



DECEMBER 2020

Worship Service in our Sanctuary at 10:30am
or watch our worship service LIVE! at:
www.fpcpunta.org and click on the logo "vimeo livestream"

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941-639-1959
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www.fpcpunta.org



Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year!

COVID-19 CHRISTMAS

This will be a very different kind of Christmas Season, a COVID-19 Christmas, if you will. It is no secret that COVID-19 is causing all sorts of interruptions to our normal Christmas plans, however that should not distract us from the real meaning of Christmas; it should propel us toward it.

Plans will be disrupted in our community, our church, and our family. Those traditions will have to wait a year. Let us not pretend that does not make us a bit sad, and maybe even angry, that we cannot go about Christmas as we always have, making those great memories with family and friends.

However, this interruption by a virus should get our attention. Maybe we have slipped into comfortable routines for Christmas. Traditions are good, do not get me wrong, but maybe because some of the clutter of traditions are cut away this year, we can again re-focus on the true meaning of Christmas.

November 29 begins the Advent Season in the church calendar. Advent is a season of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Christ at Christmas. On each of the four Sundays leading up to Christmas, the church focuses on some aspect of the Christmas story – usually through the sermon, music, and the Advent Wreath.

Each candle of the wreath represents a part of the Christmas story – hope (Prophet's Message), faith (Bethlehem), joy (Mary/Shepherds), peace (Angels), and the fifth candle is the Christ Candle lit on Christmas Eve.

Amidst the interruptions this year, let us use the Advent Season as real preparation to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior – the Kings of Kings, and Lord of Lords. As part of the preparation, I offer you the *Luke Challenge*. The Gospel of Luke has twenty-four chapters, if you begin on December 1 reading a chapter a day, you will cover the life of Christ by Christmas Day. You can of course use your own Bible, or we have the *Gospel of Luke* booklets available at the church to use if you want to make notes or underline certain passages.

So, please join us Sundays at 10:30 AM, *in person or online*, during the Advent season as we look at the Christmas story, and all the interruptions it caused. Yet despite the interruptions, it was for our good and His glory.

In Christ,
Pastor Barksdale

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

We will be decorating the church with poinsettias for Christmas. If you would like to give one in memory of, or in honor of a loved one; or to the Glory of God, please use a poinsettia envelope on the back table in the Sanctuary. Suggested donation is \$7 per poinsettia. *Return your envelope to the church by Monday, December 14th* in order to be listed in a special bulletin insert.



Thursday, December 24th, Christmas Eve

5:00pm Candlelight Communion Service (Also Live-Streamed)

7:00pm Candlelight Communion Service

Please register which service you will attend (sign up in church foyer or call 941-639-1959)



First Sunday of Advent

November 29



Second Sunday of Advent

December 6



Third Sunday of Advent

December 13



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20



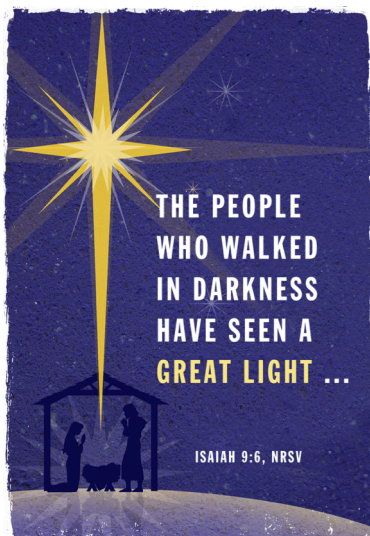
Christmas Eve

December 24



Christmas Day

December 25



OUR SAVIOR

THE STARS DO SHINE
SO FAR ABOVE
BUT ONE STANDS OUT
TO SHOW US LOVE.

IT SHOWS THE SPOT
WHERE JESUS LAY
A BABE SO SMALL
TO SHOW THE WAY.

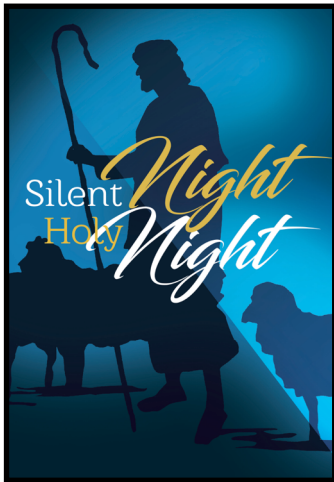
NOW WE DO KNOW
THE ONE IS HERE
THAT IS SENT FROM GOD
AND OH SO DEAR.

