



JANUARY 2025

**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

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Another calendar year has passed – enter 2025. As a church we have collectively focused on different things – reading through the Bible, discipleship, and outreach. This year I was thinking of a good focus for our church, and I thought about prayer. The beginning of a new year is a great time to re-focus on our relationship to God, our conversation with God, our prayers to God. Throughout the year we will have special times of prayer - perhaps in a Service, or a Prayer Day, and items listed in the bulletin to especially focus on that week. In preparation for this, I ran across a prayer written by Debbie McDaniel, that I think is appropriate as we begin 2025.

A Prayer to Keep God First This New Year

Dear God, Thank you that you make all things new. Thank you for all that you've allowed into our lives this past year, the good along with the hard things, which have reminded us how much we need you and rely on your presence filling us every single day.

We pray for your Spirit to lead us each step of this New Year. We ask that you will guide our decisions and turn our hearts to deeply desire you above all else. We ask that you will open doors needing to be opened and close the ones needing to be shut tight. We ask that you would help us release our grip on the things to which you've said "no," "not yet," or "wait." We ask for help to pursue you first, above every dream and desire you've put within our hearts.

We ask for your wisdom, for your strength and power to be constantly present within us. We pray you would make us strong and courageous for the road ahead. Give us ability beyond what we feel able, let your gifts flow freely through us, so that you would be honored by our lives, and others would be drawn to you. We pray that you'd keep us far from the snares and traps of temptations. That you would whisper in our ear when we need to run and whisper in our heart when we need to stand our ground.

We pray for your protection over our families and friends. We ask for your hand to cover us and keep us distanced from the evil intent of the enemy; that you would be a barrier to surround us, that we'd be safe in your hands. We pray that you would give us discernment and insight beyond our years, to understand your will, hear your voice, and know your ways. We ask that you would keep our footsteps firm, on solid ground, helping us to be consistent and faithful. Give us supernatural endurance to stay the course, not swerving to the right or to the left, or being too easily distracted by other things that would seek to call us away from a close walk with you.

Forgive us for the times we have worked so hard to be self-sufficient, forgetting our need for you, living independent of your spirit. Forgive us for letting fear and worry control our minds, and for allowing pride and selfishness to wreak havoc over our lives. Forgive us for not following your ways and for living distant from your presence. We confess our need for you...fresh...new...again. We ask that you make all things new, in our hearts, in our minds, in our lives, for this coming year. We pray for your refreshing over us. Amen. (www.crosswalk.com)

If you are looking for a devotional for 2025 that fits the prayer theme, consider Tim Keller's *The Songs of Jesus: A Year of Daily Devotions in the Psalms*. Looking forward to another great year of deepening our faith together in 2025.

Pastor Barksdale

WORSHIP MINISTRY



Worship
Schedule

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

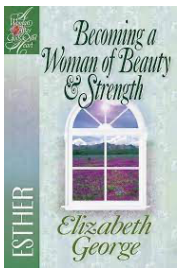


Fellowship Time
*Join us for beverages, cookies and treats
after Sunday's Worship Service*



Sermon on the SAND
*Every Sunday at 8:00am - 8:30am at Fishermen's Village
Pastor Barksdale will deliver the Message on February 2, 2025*

DISCIPLESHIP 2024



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

January 7th and 21st

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

January 7th - Lesson 21 - Esther 9:11-15 "Finishing Fully"

January 21st - Lesson 22 - Esther 9:16-19 "Celebrating God's Goodness"

Call Kathy Belville at 508-733-0546 for more information - All are welcome!



Donuts &
Doctrine



DONUTS & DOCTRINE BIBLE STUDY

*January 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th
Wednesdays at 10:00am*

"A Resilient Faith" - Studies in II Timothy

All are welcome!



Membership
Class

Church Membership CLASS

*Next class will be January 26, 2025 at 9:30am
Join us for a one-class introduction to FPC*

DISCIPLESHIP WISDOM

Are you a Disciple of Jesus Christ?

