
10:30am Worship Service

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Sing We Now of Christmas* arr. Douglas Wagner

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Joe and Betty Brooks

***HYMN #259** *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

PASTORAL PRAYER**OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS**

OFFERTORY *O Little Town of Bethlehem* arr. Wilbur Held

DOXOLOGY #815**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Gracious God, we thank You for this season of carols and giving, and for Your most precious gift of Jesus. We offer You our lives and offerings: our hopes and our plans, our work and our play. May love and justice blossom from our gifts. Amen.

MESSAGE IN SCRIPTURE AND MUSIC The Chancel Choir***Go Tell It!***

Written and arranged by Jack Schrader
Director of Music – Randall Curtis
Narrator – Steve Mock

Overture

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Come, Messiah, Come

How Great Our Joy!

Still, Still, Still

Mary, Did You Know?

Christmas Medley

Go Tell It!

BENEDICTION**POSTLUDE**

*Please stand, if able

Hearing assist devices are available at the tech booth – please feel free to ask for one.
CCLI #1140231 CVLI #502319310

9:00am New Beginnings Service

SPECIAL MUSIC *African Noel*
New Beginnings Praise Team

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

***PRAISING GOD IN SONG** *Go Tell It On The Mountain*
Love Has Come
What Child Is This?

PRAYER

OFFERING *Infant Holy*

SPECIAL MUSIC *Sing Noel*
New Beginnings Praise Team

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 61:1-3

MESSAGE *Good News – For the Captives* Pastor Steve Mock

***CLOSING SONG** *Joy to the World*

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Prayer Focuses

- 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 new denomination 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 to Zambia, that we support.

Those who Grieve

- Pray for Don Rebholz on the loss of his brother, Rodney Rebholz, on November 20th, 2015
- Pray for Diane Tabert and family on the loss of her husband, Fred, on December 4th, 2015

Those with Special Needs

Jerry & Nancy Julius	Rev. Larry Yerger
Helmut Ehrhardt	Helen Anderson
Kay Callahan	Arlene Gebel
Ella Sifferd	Carol Foster
Dianne Sizemore	Nancy Beasom
Cara Coletti	

Those who are in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes

Barbara Shinn, <i>The Palms of Punta Gorda</i>	Dorothy Blue, <i>Harbor Terrace</i>
Lorraine Sisson, <i>Saginaw, MI</i>	Marion Brown, <i>Royal Palm</i>
Doris Henning, <i>Sandhill Gardens</i>	John Milligan, <i>Sandhill Gardens</i>

Please keep the office updated concerning your requests.

Requests will be listed for 4 weeks and then removed unless updated.

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

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

FLOWERS – The flowers this morning are given by Gail Thornton in loving memory of her father, Harold Herwig.

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER is available in the foyer and on our website.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

TODAY IS RICE & PINTO BEANS SUNDAY – Thank you for helping feed the migrant workers in Immokalee.

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 are on the table in the back of the sanctuary. ***Please return your envelope TODAY*** in order to be listed in a special bulletin insert.

SHOEBOX GIFTING FOR MISIÓN PENIEL – ***Return your Shoeboxes TODAY.*** We will deliver them this coming Friday.

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 2016, 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 2015 gets credited for 2015, please have your offering/gift to the church by December 31, 2015. Any donations received after that date will be applied to one’s 2016 giving.

2016 OFFERING ENVELOPES AVAILABLE – The 2016 offering envelope boxes are now available for you to pick up on the table in the foyer. If you don’t see your name; or if you haven’t used envelopes in the past, but would like to, let the office know and we’ll assign a box of envelopes for you to use.

HELP NEEDED - Fellowship Committee is looking for one or two people to oversee the kitchen. This consists of checking supplies, putting items away, and keeping the kitchen as uncluttered as possible. If you are interested, please contact Nancy Beasom at 505-9383 or Gail Thornton 916-1726.

CPR CLASS – Beginning in January 2016, we will hold Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation classes. If you would like to learn more about CPR, please contact the church office to sign up. Debbie Carney, our former Parish Nurse, will coordinate scheduling the class dates and times.

PRAYER SHAWL GATHERING – If you like to knit or crochet, please gather with us in Fellowship Hall **THIS Monday, December 14th at 10am.**

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY meets **THIS Tuesday, December 15th.** We continue with the study of Luke using Elizabeth George’s *Living with Passion & Purpose, A Woman After God’s Own Heart.* The study meets at the home of Sharon Cuzner, 2615 Rio Grande Drive, Punta Gorda Isles, and begins at 10am. The study is about 1½ hours long with time for fellowship and refreshments. All women of the church are welcome.

BIBLE STUDY AT FPCPG – Pastor Larry is leading a study on the Book of Ezekiel through December on **Wednesday mornings at 10am.**

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 at 8:00am **THIS Thursday, December 17th.** 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 17th 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.

HELPING MISIÓN PENIEL – Our next mission trip to Immokalee will be **THIS Friday, December 18th.** We will carpool from the church at 12:15pm. Call Dianne Sizemore or the church office to volunteer. Donations of ***gently used blankets, sheets, towels, long-sleeve t-shirts and regular shirts*** can be put in the wicker basket in the church foyer.

DEACON'S FUND – NEXT Sunday, December 20th, is our monthly collection to help support congregation and emergency needs, Misión Peniel, and others.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE – 7PM

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? Are you willing to deliver a meal that someone else has fixed? If so, please call the church office to volunteer.

CROSSROADS MINISTRY – AMI KIDS Crossroads is in need of operating funds. To donate, please make checks payable to the church and on the memo line write “Crossroads.”

MISSIONARY SUPPORT – We are financially supporting the Taylor family in their 2-year commitment in Zambia, Africa. Please pray for them. If you would like to donate to this mission, please make checks payable to the church and on the memo line write “Taylor Family.”

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.

THE FELLOWSHIP TEAM requests your comments & suggestions for our activities. An “idea box” is on the sign-up table in the church foyer.

FLOWERS – May be sponsored for the **cost of \$37**. 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 13th thru December 20th

<u>Sunday, December 13</u> 6:00pm	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Prayer Meeting
<u>Monday, December 14</u> 10:00am	Prayer Shawl Gathering
<u>Tuesday, December 15</u> 10:00am	Women’s Bible Study at the Cuzners
<u>Wednesday, December 16</u> 10:00am	Bible Study
<u>Thursday, December 17</u> 8:00am 9:30am 5:30pm 7:00pm	R.O.M.E.O.S. & J.U.L.I.E.T.S. Second Cup Bible Study Praise Team Choir Rehearsal
<u>Friday, December 18</u> 12:15pm	Mission Team Trip to Immokalee
<u>Saturday, December 19</u> 11:00am	Memorial Service for Fred Tabert
<u>Sunday, December 20</u> 9:00am 10:30am 6:00pm	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT New Beginnings Worship Traditional Worship Prayer Meeting

SERMON NOTES

Isaiah 61:1-3 (NIV)

¹The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, ²to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, ³and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.

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 13, 2015

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
USHERS

Rev. Steve Mock
Rev. Larry Yerger
Randall Curtis
Debbie Rostad
Kay Callahan, Pat Patterson,
Jean LaMantia, Marguerite O’Brien

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