



NOVEMBER 2020

**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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## THANKSGIVING

Well, here we are in November – still battling Covid-19, unrest in the land, elections, wildfires, hurricanes, still separated from family and friends, etc., and it is the month of Thanksgiving. With all that is happening, how can we give thanks?

Well, for the Christian, we have guidance from His Word, we read in Philippians 4: *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

How do we do this? We are told to pray. Remember, we are children of God, and He is our Father. We are not pleading our case before a judge to calm our worries; we are crying out to our Father for peace. Do we view God in that manner?

Our prayers and petitions are to be done with *thanksgiving*. How? We are probably anxious because of some circumstance in our lives. Where does this thanksgiving come from? Being thankful in a time of stress requires at least three ideas.

The first is to remember God's faithfulness in the past. John Piper refers to the future grace of God, because we know that He has been faithful in the past. Does that mean that life for the Christian is easy? No, but it does mean that God has seen us through difficult times in the past, and because He loves us, He will be with us in the present and future. Even in the extreme case of death – He is with us in the valley, and we come out on the other side in paradise with Him.

Second, we recognize that God is sovereign. That means that whatever is happening in your life is there because God sent it, or allowed it, to happen. Nothing in this current world is a surprise to God, it is part of His plan. Because He loves you, it is part of His plan for your good. The trial can be rough in the moment, but you are not alone, and it is not without purpose.

Third, it gives us an opportunity to examine our heart. Why am I anxious? Are there idols like control or self-determination that I am holding on to? Maybe there is something there that needs to be confessed. Or maybe not, it is just an opportunity to pause and realize that He is really in control. That He really is your Father.

When we take time to reflect upon these three ideas – in prayer – we come before God with specific needs, but in a thankful spirit because He has already proved Himself in so many ways; not least of which is calling you to Himself. So, our anxious thoughts can be replaced with the peace that passes all understanding. We rest in Him.

Because we are His children, we can have peace, and in this month especially, we can give thanks, wholeheartedly. Happy Thanksgiving, Y'all.

In His Grip,  
*Pastor Barksdale*



*Celebrating 125 years – 2020*



## FROM THE CHOIR LOFT

*It has been a long time since our choir has sung at a service, but we will be back in December! Choir rehearsals will begin on November 12th and we look forward to singing for you again. We do have some open spaces for singers. All that we require is that you have a love of singing and a mask! We have also had a baby princess grand donated to us and it sits proudly in the Choir Room. We will have special guest performers throughout the rest of the season. Our new Organist, Dennis Ausman, has been filling in the Special Music area with his fantastic tenor voice, but we need to give him a rest. If you have any musical talent to share with us or wish to join the choir, please let me know. I am usually in church on Sunday or you can reach me at 941-661-1553 or at [jfbyron@comcast.net](mailto:jfbyron@comcast.net). Depending on where we are after the first of the year, you may look forward to the Second Annual Concert Series to begin again. In the meantime, please stay safe and stay healthy.*

*Peace, Joan Byron, Choir Director*



# MEMBER CARE AND ACTIVITIES

*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 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](https://fpcpunta.org), click **Donate***

## PRAYER SHAWL GATHERINGS

*Monday, November 9th, at 10:00am* in Fellowship Hall to knit or crochet.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Meets on **Tuesdays, November 3rd and 17th**. We are on lessons 5 & 6 of 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. **To carpool, meet at the church at 9:45am.**

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

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

The **Wednesday Morning** Bible Study meets at **10:00am** at the church, or online. *All welcome!*

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

## SAVE THE DATES

**Friday, November 13 -**

**Sunday, November 22 -**

**Saturday, November 28, 9:00am -**

**Sunday, November 29 -**

**Sunday, November 29 -**

Mission Day Trip to Misión Penial (12:00pm - 9:00pm)

Dedication / Pledge Sunday

Decorate the Church for Christmas - Sign up in church foyer

First Sunday of Advent

Congregational Annual Meeting following the Worship Service

## NEW BABIES!

*Congratulations to Rex and Helen Anderson on the birth of their first great-grandchild. Fox Edison was born August 20th to Cole and Nakeisha Duncan of Houston, Texas.*

*Congratulations to Ron Beasom on the birth of his first great-grandchild. William Keith was born on October 6th to Zachary and Hannah Schwab of Pittsburg, Kansas.*

*Congratulations to Barksdale and Bo Pullen on the birth of their first grandchild. Alexander Calihan was born on October 15th to Chasen and Katie Brokaw, serving as missionaries in Nicaragua.*



*Please pray for Phyllis Ehrhardt and family, whose husband Helmut went home to the Lord on October 19th.*

*Watch the weekly bulletin as more activities start back up*



# NOVEMBER 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 Carolyn Kvam	11 Gene & Barbara McPherson	21 Nelson & Florence Parker
2 Jean LaMantia	12 Larry & Sue Mesler	22 Bruce Peters
3 David & Lynn Lang	13 Glee Miller	23 Rachel Pfaender
4 Ernie & DeAnn Lehman	14 Bob & Sammi Mischler	24 Linda Potthoff
5 Paul & Pat Longergan	15 Steve & Joanie Mock	25 Larry & Pat Pritchard
6 Al & Susie Lorenz	16 Nancy Murphy	26 Barksdale & Bo Pullen
7 Connie Luther	17 Jim & Patti Nuznoff	27 Bill & Pauli Purcell
8 Wallace & Barbara Lynch	18 Marguerite O'Brien	28 David & Milanne Richards
9 Myles MacDonald	19 David Osweiler	29 Fred & Gayle Rosa
10 Steve MacDonald	20 David & Jane Otoupal	30 Jack & Patty Rothley



2—Larry Mesler	7—Alan Engstrom	17—Jerry Smith
4—Ray Byron	14—Ron Sixt	19—Verna Wargo
5—Diane Culver-Truby	17—Barksdale Pullen	30—John Evans
	17—Milanne Richards	



2—Ray & Joan Byron	35 yrs.
5—Lee & Anne Swift	49 yrs.
29—Bill & Pauli Purcell	11 yrs.