



The Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PUNTA GORDA
FLORIDA — ECO: A COVENANT ORDER OF EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIANS



January 2020

OUR MISSION AND PURPOSE

LOVING...GROWING...GOING...in JESUS!

*Loving...God and others through worship and fellowship.
Growing...in our understanding Jesus' and God's purposes for us through
Bible study, and developing our ministries to serve God and others.
Going...into God's world with His message of love and salvation through
Jesus Christ, and with His ministries of compassion and mercy.*

Stay connected when you're away. Watch our worship service LIVE! Go to our website at: www.fpcpunta.org and click on the link "Watch services LIVE here" on our homepage.



"GO AND SEARCH DILIGENTLY FOR

THE CHILD

AND ... BRING ME WORD SO THAT I MAY ALSO GO AND PAY HIM HOMAGE."
MATTHEW 28, NRSV

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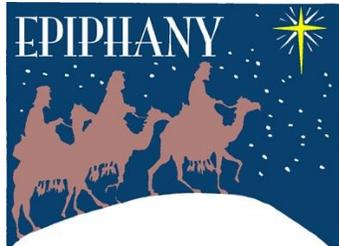
WORSHIP SCHEDULE



*Worship
Schedule*

Sunday Mornings - 10:30am Worship Service

Sunday Evenings - 6:00pm Prayer Meeting



EpiphanY Stars - As the old year turns to a new one at First Presbyterian Church, we will be offering stars during the service on *Sunday, January 5th*, with a word to guide us throughout the year as we remember the star that guided the Magi to Jesus.

INSTALLATION SUNDAY FOR PASTOR PULLEN



Pastor Barksdale Pullen will be installed as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church during the Worship Service on Sunday, January 15th.

A Celebration Reception will follow the service in Fellowship Hall.

WELCOME PASTOR BARKSDALE AND BO



Welcome to Pastor Barksdale and Bo!

Barksdale is originally from Hattiesburg, MS and his wife Bo is from Amory, MS. They have three grown children, Bob who is a High School math teacher in Jacksonville, FL, Katie who is married and is a missionary in Nicaragua, and Maddie who recently returned from a yearlong internship in France with *France pour Christ*. Barksdale and Bo met and married while at the University of Mississippi, and then attended Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, PA where he received his M.Div. and then later, he received his PhD from Trinity International University in Chicago, IL.



He has served at Christ Presbyterian Church in Nashville, TN; The Kirk of the Hills in St. Louis, MO; and the last fourteen years at Wildwood Presbyterian Church in Tallahassee, FL. He enjoys archery, the Lord of the Rings trilogy, and some of his favorite authors are RC Sproul, Ed Stetzer and Tim Keller.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Presbyterian Women's Bible Study will meet on *Tuesdays, January 7th and 21st*. We will begin a new study called "Redeemed" by Dr. Sam Nadler that is based on the book of Ruth. We meet from 10:00am - 11:30am the first and third Tuesdays of each month at the home of Kathy Belville, 6400 Taylor Rd #211 Eagle, Punta Gorda. For additional information and directions to Kathy's home, please call Kathy at 508-733-0546 or the church office at 941-639-1959. **To carpool, meet at the church at 9:45am.**

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



PRAYER SHAWL GATHERINGS

Monday, January 13th

The Prayer Shawl group meets the second Monday of each month at **10am in Fellowship Hall**. Please join us when you can. If you don't knit or crochet, perhaps you'd like to make a donation to support this ministry.



TREASURES TABLE

We are seeking donations of your "treasures" (no clothing, please) to add to the Treasures Table in Fellowship Hall. Also, please visit the table and if you find a "treasure" that you like, put a donation in the container. Proceeds are for outreach projects.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY - "Great Words"

WEDNESDAY
BIBLE
STUDY



The Wednesday Morning Bible Study will resume on **January 8, 2020** and will be led by Pastor Barksdale Pullen. The study will meet at 10:00am and meet in Fellowship Hall.

"It took a very small act to plunge the human race into the consequences of sin, but it took a great deal to restore our relationship with a holy God! The study is not to just teach you doctrine, it is to help you deepen your love and relationship with a God Who went to the extent of giving up all the comforts of heaven to join us on earth. And more, He was willing to take all the abuse we could heap on Him, even to the point of His suffering and dying for the very people who put Him on that cross. The God of our salvation — get to know Him again for the very first time".

