



JULY 2021

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

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[www.fpcpunta.org](http://www.fpcpunta.org)

## July 4th - America's Birthday

This is a great day to pause and give thanks to God for our nation. I'm not the sort of person that wraps the cross in the flag; I believe the Kingdom of God is much bigger than any one nation, but I would be blind if I did not recognize God's blessing on our nation throughout its history, and especially at its birth.

John Adams, one of our founding fathers, wrote to his wife about July 4th:

"I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade... from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more."

I marvel, when I think about those early settlers who left England for the unknown mainly because they were under religious persecution. They gave up everything for the right to freely worship God. The Declaration of Independence, our Constitution and the Bill of Rights give us many rights; we celebrate the right to worship God. For many of our brothers and sisters around the world, this freedom does not exist. This is a right and privilege that we should not take for granted; we thank God for establishing this country with these freedoms.

As I was reflecting on the July 4th celebration, I came across this Q&A with Billy Graham. He was answering a person who was visiting our country and wanted to know if July 4th was a Christian holiday. He replied:

"July 4th commemorates the day in 1776 that our nation declared itself to be an independent nation, and no longer a colony of England. On that date, a number of our leading citizens signed what is known as the Declaration of Independence, stating our determination to become a free country."

"Our independence did not come easily; only after several difficult years of war would it finally be won. Nor were our first years as a nation free from problems and controversies (as is still true). But our forefathers were determined to establish a free and democratic system of government, and the Declaration of Independence (together with our Constitution and the Bill of Rights) became the foundation for this. They have stood the test of time, and on July 4th we give thanks for the wisdom and faith and courage of those leaders."

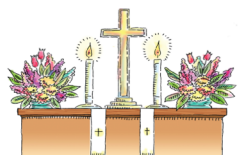
"Although it is not a religious holiday like Christmas or Easter, for many Americans July 4th is a time to reflect on God's goodness to us as a nation. Molded into the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia (which proclaimed our independence) are these words from the Bible: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof" (Leviticus 25:10, KJV). Our legal system reflects our Judeo-Christian roots."

"While we look with gratitude to the past on this July 4th, may we also look in faith to the future, and commit it and our lives to God and His will. The ancient words of the Psalmist are still true: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12)."

It is a great day for us to pause and give thanks, and a day for us to re-commit ourselves to the passage in Leviticus: that we will take every opportunity to proclaim true liberty to all, to share the Good News of the Gospel. I pray that God will bring renewal to our land, raise up disciples, and that FPC can be a beacon of hope to our community.

May God bless America.  
*Pastor Barksdale*

# WORSHIP MINISTRY



Worship Schedule

*Sunday Mornings - 10:30am Worship Service (Also Online)*

*Sunday Evenings - 6:00pm Prayer Meeting (Online)*



## *Fellowship Time*

*Join us for beverages, cookies and treats following the Sunday morning Worship Service*



## *July 4th Concert - "Freedom Sings"*

*Sunday, July 4th, 3:00pm in our Sanctuary*

*Patriotic Music presented by the Freedom Singers  
(FPC's Chancel Choir, Bion Cantorum,  
and Community Members)*

*Freewill Offering (Suggested donation of \$15.00)  
Veterans are free - we thank you for your service!*

*Stay for an Ice Cream Social following the concert!*

## *My All In All*



*You are my all in all  
From darkest night  
To morning light  
On valley's floor  
And mountaintop  
I hear your constant call  
You are my all in all!  
When troubles stare  
And trumpets blare  
When glory comes  
And failure runs  
I look around  
Glad songs abound  
I hear your call  
You are my all in all!*

*Holy Spirit / Nancy Beasom*

# MISSIONS MINISTRY FOR 2021



First Presbyterian Church proudly supports  
Missions from our church budget.  
If you would personally like to make additional  
donations, please make checks payable to FPC  
and indicate the mission on the memo line.



## Special Mission Support

Delivery of 101 pairs of blue jeans  
to *Jesus Loves You Ministry*.



Next Outreach Opportunity  
*Jesus Loves You Ministry*  
in partnership with  
St. Vincent de Paul

“Shower Ministry”

Sign up to help with activities  
that come up during the year!