I'm sharing this again as a reminder of what we are called to do in the name of Jesus.

Sharing your story is the easiest way to make disciples.

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
- * 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 Dossé, stationed at Fort Liberty (formerly Fort Bragg, NC) and her husband Major Matt Walter, Army, currently deployed in the Middle East

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.

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.



THANKSGIVING OFFERING

We sent a check for \$733.00
to St. Vincent de Paul

Thank you!

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Veterans Village

Ground Up Ministry

Immokalee Farm Workers

Thank you for your generosity

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



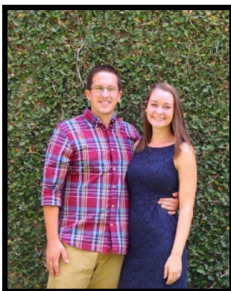
MISSIONARY VENTURES INTERNATIONAL

Chasen and Katie Brokaw

Nicaragua

mvi.org

breakingborders.org



FPC ACTIVITIES AND OUTREACH



PRAYER SHAWL GATHERING
Monday, January 14th 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, January 3rd

12:00pm

Pioneer Pizza

Port Charlotte

Friday, January 17th

12:00pm

Outback Steakhouse

Port Charlotte



TAKE DOWN THE GREENS
Saturday, January 4th at 9:00am



MISIÓN PENIEL (IMMOKALEE, FLORIDA)

Join us on Friday, January 31st for the afternoon session

We will meet at the church at 12:15pm

Join us on Friday, February 28th for the afternoon session

We will meet at the church at 12:15pm

We need 12 people to sign up in the church foyer



MISIÓN PENIEL

December 6th Mission Trip

*Dear FPC Congregation,
Thank you for your gifts and
service to MISIÓN PENIEL
throughout 2024*



Wednesday, February 26th- 12:00pm
Lunch 'n' Learn - "End of Life Preparations"
Sign up in the church foyer

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:

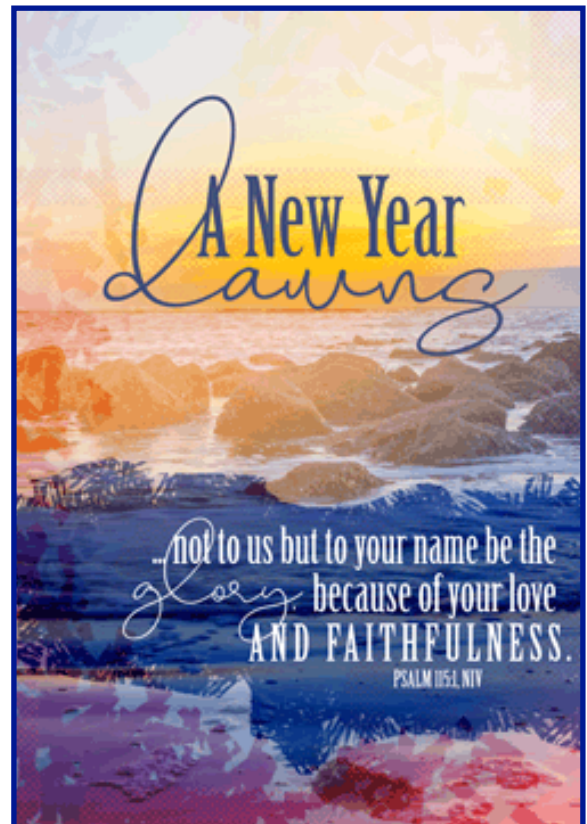
- 1) Follow the link: <https://www.youtube.com/@FPCPG>
(This link is also on our website in the top right corner, simply press the YouTube button.)
- 2) When you land on the FPC YouTube page you will see a small screen with the word LIVE, click it and it will fill up your screen.
The Service will begin at approximately 10:30am (Pre-Service at 10:15am).
(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*



O Lord, let my
New Year's resolution
be to
follow you
more closely
and to
trust in your
loving guidance.

