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## WORSHIP SERVICE

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**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC** Nancy Smith

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** *Little Prelude in B-flat* Colin Curtis

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**INTROIT** *Rejoice the Lord is King* C. Wesley/J. Darwell  
Chancel Choir

**\*HYMN #403** *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

**\*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**

**ANTHEM** *What a Wonderful World* arr. John D. Miller  
Chancel Choir

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

**OFFERTORY** *In a Quiet Place* James Mansfield

**\*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 Christ, we offer all now. Amen.

**\*HYMN #384** *Spirit Song*

**SCRIPTURE** Acts 16:16-40

**MESSAGE** *Philippian Jailer* Pastor Barksdale Pullen

**\*HYMN #401** *The Church's One Foundation*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*RESPONSE** *Lord, Let Us Now Depart in Peace* George Whelpton  
Chancel Choir

**POSTLUDE** *Christ Triumphant* George Blake

\*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 former member, Art Koon and family, whose wife Fran went home to the Lord on March 28th. Fran is the sister and sister-in-law of Andy and Nancy Smith. A Memorial Service will be held at FPC on Friday, May 31st at 11:00am and at the National Cemetery in Sarasota at 2:30pm.

**Those with Special Needs**

Rachel Pfaender      Phyllis Ehrhardt      Rick Berner  
Lynn Lang              Ron Sixt                  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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**FLOWERS** – The flowers are given today by Kathy and Roy Belville in memory of Kathy's Mom Elizabeth Renton.

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

**APRIL 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>March 2024</u>  | <u>Year-to-Date</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Tithes & Offerings | \$25,039.01        | \$74,499.59         |
| Cash Expenditures  | <u>\$21,837.10</u> | <u>\$70,195.90</u>  |
| Net                | \$3,201.91         | \$4,303.69          |

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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).

**PRESERVATION COMMITTEE** - During Workday a couple of weeks ago, the team ran across many items that were saved from the church pre-Hurricane Charley. If you would like to be on a committee to help decide what will happen to these items - use in church, save, donation, etc. - contact Gene McPherson.

**MISSION COMMITTEE** – The Mission Committee is planning to give Gift Certificates to the Vets in Veterans Village to say “Thank you” on Memorial Day. If you want to help, we are in need of an additional \$350.00. Any extra donations will be saved for our annual Christmas gift to them. **Thanks and many blessings.**

**DEACON'S FUND OFFERING TODAY** – Our monthly collection supports our efforts to help congregation needs, emergency needs, Misión Peniel Spanish devotionals, and others.

### ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

**CHURCH MEMBERSHIP CLASS** – Next Sunday, April 28th at 9:30am. If you are interested in joining the church, or just finding out more information about FPC, please join us for a one class introduction to FPC. (For Seasonal Residents, we have an Affiliate Membership, so you can maintain your Membership back home.)

**DONUTS & DOCTRINE** – *Wednesday, April 24th at 10:00am* -- We begin a new study on *Psalms – Prayers of the Heart*, which will take us through May 29th.

**MISIÓN PENIEL** – Our next trip to Immokalee is **this Friday, April 26th** – we will help at the Mission in the morning. Please meet at the church at 9:15am, leaving at 9:30am. *We need 5-6 people to go*, so please sign up in the church foyer.

**CROSSROADS HOPE ACADEMY** – *Monday, April 29th, 4:00pm – 8:00pm* – We will be providing and serving dinner to the boys. Please sign up in the church foyer to provide food or serve dinner to the boys at the Davidson Campus. We will meet at the church parking lot at 4:00pm and return around 8:00pm.

**LADIES LUNCH BUNCH** – *Friday, May 3rd, 12:00pm* – Please sign up and join us for lunch at Kings Roadhouse in Port Charlotte. **All ladies are invited!**

**THE TWO PIANO GROUP** – *Sunday, May 5th, 3:00pm* – The Two Piano Group returns for a Spring concert. A Freewill offering will be taken – suggested donation is \$15.00.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** – *Tuesday, May 7th at 10:00am* – “**Taking the High Road**” – *Esther 5:9-14*. 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.**

**MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST** – *Sunday, May 12th at 9:00am* – Sign up now!

**THE CHOSEN SEASON 4** – Postponed due to technical issues. Stay tuned!

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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 2024 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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### *April 21st to April 28th*

#### **Sunday, April 21**

10:30am  
11:30am  
6:00pm

#### **Deacon’s Fund Sunday**

Worship Service (Also Online)  
Fellowship Time  
Prayer Meeting-FB

#### **Wednesday, April 24**

10:00am  
10:00am

Donuts & Doctrine  
Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry

#### **Thursday, April 25**

10:00am  
3:30pm

Game Fellowship  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal

#### **Friday, April 26**

9:15am

Mission Trip to Immokalee

#### **Sunday, April 28**

9:30am  
10:15am  
10:30am  
11:30am  
6:00pm

Membership Class  
Hymn Sing  
Worship Service (Also Online)  
Fellowship Time  
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 16:16-40

<sup>16</sup> Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup> She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.” <sup>18</sup> She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!” At that moment the spirit left her. <sup>19</sup> When her owners realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. <sup>20</sup> They brought them before the magistrates and said, “These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar <sup>21</sup> by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice.” <sup>22</sup> The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup> After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. <sup>24</sup> When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. <sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose. <sup>27</sup> The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup> But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!” <sup>29</sup> The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” <sup>31</sup> They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” <sup>32</sup> Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. <sup>33</sup> At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. <sup>34</sup> The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household. <sup>35</sup> When it was daylight, the magistrates sent their officers to the jailer with the order: “Release those men.” <sup>36</sup> The jailer told Paul, “The magistrates have ordered that you and Silas be released. Now you can leave. Go in peace.” <sup>37</sup> But Paul said to the officers: “They beat us publicly without a trial, even though we are Roman citizens, and threw us into prison. And now do they want to get rid of us quietly? No! Let them come themselves and escort us out.” <sup>38</sup> The officers reported this to the magistrates, and when they heard that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, they were alarmed. <sup>39</sup> They came to appease them and escorted them from the prison, requesting them to leave the city. <sup>40</sup> After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia’s house, where they met with the brothers and sisters and encouraged them. Then they left.



### *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.*

**April 21, 2024**

**10:30am**

**PASTOR**

Dr. Barksdale Pullen

**MUSIC DIRECTOR**

Joan Byron

**ORGANIST**

Denny Ausman

**OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN**

Debbie Rostad

**LITURGIST**

John Evans

**USHERS**

Marjorie Hahn, Katie Schulte, Andy Schulte, Billie Sixt