



APRIL 2024

**Worship Service in our Sanctuary at 10:30am
or watch our worship service LIVE! at:
www.fpcpunta.org and click on the logo "YouTube"**

25250 Airport Road
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
941-639-1959
first@fpcpunta.org
www.fpcpunta.org



After Easter, Now What?

Easter has come and gone. In the stores the chocolate eggs will be discounted, and Easter cards will be replaced by Graduation or Mother's Day cards. But here is the question: What do we do once Easter Sunday is over? We are celebrating the event that makes us Christians, and because Jesus rose from the grave, He had victory over death, sin, and Satan; that means that everything changes! So now what?

We ask ourselves, what does Easter mean to me? Will the events of Easter Sunday have real life-changing implications in my life? Whether you are staying with us year-round, or heading back home, let Easter influence how you live your life.

What did Mary do when she saw the empty grave? She had to go and tell someone; she told the disciples! How about the disciples? Well, at first, they were skeptical, but upon seeing Jesus they believed and understood His words.

Jesus Himself gave them the task, we read about it in Matthew 28: *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*

So what did Peter do? This same Peter who had denied Christ three times. This same Peter who answered Jesus three times on the beach, "Of course I love you." That Peter, and the rest of us were given a task – feed my sheep. So, what did Peter do? He shared the good news of the Gospel, and it records in Acts, "*Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.*"

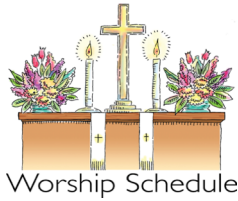
So, what are we to do after Easter Sunday? Take up that same mantle – share the good news of the Gospel and don't keep it to ourselves. We might not see 3,000 people converted at one time, but that is not the point. There will be lots of opportunities in the coming months to invite friends to join us in activities at the church. These opportunities are for us to fellowship together, but also opportunities to expose people to the community of faith, and more importantly the One who makes us a community – Jesus Christ. Keep an eye on the bulletin for these opportunities that will help you grow in your faith.

I want to simply challenge you to not let the celebration of Easter end on Easter Sunday. Take the good news of the Gospel into the world, which begins right outside your door.

In Christ,

Pastor Barksdale

WORSHIP MINISTRY



Worship Schedule

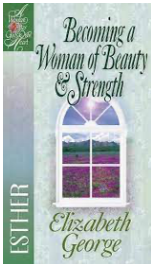
Sunday Mornings - 10:30am Worship Service (Also Online)
Sunday Evenings - 6:00pm Prayer Meeting (On Facebook)



Fellowship Time

Join us for beverages, cookies and treats after Sunday's Worship Service

DISCIPLESHIP 2024



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

We are studying the Bible book of "Esther"

We meet the first and third Tuesdays each month at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall

Tuesdays, April 2nd and 16th

"Choosing at the Crossroads" - Esther 4:9-17 and "Turning Point to Greatness" - Esther 5:1-8
Call Kathy Belville at 508-733-0546 for more information - All are welcome!



Donuts & Doctrine

DONUTS & DOCTRINE Bible Study - Book of Daniel

Wednesdays at 10:00am

The book of Daniel is a favorite for teachers and students alike. And for good reason. It has all the makings of a great story—memorable characters, cliff-hanger drama, and science fiction–like visions. Yet therein lies a potential danger. Because the human actors and events are so fascinating, we are tempted when studying this book to fix our gaze on the human plane. But when this happens, we can inadvertently lose sight of the fact that this book is ultimately not about Daniel or his three friends, but about God and his victory in the world. Sure, the book of Daniel tells Daniel's story—and a fascinating and instructive story it is. But the main purpose of Daniel is to reveal to us who God is—his character, his purposes, his way of working in the world for the good of his people. The main lesson of Daniel, then, is not, as is often assumed (and taught!), Dare to be a Daniel! Rather, the main point is this: *Dare to trust in Daniel's God!*



Church Membership CLASS

Next class scheduled for Sunday, **April 28th** at 9:30am
Sign up to attend a one-class introduction to FPC



DINNER & A MOVIE - The Chosen

Begins Wednesday, April 10th

Dinner at 5:00pm

followed by "The Chosen" Season 4, Episode 1

Sign up in the church foyer

Other Episodes on April 24th, May 8th and 22nd
June 12th and 26th, July 10th and 24th



DISCIPLESHIP WISDOM

Are you a Disciple of Jesus Christ?

