

## 3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

10:30am Worship Service

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE** *The Kingsfold Trumpet* Alfred V. Fedak

**THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE** Art & Fran Koon

**\*HYMN #271** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You*

### PASTORAL PRAYER

### OFFERING OF TITHES, GIFTS

**OFFERTORY** *On Christmas Night* Traditional English Melody

### \*DOXOLOGY #815

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, we thank you for this season of carols and gifts, and for your most precious gift of Jesus. We offer you our lives and these gifts: 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 Mystery and the Majesty*  
A Cantata by Joseph M. Martin  
Director of Music – Randall Curtis  
Narrator – Diane Curtis

*A Christmas Flourish*  
Solo – Diane Curtis

*Carol of Longing*

*Advent Jubilation*

*The Coming Joy*  
Solo – Pat Ihrle

*Upon a Midnight Clear*

*A Call to Christmas Joy*

*Journey to Bethlehem*  
Solo – Marcia Ling

*The Beautiful Impossible*  
Solo – Pat Ihrle

*A Noel Proclamation*

### \*BENEDICTION

### \*POSTLUDE

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

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

9:00am New Beginnings Service

**\*GATHERING SONG** *Calypso Lullaby*  
New Beginnings Praise Team Women

**THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE** Gail Thornton

**\*PRAISING GOD IN SONG** *Good Christian Men Rejoice*  
*O Little Town of Bethlehem*  
*What Child Is This?*

### PRAYER

**OFFERING** *Isn't He*

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *O Little of Bethlehem*  
New Beginnings Praise Team

**SCRIPTURE** Isaiah 32:1-4, 15-17; Luke 2:25-35

**MESSAGE** *Sing, Simeon, Sing* Rev. Larry Yerger

**\*CLOSING SONG** *Jesus, Name Above All Names*

### 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 new denomination as we seek ways to reach the lost and needy in our community and world.
- The family of CCSO Sgt. Michael Wilson who was killed in the line of duty August 5, 2013 and the law enforcement officers who daily put their lives on the line for us.

#### *Those Who Grieve*

#### *Those with Special Needs*

Betty Stroth	Fred & Rachel Pfaender
Helmut Ehrhardt	Paul & Arlene Gebel
Joyce Kiskaddon	Rev. Larry Yerger
Adelaide Hauck	Ella Sifferd
Jerry & Nancy Julius	Rob & Jennifer Taylor & family
Kay Callahan	Doris Henning
Elizabeth Dunn	Marguerite O'Brien

#### *Those who are in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes*

Sarah Ferry, <i>Rosie's Adult Family Care</i>	Dorothy Blue, <i>Harbor Terrace</i>
Barbara Shinn, <i>The Palms of Punta Gorda</i>	Marion Brown, <i>Royal Palm</i>
Esther Wheeler, <i>Life Care Center</i>	

*\*Please keep the office updated concerning your requests. Requests will be listed for 4 weeks and then removed unless updated.*

### MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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

**FLOWERS** – The flowers this morning are given by Barbie and Frank Shore, Jr. in memory of their mom, Ruth, on her birthday.

**PRAYER SERVICE** – A weekly prayer service is being offered on **Sunday evenings at 6:00pm** in the Conference Room. Come and share in this experience of God's people praying together.

**PLEDGE CARD** – If you haven't returned your pledge card for 2015, we urge you do so as soon as possible. Extras can be found on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** – Please submit your articles for the January newsletter by **Monday, December 8th**.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** will continue on the first and third Tuesday of each month in the home of Sharon & Robert Cuzner, 2615 Rio Grande, Punta Gorda Isles and starts at 10am. Our current study is called "Soul Keeping" by John Ortberg and is about 2 hours, with time for fellowship and refreshments. All women of the church are welcome. Our next study is **Tuesday, December 16th**.

**BIBLE STUDY AT FPCPG** – Participate in a Bible study with Rev. Larry Yerger every **Wednesday at 10am** involving in-depth discussions on a variety of Biblical topics and their relationship to current affairs. Our current study is the Book of Revelation. New attendees are always welcome to join us. **THIS WEEK'S CLASS IS CANCELLED.**

**NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR** – On **Friday, December 19th**, FPCPG will serve a free meal for people who need food assistance from 5 – 7pm. We need volunteers to help serve, greet the people, and clean up afterwards. If you can help, please sign up in the church entrance.

#### **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE – 7PM**

**YEAR-END GIVING** – To make sure your giving for 2014 gets credited for 2014, you must have your offering/gift to the church before December 31, 2014. Any offerings and/or gifts received after that date will be applied to one's 2015 giving.

**2015 OFFERING ENVELOPES AVAILABLE** – The 2015 offering envelope boxes are now available on the table in the foyer. Please pick yours up and if there isn't one with your name on it, please let the office know so we can get you your box. If you haven't used envelopes in the past, but would like to, let the office know and we'll get a box of offering envelopes for you to use.

