

WORSHIP SERVICE – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT		
PRE-SERVICE MUSIC	Hymns and Choruses	
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS		
PRELUDE	Thanks Be To Thee	Handel, arr. Peery
	Nancy Smith, Piano; Denny Ausman, Organ	
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE	John and Gail Evans	
	First Candle symbolizes Hope and is called the “Prophecy Candle”	
CALL TO WORSHIP		
PRAYER OF INVOCATION		
*HYMN #86	Jesus, Name Above All Names (Repeat)	
*HYMN #87	Fairest Lord Jesus (vs. 1 and 4)	
*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		
SPECIAL MUSIC	Christmas Pastorate	Charles Demorest
	Nancy Smith, Piano; Denny Ausman, Organ	
PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER (debts/debtors)		
OFFERTORY - **	Morning Star	Dorothy Wells
*DOXOLOGY		
*PRAYER OF DEDICATION		
Lord God, You give us so much love. You fill us with abundance and mercy. Your gifts to us are constant and numerous. Now we bring to You our dollars and our talents. We bring to You our love and our skills. We bring to You our devotion and our time. Take all of this and take all of us and dedicate us and our gifts to ministry and service. In the name of Jesus Chrit, we offer all now. Amen.		
*HYMN #245	O Come, O Come, Emmanuel	
SCRIPTURE	Hebrews 11:1-3	
MESSAGE	Biblical Hope	Pastor Barksdale Pullen
*HYMN #446	We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations	
*BENEDICTION		
*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #243		
	Emmanuel	
POSTLUDE	Festive Postlude	Edward Broughton
*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 #505503731

MINISTRY OF PRAYER		
Prayer Focus		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">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 QUOTE – “We can be tired, weary, and emotionally distraught, but after spending time alone with God, we find that he injects into our bodies energy, power and strength.” – Charles Stanley

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 today by Marjorie Haun in memory of her husband Ken and both of their parents.

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

DECEMBER 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

	October 2025	Year-to-Date
Tithes & Offerings	\$22,460.15	\$205,579.57
Cash Expenditures	<u>\$21,262.35</u>	<u>\$218,309.09</u>
Net	\$1,197.80	(\$12,729.52)

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 .	
MISIÓN PENIEL – Our next trip to Immokalee is Friday, December 19th, 12:00pm – Please meet at our church. We need 12 people to sign up.	
ADVENT DEVOTIONALS – <i>Advent Devotionals are available in the church foyer. Please take one for your family for daily reflections on the reason for the season.</i>	
CHRISTMAS OFFERING – This year’s Christmas Offering will be divided between <ol style="list-style-type: none">Gift Cards for Veterans VillageMissionaries Eric and Debbie Stone (Guatemala) Lisa and Clever Alfonsi (Peru) Chasen and Katie Brokaw (Nicaragua)	
Please use your Christmas or Special Gifting envelopes (located on the back table or in the church foyer) and return by December 24th.	
CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA – Remember a loved one this Christmas by giving a poinsettia to help decorate the church. Suggested donation is \$7 per poinsettia. Special envelopes are available on the table in the ack of the Sanctuary or in the church foyer Please return your envelope by <u>Monday, December 15th</u> to be listed in a special bulletin insert.	
PLEDGE SUNDAY – <u>Sunday, November 30th</u> – If you did not receive a Narrative Budget/Pledge card packet in the mail, there are extras in the church foyer. Please place your pledge card in the blue box at the back of the Sanctuary. <u>Don't forget to fill out the backside as well if you would like to be part of a particular Ministry Team.</u> Thank you!	
ACTIVITIES / EVENTS	
WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY – Tuesday, December 2nd, 10:00am – We are studying “Keep It Shut” by Karen Ehman. Lesson 5 (Chapters 9 & 10 in Book) “Pause Before You Pounce: On Cultivating Soft Speech”. We meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall. All ladies welcome!	
DONUTS & DOCTRINE – Wednesday, December 3rd, at 10:00am – <i>Join us for three weeks in December as we explore the origins and traditions of Christmas.</i> Why do we have a Christmas tree? Why December 25? Why Christmas caroling? What’s up with Eggnog? When did the church start celebrating Advent? Why do we give presents? We will also share some of your family traditions and maybe add some new ones to your Christmas season. Join us in Fellowship Hall.	
LADIES CARDS FELLOWSHIP – Thursday, December 4th, at 10:00am --- All ladies are welcome to join us Thursdays for cards and conversation.	
LADIES LUNCH BUNCH – Friday, December 5th, 11:30am – Sign up for Cracker Barrel in Port Charlotte.	
CHRISTMAS DINNER AND MOVIE – Wednesday, December 10th, 5:00pm – Sign up for our annual Christmas Dinner. Ham will be the main dish and you can provide side dishes. The movie is “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever”.	
GROUNDS CREW – If you want to be part of the team taking care of the church grounds in 2026, please sign up in the church foyer or see Sam Cessna.	

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

November 30 – December 7

Sunday, November 30	First Sunday of Advent
	Pledge Sunday
10:30am	Worship Service (Also Online)
11:30am	Fellowship Time
6:00pm	Prayer Meeting-FB
Tuesday, December 2	
10:00am	Women’s Bible Study
1:00pm	Fellowship Team
Wednesday, December 3	
10:00am	Donuts & Doctrine
10:00am	Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry
Thursday, December 4	
10:00am	Ladies Cards Fellowship
Friday, December 5	
11:30am	Ladies Lunch Bunch
Sunday, December 7	Second Sunday of Advent
	Communion Sunday
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

Hebrews 11:1-3

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.



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.

November 30, 2025	10:30am
PASTOR	Dr. Barksdale Pullen
ORGANIST	Denny Ausman
OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN	Debbie Rostad
LITURGIST	Sam Cessna
USHERS	Kathy Belville, Roy Belville, Linda Wagar, Don Willecke
A/V TECH	George Fallenbeck, Jim Nuznoff, Gene McPherson