Is Jesus Christ significant to you?

Do you believe Jesus was born of virgin?

”In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.” Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.” “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.” “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.“ Luke 1:26-38 NIV <https://bible.com/bible/111/luk.1.26-38.NIV>

Do you believe Jesus is the Son of God?

”As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”“ Matthew 3:16-17 NIV <https://bible.com/bible/111/mat.3.16-17.NIV>

Do you believe Jesus’ ministry doing the work of God?

Jesus’ Miracles & Healings:

- Water Into Wine (John 2:1-11)
- Healing the Official’s Son (John 4:43-54)
- The Healing at the Pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-9)
- The Feeding of the 5000 (John 6:1-5)
- Walking on the Water (John 6:16-25)
- Healing The Man Born Blind (John 9:1-41)
- Raising Lazarus From The Dead (John 11:1-44)

Do you believe in the Crucifixion of Jesus?

”He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.“ Isaiah 53:3-5, 7 NIV <https://bible.com/bible/111/isa.53.3-7.NIV>

Do you believe in the resurrection of Jesus?

”Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!” So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.“ John 20:1-10 NIV <https://bible.com/bible/111/jhn.20.1-10.NIV>

Continued on Page 4

DISCIPLESHIP WISDOM - continued from Page 3

Jesus in every book of the Bible: Old Testament

Genesis	Seed of a Woman	Gen. 3:15
Exodus	Passover Lamb	Ex. 12:13, 21
Leviticus	High Priest	Lev. 16:32a
Numbers	Smitten Rock That Brings Forth Living Water	Num. 20:8
Deuteronomy	Prophet	Deut. 18:17-19
Joshua	Captain of the Lord of Hosts	Josh. 5:13-15
Judges	Great and Final Judge	Judg. 2:16, 18
Ruth	Heavenly Kinsman	Ruth 3:9
1 & 2 Samuel	Anointed One	1 Sam. 24:6
1 & 2 Kings	King of kings and Lord of lords	1 Kin. 3:9, 9:5
1 & 2 Chronicles	Glory and the Temple of God	2 Chron. 5:13-14
Ezra	Teacher from God	Ezra 7:10
Nehemiah	Rebuilder of Broken Lives	Neh. 2:5
Esther	Protector of His People	Esth. 4:14
Job	Comforter	Job 42:10-17
Psalms	Good Shepherd	Ps. 23:1
Ecclesiastes	Preacher of the Kingdom of God	Ecc. 12:9
Song of Songs	Bridegroom	Song 2:4
Isaiah	Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace	Isa. 9:6
Jeremiah	Potter	Jer. 18:5-6
Lamentations	Weeping Prophet	Lam. 1:16
Ezekiel	Wheel in the Middle of the Wheel	Ezek. 1:15-21, 28b
Daniel	Son of Man and the Fourth Man in the Fiery Furnace	Dan. 7:13, 3:25
Hosea	Love of God to the Backslider	Hos. 14:4
Joel	Baptism of the Holy Spirit	Joel 2:28
Amos	Restorer of the Ruins	Amos 9:11-15
Obadiah	Judge of All Who Do Evil	Obad. 1:15
Jonah	Salvation of Our Lord	Jonah 2:9
Micah	Ruler Over Israel	Mic. 5:2
Nahum	Stronghold in the Day of Trouble	Nah. 1:7
Habakkuk	God of Mercy	Hab. 3:2
Zephaniah	Mighty Warrior Who Saves	Zeph. 3:17
Haggai	Desire of All Nations	Hag. 2:6-7
Zechariah	Branch of Jehovah; the Son Pierced for Us	Zech. 6:12, 12:10
Malachi	Refiner's Fire and Sun of Righteousness	Mal. 3:3, 4:2

