
WORSHIP SERVICE

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC Hymns Remembered

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Variations on “Hyfrodol”* Benton Price

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Gene & Barbara McPherson
Second Candle symbolizes Peace and is called the “Bethlehem Candle”

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

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

*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

SPECIAL MUSIC *Prepare for the Coming of the Lord* Lloyd Larson
from “A New and Glorious Morn”
The Holiday Ensemble

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

OFFERTORY *The Perfect Gift* Donald Lee Moore

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord God, who has given to us so many gifts, Your generosity is sometimes even more than we can comprehend. We praise You for all Your loving gifts. Now we bring to You our gifts and our lives, dedicating them to You for service and ministry. May all that we do show to the world Your great love for all humankind. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

***HYMN #245** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9:6

MESSAGE *Mighty God* Pastor Barksdale Pullen

***HYMN #196** *O Come, Let Us Adore Him*

*BENEDICTION

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #243** *Emmanuel*

POSTLUDE *There’s A Song in the Air* arr. Dorothy Wells

*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 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 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

FLOWERS – The flowers are given today by Gail Thornton in memory of her father Harold Herwig.

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

DECEMBER 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

	November 2024	Year-to-Date
Tithes & Offerings	\$22,647.43	\$259,144.48
Cash Expenditures	\$21,751.66	\$239,182.91
Net	\$895.77	\$ 19,961.57

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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

CHRISTMAS OFFERING – This year’s Christmas Offering will be divided between Veterans Village, Ground Up Ministry, and Immokalee Farm Workers. Please use the Christmas Envelope in your Box or a Christmas Gifting envelope in the church foyer.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA – Remember a loved one this Christmas by giving a poinsettia to help decorate the church. Suggested donation is \$7 per poinsettia. Special envelopes are available on the table in the back of the Sanctuary or in the church foyer. **Please return your envelope by Monday, December 16th** in order to be listed in a special bulletin insert.

PLEDGE CARD – If you haven’t returned your pledge card for 2025, please do so as soon as possible. Pledge cards and Narrative Budgets are available on the table in the back of the Sanctuary or in the church foyer. Thank you.

YEAR-END GIVING – To make sure your giving for 2024 gets credited for 2024, please have your offering/gift to the church before December 31, 2024. Any donations received after that date will be applied to one’s 2025 giving. For gifts of stock, please call the church office.

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES – Available on the table in the foyer. If you don’t see your name, let the office know. Thank you.

DEACON’S FUND – **NEXT Sunday, December 15th**, is our monthly collection to help support congregation and emergency needs, Misión Peniel, and others.

ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE at the Pullen’s Home – **Sundays, December 8th and 15th from 1:30pm – 3:30pm** at 16323 Perdida Ct., Punta Gorda. Sign up in the church foyer to stop by the Pullen’s home.

PRAYER SHAWL GATHERING – If you like to knit or crochet, please gather with us in Fellowship Hall **Monday, December 9th at 10am**.

DONUTS & DOCTRINE – **Wednesday, December 11th at 10:00am** – Join us on Wednesday mornings for Donuts & Doctrine as we study “A Healthy Church” using I and II Timothy. *All are welcome!*

CHRISTMAS DINNER – **Wednesday, December 11th at 5:00pm**. Join us for a Turkey Noodle Dinner in Fellowship Hall. Sign up in the church foyer.

HOLIDAY ENSEMBLE – **Thursday, December 12th at 4:00pm**. **Next Sunday, December 15th**, we will sing the Christmas Cantata “*A New and Glorious Morn*” by Lloyd Larson during our Worship Service.

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY – **Tuesday, December 17th, 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 December 17th we will study Lesson 20, Esther 9:1-10, “Fighting for Right”. Call Kathy Belville at 508-733-0546 for more information – All are welcome!

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH – **Friday, December 20th, 12:00pm** – Sign up for LongHorn Steakhouse in Port Charlotte.

MISIÓN PENIEL – Our next trip to Immokalee is **Friday, January 31st** – we will help at the Mission in the afternoon. Please meet at the church at **12:15pm**. *We need 12 people to sign up for these mission trips!* Sign up in the church foyer.

LUNCH ‘N’ LEARN – **Wednesday, February 26th at 12:00pm**. Join us for lunch and a seminar on “End of Life Preparations”. Mark your calendars.

MISSIONS SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

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

December 8th – December 15th

Sunday, December 8

- 10:30am Second Sunday in Advent
Worship Service (Also Online)
- 11:30am Fellowship Time
- 1:30pm – 3:30pm Open House at the Pullen’s Home
- 6:00pm Prayer Meeting-FB

Monday, December 9

- 10:00am Prayer Shawl Gathering
- 1:00pm Worship Team

Tuesday, December 10

- 10:00am Mission Team

Wednesday, December 11

- 10:00am Donuts & Doctrine
- 10:00am Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry
- 5:00pm Christmas Dinner

Thursday, December 12

- 10:00am Game Fellowship
- 4:00pm Holiday Ensemble

Sunday, December 15

- 10:30am Third Sunday in Advent
Deacon’s Fund Sunday
Worship Service (Also Online)
- 11:30am Fellowship Time
- 1:30pm – 3:30pm Open House at the Pullen’s Home
- 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 9:6

*For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*



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.

December 8, 2024

10:30am

PASTOR	Dr. Barksdale Pullen
ORGANIST	Denny Ausman
OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN	Debbie Rostad
LITURGIST	Sam Cessna
USHERS	Merrilyn Ellison, Marjorie Haun, Susie Lorenz, Linda Wagar