

WORSHIP SERVICE

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Prelude in F Major* J. S. Bach
CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Let us worship God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ.
Congregation: We are new creations; the old has gone, the new has come!
Pastor: Let us worship God as Christ’s ambassadors.
Congregation: Through us and through our worship may we announce the good news to all.
Pastor: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.
Congregation: Praise God! We are reconciled, redeemed, renewed!

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION

*HYMN #552 *I Am Thine, O Lord*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Steadfast God, we confess to You and to one another that we rely more upon the things of our own invention than upon Your saving help. We have believed that our ingenuity would rescue us from all harm, and we have found it hard to let go of our pet projects. Forgive us, O God, for not having placed our faith in You. Have mercy on us for clinging so hard to our own concept of the way things should be and for failing to hear Your fresh alternatives. Turn our world upside down, O God, and teach us to trust in You above all else. *(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.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Gloria Patri*

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

SPECIAL MUSIC *Siciliano* C. Bach
Sue Mesler, Flute

SCRIPTURE 1 Thessalonians 5:23-28
SERMON *God’s Faithfulness* Pastor Barksdale Pullen

COMMUNION HYMN *And Can It Be*

COMMUNION

*HYMN #572 *Blessed Assurance*

*BENEDICTION

*HYMN #340 *Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus*

POSTLUDE *The King of Glory* Stanley P. Truselle

OFFERING

CASH & CHECKS - Offering plates are in the back of the church. You may leave your tithe or offering there as you leave today or mail it directly to the church office.
GIVE ONLINE – Visit www.fpcpunta.org/donate for online options.

*Please stand, if able

Hearing assist devices are available at the tech booth
CCLI #1140231 CVLI #50426017

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Prayer Focus

- Pray for peace and healing for our nation at this time of unrest – pandemic and protests. Pray for our leaders that they would have wisdom to navigate all the issues facing our nation.
- Pray for persecuted Christians throughout the world.
- Pray for those who serve in the military and their families.
- Pray for First Responders and Healthcare Workers.
- Pray for our church and ECO as we seek to be a flourishing church that makes disciples of Jesus Christ.
- Pray for Lisa Alfonsi and Eric Stone & family, missionaries that we support in Peru and Guatemala.
- Pray for Crossroads, the mission for foster boys in Punta Gorda.
- Pray for Jesus Loves You Ministry in Port Charlotte.
- Pray for Misión Peniel, the mission that we support in Immokalee.
- Pray for Chasen and Katie Brokaw, missionaries that we support in Nicaragua.

Those Who Grieve

Pray for Joanie Mock and family, whose brother Roger went home to the Lord on February 10th.

Pray for the family of Marcia Ling, whose husband Cy went home to the Lord on February 11th.

Pray for the family of Dianne Sizemore, who went home to the Lord on February 21st.

Those with Special Needs

Rachel Pfaender	Kay Callahan	Barb Harris
Ella Sifferd	Ron Sixt	Phyllis Ehrhardt
Irene Csontos	Tom Kerr	Rick Berner
Jean Humphreys	Jean LaMantia	

Those who are in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes

Jean Hinman, *The Palms of Punta Gorda* Marion Brown, *Royal Palm*

NOTES

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

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

PICTURE DIRECTORIES – Available in the church foyer.

FLOWERS – The flowers today are given by Nancy and Andrew Smith, in Memory of their Parents.

FLOWERS – May be sponsored for the **cost of \$37.50**. To make a donation, sign up in the church foyer. You may list the flowers in honor and/or in memory of something or someone. *There are openings for March and May.*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS WITH OUR HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- **Palm Sunday – March 28 – 10:30am Worship Service**
- **Maundy Thursday – April 1 – 7:00pm Communion Service**
- **Good Friday – April 2 – 12:00pm Good Friday Service**
- **Easter Sunday – April 4**
 - **7:00am Sunrise Service in east parking lot**
 - **9:00am Worship Service**
 - **10:30am Worship Service**

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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

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.

BLANKET SUNDAY TODAY – Your donations will help provide warmth for victims of disasters and communities worldwide through Church World Service. Make a gift of love that will keep on giving throughout the year. *Make checks payable to FPC.*

PRAYER SHAWL GATHERING – If you like to knit or crochet, please gather with us in Fellowship Hall *Monday, March 8th at 10am.*

DONUTS & DOCTRINE — Our Wednesday Morning Bible Study, led by Pastor Barksdale Pullen, meets on *Wednesday, March 10th, at 10:00am* both at the church and online. In March and April, we will continue with the stories of familiar hymns and look at the Book of James. *Please join us in person or online.*

GAME FELLOWSHIP – Join us on *Thursdays from 10am to Noon* in Fellowship Hall. Come to play or just to observe.