Join us as we look at the **Great Words of our Faith**, such as **Gospel, Salvation, Predestination, Redemption, Forgiveness, and more....**

Session Highlights - December 2019

- 1) Membership: 94
- 2) Prayer time for our church and church members
- 3) 2020 Pledges as of December 16, 2019 - \$141,084
- 4) Capital Fund to-date - \$11,901
- 5) Approved repair of Memorial Fountain

GOD'S NEW YEAR



Starting fresh and looking back
Resolutions made. Are we on track?

The year begins and here we are
Looking at our lives so far.

Should we do the things we think we must
Or should we trust God's plan for us?

Show us, God, our way to go
And send your thoughts to us below.

We ask Your help to point the way
We need Your love inside us every day.

Put your arms around us tight
And walk us toward the light.

Thank You, God, for being here
And showing us the Way this year.

The Holy Spirit and Nancy Beasom



FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES



Friday, January 3rd, 10am
 Take Down Decorations
 Coffee and Donuts will be served



SAVE THE DATE
Wednesday,
February 12th



Lunch with
Pastor

LUNCH WITH PASTOR BARKSDALE AND BO

Wednesday, January 15th
12:00pm

The Fellowship team invites you to a Lunch with Pastor Barksdale and Bo in Fellowship Hall. They will share stories of their life and ministry.

Lunch will include Subs, Fruit, Chips, Cookies, Beverages

Sign up in the church foyer

CHRISTMAS GATHERING DINNER



FPC'S ANNUAL CONCERT SERIES



Stephanie Smith
 Organ
 September 29, 2019



Eirinn Abu
 Saxophone
 October 27, 2019



Isaac Mingus Trio
 February 16, 2020



SWFL Hand Bell Ensemble
 March 22, 2020



Chamber Accord
 April 26, 2020

MISSION MINISTRY



Wheelchair Ministry in Peru - January Fundraiser

The Mission Committee will hold a special fundraiser in January for the purchase of wheelchairs to support the ministry of our missionary Lisa Alfonsi in Lima, Peru.

The cost of one of three types of wheelchairs is \$80.

They are given away at no cost to the recipients.

Learn more about this wheelchair ministry at:

<https://www.freewheelchairmission.org>



HELPING MISIÓN PENIEL (IMMOKALEE, FLORIDA)

Our mission outreach to Misión Peniel in Immokalee with **Pastor Miguel Estrada** continues through the collection of Rice and Pinto Beans, clothing and other items. They may be placed in the plastic bin and wicker chest that are in the church foyer.



CROSSROADS HOPE ACADEMY (PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA)

To learn about volunteer opportunities at Crossroads, visit their website at www.Crossroadspg.org or talk to First Presbyterian Church member Ron Beasom.

Another way to help Crossroads - when you place an order from Amazon, please consider going to <https://smile.amazon.com> and select Crossroads Hope Academy as your charity. Crossroads earns a percentage of your purchase with no cost to you. Thank you!



ANTIOCH PARTNERS MISSIONARIES



Eric and Debbie Stone have served as missionaries in Guatemala for 21 years. Their mission is to facilitate Kingdom presence amid social crisis and they envision a community of churches with whom they share close bonds of trust and fellowship.

Learn more about Eric and Debbie Stone's ministry at www.theantiochpartners.org.



Lisa Alfonsi was called to participate in God's mission in Lima, Peru. She uses her experience as an occupational therapist to serve the disability community and their families in a variety of ways under the leadership of a local church. Lisa is also working with Free Wheelchair Mission, assembling and distributing wheelchairs to people in need.

Learn more about Lisa at www.theantiochpartners.org.

MINISTRY OUTREACH



Welcome Bags are available in our church foyer.
If you have a new neighbor or should greet someone at Church
that is new to the area,
please give them one of our Welcome Bags.

On **Sunday, February 2nd**, come prepared to put your cans of soup in the food bin and/or \$\$\$\$ in the empty soup pots. The soup will be given to the Veterans Village in Punta Gorda and the money will be given St. Vincent de Paul in Punta Gorda. In their last fiscal year, St. Vincent de Paul assisted over 25,000 individuals and/or families with food, clothing, furniture, household goods, and financial assistance.



We are helping Veterans Village by providing needed items and food. Dollar donations are used to purchase gift cards. As a way to thank our Veterans, we have "Thank You" notecards that you can take and write on.



Receiving gift cards!