Jesus in every book of the Bible: New Testament - continued on Page 5

Jesus in every book of the Bible: New Testament

Matthew	Kingly Messiah and Suffering Servant	Matt. 21:1-9, 8:14-17
Mark	Miracle Worker	Mark 6:2
Luke	Savior for All	Luke 2:25-32
John	Lamb of God Who Takes Away the Sin of the World	John 1:29
Acts	Risen Lord; Spirit Who Dwells Within Us	Acts 1:4-11
Romans	Our Justification	Rom. 4:25
1 & 2 Corinthians	Our Sanctification	1 Cor. 1:30, 6:11
Galatians	Our Liberation	Gal. 5:1
Ephesians	Our Perfection	Eph. 4:13
Philippians	Our Joy	Phil. 4:4
Colossians	Head of the Body, the Church	Col. 1:18
1 & 2 Thessalonians	Coming Lord	1 Thess. 5:23
1 & 2 Timothy	Judge of All Men	2 Tim. 4:1
Titus	Redeemer of the World	Titus 2:13-14
Philemon	Friend Who Sticks Closer Than a Brother	Philem. 1:9b-12, 15-16
Hebrews	Author and Finisher of Our Faith	Heb. 12:2
James	Power of Our Faith	Jas. 2:26
1 & 2 Peter	Chief Shepherd and the Overseer of Our Souls	1 Pet. 5:4; 1 Pet. 2:25
1 & 2 & 3 John	Word of Life	1 John 1:1-2
Jude	Coming One	Jude 1:14
Revelation	Alpha and Omega, Beginning and End	Rev. 22:13, 5:5-8, 19:16

MILITARY PRAYER LIST

Prayer

O Prince of Peace, we humbly ask Your protection for all our men and women in military service. Give them unflinching courage to defend with honor, dignity and devotion the rights of all who are imperiled by injustice and evil. Guard our churches, our homes, our schools, our hospitals, our factories, our buildings, and all those within from harm and peril. Protect our land and its people from enemies within and without. Grant an early peace with victory founded upon justice. Instill in the hearts and minds of men and women everywhere a firm purpose to live forever in peace and good will towards all. Amen.

- * Major John McPherson, Air Force, great nephew of Marguerite O'Brien, stationed at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas
- * Major Ryan Swisher, Army Ranger, grandson of Rachel Pfaender, stationed in North Carolina
- * Major Eric Engstrom, Army Intel., son of Alan Engstrom, stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas
- * Captain Zadick Self, Marines, grandson-in-law of Ron Beasom, stationed in Peoria, Illinois
- * Navy Seaman Tyler Beasom, Navy, grandson of Ron Beasom, stationed in San Diego, California
- * Lt. Col. David Sifferd, Jr., Army Reserve, son of David Sifferd, stationed in Ft. Knox, KY
- * Pvt. Michael Robert Wagner, U.S. Marine Corp., great-grandson of Robert and Jean Humphreys, stationed in Hawaii
- * Second Lieutenant, JTAC, Alexander Kingsbury, Air Force, great-grandson of Tim Ronan, stationed in New York
- * Major Christina West, Army, granddaughter of William Dosse, stationed at Fort Liberty (formerly Fort Bragg, NC) and her Fiancée Major Matt Walter, Army, currently deployed in the Middle East

FPC'S ANNUAL CONCERT SERIES 2023 - 2024



Sunday, November 19, 2023, 3:00pm

Barefoot Trio

David Suarez-Rio, flute; Devin Burgess, viola; John McColley, harp
An enchanting fall performance of music presenting works by Claude Debussy, Carl Nielsen, Andre Jolivet and more



Sunday, December 17, 2023, 3:00pm

The Two Piano Group

The Two Piano Group of Charlotte County unites once again to perform their traditional mix of contemporary and traditional favorites, plus some new and innovative selections. These area musicians come from a professional pianistic musical background and are joined together by their love of playing the enhanced orchestral like sound created by the two-piano repertoire.



Sunday, January 21, 2024, 3:00pm

Cahal Dunne

Cahal Dunne, "Ireland's Piano Man", is a composer, pianist, comedian, story teller, and television personality. His style is rich and deep, reflecting the many strands in his distinguished career. Sit back and enjoy this entertainer extraordinaire.



Sunday, February 18, 2024, 3:00pm

The Goldtones

The Goldtones are one of Florida's premiere vocal harmony groups singing songs ranging from the traditional doo-wop tunes of the 50s and 60s to those melodies sung by later groups of the 70s and 80s. Audiences love them not only for their vocal talents, but for their humor and their audience interaction.