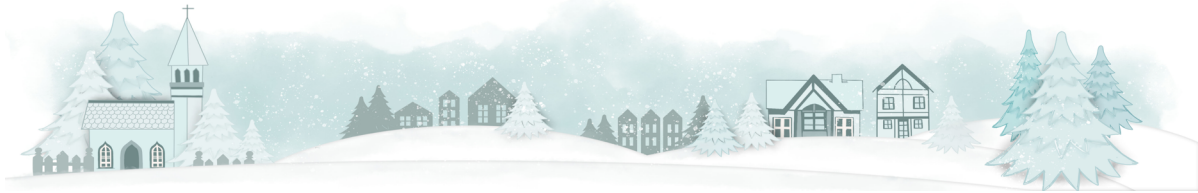


JANUARY 2025

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.*

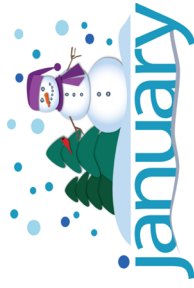
Each month we remember church members and friends on a rotating basis...



1	Bob and Sharon Fant	11	Lois Jornlin	21	Mark McCurdy
2	Sandy Fisher	12	Tom & Carol Kerr	22	Gene & Barbara McPherson
3	Barbara Floyd	13	Art Koon	23	Larry & Sue Mesler
4	Frances Frost	14	Jean LaMantia	24	Steve & Joanie Mock
5	Neta Gensemer	15	David & Lynn Lang	25	Steve & Valerie Neeley
6	Matthew & Maria Greene	16	Margo Lazzerini	26	Jim & Patti Nuznoff
7	Marjorie Haun	17	Al & Susie Lorenz	27	Marguerite O'Brien
8	Joan Hoffman	18	Connie Luther	28	David Osweiler
9	Bob & Jean Humphreys	19	Steve MacDonald	29	David & Jane Otoupal
10	Pat Ihrie	20	Carolyn Ann Maupin	30	Bruce Peters
				31	Rachel Pfaender



2—Marguerite O'Brien	18—Bill Dosse
4—Minty Ausman	21—Steve Neeley
13—Bev Brady	29—Rachel Pfaender



JANUARY 2025



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

<p>Church Office Hours Monday - Thursday 9:00am to 1:00pm</p>					<p>10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Fellowship Time 6:00pm Prayer Meeting-FB</p>
<p>5 Comunion Sunday</p>	<p>6 1:00pm Worship Team</p>	<p>7 10:00am Women's Bible Study 1:00pm Fellowship Team</p>	<p>8 10:00am Donuts & Doctrine 10:00am Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry</p>	<p>9 10:00am Game Fellowship</p>	<p>10 12:00pm Ladies Lunch Bunch at Pioneer Pizza in PC</p>
<p>12 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Fellowship Time 6:00pm Prayer Meeting-FB</p>	<p>13 10:00am Prayer Shawl Gathering</p>	<p>14 10:00am Mission Team</p>	<p>15 10:00am Donuts & Doctrine 10:00am Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry</p>	<p>16 10:00am Game Fellowship</p>	<p>17 12:00pm Ladies Lunch Bunch at Outback Steakhouse in PC</p>
<p>19 Deacon's Fund 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Fellowship Time 6:00pm Prayer Meeting-FB</p>	<p>20 2:00pm Session</p>	<p>21 10:00am Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>22 10:00am Donuts & Doctrine 10:00am Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry</p>	<p>23 10:00am Game Fellowship</p>	<p>24 12:15pm Mission Trip to Immokalee</p>
<p>26 9:30am Membership Class 10:15am Hymn Sing 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Fellowship Time 6:00pm Prayer Meeting-FB</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 10:00am Donuts & Doctrine 10:00am Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry</p>	<p>30 10:00am Game Fellowship</p>	<p>31</p>