
MSWORSHIP SERVICE

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC Music with Strings
Ladies in Lavender, Violin Solo
Rachel Cox, Violin; Denny Ausman, Piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *God Bless Our Homes* Robert J. Hughes

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

INTROIT *O Worship the Lord (Psalm 96)* Robert McCutchen
Chancel Choir

***HYMN #224** *We Have Come into His House*

*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

ANTHEM *In a Mother's Heart* Thomas Keesecker
Chancel Choir; Rachel Cox, Violin

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER (debt/debtors)

OFFERTORY *Lift Thine Eyes* Felix Mendelssohn

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Dear Lord, here and now we bring our gifts to You and to the church. We ask You to receive our gifts for ministry and service. But more, Lord, receive our love, and with our love and Your divine love, may we keep on building Your kingdom here as it is in heaven. In our Master's name, we pray. Amen.

***HYMN #581** *'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus*

SCRIPTURE Acts 22:25-23:11

MESSAGE *Paul Before the Council* Pastor Barksdale Pullen

***HYMN #426** *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

*BENEDICTION

***RESPONSE** *God Be with You till We Meet Again* Rankin/Vaughan Williams
Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE *Thine is The Glory* arr. Lani Smith

*Please stand, if able

Hearing assist devices are available at the tech booth

CCLI #1140231 CVLI #505465757

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 Alfonsi, Eric Stone family, 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 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

Those who are in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes

Marion Brown - *Life Care, Punta Gorda*

NOTES

FLOWERS – The flowers are given today by Marguerite O'Brien in memory of All Mothers for Mother's Day.

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

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

CHURCH DIRECTORIES – 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

	April 2024	Year-to-Date
Tithes & Offerings	\$16,136.71	\$90,636.30
Cash Expenditures	\$22,455.08	\$92,650.98
Net	(\$6,318.37)	(\$2,014.68)

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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

HURRICANE SEASON – We are nearing the beginning of hurricane season and wanted to remind everyone that if a storm is in the area, please don't travel if you are not comfortable, but you may join us online. Also, we have a text messaging system to notify folks if Services/Events are canceled. If you do not want to receive a text message, please notify the church office.

Please note: You cannot reply to these text messages.

DEACON'S FUND – *Next Sunday, May 19th*, is our monthly collection to help support congregation and emergency needs, Misión Peniel, and others.

ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

SERMON ON THE SAND – *Sunday, May 12th at 8:00am.* Sermon on the Sand is held every Sunday from 8:00-8:30am at Fishermen's Village. Pastor Barksdale will deliver the Message on May 12th.

MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST – *Sunday, May 12th at 9:00am* – Sign up now to join us for breakfast and then stay for the Worship Service at 10:30am.

DONUTS & DOCTRINE – *Wednesday, May 15th at 10:00am --* We have just begun a new study on *Psalms – Prayers of the Heart*, which will take us through May 29th.

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH – *Friday, May 17th, 12:00pm* – Please sign up and join us for lunch at Wally's BBQ in Port Charlotte. *All ladies are invited!*

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – *Tuesday, May 21st at 10:00am* – “*Spending a Sleepless Night*” – *Esther 6:1-9*. Join us for our study of “Esther”, based on “*Becoming a Woman of Beauty & Strength*” by Elizabeth George. We meet the first and third Tuesdays of each month in Fellowship Hall. Call Kathy Belville at 508-733-0546 for more information. *All women are invited for study, fellowship, and refreshments. (We will take a break for the summer and resume in September.)*

MISIÓN PENIEL – Our next trip to Immokalee is *Friday, May 31st* – we will help at the Mission in the morning. Please meet at the church at 9:15am, leaving at 9:30am. *We need 5-6 people to go*, so please sign up in the church foyer.

MEMORIAL SERVICE – A Memorial Service for former member Fran Koon will be held in our Sanctuary on *Friday, May 31st, at 11:00am*. A Burial Service will follow at the National Cemetery in Sarasota at 2:30pm.

THE CHOSEN SEASON 4 – *Wednesday, June 12th*. Dinner will be served at 5:00pm, followed by the first episode of The Chosen Series - Season 4. Sign up in the church foyer.

MISSIONS SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

DISASTER RELIEF SUPPORT – A reminder that our trusted partners at World Renew are ECO’s go-to resource for long-term disaster relief.

<https://worldrenew.net/disaster-response-services-us/disaster-response-services>

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

MISSIONS SUPPORT – If you would like to donate to the missionaries and organizations that we are supporting in 2024 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)

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

May 12th to May 19th

Sunday, May 12

Happy Mother’s Day

8:00am Sermon on the Sand
9:00am Mother’s Day Breakfast
10:30am Worship Service (Also Online)
11:30am Fellowship Time
6:00pm Prayer Meeting-FB

Tuesday, May 14

10:00am Mission Team

Wednesday, May 15

10:00am Donuts & Doctrine
10:00am Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry

Thursday, May 16

10:00am Game Fellowship
3:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, May 17

12:00pm Ladies Lunch Bunch

Sunday, May 19

Deacon’s Fund Sunday

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

Acts 22:25-23:11

²⁵ But when they had stretched him out for the whips, Paul said to the centurion who was standing by, “Is it lawful for you to flog a man who is a Roman citizen and uncondemned?” ²⁶ When the centurion heard this, he went to the tribune and said to him, “What are you about to do? For this man is a Roman citizen.” ²⁷ So the tribune came and said to him, “Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?” And he said, “Yes.” ²⁸ The tribune answered, “I bought this citizenship for a large sum.” Paul said, “But I am a citizen by birth.” ²⁹ So those who were about to examine him withdrew from him immediately, and the tribune also was afraid, for he realized that Paul was a Roman citizen and that he had bound him. ³⁰ But on the next day, desiring to know the real reason why he was being accused by the Jews, he unbound him and commanded the chief priests and all the council to meet, and he brought Paul down and set him before them.

¹ And looking intently at the council, Paul said, “Brothers, I have lived my life before God in all good conscience up to this day.” ² And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth. ³ Then Paul said to him, “God is going to strike you, you whitewashed wall! Are you sitting to judge me according to the law, and yet contrary to the law you order me to be struck?” ⁴ Those who stood by said, “Would you revile God’s high priest?” ⁵ And Paul said, “I did not know, brothers, that he was the high priest, for it is written, ‘You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.’” ⁶ Now when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, “Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial.” ⁷ And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. ⁸ For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all. ⁹ Then a great clamor arose, and some of the scribes of the Pharisees’ party stood up and contended sharply, “We find nothing wrong in this man. What if a spirit or an angel spoke to him?” ¹⁰ And when the dissension became violent, the tribune, afraid that Paul would be torn to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him away from among them by force and bring him into the barracks.

¹¹ The following night the Lord stood by him and said, “Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome.”



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.

May 12, 2024

10:30am

PASTOR
MUSIC DIRECTOR
ORGANIST
OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN
LITURGIST
USHERS

Dr. Barksdale Pullen
Joan Byron
Denny Ausman
Debbie Rostad
Kathy Belville
Judith Cornell, Marjorie Haun, Billie Sixt, Donald Willecke