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## WORSHIP SERVICE

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**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC** Nancy Smith

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** *Happy The Home When God is There*

John Johnson

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**\*HYMN #291** *O Sing a Song of Bethlehem*

**\*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**

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**OFFERTORY - \*\***

*Chapel Prayer*

Moritz Hauptmann

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Gracious God, accept these gifts as signs of our desire to serve You. Make our offerings to be instruments of peace and grace in the world. Use them to heal the sick, and to bring hope to the brokenhearted, comfort for the afflicted, justice for the oppressed and good news to all. And let all that we do be a foretaste of Your reign on earth. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**\*HYMN #436**

*Freely, Freely*

**SCRIPTURE**

Ephesians 1:1-3

**MESSAGE** *Introduction to Ephesians*

Pastor Barksdale Pullen

**\*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.

**COMMUNION AND HYMN**

*Communion*

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

**\*HYMN #688** *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #232**

*God Be with You (vs. 1)*

**POSTLUDE** *Fantasy in A Minor*

Edward Broughton

\*Please stand, if able

\*\*You may give securely online at [www.fpcpunta.org](http://www.fpcpunta.org)

Hearing assist devices are available at the tech booth

CCLI #1140231 CVLI #50550373

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## MINISTRY OF PRAYER

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**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

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## NOTES

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**PRAYER QUOTE** – “True prayer is neither a mere mental exercise nor a vocal performance. It is far deeper than that – it is spiritual transaction with the Creator of Heaven and Earth.” – Charles Spurgeon

**PRAYER EMAIL LIST** – If you would like to be on Pastor Barksdale’s prayer email list, email Pastor Barksdale at [bmullen3@fpcpunta.org](mailto:bmullen3@fpcpunta.org).

**PRAYER REQUESTS** – Email your praise or petition to [first@fpcpunta.org](mailto: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 by Jene Shafer in memory of her husband Herb.

**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.

**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](http://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**

	<u>November 2025</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Tithes & Offerings	\$29,713.19	\$235,292.76
Cash Expenditures	\$22,984.63	\$241,293.72
Net	\$6,728.56	(\$6,000.96)

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## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AND NOTES

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

**MISIÓN PENIEL** – Our next trip to Immokalee is **Friday, January 9th, 12:00pm**. Please meet at our church. We need 12 people to sign up.

**2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES** – Available on the table in the foyer. If you don’t see your name, let the office know. Thank you.

**ACTIVITIES / EVENTS**

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** – **Tuesday, January 6th, 10:00am** – 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 at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall. All ladies welcome!

**LADIES CARDS FELLOWSHIP** – **Thursday, January 8th, at 10:00am** – All ladies are welcome to join us Thursdays for cards and conversation.

**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.

**LADIES LUNCH BUNCH** – **Friday, January 16th, 11:30am** – Sign up for Lime Tequila in Port Charlotte.

**LUNCH 'N' LEARN** – **Wednesday, January 28th, 12:00pm** – Sign up in the church foyer for this presentation by Sky Med. Lunch will be provided.

## 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

### January 4– January 11

#### Sunday, January 4

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

#### Tuesday, January 6

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

#### Wednesday, January 7

10:00am  
Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry

#### Thursday, January 8

10:00am  
Ladies Cards Fellowship

#### Friday, January 9

12:00pm  
Mission Trip to Immokalee

#### Sunday, January 11

10:30am  
11:30am  
6:00pm  
**Worship Service (Also Online)**  
Fellowship Time  
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](mailto:first@fpcpunta.org) Website: [fpcpunta.org](http://fpcpunta.org)

Office hours: 9:00am to 1:00pm Monday – Thursday  
(and by appointment)

## SERMON NOTES

Ephesians 1:1-3

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,  
To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:  
Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise for Spiritual Blessings in Christ  
Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us  
in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.



**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.*

**January 4, 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