Mail to the church office: 25250 Airport Rd; PG, FL 33950  
Online Giving through our website: [fpcpunta.org](http://fpcpunta.org), click Donate



Please pray for Dave Sifferd and family,  
whose wife Ella went home to the Lord on December 31, 2021.

*Wedding in France!*

Barksdale and Bo's daughter Maddie married Florent Fliedner at this Chapel and City Hall in France on December 28, 2021

*Felicitations pour votre mariage!*



# FEBRUARY 2022

## CHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR AND CELEBRATIONS

Prayer is the place where burdens change shoulders - We pray for....  
*The elderly, the infirm, the hospitalized, those in nursing homes, the homebound and lonely,  
and all those who have requested our prayerful support.*

Each month we remember church members and friends on a rotating basis...



1	Duane & Wanda Boyles	11	Robert Cuzner	21	Ron & Neta Gensemier
2	Bonnie Brown	12	Sheila Dabney	22	Matthew & Maria Greene
3	Marion Brown	13	Bill & Sonja Dosse	23	Rich & Barb Harris
4	Ray & Joan Byron	14	John & Ramona Douglas	24	Marjorie Haun
5	Kay Callahan	15	Phyllis Ehrhardt	25	Joan Hoffman
6	Bonnie Carey	16	Alan Engstrom	26	Bob & Jean Humphreys
7	Sam & Patti Cessna	17	John & Gail Evans	27	Pat Ihrie
8	Charlie & Doris Costa	18	George & Bev Fallenbeck	28	Bob & Lois Jornlin
9	Irene Csontos	19	Dick & Sandy Fisher		
10	Diane Culver	20	Frances Frost		



2—Debbie Rostad	17—Margie Smith
8—Doris Costa	24—Jack Rothley
8—Gene McPherson	25—DeAnn Lehman
15—Jene Shafer	28—Florence Parker
16—Sharon Albright	28—Roy Belville

