
10:30am Worship Service

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**PRELUDE** *À la Venue de Noël* Claude Balbastre**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE** Roy & Kathy Belville**INTROIT** *Let's Worship and Adore Him* Traditional
Chancel Choir***HYMN #245** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious God, we know we ought to be watching for signs of Your presence and of Your Son's coming. But we are so easily distracted by what is none of our business, like Peter worrying about the Master's love for John; or even by what is our business, like Martha cooking up a storm in her kitchen; or by sheer fatigue, like the disciples in Gethsemane. Forgive our distraction, most patient Lord, and let this Advent season find us alert to Your presence and eagerly looking forward to the coming of Your Son, both at Christmas and at the end of time. (Silent Confession)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE***GLORIA PATRI #813*****AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Taken from 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.

ANTHEM *Soon and Very Soon* Crouch/Schrader
Chancel Choir**PASTORAL PRAYER****RESPONSE** *Father God* Jack W. Hayford**OFFERTORY** *Shepherds, Rejoice* Robert J. Powell***DOXOLOGY #815*****PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Blessed God, we stand before You as Your people, offering to You what we can in anticipation of Your coming again to earth. You give us much, we give You little - yet, You are gracious to bless what we give. Please accept these small gifts and transform them into the work of Your reign on this earth, as we make ready for the newborn Christ. In His name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE 2 Corinthians 5:16-21**MESSAGE** *New Birth - Life* Pastor Steve Mock***HYMN #240** *Of the Father's Love Begotten***SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Invitation and Prayer of Dedication

Sharing the Bread and Cup

The Prayer of Thanksgiving & the Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

HYMN #243** *Emmanuel (Repeat)*BENEDICTION*****RESPONSE** *Threefold Amen* R. P. Curtis

*Please stand, if able

Hearing assist devices are available at the tech booth – please feel free to ask for one.

Refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the 10:30am service

CCLI #1140231 CVL1 #504000476

9:00am New Beginnings Service

OPENING SONG *Heaven Is in My Heart***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE*****PRAISING GOD IN SONG** *Jesus, Name Above All Names*
Jesus Draw Me Close
*Isn't He***PRAYER****OFFERING** *Come Holy Spirit***SPECIAL MUSIC** *Emmanuel, God With Us*
New Beginnings Praise Team**SCRIPTURE** 2 Corinthians 5:16-21**MESSAGE** *New Birth - Life* Pastor Steve Mock**SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER*****CLOSING SONG** *Holy, You Are Holy*

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Prayer Focus

- Pray for persecuted Christians throughout the world.
- Pray for those who serve in the military and their families during the war against terrorism.
- Pray for our church and ECO as we seek ways to reach the lost and needy in our community and world.
- Pray for Charlotte County, for revival and renewal as part of Prayers Over Charlotte initiated by the Sunday Night Prayer meeting.
- Pray for Rob and Jennifer Taylor, missionaries, that we support.

Those who Grieve

- Pray for the family of Vern Wilson who went home to the Lord on Sunday, Nov. 6, 2016.
- Pray for Linda Potthoff and family on the sudden passing of her brother.
- Pray for Carol Fogg and family on the sudden passing of her husband, Bob, on Tuesday, November 15, 2016.

Those with Special NeedsJerry Julius Rev. Larry Yerger
Kay Callahan Helen Anderson
Ella Sifferd Carol Foster
Dianne Sizemore Nancy Beasom
Cara Gebel Cara Coletti
Mae Snyder Donna Peterson
Ken Haun Anna Belle DeBlauw
Phyllis Ehrhardt Joan Pfeiffer***Those who are in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes***Barbara Shinn, *The Palms of Punta Gorda* Marion Brown, *Royal Palm*
Lorraine Sisson, *Saginaw, MI* John Milligan, *Sandhill Gardens*Doris Henning, *Sandhill Gardens**Please keep the office updated concerning your requests.**Requests will be listed for 4 weeks and then removed unless updated.*

