



MAY 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"**

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Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
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[www.fpcpunta.org](http://www.fpcpunta.org)



## National Day of Prayer

The first Thursday in May has been designated as the National Day of Prayer since 1988. Why do we set time aside to pray for our nation? From the National Day of Prayer website we read: God is sovereign and nothing comes as a surprise to Him. Whether we face fluctuating economics, threats from abroad, unrest at home, or other troubling circumstances, our Heavenly Father is not caught unaware. Through prayer, we are able to tap into His wisdom, strength, protection, and peace. He stands ready to respond to our needs when we humbly ask for divine intervention in the affairs of men.

God also told the Jews in exile through the prophet Jeremiah, *"seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."* We pray, not so that we can be prosperous, although that may be a consequence of our actions. Rather, we are to be examples to the watching world which is increasingly hostile to the Christian faith. Remember Jesus told us, *"let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."* The Apostle picked up on this teaching when he wrote, *"Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify."* As Christians we pray not only for the lost to be found and put their faith in Christ, but we also pray that the influence of our faith would permeate society.

So, we want to set aside time to pray for our nation, and we will expand that to the world as well. On Sunday, May 1, our Worship Service will look a little different – we will concentrate on prayer by praying for seven areas of influence in our nation:

### GOVERNMENT

*Pray for your leaders, as well as the judges in our courts. Ask God to grant them wisdom to act with integrity. (1 Kings 3:28; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; Exodus 18:21; Proverbs 11:3; Romans 13:1-2)*

#### Federal Government

Pray for our President, Vice President, Cabinet Members, Congressional Leaders, Supreme Court Justices

#### State Government

Pray for your Governor, Executive Leaders, Legislative Leaders, Judicial Leaders

#### Local Government

Pray for your Mayor, City Counsel, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Judges, County Officials

### MILITARY

*"He appointed military officers over the people and assembled them...and encouraged them with these words: 'Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged because of the king of Assyria and the vast army with him. With him only is the arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles...'" (2 Chronicles 32:6-8)*

Perseverance to endure hardship (Isaiah 43:2; Deuteronomy 31:6)

Wise leaders who inspire respect from those under their command (Romans 13:1)

Protection and support for the families they have left behind (Romans 1:8-10)

*continued on Page 2*

# WORSHIP MINISTRY



**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**

## **NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER (continued from Page 1)**

### **MEDIA**

*"...Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." (Philippians 4:8)*

The decision makers within the media to realize they can make a profit by producing uplifting projects (Proverbs 8:10-11)

Christians in media to find favor and be filled with creative ideas that bring kingdom principles and life-giving messages to the public (Proverbs 2:1-15)

### **BUSINESS**

*"I have filled him with the Spirit of God, giving him great wisdom, ability, and expertise in all kinds of crafts. He is a master craftsman, expert in working..." (Exodus 31:3-4)*

Impartation of ideas and resources to open principled businesses, especially in areas that need an economic boost (Psalm 132:15)

Christian workers to display Christ-like humility and service to their co-workers (Philippians 2:3)

### **EDUCATION**

*"If you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding." (Proverbs 2:3-6)*

A safe atmosphere conducive to learning

Excellence in educators (Exodus 18:20-21)

Equal opportunities for every student to achieve their full potential (Philippians 1:9)

### **WORLD**

*"You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you." (2 Chronicles 20:6)*

Pray that God would bring about peace and justice throughout the world

### **CHURCH**

*"So then, just as you received Jesus Christ as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ." (Colossians 2:6-8)*

The church would find a new zeal and commitment to the mission and purpose of Jesus Christ (Matt 22:37)

Unity with and among churches that reveal God's love to the world (John 17:23)

Integrity – that God's people look and act differently from the world

(I Peter 2:11; 1 Corinthians 13:6)

### **FAMILY**

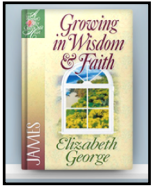
*"If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand." (Mark 3:25)*

Unity and love in individual families that reach out in hospitality toward others (Romans 12:9-13)

Establish healthy relationships between parents and children (Malachi 4:5-6)

In Christ,  
Pastor Barksdale

# DISCIPLESHIP 2022



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

*Tuesdays, May 3rd (Lesson 5) and 17th (Lesson 6)*

*from 10:00am - 11:30am at the church*

*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 - "Thriving in Babylon" by Larry Osborne*

These are confusing times for many Christians. Traditional biblical values are not only rejected; it seems as if they're attacked on every front. It's all happened at warp speed, leaving many of us spiritually and culturally disoriented or even fearful, frustrated, and angry. How can we spiritually survive in an increasingly spiritually hostile environment? And is there any hope for the next generation?

In this 5-session series, Larry Osborne introduces us to a man forced to live in a fast-changing and godless society. This man faced fears about the future, concern for his safety, and the discouragement of a world that seemed to be falling apart at warp speed. That man was Daniel, and with the power of hope, humility, and wisdom, he not only survived, but thrived.