**HOLY LAND EXPERIENCE IN ORLANDO** – The trip to the Holy Land Experience has been set up for **Wednesday, February 25, 2015**. The cost is \$75, which includes bus and admission; it's \$50 to rent a scooter. A sign-up sheet is available in the church entrance. If you have already signed up showing interest in going, you need to sign up again. (It was suggested that you bring a jacket because the theater is cool).

**HELPING MISIÓN PENIEL** – The migrants are in need of GENTLY USED BLANKETS, SHEETS AND TOWELS. They also need LONG-SLEEVE T-SHIRTS AND REGULAR SHIRTS. Please put donations in the wicker basket in the church entrance. If you would like to volunteer on a Friday afternoon to help with serving the meal at Misión Peniel, talk to Dianne Sizemore. The next trip will be **Friday, January 23rd**, carpooling from the church at 12:15pm.

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

**MISSIONARY SUPPORT** – We are financially helping to support Rob and Jennifer Taylor and their four children in their 2-year commitment to the mission field in Zambia, Africa. Please pray for them. If you would like to donate to this mission, please make your check out to the church and in the memo line enter “Taylor Family.” Thanks- your Mission Team.

**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.**

**AMI KIDS CROSSROADS** – 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.”

**OUR DAILY BREAD** – Pick up a copy of this booklet of daily devotionals on the back table in the Sanctuary.

**MUSIC MINISTRY** - Special Music is available in an mp3 format by emailing Randy at [rpc1220@me.com](mailto:rpc1220@me.com). We also have a private Facebook page where music and occasional videos are uploaded for your enjoyment. To be invited to this page please email Randy at [rpc1220@me.com](mailto:rpc1220@me.com). Live streaming of both services are available on the Church's website homepage by clicking on the link: WATCH LIVE AND RECENT SERVICES HERE: [www.fpcpunta.org](http://www.fpcpunta.org). Your comments, thoughts and ideas are also welcome.

**FLOWERS** – May be funded for the **cost of \$37**. To make a donation, sign up at the sign-up table in the church lobby. If the flowers are in honor and/or in memory of something or someone, please put that on the sign-up sheet.

**EVENTS FOR THE WEEK**

**December 7th thru December 14th**

<b><u>Sunday, December 14</u></b>	<b><u>3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT</u></b>
<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Prayer Service</b>
<b><u>Monday, December 15</u></b>	
<b>2:00pm</b>	<b>Session</b>
<b><u>Tuesday, December 16</u></b>	
<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Women’s Bible Study @ Cuzner’s</b>
<b><u>Wednesday, December 17</u></b>	
<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Bible Study w/ Rev. Larry Yerger CANCELLED</b>
<b><u>Thursday, December 18</u></b>	
<b>8:00am</b>	<b>R.O.M.E.O.S. &amp; J.U.L.I.E.T.S. @ Sky View Café, Punta Gorda Airport</b>
<b>9:30am</b>	<b>The Second Cup Bible Study</b>
<b>5:30pm</b>	<b>Praise Team Practice</b>
<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b><u>Friday, December 19</u></b>	
<b>5:00 – 7:00pm</b>	<b>Neighbor-to-Neighbor FREE Dinner</b>
<b><u>Sunday, December 21</u></b>	<b><u>4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT</u></b>
<b>9:00am</b>	<b>New Beginnings Worship</b>
<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Traditional Worship &amp; Cantata</b>
<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Prayer Service</b>

**SERMON NOTES**

**Matthew 1:18-25 (ESV)**

Behold, a king will reign in righteousness and princes will rule in justice. Each will be like a hiding place from the wind, a shelter from the storm, like streams of water in a dry place, like the shade of a great rock in a weary land. Then the eyes of those who see will not be closed and the ears of those who hear will give attention. The heart of the hasty will understand and know, and the tongue of the stammerers will hasten to speak distinctly...until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field and the fruitful field is deemed a forest. Then justice will dwell in the wilderness and righteousness abide in the fruitful field and the effect of righteousness will be peace and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever.

**Matthew 2:25-35 (ESV)**

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him and it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. He came in the Spirit into the temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for Him according to the custom of the Law, {Simeon} took {Jesus} up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation that You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to Your people Israel". His father and His mother marveled at what was said about Him. Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, {Jesus}' mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

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**Email: [first@fpcpunta.org](mailto:first@fpcpunta.org)**

**Office hours: 9:00am to 3:30pm Monday – Thursday**

**Closed Friday**

*Our Web Site can be found at: [www.fpcpunta.org](http://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*

**December 14, 2014**

**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**  
**PARISH NURSE**  
**USHERS**

Rev. Steve Mock  
Rev. Larry Yerger  
Randall Curtis  
Elizabeth Dunn  
Debbie Carney  
Kay Callahan, Sharon Russell,  
Richard Beck, Mary Anne Washabaugh