CELL PHONES – Please remember to silence or turn off your mobile devices.**FLOWERS** – The flowers this morning are given by Kathy & Roy Belville in loving memory of Kathy's parents, Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Renton.**DECEMBER 2016 /JANUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER** is available in the church foyer and on our website.**MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES****PRAYER MEETING** – A prayer meeting is held Sunday evenings at 6pm in the Conference Room. Come and be a part of what God's Spirit is doing in our church and community.**PLEDGE CARD** – If you haven't returned your pledge card for 2017, please do so as soon as possible. Pledge cards are available on the table in the back of the Sanctuary. Thank you.**CHRISTMAS DAY AND NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICES** – On Sundays, December 25th and January 1st, *there will be one worship service at 10:30am.***GAME MORNING** – Join us **THIS Tuesday, November 29th** for Game Morning from 10am to Noon in Fellowship Hall. Come to play or just to observe.**EVENING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP** – Meets **THIS Tuesday, November 29th, from 7-8:30pm.** “*Lies Women Believe and the Truth That Sets Them Free*” by Nancy Leigh DeMoss is the focus of our study. This is the final meeting of this study. We will resume in March 2017. All women are invited.**WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** – Pastor Larry leads a Bible Study on **Wednesday mornings at 10am** at the church. All are welcome and we urge you to join in learning about God's Word and how it applies to our lives today.**R.O.M.E.O.S. (Retired Old Men Eating Out Someplace) & J.U.L.I.E.T.S. (Joyful Understanding Ladies Inconspicuously Eating Together Someplace)** - will meet at Sky View Café at the Punta Gorda Airport **THIS Thursday, December 1st at 8:00am.** Come and enjoy the food and fellowship.**THE SECOND CUP (of coffee)** – You're invited to be part of a Bible study discussion group **THIS Thursday, December 1st at 9:30am** in Fellowship Hall. Dave Sifferd leads this study of the Book of Acts, using the NIV Bible as the textbook. Bring a friend and join us on Thursday morning for a Second Cup.**CHRISTMAS GATHERING DINNER** - The Fellowship Team invites you to their 2016 Christmas Dinner on **Saturday, December 3rd at 5:30pm.** Meat, beverages and cake will be furnished. Please bring your favorite dish for the buffet table. The Dunnemans, Gospel Singers, will provide entertainment for us at 7:00pm. Please sign up in the church foyer.**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH** – All women of the church are invited to our Christmas Lunch on **Thursday, December 8th at 11am** in Fellowship Hall. Please bring finger sandwiches or desserts to share; as well as cookies and cookie tins to package for shut-ins, veterans and police officers.**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 for your poinsettia donations are on the table in the back of the sanctuary. **Please return your envelope by December 12th** in order to be listed in a special bulletin insert.**SHOEBOX GIFTING FOR MISIÓN PENIEL** – Fill a shoebox for the children at Misión Peniel. The shoeboxes will be collected until **Sunday, December 18th.** A list of suggested items is in the church foyer. Mark the box “boy” or “girl” and the age on it. **Do not wrap it,** as we will add items to each box.**SHOEBOX DELIVERY TO MISIÓN PENIEL** – We will deliver the Christmas Shoeboxes to Immokalee on **Friday, December 23rd.** **WE NEED EXTRA VOLUNTEERS FOR THIS TRIP!** Call Dianne Sizemore or the church by **Monday, December 12th to volunteer!** We carpool from the church at 12:15pm.**TREASURES TABLE** – The Presbyterian Women need seasonal donations for the Treasures Table in Fellowship Hall. Please bring items before the end of November to make this a cheerful time of giving. Proceeds go to Outreach projects.**SINGLES MINISTRY** – If you are interested in being part of a Singles Ministry here at the church, please sign the sheet in the church foyer.

LIONS, TIGERS & BEARS EXCURSION – Your Fellowship Team has confirmed an excursion to “Lions, Tigers & Bears” in Arcadia on **Saturday, January 21st**. The time is 4-7pm and the cost is \$25, which includes watching the animals at feeding time and a Safari Dinner on the Terrace. We are limited to 20 participants, so please sign up on the sheet in the church foyer.

