
WORSHIP SERVICE

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC Nancy Smith

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *This is My Father's World / For the Beauty of the Earth*
F. Sheppard / C. Kocher/ Arr. G. Sikes
Nancy Smith, Piano and Denny Ausman, Organ

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

***HYMN #512** *Jesus Is All the World to Me*

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Our gracious and patient God, we confess that we too often allow our fears to determine what we do and say. We fail to trust Your promises or believe in Your power. We forget that You are greater than any of our fears or problems. Please forgive our lack of faith and remind us that there is nothing in this world that we need to fear for You are always with us. (*Silent Confession*)

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - The Apostles' Creed (Unison)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 50:4-8a

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY *The Holy Love of God* James Southbridge

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Our gracious Lord, we stand before You as a living offering. You shower us with blessings, all free and totally undeserved. Bless us and use us as instruments for Your will. Bless, too, these financial gifts to Your holy purpose. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

***HYMN #705** *It Is Well with My Soul*

SCRIPTURE Luke 9:51

MESSAGE *Introduction to Lent* Pastor Barksdale Pullen

COMMUNION AND HYMN *In Remembrance*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER (*debt/debtors*)

***HYMN #597** *Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated (vs. 1,5,6)*

*BENEDICTION

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #669** *Make Me a Servant*

POSTLUDE *Postludium* Donald Lee Moore

*Please stand, if able

Hearing assist devices are available at the tech booth
CCLI #1140231 CVLI #505503731

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Prayer Focus

- Pray for those who serve in the military and their families.
- Pray for First Responders and Healthcare Workers.
- Pray for our church as we seek to be a flourishing church that makes disciples of Jesus Christ.
- Pray for Lisa and Clever Alfonsi, Eric and Debbie Stone, and Chasen and Katie Brokaw, missionaries we support in Peru, Guatemala, and Nicaragua.
- Pray for Crossroads, the mission for foster boys in Punta Gorda.
- Pray for Ground Up Ministries, a ministry for human trafficking in Florida.
- Pray for Jesus Loves You Ministry for the homeless in Charlotte County.
- Pray for Misión Peniel, the mission that we support in Immokalee.
- Pray for persecuted Christians throughout the world.

Those with Special Needs

Rachel Pfaender	Phyllis Ehrhardt	Rick Berner
Lynn Lang	Ron Sixt	Dave Sifferd

NOTES

PRAYER QUOTE – Nothing but prayer will ever reveal you to yourself, because only before God can you see and become your true self.” - Tim Keller

FLOWERS – The flowers are in recognition of the missionaries and missions that we support.

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

MARCH NEWSLETTER – Available in the church foyer and on our website.

CHURCH DIRECTORY – Available in the church office.

FLOWERS – May be sponsored for **\$37.50**. To make a donation, sign up in the church foyer, listing the flowers in honor and/or in memory of something or someone.

BULLETIN BOARD – Check out notes and messages of interest on the Bulletin Board in the church foyer.

PRAYER EMAIL LIST – If you would like to be on Pastor Barksdale's prayer email list, email Pastor Barksdale at bmpullen3@fpcpunta.org.

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

STREAMING MINISTRY – Live stream our services on our website homepage (fpcpunta.org) by clicking the logo **YouTube**.

FELLOWSHIP TIME – Following the Worship Service, join us in Fellowship Hall for a time of fellowship and refreshments. You may bring cookies / treats to share!

Comparative Financial Operations / Performance

	January 2025	Year-to-Date
Tithes & Offerings	\$23,747.26	\$23,747.26
Cash Expenditures	<u>\$22,953.24</u>	<u>\$22,953.24</u>
Net	\$ 794.02	\$ 794.02

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

GATHER FOR PRAYER – A prayer meeting is held Sundays at 6pm online. Please submit any prayer requests to first@fpcpunta.org.

CHORAL ENSEMBLE – You are invited to join with others singing a song in Worship on March 16th as part of our music ministry. We will rehearse on Thursdays, March 6th and 13th at 3:30pm. Come join in the fun shared through music.

ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

SPRING FORWARD – *Next weekend – March 8th-9th – for Daylight Savings Time!*

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – *Tuesday, March 4th, 10:00am in Fellowship Hall*. We are studying “Becoming A Woman of Beauty & Strength” (a book about *Esther*) by Elizabeth George. **We meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month**. On March 4th we study Lesson 24, Esther 9:29-32, “Sending Out the Word”. Call Kathy Belville at 508-733-0546 for more information – All are welcome!

DONUTS & DOCTRINE – *Wednesday, March 5th at 10:00am* – Join us on Wednesday mornings for Donuts & Doctrine as we begin a new study on the “*History of the Early Church – Christ, Characters & Confessions*”. *All are welcome!*

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH – *Friday, March 7th, 12:00pm* – Sign up in the church foyer for Pita & Puff in Port Charlotte.

