
10:30am Worship Service

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**PRELUDE** *In the Bleak Mid-Winter* Gustav Holst**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE** Art & Fran Koon**INTROIT** *How Great Our Joy!* German Carol
Chancel Choir***HYMN #244** *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Loving God, You kept Your promise to bring light into the world and to guide our steps into the paths of peace. You sent us Jesus and from Him we receive salvation. Yet we confess to being less than faithful in our response. We look to material things and work success to bring meaning to our lives and forget that our worth lies in being beloved children of Your kingdom. Please forgive us, redeeming God, and may Your coming once again reorder our priorities, renew our commitments and refashion our witness. Cast out our sin and enter in; transform us by Your Spirit. *(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 *Adore* Kendrick/Chalk
Chancel Choir**RECOGNITION OF NEW COVENANT PARTNERS**

Lynn Lang – Beverly Brady & George Fallenbeck

PASTORAL PRAYER**RESPONSE** *What Can I Give Him?* Rossetti/Cason**OFFERTORY** *Pastorale* Gilbert M. Martin***DOXOLOGY #815*****PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Lord God, who has given to us so many gifts, Your generosity is sometimes even more than we can comprehend. We praise You for all Your loving gifts. Now we bring to You our gifts and our lives, dedicating them to You for service and ministry. May all that we do show to the world Your great love for all humankind. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:8-14**MESSAGE** *New Birth - Hope* Pastor Steve Mock***HYMN #264** *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light****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 CVLI #504000476

9:00am New Beginnings Service

OPENING SONG *Majesty***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE*****PRAISING GOD IN SONG** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*
Emmanuel
*Infant Holy***PRAYER****OFFERING** *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus***SPECIAL MUSIC** *Adore*
New Beginnings Praise Team**SCRIPTURE** Luke 2:8-14**MESSAGE** *New Birth - Hope* Pastor Steve Mock***CLOSING SONG** *Celebrate the Child*

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 with Special NeedsJerry Julius Rev. Larry Yerger
Kay Callahan Helen Anderson
Ella Sifferd Carol Foster
Dianne Sizemore Nancy Beasom
Cara Gebel Cara Coletti
Ken Haun Donna Peterson
Phyllis Ehrhardt Anna Belle DeBlauw***Those who Grieve***

- 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 who are in Assisted Living or Nursing HomesBarbara Shinn, *The Palms of Punta Gorda* Marion Brown, *Royal Palm*
Lorraine Sisson, *Saginaw, MI* John Milligan, *Sandhill Gardens*
Doris Henning, *Sandhill Gardens* Mae Snyder, *Port Charlotte Rehab**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 Diane Tabert, in memory of her husband, Fred Tabert.**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 EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE – 7:00PM****CHRISTMAS DAY AND NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICES – On Sundays, December 25th and January 1st, there will be one worship service at 10:30am.****THANKS FOR THE HANGING OF THE GREENS** – A very, very special thanks to all those wonderful elves who worked so joyfully to decorate our Church for Christmas. From the many trips to the garage, the balancing acts of hanging the star, banners and wreaths to the mind boggling task of putting together the trees, to finally solving the problem of the visibility of the Crèche and of course the energizing food. Then there was a master minded decision of where to put the poinsettias so all could enjoy them. You elves are so wonderful and we all had so much fun working together. A special thank you to that young, tall, willing person who was everywhere for us. A last thank you for the magical lighting of the unlit string of lights, no doubt by a genius. *Your Fellowship Team***CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS** – 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.**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** meets **THIS Tuesday, December 6th at 10am**. This will be the conclusion of our study of "*Glory Days*". We will meet at the home of Sharon and Robert Cuzner, 2615 Rio Grande Drive, Punta Gorda Isles. The study is about one and a half hours long with time for fellowship and refreshments. All women are invited.**WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** – Pastor Larry leads a Bible Study on **Wednesday mornings at 10am** at the church. **We are currently studying "*Song of Solomon*".** All are welcome and we urge you to join in learning about God's Word and how it applies to our lives today.**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH THIS THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8TH** – 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.**RICE & PINTO BEANS SUNDAY** – We will collect rice & pinto beans for Misión Peniel **next Sunday, December 11th**. Please place your items in the tall container in the church entrance.**CHRISTMAS CANTATA** – **Sunday, December 18th, at the 10:30am service**, the Chancel Choir will present a Christmas Cantata called "*By Heaven's Light*". Come join us for this special musical presentation that will open your hearts for the season of Christmas. Invite friends and neighbors to attend with you!**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.**40 DAYS OF LOVE** – On **January 22, 2017**, we will open the New Year with an

all church study – *40 Days of Love*, based on 1 Corinthians 13. This is a six week small group study. Please use the sign up sheets in the church foyer to choose a group that meets at a convenient time and place for you. We will conclude the study with a Sunday Celebration on March 5th. We urge everyone to participate!

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.

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.**

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

December 4th thru December 11th

<u>Sunday, December 4</u> 6:00pm	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Prayer Meeting
<u>Monday, December 5</u> 3:30pm	Worship Team
<u>Tuesday, December 6</u> 10:00am	Women’s Bible Study at the Cuzners
<u>Wednesday, December 7</u> 10:00am	Bible Study
<u>Thursday, December 8</u> 11:00am 5:30pm 7:00pm	Women’s Christmas Lunch Praise Team Choir Rehearsal
<u>Sunday, December 11</u> 9:00am 10:30am 6:00pm	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>New Beginnings</i> Worship Traditional Worship Prayer Meeting

SERMON NOTES

Luke 2:8-14 (NIV)

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

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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

December 4, 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
ASSISTANT PASTOR
MUSIC DIRECTOR
OFFICE MANAGER
LITURGIST
USHERS

Rev. Steve Mock
Rev. Larry Yerger
Randall Curtis
Debbie Rostad
Marguerite O’Brien
Kay Callahan, Jean LaMantia,
Nancy Murphy, Sharon Russell