
WORSHIP SERVICE

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC Classical Music

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Aria Semplice* J. S. Bach, arr. Lani Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

***HYMN #429** *They'll Know We Are Christians*

CONFESSION OF SIN

Holy and Loving God, we confess that we have failed to love others according to Your will. We judge them and make assumptions about others without ever trying to take the time to understand them. We see them not with the eyes of Jesus, but with our selfish eyes. Please forgive us and help us to remember that Jesus came to give His life for all people. May we show grace and mercy to others just as You have done for us. *(Silent Confession)*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*GLORIA PATRI

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY - ** *Remembrance of Thee* James Mansfield

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord, receive our tithes and offerings as a token of our devotion and love for You. Multiply them and use them to build Your church in this community. May they extend Your love and grace to those in need as well as empower the witness to Jesus of Your people. In His name we pray. Amen.

***HYMN #424** *The Servant Song (vs. 1,2,4,5)*

SCRIPTURE Ephesians 4:1-16

MESSAGE *Unity* Pastor Barksdale Pullen

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - The Nicene Creed (Unison)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

COMMUNION AND HYMN *Freely, Freely*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER *(debts/debtors)*

***HYMN #771** *We'll Understand It Better By and By*

*BENEDICTION

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #656** *Take Time to Be Holy (vs. 1)*

POSTLUDE *March Recessional* Lily Strickland

*Please stand, if able

**You may give securely online at www.fpcpunta.org

Hearing assist devices are available at the tech booth
CCLI #1140231 CVLI #50550373

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 Ground Up Ministries, a ministry for human trafficking in Florida.
- 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	Phyllis Ehrhardt	Rick Berner
Lynn Lang	Ron Sixt	Dave Sifferd

NOTES

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

PRAYER REQUESTS – Email your praise or petition to first@fpcpunta.org. Indicate if your prayer is for the Pastor only, church email prayer list, or prayer team on Sundays – or all of the above.

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

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

MARCH 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.

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!

Comparative Financial Operations / Performance

	January 2026	Year-to-Date
Tithes & Offerings	\$22,501.19	\$22,501.19
Cash Expenditures	<u>\$21,249.24</u>	<u>\$21,249.24</u>
Net	\$1,251.95	\$1,251.95

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AND NOTES

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

ST. VINCENT FOOD DRIVE – March 29th to April 12th -- Bring any non-perishable food item to Fellowship Hall.

SERMON ON THE SAND – Pastor Barksdale delivers the message on **Sunday, March 15th at 8:00am at Fishermen's Village.**

MISIÓN PENIEL – Our next trip to Immokalee is **Friday, March 27th, 12:30pm.** Please meet at our church. We need 12 people to sign up in the church foyer.

MOWER NEEDED - If you have, or know anyone, that has a Riding Lawnmower they would like to donate, or sell, to the church, please let Sam know. Thanks!

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 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 Easter Sunday - representing His resurrection - His victory over sin, death and Satan. EASTER LILIES FOR EASTER SUNDAY - You may donate one in remembrance or honor of a loved one. The cost per lily is \$7.00. Special envelopes can be found in the back of the Sanctuary or foyer. Please return by Monday, March 30th.*

LIVING CROSS FOR EASTER SUNDAY - *Please bring flowers and greenery for the "living cross" which will be presented on Easter morning. Please bring both flowers and greenery on Saturday, April 4th, at 9:00am. Also, please sign up in the foyer to help with the cross.*

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME – Remember to *Spring Ahead NEXT weekend!*

DIRECTORY/ DATABASE UPDATES – *Please let the office know of any updated information or changes you may have.*

ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – **Tuesday, March 3rd, at 10:00am** – Our study is: "Heaven – When Faith Becomes Sight" (Lesson 2) by Jennifer Rothschild. We meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall. All ladies are welcome! See Kathy Belville for more information.

DONUTS & DOCTRINE – **Wednesday, March 4th, 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 is welcome.

LADIES CARDS FELLOWSHIP – **Thursday, March 5th, at 10:00am** -- All ladies are welcome to join us Thursdays for cards and conversation.

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH – **Friday, March 6th, 11:30am** – Sign up for Olive Garden in Port Charlotte. All ladies welcome!

ST. PATRICK DAY DINNER – **Wednesday, March 11th, 5:00pm** – Join us for our annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner of corned beef and sides. Suggested donation is \$7.00. Sign up in the church foyer.

LUNCH 'N' LEARN – **Wednesday, March 25th, Noon** – Detective Chris Farley from the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office will give a presentation on the latest Senior Scams. Sign up in the church foyer.

PALM SUNDAY CONCERT – **Sunday, March 29th, 3:00pm.** Local musicians will present a concert in our Sanctuary as we enter Holy Week. *(No tickets needed).*

PULLEN UP A CHAIR – **April 15th at 5:00pm** - Barksdale and Bo will host get-together dinners for groups of eight at their home. There is no agenda, lesson, or study, just a time to get together for fellowship. Sign up in the church foyer or call/email the church office.

MISSIONS SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

DISASTER RELIEF SUPPORT – 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 SHOWER MINISTRY – (Wednesday mornings in our parking lot) – Please place “shower” items on the table in Fellowship Hall.

MISSIONS SUPPORT – If you would like to donate to the missionaries and organizations that we are supporting in 2025 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)

Ground Up Ministries (Cape Coral) Jesus Loves You Ministry (Port Charlotte)

Misión Peniel (Immokalee)

Missionary Ventures (Chasen & Katie Brokaw – Nicaragua)

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.

EVENTS FOR THE COMING WEEK

March 1 – March 8

Sunday, March 1

**SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
COMMUNION SUNDAY**

10:30am **Worship Service (Also Online)**
11:30am Fellowship Time
6:00pm Prayer Meeting-FB

Tuesday, March 3

10:00am Women’s Bible Study
1:00pm Fellowship Team

Wednesday, March 4

10:00am Donuts & Doctrine
10:00am Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry

Thursday, March 5

10:00am Ladies Cards Fellowship

Friday, March 6

11:30am Ladies Lunch Bunch

Sunday, March 8

**THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME**

10:30am **Worship Service (Also Online)**
11:30am Fellowship Time
6:00pm Prayer Meeting-FB

First Presbyterian Church of Punta Gorda
Member of ECO (A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians)
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
(and by appointment)

SERMON NOTES

Ephesians 4:1-16

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high,

he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.”

(What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.



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 as we lift our hearts and voices in praise.

We are glad to welcome each guest and friend, and that you have chosen to worship God with this congregation.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS (details to follow)

- March 29th to April 12th – St. Vincent Food Drive
- March 29th – Palm Sunday
- March 29th – Palm Sunday Concert – 3:00pm
- April 2nd – Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00pm
- April 3rd – Good Friday Service, Noon
- April 5th – Easter Sunday
- April 6th – Peace River Botanical Gardens Outing, 10:00am
- April 20th - Burgers For Badges, 11:00am – 1:00pm
- May 10th – Mother’s Day
- June 17th – Church Picnic at Ponce de Leon Park, 5:00pm
- June 21st – Father’s Day
- July 15th – Christmas in July Supper & Movie, 5:00pm

March 1, 2026

10:30am

PASTOR
ORGANIST
OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN
LITURGIST
USHERS
A/V TECH

Dr. Barksdale Pullen
Denny Ausman
Debbie Rostad
Kathy Belville
Marjorie Haun, Billie Sixt, Patti MacDonald, Sam Cessna
George Fallenbeck, Jim Nuznoff, Gene McPherson