Sunday, April 7, 2024, 3:00pm

Stephanie Smith, Organist

Stephanie served as FPC's Organist from 2018 - 2020. In this concert she will share some of her favorite exciting hymn-based compositions. Stephanie now serves as Organist and Music Director at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Palatka, Florida.

April 7th Concert - A free will offering will be taken - \$15.00 Suggested Donation

**All concerts presented at First Presbyterian Church of Punta Gorda
25250 Airport Road, Punta Gorda, FL 33950 Website - fpcpunta.org**

FPC ACTIVITIES AND OUTREACH



PRAYER SHAWL GATHERING
Monday, April 8th at 10:00am



GAME FELLOWSHIP
Thursday mornings at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall All are welcome!



LADIES LUNCH BUNCH

1st and 3rd Friday of each month

Sign up in the church foyer

*Friday, April 5th
12:00pm
Riviera Bar & Grill
Punta Gorda*

*Friday, April 19th
12:00pm
Red Lobster
Port Charlotte*



PULLEN UP A CHAIR

Barksdale and Bo will host get-together dinners for groups of eight at their home

Wednesday, April 3rd at 5:00pm

Sign up in the church foyer or call/email the church office

There is no agenda, lesson, or study, just a time to get together for fellowship



Burgers for Badges - Monday, April 15th, 11am to 1pm

*Help us show our appreciation to our Sheriff's Department
as we grill out hamburgers and hotdogs.*

*Sign up in the church foyer to bring cookies or desserts.
If you would like to make a donation to help defray the costs
of this outreach event, please designate it as "B4B".*



MISIÓN PENIEL (IMMOKALEE, FLORIDA)

*Join us on Fridays, April 26th, May 31st, June 29th
for morning sessions*

*We will leave the church at 9:15am
Sign up in the church foyer*



MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

Sunday, May 12th at 9:30am

MISSIONS MINISTRY



First Presbyterian Church proudly supports Missions from our church budget. If you would personally like to make additional donations, please make checks payable to FPC and indicate the mission on the memo line.



STAND IN THE GAP FUND

The purpose of this fund is to assist supported missionaries and ministries of our church when they face unexpected financial burdens

To donate to this fund, please mark your gift as SITG

Monthly Mission Support

CROSSROADS HOPE ACADEMY (PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA)



Crossroadspg.org



JESUS LOVES YOU MINISTRY (PORT CHARLOTTE, FLORIDA)



Jesuslovesyouministryinc.com

Shower & Lunch Ministry

MISIÓN PENIEL (IMMOKALEE, FLORIDA)



Misionpeniel.com

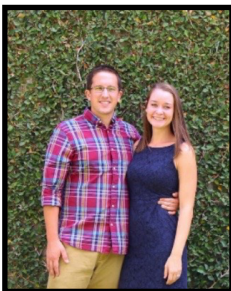
ANTIOCH PARTNERS MISSIONARIES

Eric and Debbie Stone, Guatemala
Lisa Alfonsi, Lima, Peru
theantiochpartners.org



MISSIONARY VENTURES INTERNATIONAL

Chasen and Katie Brokaw
Nicaragua
mvi.org
breakingborders.org



MISSIONS MINISTRY



NEW INFORMATION FROM YOUR MISSION COMMITTEE

It was recently brought to our attention that there are people with Medicare Advantage Plans which include OTC (over the counter) benefits; who do not use all of the provided funds that are offered each quarter or year. If this applies to you, we would like to suggest that you use your unused funds to purchase items for the homeless of Charlotte County who will benefit from them, such as antibiotic cream, band-aids, toothbrushes, toothpaste, hand sanitizer, insect repellent, etc.

Because we work closely with Jesus Loves You Ministry, the items can be dropped off at church.

Please contact Patti MacDonald or Gail Thornton with any questions.

MEMBER CARE



Prayer Requests and Hospital / Rehab Information
Address, Phone, Email changes
Birthdays and Anniversaries
Email to first@fpcpunta.org



First Pres is on Facebook!
Go to:
[facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurch-Punta Gorda](https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurch-Punta-Gorda)



To watch the current Service:

- 1) Follow the link: <https://www.youtube.com/@FPCPG>
(This link is also on our website in the top right corner, simply press the YouTube button.)
- 2) When you land on the FPC YouTube page you will see a small screen with the word LIVE, click it and it will fill up your screen.
The Service will begin at approximately 10:30 AM.
(If you don't see a small screen with the word LIVE, we have not started streaming.)



