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**WORSHIP SERVICE**

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**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC** Nancy Smith

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** *Prelude in C* J. S. Bach

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**INTROIT** *To God Be the Glory* Wm. Doane/Mary McDonald  
Chancel Choir

**\*HYMN #207** *We Have Come to Join in Worship*

**\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

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**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - The Nicene Creed (Unison)**

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. Amen.

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

**ANTHEM** *We Are One with You, O Lord* Jay Althouse  
Chancel Choir

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

**OFFERTORY** *The Beautiful Garden of Prayer* Fillmore/Rogers  
Nancy Smith, Piano and Debbie Rostad, Organ

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Loving God, as You have shared life and love with us, lead us to share even more generously our lives and our love. May we know that as we give and share, others come to know You in our lives and our love. Direct our steps in discipleship and renew our devotion to You so that through Your church we might be helpful and generous in love to a world in great need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**\*HYMN #713** *Seek Ye First*

**SCRIPTURE** Acts 2:42-47

**MESSAGE** *Fellowship of Believers* Pastor Barksdale Pullen

**COMMUNION HYMN** *Take Time To Be Holy / Amazing Grace*

**COMMUNION**

**\*HYMN #38** *Ye Servants of God*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*RESPONSE** *Peace, God's Wonderful Peace* William M. Runyan  
Chancel Choir

**POSTLUDE** *To God Be the Glory* Doane/McDonald

\*Please stand, if able

Hearing assist devices are available at the tech booth  
CCLI #1140231 CVLI #505465757

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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 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 Bo and Barksdale and family. Bo's father, Billy George Sizemore, went home to the Lord on January 17th.

Pray for Denny Ausman and family. Denny has lost two of his brothers since December.

**Those with Special Needs**

Rachel Pfaender Phyllis Ehrhardt Rick Berner  
Lynn Lang Ron Sixt  
Barb Harris Dave Sifferd

**Those who are in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes**

Marion Brown - *Life Care, Punta Gorda*

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**NOTES**

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**GUEST MUSICIAN** – We welcome Debbie Rostad as our guest organist/pianist.

**FLOWERS** – The flowers are given by Bo and Karen Sostar in loving memory of Bob and Lorraine Sostar (Bo's parents).

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

**FEBRUARY 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](mailto: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](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>December 2023</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Tithes & Offerings	\$19,298.18	\$268,516.37
Cash Expenditures	<u>\$23,329.81</u>	<u>\$274,867.64</u>
Net	(\$4,031.63)	(\$6,351.27)

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**MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES**

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

**CHANCEL CHOIR** – Singers are needed to balance out our church choir. Rehearsals are one hour long on Thursday and before services on Sunday. We sing from October through May. Call Joan Byron at 941-661-1553 or see her after services on Sunday. ***Come and join us in the pleasures of singing praises to God.***

**ACTIVITIES / EVENTS**

**CONGREGATIONAL / CORPORATION MEETING – TODAY, February 4th, following the Worship Service.** Please plan to attend. Annual reports are available.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – Tuesday, February 6th at 10:00am – “Informing the King” – Esther 2:19-23.** 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.***

**DONUTS & DOCTRINE – Wednesday, February 7th 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!*

**ANNUAL VALENTINE MEMORIAL SERVICE — Next Sunday, February 11th at 11:30am.** This is a short service of remembrance for those who passed away in 2023 from our church family and in memory of other loved ones. We will begin in the Sanctuary and move to the Lowell Kvam Memorial Garden.

**VALENTINE'S DAY – Wednesday, February 14th at 5:00pm.** Potluck Dinner followed by the Hallmark movie “Love, Romance and Chocolate”. Sign up in the church foyer.

**LADIES LUNCH BUNCH – Friday, February 16th, 12:00pm** – Please sign up and join us for lunch at Luigi's Restaurant, Port Charlotte. ***All ladies are invited!***

**ANNUAL CONCERT SERIES – Sunday, February 18th, 3:00pm – The Goldtones.** This is a ticketed event. Tickets are available in the church office or call 941-625-4945.

**CHURCH WORK DAY - Join us Thursday, February 22nd from 9:00 - 11:00am** for various projects around the church: Garage Clean Out, shrubbery trimming, parking lot striping, etc. Sign up in the church foyer.

**MISIÓN PENIEL** – Our next trip to Immokalee is **Friday, February 23rd** – 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, March 6th 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.

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**MISSIONS SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES**

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**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)

**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.

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**EVENTS FOR THE COMING WEEK**

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**February 4th to February 11th**

**Sunday, February 4**

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

**Monday, February 5**

1:00pm Worship Team

**Tuesday, February 6**

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

**Wednesday, February 7**

10:00am Donuts & Doctrine  
10:00am Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry  
5:00pm Pullen Up a Chair

**Thursday, February 8**

10:00am Game Fellowship  
3:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Sunday, February 11**

10:30am Worship Service (Also Online)  
11:30am Valentine Memorial Service  
11:30am Fellowship Time  
6:00pm 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](mailto:first@fpcpunta.org) Website: [fpcpunta.org](http://fpcpunta.org)  
Office hours: 9:00am to 1:00pm Monday – Thursday

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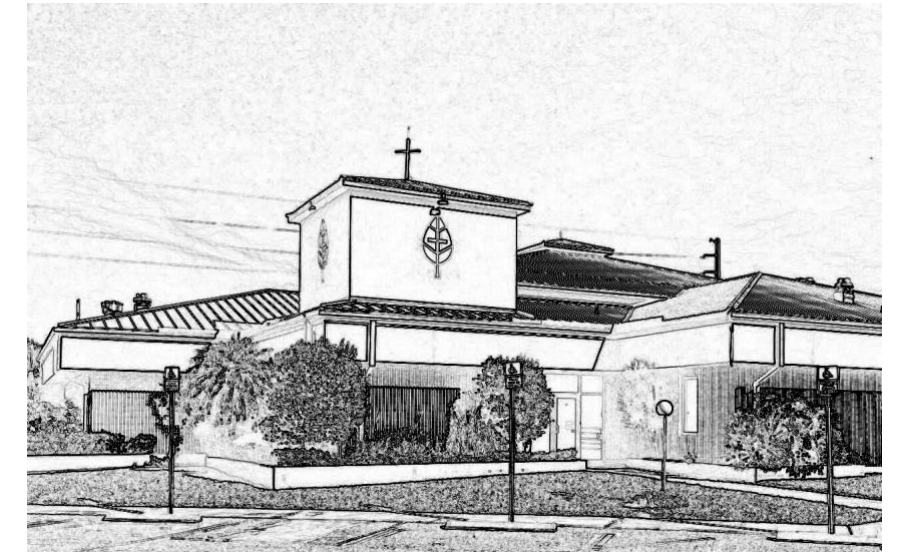
**SERMON NOTES**

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**Acts 2:42-47**

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.



***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.*

**February 4, 2024**

**10:30am**

**PASTOR**

Dr. Barksdale Pullen

**MUSIC DIRECTOR**

Joan Byron

**ORGANIST**

Denny Ausman

**OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN**

Debbie Rostad

**USHERS**

Judy Cornell, Patti MacDonald, Sam Cessna, Billie Sixt