Each session also includes real-life stories of people struggling to thrive in an ever-increasing godless society. Though Daniel lived thousands of years ago, he has much to teach us today.

*All are welcome to join us Wednesday mornings!*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL 2022

Christian Life And Service Seminars

### 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.



# FPC ACTIVITIES



## PRAYER SHAWL GATHERINGS

*Monday, May 9th, 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, May 6th, 12:00pm*

*Riviera Bar & Grill  
5500 Deltona Drive  
Punta Gorda*

*Friday, May 20th, 12:00pm*

*Luigi's Pizzeria  
3883 Tamiami Trail  
Port Charlotte*

## Burgers & Badges March 28th



## Passover Seder Meal April 13th





# 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.



Please consider donating small travel size bottles of shampoo, conditioner, body lotion, small bars of soap, toothpaste, dental floss, shaving gel, razors, shaving cream, lip balm, combs, etc. You may want to clean out your bathroom drawer or purchase a few items for the homeless who come to the shower ministry once a week. A marked container will be left on the back table in Fellowship Hall.

Financial donations for the Lunches that we provide are also appreciated. *Blessings*



## Shower Ministry

### 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)



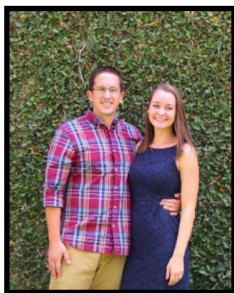
#### MISSIONARY VENTURES INTERNATIONAL

Chasen and Katie Brokaw

Nicaragua

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

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



# MILITARY PRAYER LIST

## Prayer

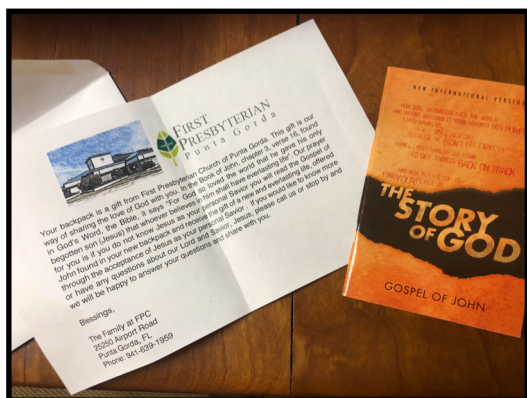
O Prince of Peace, we humbly ask Your protection for all our men and women in military service. Give them unflinching courage to defend with honor, dignity and devotion the rights of all who are imperiled by injustice and evil. Guard our churches, our homes, our schools, our hospitals, our factories, 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
- \* Captain 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.*

## Stuffing Backpacks for Jesus Loves You Ministry



# MEMBER CARE



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



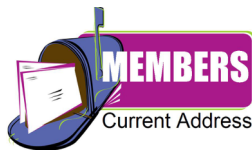
*First Pres is on Facebook!*

*Go to:*

*[facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurch-PuntaGorda](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](https://fpcpunta.org), click Donate*



*(Former member)*

*Phyllis Richardson  
Meadowcrest at Middletown  
820 Middletown-Odessa Road Apt. 208  
Middletown, Delaware 19709*

***EASTER CROSS  
Sunday, April 17th***



***Happy Mother's Day  
Sunday, May 8th***





# MAY 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	Bill & Sonja Dosse	11	Rich & Barb Harris	21	Ernie & DeAnn Lehman
2	John & Ramona Douglas	12	Marjorie Haun	22	Al & Susie Lorenz
3	Phyllis Ehrhardt	13	Joan Hoffman	23	Connie Luther
4	Alan Engstrom	14	Bob & Jean Humphreys	24	Myles MacDonald
5	John & Gail Evans	15	Pat Ihrie	25	Steve MacDonald
6	George & Beverly Fallenbeck	16	Bob & Lois Jornlin	26	Carolyn Ann Maupin
7	Dick & Sandy Fisher	17	Tom & Carol Kerr	27	Gene & Barbara McPherson
8	Frances Frost	18	Jean LaMantia	28	Larry & Sue Mesler
9	Ron & Neta Gensemer	19	Ken & Lynda Lambert	29	Steve & Joanie Mock
10	Matthew & Maria Greene	20	David & Lynn Lang	30	Jim & Patti Nuznoff
				31	Marguerite O'Brien



4—Connie Luther	15—Rex Anderson
6—Shirley Berg	17—Jay Aldridge
12—Bonnie Carey	17—Denny Ausman
12—Gail Evans	19—Robert Cuzner
13—Charles Sampsel	22—Charlie Costa
14—Duane Boyles	24—Joan Hoffman



2—George & Beverly Fallenbeck	7 yrs.
2—Gene & Barbara McPherson	7 yrs.
3—Duane & Wanda Boyles	53 yrs.
5—Jack & Patty Rothley	60 yrs.
6—Al & Susie Lorenz	50 yrs.
27—Rick & Kay Berner	55 yrs.