ANNUAL SOUTHERN SUPPER – *Saturday, March 8th, at 5:00pm* - FPC is one of the 2024 honorees for the Punta Gorda History Hall of Honor to be inducted at the 9th Annual Southern Supper. The event will be held at the Church of the Good Shepherd on Saturday, March 8, 2025, at 5:00 pm. Tickets are \$60. To purchase tickets, go to:

<https://puntagordahistorycenter.blogspot.com/>

SERMON ON THE SAND – *Sunday, March 9th, at 8:00am*. This is held every Sunday from 8:00-8:30am at Fishermen's Village. Pastor Barksdale delivers the Message on March 9th.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER – *Wednesday, March 19th, at 5:00pm*. Join us for our St. Patrick's Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner. Suggested Donation is \$7.00. Sign up in the church foyer.

MISIÓN PENIEL – Our next trip to Immokalee is *Friday, March 28th* – we will help at the Mission in the afternoon. Meet at the church at **12:15pm**. *We need 12 people for these mission trips!* Sign up in the church foyer.

PULLEN UP A CHAIR – *Wednesday, May 7th at 5:00pm*. Barksdale and Bo host get-together dinners at their home for groups of eight. Sign up in the church foyer, or call/email the church office to reserve a night. There is no agenda, lesson, or study; just a time to get together for fellowship and to learn more about one another.

SAVE THESE DATES:

PEACE RIVER GARDENS TOUR – *Tuesday, April 8th, at 9:00am*

BURGERS FOR BADGES – *Monday, April 21st, from 11:00am – 1:00pm*

MISSIONS SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

JESUS LOVES YOU MINISTRY SPECIAL NEEDS – Shower Ministry (Wednesday mornings in our parking lot) – Please place “shower” items on the table in the back of Fellowship Hall.

MISSIONS SUPPORT – If you would like to donate to the missionaries and organizations that we are supporting in 2025 in our church budget, please make checks payable to FPC and on the memo line write the name of the mission.

- Antioch Partners – Stone Family (Guatemala) or Lisa Alfonsi (Peru)
- Crossroads Hope Academy (Punta Gorda)
- Ground Up Ministries (Cape Coral)
- Jesus Loves You Ministry (Port Charlotte)
- Misión Peniel (Immokalee)
- Missionary Ventures (Chasen & Katie Brokaw – Nicaragua)

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.

EVENTS FOR THE COMING WEEK

March 2nd – March 9th

Sunday, March 2	Communion Sunday
10:30am	Worship Service (Also Online)
11:30am	Fellowship Time
6:00pm	Prayer Meeting-FB
Monday, March 3	
1:00pm	Worship Team
Tuesday, March 4	
10:00am	Women’s Bible Study
1:00pm	Fellowship Team
Wednesday, March 5	
10:00am	Donuts & Doctrine
10:00am	Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry
5:00pm	Pullen Up a Chair
Thursday, March 6	
10:00am	Game Fellowship
3:30pm	Choral Ensemble Rehearsal
Friday, March 7	World Day of Prayer
12:00pm	Ladies Lunch Bunch
Saturday, March 8	SPRING FORWARD
	Daylight Savings Time
5:00pm	PG History Hall of Honor Event
Sunday, March 9	First Sunday in Lent
8:00am	Sermon on the Sand
10:30am	Worship Service (Also Online)
11:30am	Fellowship Time
6:00pm	Prayer Meeting-FB

First Presbyterian Church of Punta Gorda
25250 Airport Road Punta Gorda, FL 33950
941-639-1959 (phone) 941-637-3763 (fax)
Email: first@fpcpunta.org Website: fpcpunta.org
Office hours: 9:00am to 1:00pm Monday – Thursday

SERMON NOTES

Isaiah 50:4-8a

The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue,
to know the word that sustains the weary.
He wakens me morning by morning,
wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed.
The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears;
I have not been rebellious,
I have not turned away.
I offered my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard;
I did not hide my face
from mocking and spitting.
Because the Sovereign Lord helps me,
I will not be disgraced.
Therefore have I set my face like flint,
and I know I will not be put to shame.
He who vindicates me is near.

Luke 9:51

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.



Loving...Growing...Going...in Jesus!

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 guest and friend, and that you have chosen to hear God’s call with this congregation.

March 2, 2025

10:30am

PASTOR	Dr. Barksdale Pullen
ORGANIST	Denny Ausman
OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN	Debbie Rostad
LITURGIST	John Evans
USHERS	Susie Lorenz, Billie Sixt, Patti MacDonald, Sam Cessna
AV TECH	George Fallenbeck, Gene McPherson, Jim Nuznoff