OUR LIVES ARE SAVED
OUR SORROWS GONE
OUR SINS FORGIVEN
HOW CAN WE GO WRONG?

OUR HOPE HAS COME
IN THIS SMALL BABE
TO LOVE US NOW AND
TO FORGIVE US EVERYDAY.

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND NANCY BEASOM

CHRISTMAS HYMNS



Silent Night! Holy Night!

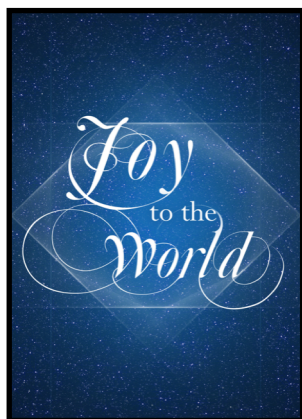
*Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and Child.
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.*

Away in a Manger

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay;
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.*



Joy to the World!

*Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.*

MEMBER CARE AND ACTIVITIES

Prayer Requests and Hospital / Rehab Information

Address, Phone, Email changes

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Email to first@fpcpunta.org

First Pres is now on Facebook!

Go to:

[facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurch-Punta Gorda](https://facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurch-PuntaGorda)

Giving to FPC - In person or

Mail to the church office: 25250 Airport Rd; Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Online Giving through our website: fpcpunta.org, click Donate

PRAYER SHAWL GATHERINGS

Monday, December 14th, at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall to knit or crochet.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays, December 1st and 15th - This month begins a new study entitled *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat* by John Ortberg. We will meet at the church from **10:00am - 11:30am**. For additional information, please call Kathy at 508-733-0546.

All women are invited to join us for study, fellowship, and refreshments!

DONUTS & DOCTRINE — Bible Study - Book of "Revelation"

Wednesdays, December 2nd, 9th, and 16th. The Wednesday Morning Bible Study meets at **10:00am** at the church, or online. *A new study will begin on January 13th. All welcome!*

GAME FELLOWSHIP — *Thursday mornings at 10:00am* in Fellowship Hall. *All welcome!*

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, January 8, 2021 -

Take Down the Christmas Decorations



NEW BABIES!

Congratulations to Dianne Sizemore on the birth of her 24th great-grandchild. Tilly Lynn McWilliams was born on October 27th to Davey and Amanda of Florida.



THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS GIFTING

Thank you for your Thanksgiving donations.
We delivered a check to St. Vincent de Paul
to use for the benefit of Charlotte County families.

**Our Christmas Eve offering will be given to
Crossroads Hope Academy.**



END OF YEAR GIVING

Thank you for your donations this year
to FPC and its various ministries.

As you consider your end of year giving,
please have your offerings/gifts to the church before
December 31, 2020. Any donations received after
that date will be applied to one's 2021 giving.

If you would like to donate gifts of stocks,
please call the church for information.

DECEMBER 2020

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 Sharon Russell	11 Bo & Karen Sostar	21 Laurel Aumend
2 Barbara Ryan	12 Anne Swift	22 Denny & Minty Ausman
3 Charles Sampsel	13 Gail Thornton	23 Ron Beasom
4 Elaine Schultz	14 Larrie & Marjorie Tisdale	24 Roy & Kathy Belville
5 Jene Shafer	15 Verna Wargo	25 Shirley Berg
6 Dave & Ella Sifferd	16 Don & Mary Anne Washabaugh	26 Rick & Kay Berner
7 Ron & Billie Sixt	17 Dave Woods	27 Bonnie Brown
8 Dianne Sizemore	18 James & Teri York	28 Marion Brown
9 Andy & Nancy Smith	19 Jay Aldridge	29 Ray & Joan Byron
10 Jerry & Margie Smith	20 Rex & Helen Anderson	30 Kay Callahan
		31 Bonnie Carey



17—Dave Sifferd	23—Steve Mock
19—Frances Frost	24—Bob Humphreys
20—Dave Osweiler	25—Cheri Foley
21—Larrie Tisdale	



19—John & Gail Evans	40 yrs.
19—David & Jane Otoupal	61 yrs.
21—Barksdale & Bo Pullen	36 yrs.