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### 10:30am Worship Service

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#### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE** *Good Christian Men, Rejoice* arr. Wilbur Held

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE** Rachel Pfaender & Jay Aldridge

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

#### PASTORAL PRAYER

#### OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS

**OFFERTORY** *What Child Is This?* arr. John Rasley

#### \*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

##### *By Heaven's Light*

Words by Tom S. Long and Music by Allen Pote  
Director of Music – Randall Curtis  
Narrators – Steve Mock and Diane Curtis

##### *Prepare the Way of the Lord*

*Emmanuel*

*The Angel Gabriel*

*Mary's Song*

Marcia Ling, Soloist

*The Journey*

*Song of the Angels*

Diane Curtis, Soloist

*March of the Kings*

*Away in a Manger*

*One Flame*

#### \*BENEDICTION

#### \*POSTLUDE

\*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** *Never Been A Night*  
New Beginnings Praise Team

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

**\*PRAISING GOD IN SONG** *O Come All Ye Faithful*  
*Hark the Herald Angels Sing*  
*Manger Medley*

#### PRAYER

**OFFERING** *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *Love Came Down at Christmas*  
New Beginnings Praise Team

**SCRIPTURE** Luke 12:16-19

**MESSAGE** “Happy Christmas” Pastor Larry Yerger

**\*CLOSING SONG** *Angels We Have Heard on High*

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#### 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 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
Joan Pfeiffer	

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

Barbara Shinn, <i>The Palms of Punta Gorda</i>	Marion Brown, <i>Royal Palm</i>
Lorraine Sisson, <i>Saginaw, MI</i>	John Milligan, <i>Sandhill Gardens</i>
Doris Henning, <i>Sandhill Gardens</i>	Mae Snyder, <i>Port Charlotte Rehab</i>

*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 Jean Shafer, in memory of her husband and son.

**DECEMBER 2016 / JANUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER** is available in the church foyer and on our website.

#### MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

**DEACON'S FUND OFFERING TODAY** – Our monthly collection supports our efforts to help congregation needs, emergency needs, Misión Peniel Spanish devotionals, and others.

**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.

**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 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 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

**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.

**2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES AVAILABLE** – The 2017 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.

**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.

**SHOEBOX GIFTING FOR MISIÓN PENIEL** – Fill a shoebox for the children at Misión Peniel. The shoeboxes will be collected through **TODAY 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, so call the church to volunteer!** We carpool from the church at 12:15pm.

**SIGN UP TO HELP TAKE THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS DOWN** – Join us on Friday, January 6th, at 10am to help take down and store our decorations.

**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.

**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.

**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 gain access to this page, please email Randy. Live streaming of services is available on our website homepage ([www.fpcpunta.org](http://www.fpcpunta.org)) by clicking on the link: WATCH LIVE AND RECENT SERVICES HERE.

**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.

## SERMON NOTES

Luke 12:16-19 (NIV)

<sup>16</sup>And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. <sup>17</sup>He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’ <sup>18</sup>“Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. <sup>19</sup>And I’ll say to myself, ‘You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.’”

## 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 18, 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**  
**USHERS**

Rev. Steve Mock  
Rev. Larry Yerger  
Randall Curtis  
Debbie Rostad  
Nancy Murphy, Jean LaMantia,  
Sharon Russell, Linda Potthoff

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Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
941-639-1959 (phone)  
941-637-3763 (fax)  
Email: [first@fpcpunta.org](mailto:first@fpcpunta.org)  
Office hours: 9:00am to 1:00pm Monday – Thursday  
Website: [www.fpcpunta.org](http://www.fpcpunta.org)

### EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

December 18th thru December 25th

<u>Sunday, December 18</u> 6:00pm	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Prayer Meeting
<u>Monday, December 19</u> 2:00pm	Session
<u>Tuesday, December 20</u> 10:00am	Game Morning
<u>Wednesday, December 21</u> 10:00am	Bible Study
<u>Thursday, December 22</u> 7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
<u>Friday, December 23</u> 12:15pm	Mission Team Trip to Immokalee
<u>Saturday, December 24</u> 7:00pm	CHRISTMAS EVE Communion Service
<u>Sunday, December 25</u> 10:30am	CHRISTMAS DAY Worship Service