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Prayer

O Prince of Peace, we humbly ask Your protection for all our men and women in military service. Give them unflinching courage to defend with honor, dignity and devotion the rights of all who are imperiled by injustice and evil. Guard our churches, our homes, our schools, our hospitals, our factories, our buildings, and all those within from harm and peril. Protect our land and its people from enemies within and without. Grant an early peace with victory founded upon justice. Instill in the hearts and minds of men and women everywhere a firm purpose to live forever in peace and good will towards all. Amen.

- * Capt. Alex Treadwell, Army, grandson-in-law of Diane Culver-Truby, stationed at Camp Casey, located near Seoul, South Korea.
- * Major John McPherson, Air Force, grandnephew of Marguerite O'Brien, stationed at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois.
- * Major Ryan Swisher, Army Ranger, grandson of Rachel Pfaender, stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.
- * Timothy Laux - ETVSN, Navy, grandson of Diane Tabert, stationed at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Georgia.
- * Capt. Eric Engstrom, Army Intel., son of Alan Engstrom, stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.
- * PFC Harrison Raymond Klipstine, Army, great nephew of Dianne Sizemore, stationed in Honolulu, Hawaii.
- * 2nd Lt. Paul Corbitt Geuy, Army, great nephew of Dianne Sizemore, attending the Ohio State University Dental School Program in Columbus, Ohio.
- * 2nd Lt. Zadick Self, Marines, grandson-in-law of Ron & Nancy Beasom, stationed at Camp Pendleton, California.
- * Navy Seaman Tyler Beasom, Navy, grandson of Ron & Nancy Beasom, training at Coronado Island, California.
- * PFC Brian K. Hulshoff, Army, grandson of David & Lynn Lang, stationed at Fort Hood, Texas.
- * Lt. Col. Robert C. Prijatelj, US Marine Corps, son of Bob and Dona Prijatelj and nephew of Laurel Aumend, stationed in Washington D.C.
- * MSgt. Nick Weiss, Air Force, grandson of Gail Thornton, is home based.

*Do you have a family member serving in the military?
If so, we'd like to add them to the newsletter prayer list. Fill out the form that's on the sign-up table
in the church foyer and place it in the HELMUT or let the church office know.*

MEMBER CARE



Bonnie Brown was baptized at our Worship Service on Sunday, November 24th.



USHERS - LITURGISTS -
COMMUNION SERVERS -
ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS - ATTENDANCE COUNTER

At the start of the New Year I should like to thank all those who have so willingly agreed to help in 2019. They assisted as ushers, communions servers, liturgists, advent candle lighters, and a helper who kept a head count of the congregation every week.

All are most appreciated and they are Jay Aldridge, Roy and Kathy Belville, Beverly Brady and George Fallenbeck, Kay Callahan, Jean Cleffi, Helmut and Phyllis Ehrhardt, Rich and Barb Harris, Marjorie Haun, Joan Hoffman, Bob and Jean Humphreys, Jean LaMantia, Ernie and DeAnn Lehman, Gene and Barb McPherson, Larry and Sue Mesler, Nancy Murphy, Patti Nuznoff, Marguerite O'Brien, Rachel Pfaender, Linda Potthoff, Bill and Pauli Purcell, Sharon Russell, Jene Shafer, Dave Sifferd, Gail Thornton, Don and Mary Anne Washabaugh, and Carol Zutter, who has moved away.

I sincerely thank you all, and wish you a blessed New Year. Diane Culver-Truby



Friday, January 3rd
12:00pm

Smoke N Pit
2200 Kings Highway
Punta Gorda

Sign up in the church foyer



LUNCH - 1st and 3rd Friday of each month

Friday, January 17th
12:00pm

Peter's Family Restaurant
2200 Kings Highway
Punta Gorda

Sign up in the church foyer



JANUARY 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 Ray & Cheri Foley	11 Bill & Ellen Hutt	21 Connie Luther
2 Frances Frost	12 Pat Ihrie	22 Myles MacDonald
3 Arlene Gebel	13 Bob & Beverly Ingalls	23 Steve MacDonald
4 Ron & Neta Gensemer	14 Tom & Carol Kerr	24 Gene & Barbara McPherson
5 Rich & Barb Harris	15 Art & Fran Koon	25 Larry & Sue Mesler
6 Marjorie Haun	16 Carolyn Kvam	26 Glee Miller
7 Anna Hill	17 Jean LaMantia	27 Bob & Sammi Mischler
8 Jean Hinman	18 David & Lynn Lang	28 Steve & Joanie Mock
9 Joan Hoffman	19 Ernie & DeAnn Lehman	29 Nancy Murphy
10 Bob & Jean Humphreys	20 Al & Susie Lorenz	30 Edwina Norton
		31 Jim & Patti Nuznoff



2—Marguerite O'Brien	23—Fran Koon
12—David Richards	26—Dianne Sizemore
13—Beverly Brady	29—Jean Hinman
13—Glee Miller	29—Rachel Pfaender
18—Bill Dosse	



29—Tom & Carol Kerr 53 yrs.