LOAVES AND FISHES MINISTRY – Are you interested in making a meal when there is a short-term need in the congregation due to an illness or loss? Or deliver a meal that someone else has fixed? If so, please call the church office to volunteer.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MINISTRY – Our RED “Welcome Bags” are in the church foyer waiting for you to deliver to a new neighbor in your neighborhood.

CROSSROADS MINISTRY – AMI KIDS Crossroads is in need of operating funds. If you would like to donate, please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and on the memo line write “Crossroads.”

PLEASE BRING IN FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY - Let us see the blue food bin overflowing each week. **Some suggestions: peanut butter, jelly, cereal and soup.**

FURRY FRIENDS – Our furry friends need your help! In the church foyer there is a green tub where you can put dog and cat food, animal toys and gently used blankets and towels. For questions, ask Randy or Diane Curtis.

PRAYER EMAIL LIST – If you would like to be on Pastor Steve’s prayer email list, please email Pastor Steve at steve@fpcpunta.org.

OUR DAILY BREAD – This booklet of daily devotionals is on the back table in the Sanctuary.

MUSIC MINISTRY – Special Music is available in an mp3 format by emailing Randy at rpc1220@me.com. We also have a private Facebook page where music and occasional videos are uploaded for your enjoyment. To gain access to this page, please email Randy. Live streaming of services is available on our website homepage (www.fpcpunta.org) by clicking on the link: WATCH LIVE AND RECENT SERVICES HERE.

TREASURES TABLE – Visit the Presbyterian Women’s Priceless Treasures table in Fellowship Hall. You may place your “treasures” there (no clothing, please); or if you find a “treasure” that you like, put a donation in the container. Proceeds are for outreach projects.

FLOWERS – May be sponsored for the **cost of \$37.50**. To make a donation, sign up in the church foyer. You may list the flowers in honor and/or in memory of something or someone.

EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

November 27th thru December 4th

<u>Sunday, November 27</u>	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
6:00pm	Prayer Meeting
<u>Tuesday, November 29</u>	
10:00am	Game Morning
7:00pm	Women’s Bible Study at Church
<u>Wednesday, November 30</u>	
10:00am	Bible Study
<u>Thursday, December 1</u>	
8:00am	R.O.M.E.O.S. & J.U.L.I.E.T.S.
9:30am	The Second Cup
5:30pm	Praise Team
7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
<u>Saturday, December 3</u>	
5:30pm	Christmas Gathering Dinner
<u>Sunday, December 4</u>	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9:00am	<i>New Beginnings</i> Worship
10:30am	Traditional Worship
6:00pm	Prayer Meeting

SERMON NOTES

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (NIV)

¹⁶So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

25250 Airport Road
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
941-639-1959 (phone)
941-637-3763 (fax)
Email: first@fpcpunta.org
Office hours: 9:00am to 1:00pm Monday – Friday
Website: www.fpcpunta.org

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Loving...Growing...Going...in Jesus!



ECO

A Covenant Order
of Evangelical
Presbyterians

OUR VISION AND PURPOSE

LOVING...

... God and others through worship and fellowship

GROWING...

... in our understanding Jesus’ and God’s purposes for us through Bible study, and developing our ministries to serve God and others

GOING...

... into God’s world with His message of love and salvation through Jesus Christ, and with His ministries of compassion and mercy

ALL IN JESUS’ NAME!

ECO’S VISION

... to build flourishing churches that make disciples of Jesus Christ

November 27, 2016

9:00am & 10:30am

WELCOME

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 visitor and friend, and that you have chosen to hear God’s call with this congregation. If you are living in this area, either permanently or for the season, we invite you to join hands in ministry with us by becoming a covenant partner of our congregation.

PASTOR	Rev. Steve Mock
ASSISTANT PASTOR	Rev. Larry Yerger
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Randall Curtis
OFFICE MANAGER	Debbie Rostad
LITURGIST	Dave Sifferd
USHERS	Nancy Murphy, Kay Callahan, Jean LaMantia, Sharon Russell