## Monthly Mission Support

Crossroads  
**HOPE**  
Academy



**CROSSROADS HOPE ACADEMY (PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA)**

[Crossroadspg.org](http://Crossroadspg.org)



**JESUS LOVES YOU MINISTRY (PORT CHARLOTTE, FLORIDA)**

[Jesuslovesyouministryinc.com](http://Jesuslovesyouministryinc.com)



**MISIÓN PENIEL (IMMOKALEE, FLORIDA)**

[Misionpeniel.com](http://Misionpeniel.com)

**ANTIOCH PARTNERS MISSIONARIES**



Eric and Debbie Stone, Guatemala

Lisa Alfonsi, Lima, Peru

[theantiochpartners.org](http://theantiochpartners.org)



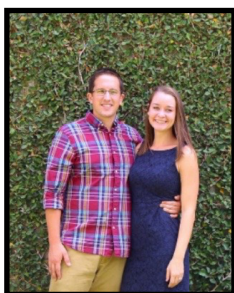
**MISSIONARY VENTURES INTERNATIONAL**

Chasen and Katie Brokaw

Nicaragua

[mvi.org](http://mvi.org)

[breakingborders.org](http://breakingborders.org)



# ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS



## PRAYER SHAWL GATHERINGS

*Monday, July 12th, at 10:00am* in Fellowship Hall to knit or crochet



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

*We will resume in the Fall! Have a wonderful summer!*



## WEDNESDAY EVENING SUPPER AND BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS, JULY 7, 14, 21, 28

*Join us on Wednesday evening at **5:00pm** for supper*

July 7	Jet Pizza/Salad/Watermelon/Dessert
July 14	Sandwiches/Chips/Pickles/Fruit/Dessert
July 21	Taco Bar
July 28	Potluck

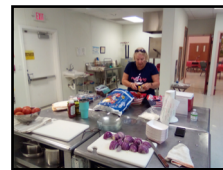
*Following supper, at 5:45pm, we will watch the video series *The Chosen* with discussion afterwards from 6:30pm to 7:00pm*

*Sign up in the church foyer*



## GAME FELLOWSHIP

*Thursday mornings at 10:00am* in Fellowship Hall *All are welcome!*



## SOCIABLE SINGLES

*LUNCH - 1st and 3rd Friday of each month*

*Sign up in the church foyer*



*Friday, July 2nd, 12:00pm*  
Longhorn Steakhouse  
Port Charlotte

*Friday, July 16th, 12:00pm*  
Riviera Bar & Grill  
Punta Gorda

# MEMBER CARE



*Prayer Requests and Hospital / Rehab Information*  
*Address, Phone, Email changes*  
*Birthdays and Anniversaries*  
Email to [first@fpcpunta.org](mailto:first@fpcpunta.org)



*First Pres is on Facebook!*

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



*Giving to FPC - In person*  
*Mail to the church office: 25250 Airport Rd. PG, FL 33950*  
*Online Giving through our website: [fpcpunta.org](https://fpcpunta.org), click Donate*



*Congratulations to Marjorie Haun on the birth of her 10th great grandchild!*  
*Jaxon Thomas Kells was born on June 2nd*  
*to Brandon and Krissie of Bradenton, FL.*



# JULY 2021

## 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 Alan Engstrom	11 Bob & Jean Humphreys	21 Al & Susie Lorenz
2 John & Gail Evans	12 Bill & Ellen Hutt	22 Connie Luther
3 George & Bev Fallenbeck	13 Pat Ihrle	23 Gene & Barbara McPherson
4 Dick & Sandy Fisher	14 Bob & Beverly Ingalls	24 Larry & Sue Mesler
5 Frances Frost	15 Tom & Carol Kerr	25 Bob & Sammi Mischler
6 Ron & Neta Gensemer	16 Jean LaMantia	26 Steve & Joanie Mock
7 Rich & Barb Harris	17 Ken & Lynda Lambert	27 Jim & Patti Nuznoff
8 Marjorie Haun	18 David & Lynn Lang	28 Marguerite O'Brien
9 Jean Hinman	19 Ernie & DeAnn Lehman	29 David Osweiler
10 Joan Hoffman	20 Paul & Pat Longergan	30 David & Jane Otoupal
		31 Nelson and Florence Parker



11—Billie Sixt	20—Marjorie Haun
13—Bonnie Brown	20—Jim Nuznoff
16—Ernie Lehman	20—Bruce Peters
18—Sandy Fisher	20—Dave Woods
18—John Douglas	21—Patti MacDonald
	23—Ron Beasom



11—Don & Mary Anne Washabaugh	46 yrs.
20—Sam & Patti Cessna	1 yr.