
WORSHIP SERVICE

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC Blended Christian Music

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Remembrance of Thee* James Mansfield

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP #7 *Praise The Almighty King*

Worship Leader: Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is Yours.

Everyone: We give You thanks, and praise Your glorious name!

Worship Leader: Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom; You are exalted as Head over all! Wealth and honor come from You; You are the ruler of all things.

Everyone: We give You thanks, and praise Your glorious name!

Worship Leader: In Your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.

Everyone: Now, our God, we give You thanks, and praise Your glorious name!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

***HYMN #343** *Amazing Grace*

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and loving God, we confess that we have failed to love others according to Your will. We judge them and make assumptions about others without ever trying to take the time to understand them. We see them not with the eyes of Jesus, but with our selfish eyes. Please forgive us and help us to remember that Jesus came to give His life for all people. May we show grace and mercy to others just as You have done for 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

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY *Jesus My All* arr. Roger C. Wilson

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy One, like Abraham and Sarah, we have heard Your call. We respond with fledgling faith, offering what we have as we step into the unknown future with You. Bless and multiply these gifts of faith, we pray, to accomplish more than we dare think or ask. In Jesus' name. Amen.

***HYMN #572** *Blessed Assurance*

SCRIPTURE Mark 9:14-27

MESSAGE *Trust* Pastor Barksdale Pullen

COMMUNION AND HYMN *Come Share The Lord*

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

***HYMN #36** *He Is Exalted (Repeat)*

*BENEDICTION

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #232** *God Be With You (vs. 1)*

POSTLUDE *Take My Life* Benton Price

*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 Who Grieve

Please pray for Bill Dossé and family, whose wife Sonja went home to the Lord on March 14, 2025.

Those with Special Needs

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

NOTES

PRAYER QUOTE – “Pray for all the saints. Pray also for kings, for those in power, for princes, for those that persecute and hate you, and for the enemies of the cross, so that your fruit may be apparent to everyone and that you may be perfect in Him.” – Polycarp (Letter to the Philipppians)

FLOWERS – The flowers are given to the Glory of God.

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

APRIL 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

	<u>March 2025</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Tithes & Offerings	\$20,611.73	\$68,395.41
Cash Expenditures	<u>\$21,636.59</u>	<u>\$67,846.03</u>
Net	\$ (1,024.86)	\$ 549.38

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

GATHER FOR PRAYER – A prayer meeting is held Sundays at 6pm online.

Please submit any prayer requests to first@fpcpunta.org.

SEASON OF LENT DEVOTIONALS – We have devotionals for you to choose from in the church foyer to help you prepare for Holy Week (*April 13th – April 20th*).

SANCTUARY CROSS – The Colors of the Cross are a symbolic depiction of the Easter season. For the beginning of the Lenten Season the cross is draped in purple. The purple cloth remains on the cross from Ash Wednesday to Maundy Thursday representing royalty – the King of kings has come. The black cloth remains on the cross from Good Friday through Saturday – representing His death. The white cloth is placed on the cross Easter Sunday representing His resurrection – His victory over sin, death and Satan.

EASTER LILIES – We will be decorating the church with lilies for Easter. To donate one in remembrance or honor of a loved one, please use the offering envelopes on the back table of the sanctuary or church foyer. Suggested donation is \$7 for each lily. **Please have your envelope back by Monday, April 14th**, in time for the bulletin insert.

LIVING CROSS – We are requesting flowers and greenery for the “living cross” for Easter morning. **Please bring both the flowers and greenery at 9:00am on Saturday, April 19th**. Sign up in the church foyer to help with the “living cross”.

EASTER POSTCARD – Pick up an Easter Postcard in the church foyer and invite a neighbor to church Easter Week.

CHORAL ENSEMBLE – You are invited to join with others in singing a song on Easter Sunday. We will rehearse on Thursdays, April 10th and 17th at 3:30pm.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS WITH OUR HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- **Palm Sunday – April 13 – 10:30am** Worship Service
- **Maundy Thursday – April 17 – 5:00pm** Communion Service
- **Good Friday – April 18 – 12:00pm** Good Friday Service
- **Easter Sunday – April 20 – 10:30am** Easter Sunday Worship Service

ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

PEACE RIVER GARDENS TOUR – *Tuesday, April 8th at 9:00am*. Plan to meet us at Peace River Gardens. Cost is \$15.00. Sign up in the church foyer.

DONUTS & DOCTRINE – *Wednesday, April 9th at 10:00am* – Join us on Wednesday mornings as we begin a new study on the “*History of the Early Church – Christ, Characters & Confessions*”. *All are welcome!*

MISIÓN PENIEL – Our next trip to Immokalee is *Friday, April 11th* – we will help at the Mission in the **morning**. Meet at the church at **9:00am**. *We need 6 people for this mission trip!* Sign up in the church foyer.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – *Tuesday, April 15th, 9:30am in Fellowship Hall*. **We meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month**. We will view a video on the summary of Esther. A new study begins in May on “Keep It Shut” by Karen Ehman. Call Kathy Belville at 508-733-0546 for more information – *All are welcome!*

BURGERS FOR BADGES – *Monday, April 21st, from 11:00am – 1:00pm*. Help us show our appreciation to our local and retired FPC First Responders 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”.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP CLASS – *Sunday, April 27th at Noon*. If you are interested in joining the church, or just finding out more information about FPC, **sign up to join us for lunch and a one class introduction to FPC**. (Seasonal Residents, we have an Affiliate Membership, so you can keep your Membership back home.)

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH – *Friday, May 2nd, 11:30am* – Sign up in the church foyer for Captain's Table in Punta Gorda.

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 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.

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

April 6th – April 13th

Sunday, April 6

**Fifth Sunday in Lent
Communion Sunday**

- 10:30am Worship Service (Also Online)
- 11:30am Fellowship Time
- 6:00pm Prayer Meeting-FB

Tuesday, April 8

- 9:00am Peace River Gardens Tour
- 1:00pm Fellowship Team

Wednesday, April 9

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

Thursday, April 10

- 10:00am Game Fellowship
- 3:30pm Choral Ensemble Rehearsal

Friday, April 11

- 9:00am Mission Trip to Immokalee

Sunday, April 13

Palm 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

Mark 9:14-27

When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him. “What are you arguing with them about?” he asked. A man in the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not.” “You unbelieving generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.” So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. Jesus asked the boy’s father, “How long has he been like this?” “From childhood,” he answered. “It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.” “If you can?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.” Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!” When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the impure spirit. “You deaf and mute spirit,” he said, “I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, “He’s dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.



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.

April 6, 2025

10:30am

PASTOR	Dr. Barksdale Pullen
ORGANIST	Denny Ausman
OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN	Debbie Rostad
LITURGIST	Sam Cessna
USHERS	Sharon Fant, Marjorie Haun, Patti MacDonald, Sam Cessna
AV TECH	George Fallenbeck, Gene McPherson, Jim Nuznoff