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**10:30am Worship Service**

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**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS****PRELUDE** *He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child* arr. Douglas Wagner**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE** Bill & Pauli Purcell**INTROIT** *That Beautiful Name* Perry/Camp  
Chancel Choir**\*HYMN #278** *Angels We Have Heard on High***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

O God, whose wondrous love took the form of a little boy, we confess, honestly and sadly, our great lack of love. We fail to love the unlovely, because the effort seems foredoomed. We forget that, in Your sight, none of us is lovely. We find it hard to love our loved ones without bending, manipulating or otherwise using them. We forget that, with You, love means acceptance first. And Lord, we suspect that we do not love even ourselves properly; and that the poverty of our love may reflect our failure to accept the riches of Your love, offered to us, again and again, freely and gladly, in the form of that little child. Forgive us, merciful Lord, for His sake. *(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** *Love Came Down at Christmas* Joel Raney  
Chancel Choir**PASTORAL PRAYER****RESPONSE** *Come, Child of Hope* R. P. Curtis**OFFERTORY** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* Wilbur Held**\*DOXOLOGY #815****\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

We give our gifts in love and thanksgiving for all that we have been given. Let our giving, gracious God, be not the end point but rather the beginning. Let our gifts of love and gratitude travel where we do not, making pathways of hope where there is none. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE** Romans 12:3-8**MESSAGE** *New Birth - Family* Pastor Steve Mock**\*HYMN #273** *Good Christian Men, Rejoice***\*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

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**9:00am New Beginnings Service**

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**SPECIAL MUSIC** *For Unto Us*  
New Beginnings Praise Team**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE****\*PRAISING GOD IN SONG** *Joyful Medley*  
*Good Christian Men Rejoice*  
*What Child Is This?***PRAYER****OFFERING** *Birthday of a King***SPECIAL MUSIC** *The Little Drummer Boy/Peace on Earth*  
New Beginnings Praise Team**SCRIPTURE** Romans 12:3-8**MESSAGE** *New Birth - Family* Pastor Steve Mock**\*CLOSING SONG** *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

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**MINISTRY OF PRAYER**

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***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 Needs***Jerry Julius Rev. Larry Yerger  
Kay Callahan Helen Anderson  
Ella Sifferd Carol Foster  
Dianne Sizemore Nancy Beasom  
Cara Gebel Cara Coletti  
Ken Haun Joe Cherny  
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 Homes***Barbara 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.*

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**CELL PHONES** – Please remember to silence or turn off your mobile devices.**FLOWERS** – The flowers this morning are given by Gail Thornton, in memory of her father, Harold Herwig.**DECEMBER 2016 / JANUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER** is available in the church foyer and on our website.**MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES****TODAY IS RICE & PINTO BEANS SUNDAY** – Thank you for helping feed the migrant workers in Immokalee.**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.**YEAR-END GIVING** – To make sure your giving for 2016 gets credited for 2016, please have your offering/gift to the church before December 31, 2016. Any donations received after that date will be applied to one’s 2017 giving.**CHRISTMAS CARD LANE** – Please visit the *Christmas Card Lane* display outside the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center to view our church’s “Christmas Card” now through January 7th.**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.****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.**CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR CARA COLETTI** – If you would like to send a Christmas card to Cara, one of our prayer recipients, please address the envelope:  
Homestead Correctional Institution  
Cara N. Coletti Y49443  
19000 SW 377 Street Suite 200  
Florida City, FL 33034**PRAYER SHAWL GATHERING** – If you like to knit or crochet, please gather with us in Fellowship Hall **THIS Monday, December 12th at 10am.****WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** – Pastor Larry leads a Bible Study on Wednesday mornings at 10am at the church. **We are currently studying “Esther”.** All are welcome and we urge you to join in learning about God’s Word and how it applies to our lives today.**CHRISTMAS CANTATA – NEXT 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!**DEACON’S FUND – NEXT Sunday, December 18th,** is our monthly collection to help support congregation and emergency needs, Misión Peniel, and others.**SHOEBOX GIFTING FOR MISIÓN PENIEL** – Fill a shoebox for the children at Misión Peniel. The shoeboxes will be collected until **NEXT 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 watch for 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.

**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](mailto:steve@fpcpunta.org).

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

**THE FELLOWSHIP TEAM** requests your comments and suggestions for our activities. An “idea box” is in the church foyer.

**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.

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**EVENTS FOR THE WEEK**

December 11th thru December 18th

<b><u>Sunday, December 11</u></b>	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>
6:00pm	Prayer Meeting
<b><u>Monday, December 12</u></b>	
10:00am	Prayer Shawl Gathering
<b><u>Tuesday, December 13</u></b>	
10:00am	Game Morning
1:30pm	Missions Team
<b><u>Wednesday, December 14</u></b>	
10:00am	Bible Study
<b><u>Thursday, December 15</u></b>	
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
<b><u>Sunday, December 18</u></b>	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>
9:00am	<i>New Beginnings</i> Worship
10:30am	Traditional Worship/Christmas Cantata
6:00pm	Prayer Meeting

**SERMON NOTES**

**Romans 12:3-8 (NIV)**

<sup>3</sup>For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. <sup>4</sup>For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup>We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; <sup>7</sup>if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; <sup>8</sup>if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

**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 11, 2016**

**9:00am & 10:30am**

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**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  
Georgia Cherny  
Kay Callahan, Jean LaMantia,  
Sharon Russell, Nancy Murphy

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