THIS 'N THAT

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

We welcome material for our church newsletter. All contributions are subject to editing with regard to the subject matter and space requirements.



Articles for the February 2020 issue are due Monday, January 13th

WEEKLY PRAYER SERVICE



Please join your church family in the Conference Room **Sunday evenings at 6pm**. Come and share in this experience of God's people praying together.

LOAVES AND FISHES MINISTRY



Are you interested in making a meal when there is a short term need in the congregation due to an illness or loss?

Are you willing to deliver a meal that someone else has fixed? If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please speak to Kay Callahan, our Deacon of this ministry, or all the church office.

R.O.M.E.O.S. & J.U.L.I.E.T.S. BREAKFAST



R.O.M.E.O.S. (Retired Old Men Eating Out Someplace) and J.U.L.I.E.T.S. (Joyful Understanding Ladies Inconspicuously Eating Together Someplace) will meet for breakfast at the **Sky View Café, Punta Gorda Airport**. Meet us at **8am on Thursdays, January 2nd, 16th and 30th**. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship.

THE SECOND CUP (OF COFFEE)



The Second Cup Bible Study discussion group, led by Dave Sifferd, resumes on **Thursdays, January 2nd, 16th and 30th at 9:15am** in the Conference Room.

GAME FELLOWSHIP



Game Fellowship is held **Thursdays from 10am to Noon** in **Fellowship Hall**. Join us to play or just to observe.

ADDRESS & EMAIL UPDATE



Please advise the church office when you change your mailing and/or email address. Thank you.

COMPUTER AVAILABLE FOR YOUR USE



We've set up a computer in the Conference Room for those of you who need the use of one. It has high-speed internet access and is available during office hours. We suggest that you call ahead to reserve time.

CHURCH LIBRARY



Need a good book to read? We have a wide variety of books including a large assortment of Christian Fiction. Please stop by, take a look, and check one out!

SPONSOR SUNDAY FLOWERS



The cost to sponsor flowers is **\$37.50**. To make a donation, please sign up on the sheets in the church foyer. You may list the flowers in honor and/or in memory of something or someone. When you sponsor flowers for a Sunday and would like to take them with you after the service, please stop in the kitchen after the last service and see the deacon in charge that day.

FURRY FRIENDS



Please remember our furry friends! In the church foyer there is a green tub where you can put dog and cat food, animal toys, and gently used blankets and towels. Donations are sent to the Animal Shelter.

ECO SHIRTS



Would you like a First Presbyterian ECO shirt? See Pastor Barksdale if interested.

MEET OUR OFFICERS

ELDERS



DEACONS

Nancy Beasom — Fellowship	505-9383
Rich Harris — Property	629-8336
Jean LaMantia— Ministry	525-4266
John Evans — Administration	616-551-6438
Bruce Peters — Administration	352-552-2324
Ron Sixt — Missions	607-742-4385
Gail Thornton — Clerk & Discipleship	916-1726
Diane Culver-Truby — Worship	637-7407
Don Washabaugh — Worship	255-8616

Laurel Aumend — Flowers	625-5238
Margie Smith — Prayer Shawls	833-0185
Bev Brady — Communion	843-838-9021
Phyllis Ehrhardt — Visitation	863-884-7489
Helmut Ehrhardt — Helping Hands	863-884-7489
Kay Callahan — Loaves and Fishes	916-9252
Marj Haun — Communications	661-2881
Lynn Lang — Library	979-7238
Jean Cleffi — Kitchen	639-6395

MEET THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN STAFF



Pastor
Barksdale Pullen
bmpullen3@fpcpunta.org



Office Manager
Debbie Rostad
debbie@fpcpunta.org



Choir Director
Joan Byron
jfb Byron@comcast.net



Secretary / Treasurer
Gail Thornton
gthorn1941@aol.com



Organist
Stephanie Smith
mornsun381@gmail.com



Volunteer Office Assistant
Billie Sixt



Volunteer Office Assistant
Bonnie Brown



First Presbyterian Church

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Website: www.fpcpunta.org



ECO

A Covenant Order
of Evangelical
Presbyterians



A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH

A PURPOSE-DRIVEN CHURCH