EASTER LILIES – We will be decorating the church with lilies for Easter. If you would like to donate one in remembrance or honor of a loved one, please use the offering envelopes on the back table of the sanctuary. Suggested donation is \$7 for each lily. **Please have your envelope back by Monday, March 29th**, so that we can recognize you in the bulletin insert we are publishing.

MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICE – A Communion Service will be held on Thursday, *April 1st, 7:00pm.*

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE – A Good Friday Service will be held on Good Friday, *April 2nd, at 12:00pm.*

LIVING CROSS – We are requesting flowers and greenery for the “living cross” which will be presented Easter morning. *Please bring both the flowers and greenery between 9:00am and 10:00am on Saturday, April 3rd.* Please sign up in the church foyer to help with the “living cross”.

SUNRISE SERVICE ON EASTER SUNDAY – The Sunrise Service will be held Easter Sunday morning, *April 4th, at 7:00am* in the east parking lot.

EASTER MORNING SERVICES – *Sunday, April 4th, at 9:00am and 10:30am.* The 10:30am service will also be live streamed. Please register for the service you plan to attend in the church foyer or call the church office.

MISSIONS SUPPORT – If you would like to donate to the missionaries and organizations that we are supporting in 2021 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)

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 (www.fpcpunta.org) by clicking the logo *vimeo livestream*.

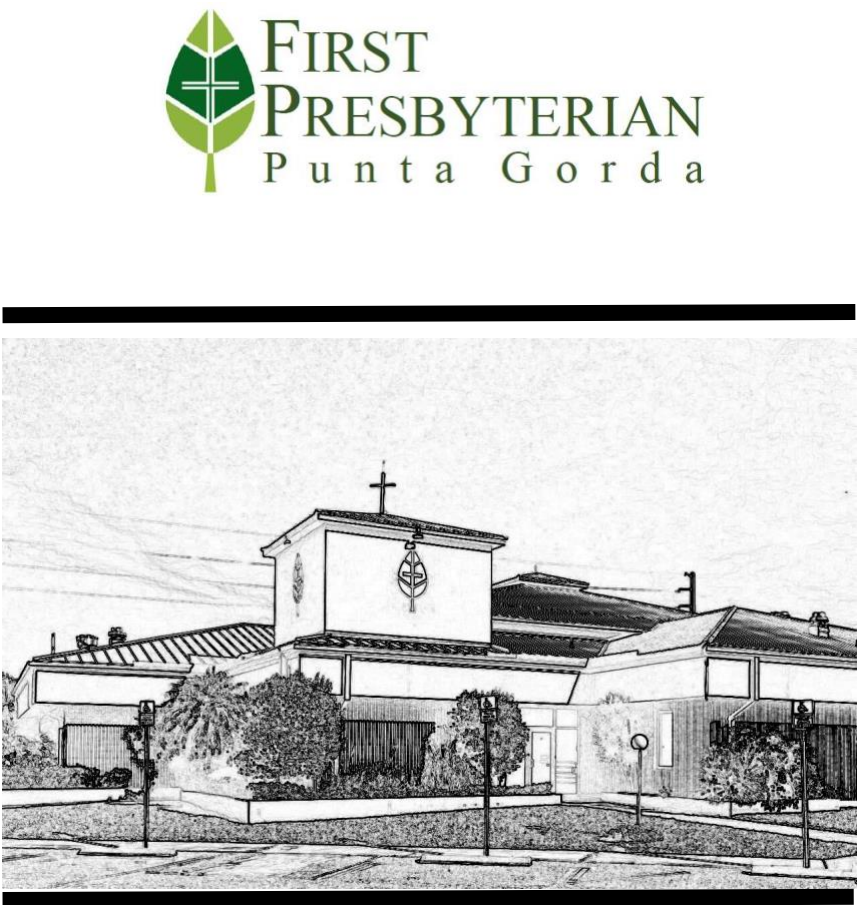
EVENTS FOR THE COMING WEEK

March 7th thru March 14th

<u>Sunday, March 7</u> 6:00pm	Third Sunday in Lent Prayer Meeting (Online)
<u>Monday, March 8</u> 10:00am	Prayer Shawl Gathering
<u>Tuesday, March 9</u> 10:00am	Missions Team
<u>Wednesday, March 10</u> 10:00am	Bible Study
<u>Thursday, March 11</u> 10:00am	Game Fellowship
<u>Sunday, March 14</u> 10:30am 6:00pm	Fourth Sunday in Lent Worship Service (Also Online) Prayer Meeting (Online)

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

SERMON NOTES



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 7, 2021 **10:30am**

PASTOR	Dr. Barksdale Pullen
CHOIR DIRECTOR	Joan Byron
ORGANIST	Denny Ausman
OFFICE MANAGER	Debbie Rostad
LITURGIST	Don Washabaugh