
WORSHIP SERVICE

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC Classical Music

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Komm Heiliger Geist, Herre Gott* Zachau

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

INTROIT *We Are One in the Lord* Joseph Martin
Chancel Choir

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; we have not loved you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. Deepen within us our sorrow for the wrong we have done, and the good we have left undone. Lord, you are full of compassion and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy; there is always forgiveness with you! Restore to us the joy of your salvation; bind up that which is broken, give light to our minds, strength to our wills, and rest to our souls. Speak to each of us, and let your word abide with us until it has wrought in us your holy will. Amen.

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

***HYMN #16** *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

*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

ANTHEM *Here I Am, Lord* Daniel Shutte/Jack Schrader
Chancel Choir

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

OFFERTORY *United in Faith* Franklin Ritter

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let the gift of grace, which has been so lavishly given to us, touch our hearts as we give of our gifts. May the needs of others become our needs: their poverty, our poverty; their hunger, our hunger; their longings for a better life, our longings. May we always give in gratitude for the abundance of grace that is ours through the gift of the life of Christ. Amen.

***HYMN #103** *All Hail King Jesus (Repeat)*

SCRIPTURE Acts 1:1-11

MESSAGE *Introduction to Acts* Pastor Barksdale Pullen

COMMUNION HYMN *Behold the Lamb*

COMMUNION

***HYMN #764** *The Trees of the Field (Repeat)*

*BENEDICTION

***RESPONSE** *Lord, Let Us Now Depart In Peace* George Whelpton
Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE *Unity and Brotherhood* Thomas Chesterton

*Please stand, if able

Hearing assist devices are available at the tech booth
CCLI #1140231 CVLI #5054293

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 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 who Grieve

Pray for Rex Anderson and family, whose wife Helen went home to the Lord on December 25th. A Memorial Service will be held on Monday, January 15th at 10:00am.

Pray for Georgia and the family of former member Joe Cherny, who went home to the Lord on December 23rd.

Those with Special Needs

Rachel Pfaender	Kay Callahan	Phyllis Ehrhardt
Lynn Lang	Ron Sixt	Rick Berner
Irene Csontos	Barb Harris	Dave Sifferd

Those who are in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes

Marion Brown, *Truewood by Merrill, Port Charlotte*

NOTES

FLOWERS – The flowers are given by Kathy and Roy Belville in memory of Kathy's Dad Wallace Renton.

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

JANUARY 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.

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 **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!

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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

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.

PLEDGE CARD – If you haven't returned your pledge card for 2024, please do so as soon as possible. Pledge cards and Narrative Budgets are available on the table in the back of the Sanctuary or in the church foyer. Thank you.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES – Available on the table in the foyer. If you don't see your name, let the office know. Thank you.

ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

PRAYER SHAWL GATHERING – If you like to knit or crochet, please gather with us in Fellowship Hall **Monday, January 8th at 10:00am**.

DONUTS & DOCTRINE – Will resume **Wednesday, January 10th, at 10:00am**. The book of Daniel is a favorite for Sunday school teachers and students alike. And for good reason. It has all the makings of a great story—memorable characters, cliff-hanger drama, and science fiction–like visions. Yet therein lies a potential danger. Because the human actors and events are so fascinating, we are tempted when studying this book to fix our gaze on the human plane. But when this happens, we can inadvertently lose sight of the fact that this book is ultimately not about Daniel or his three friends, but about God and his victory in the world. Sure, the book of Daniel tells Daniel's story—and a fascinating and instructive story it is. But the main purpose of Daniel is to reveal to us who God is—his character, his purposes, his way of working in the world for the good of his people. The main lesson of Daniel, then, is not, as is often assumed (and taught!), *Dare to be a Daniel!* Rather, the main point is this: *Dare to trust in Daniel's God! All are welcome!*

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – **Tuesday, January 16th at 10:00am** – *“Preparing for an Audience with the King” and “Becoming Queen”* – *Esther 2:12-18*. Join us for our study of “Esther”, based on *“Becoming a Woman of Beauty & Strength”* by Elizabeth George. We meet the first and third Tuesdays of each month in Fellowship Hall. Call Kathy Belville at 508-733-0546 for more information. *All women are invited for study, fellowship, and refreshments.*

DESSERT & MOVIE – **Wednesday, January 17th, 5:00pm**. Join us for dessert night (an assortment of desserts provided by the Fellowship Team), followed by the movie “I Can Only Imagine” at 5:30pm. Sign up in the church foyer.

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH – **Friday, January 19th, 12:00pm** – Please sign up and join us for lunch at the Captain's Table in Punta Gorda. *All ladies are invited!*

ANNUAL CONCERT SERIES – **Sunday, January 21st at 3:00pm, featuring Cahal Dunne, “Ireland's Piano Man”**. *This is a ticketed event*. Tickets are available in the Church office (9-12 Monday-Thursday) or call the ticket line at 941-625-4945.

MISIÓN PENIEL – Our next trip to Immokalee is **Friday, January 26th** – we will be helping at the Mission in the afternoon. Please meet at the church at 12:15pm. We will return about 8-9pm. *We need 12 people to go*, so please sign up in the church foyer.

PULLEN UP A CHAIR – **Wednesday, February 7th at 5:00pm**. Barksdale and Bo host get-together dinners at their home. This will be in groups of eight. You can sign up in the church foyer, or call/email the church office to reserve a night. There is no agenda, lesson, or study; just a time to get together for fellowship and to learn more about one another.

MISSIONS SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

DISASTER RELIEF SUPPORT – A reminder that 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 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

January 7th to January 14th

Sunday, January 7

10:30am

11:30am

6:00pm

Communion Sunday

Worship Service (Also Online)

Fellowship Time

Prayer Meeting-FB

Monday, January 8

10:00am

1:00pm

Prayer Shawl Gathering

Worship Team

Tuesday, January 9

10:00am

Mission Team

Wednesday, January 10

10:00am

10:00am

Donuts & Doctrine

Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry

Thursday, January 11

10:00am

3:30pm

Game Fellowship

Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, January 14

10:30am

11:30am

6:00pm

Worship Service (Also Online)

Fellowship Time

Prayer Meeting-FB

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

SERMON NOTES

Acts 1:1-11

¹ In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” ⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” ⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”



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.

January 7, 2024

10:30am

PASTOR
MUSIC DIRECTOR
ORGANIST
OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN
LITURGIST
USHERS

Dr. Barksdale Pullen
Joan Byron
Denny Ausman
Debbie Rostad
Bev Brady
Kathy Belville, Roy Belville, Maria Greene, Linda Wager