Giving to FPC - In person
Mail to the church office: 25250 Airport Rd; PG, FL 33950
Online Giving through our website: fpcpunta.org, click Donate



Congratulations to Marjorie Haun on the birth of her 13th great-grandbaby!
Mark Marion Haun was born on March 21st
to Erich & Kelsey Haun of Rutland, VT.

Do you have a family member serving in the military?
If so, we'd like to add them to the newsletter prayer list. Fill out the form that's on the sign-up table in the church foyer and place it in the HELMET or let the church office know.

APRIL 2024

CHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR AND CELEBRATIONS

Prayer is the place where burdens change shoulders - We pray for....
*The elderly, the infirm, the hospitalized, those in nursing homes, the homebound and lonely,
 and all those who have requested our prayerful support.*

Each month we remember church members and friends on a rotating basis...



1 Carol Zutter	11 Duane & Wanda Boyles	21 Robert Cuzner
2 George & Sharon Albright	12 Bonnie Brown	22 Sheila Dabney
3 Jay Aldridge	13 Marion Brown	23 Peter & Donna DeBree
4 Rex Anderson	14 Lili Bush	24 Bill & Sonja Dosse
5 Laurel Aumend	15 Ray & Joan Byron	25 John & Ramona Douglas
6 Denny & Minty Ausman	16 Kay Callahan	26 Phyllis Ehrhardt
7 Ron Beasom	17 Bonnie Carey	27 Merrillyn Ellison
8 Roy & Kathy Belville	18 Sam & Patti Cessna	28 Alan Engstrom
9 Shirley Berg	19 Judith Cornell	29 John & Gail Evans
10 Rick & Kay Berner	20 Charlie & Doris Costa	30 George & Bev Fallenbeck



3—Lynn Lang	20—Andy Smith
4—Phyllis Ehrhardt	21—Bo Sostar
9—Jean Humphreys	23—Nancy Smith
9—Barbara Reynolds	24—Charles Zietsma
19—Sam Cessna	25—Dick Fisher
19—Tom Kerr	28—Katie Schulte
	30—Linda Wagar



14—David & Sharon Sifferd	1 yr.
15—George & Sharon Albright	3 yrs.
15—John & Ramona Douglas	67 yrs.
18—David & Lynn Lang	41 yrs.



APRIL 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 10:00am Women's Bible Study 1:00pm Fellowship Team	3 10:00 Donuts & Doctrine 10:00am Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry 5:00pm Pullen Up a Chair	4 10:00am Game Fellowship 3:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	5 12:00pm Ladies Lunch Bunch at Riviera Bar & Grill Punta Gorda	6
7 Comunion Sunday 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Fellowship Time 3:00pm Concert Series Stephanie Smith 6:00pm Prayer Meeting-FB	8 10:00am Prayer Shawl Gathering 1:00pm Worship Team	9 10:00am Mission Team	10 10:00 Donuts & Doctrine 10:00am Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry 5:00pm Dinner & Movie - The Chosen	11 10:00am Game Fellowship 3:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	12	13
14 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Fellowship Time 6:00pm Prayer Meeting-FB	15 11:00am Burgers for Badges 2:00pm Session	16 10:00am Women's Bible Study	17 10:00 Donuts & Doctrine 10:00am Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry	18 10:00am Game Fellowship 3:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	19 12:00pm Ladies Lunch Bunch at Red Lobster Port Charlotte	20
21 Deacon's Fund 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Fellowship Time 6:00pm Prayer Meeting-FB	22	23	24 10:00 Donuts & Doctrine 10:00am Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry 5:00pm Dinner & Movie - The Chosen	25 10:00am Game Fellowship 3:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	26 9:15am Mission Trip to Immokalee	27
28 9:30am Membership Class 10:15am Hymn Sing 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Fellowship Time 6:00pm Prayer Meeting-FB	29	30				

May 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Church Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
9:00am to 1:00pm