



AUGUST 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"**

25250 Airport Road  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
941-639-1959  
[first@fpcpunta.org](mailto:first@fpcpunta.org)  
[www.fpcpunta.org](http://www.fpcpunta.org)

This month we are focusing on our **Mission Ministry Team** at FPC. Our Mission Team has the privilege to reach out in Jesus' name and help people within and outside our church in practical ways. They support both international and local missions through our financial giving and donations of time and resources. Internationally we support three missionary families located in Peru, Guatemala, and Nicaragua. Locally we support four mission organizations: Jesus Loves You Ministry, Crossroads Hope Academy, Misión Peniel, and St. Vincent de Paul. The following are updates from our supported missions. (Below are just excerpts from their newsletters, please visit the Missions Board for their complete reports.)



## **Clever Sobrino and Lisa Alfonsi in Peru**

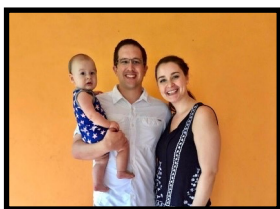
Website: [www.cleverandlisa.com](http://www.cleverandlisa.com)

Our mission as a family is to connect people with disabilities to Jesus through the vibrant local church and help people to receive the gift of mobility through a wheelchair.

Our goals for this year 2021 will be to fully train and support all ministries, pastors, and volunteers within the church in order to be a more inclusive church in all areas of the church, to help them receive and support families with family members with a disability in all areas of the church. We pray that this will be both online as it is now, but also in person when the church reopens to in-person services in the future.

## **Personal Life and Prayer Requests**

1. We have moved forward in the now 3 year adoption process. Praise God. Kaleb's case is FINALLY in the office of adoptions! Our process is NEW to their normal way of doing things so we are praying for favor and speed in getting this all done. We pray that our lawyer who has been with us through all of this will be able to navigate this process well and help move it forward.
2. On July 28th Peru's new president will take office. He is a known extreme leftist with communistic viewpoint. Please pray for the direction, safety, and provision for Peru.
3. Vaccinations have been much slower here in Peru. But they are slowly rolling out the vaccines and are slowly decreasing precautions that were once so strict. We do still have to wear double masks out in public.
4. We continue to balance a full case load of work with virtual learning school 5 days a week for Kaleb. He is halfway through 4-yr old preschool and really would love to end the 2nd half in person learning. We are praying for this to be a possibility with the vaccine roll out.
5. Our landlord is planning to sell our current apartment that we LOVE and have lived in the past 3 years. Please pray that if it sells, that we have a better living option presented to us at just the right time in the perfect location that fits our needs.



## **Chasen and Katie Brokaw in Nicaragua**

Website: [mvi.org](http://mvi.org) or [breakingborders.org](http://breakingborders.org)

Our mission is to use the sport of Ultimate as a tool to promote strong Biblical character development in youth and young adults.

One way to enter a community or local school with the Gospel is to first introduce them to a sport. As teams are formed, then leagues and finally large-scale tournaments, we have the opportunity to make a greater impact on the youth. As each team gathers for practice, part of the time is spent going through our Bible-based curriculum. We believe Ultimate has many intrinsic values that can be applied not only in the game, but in life, relationships, and our jobs. We also believe that the Bible has some of the greatest examples of leadership the world has ever known. For those reasons we have developed a leadership curriculum aptly called "THE DISC." Each letter in the pneumonic stands for a different leadership (*Cont. on Pg. 2*)

### **Mission Ministry Team (continued from Page 1)**

value that can be found in Ultimate. In addition, each of these values can be found throughout many different examples of Biblical leadership. Each of these values make up what we believe to be a great leader, but most importantly, a strong follower of Christ. T-Teachability; H-Humility; E-Empowerment; D-Dedication; I-Integrity; S-Service; C-Communication.

#### *Prayer Requests:*

- 1) Safety for our staff and students from Covid-19
- 2) Chasen's continued recovery from surgery, which went well
- 3) Wisdom in making ministry plans for the next year
- 4) Protection and justice in this country over the next few months
- 5) Praise for so many recent examples of God's faithfulness
- 6) Praise for how Alexander is growing



#### **Eric and Debbie Stone in Guatemala**

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

Our ministry is based in Zacapa, a hot, arid, desert-like region in the northeast. Zacapa also exemplifies the mission paradox of Guatemala in that while being one of the most evangelized countries in the world according to Joshua Project data, it is continually ranked as one of the most violent countries in the world, especially against women. The Stone's ministries are designed to promote a Christian culture via education and practical training that help folks make decisions that facilitate an orderly, God ordained existence in the face of growing social chaos.

#### *Prayer Requests:*

That Eric and Dan have safe travels and edifying, character-building experiences this summer  
That our tutoring program begins soon, as we have gotten a positive response from the homeschool provider  
That the Lord gives Debbie clear discernment regarding her next steps with the sewing group  
That we continue to enjoy good health and that our financial support might grow



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

**Jesus Loves You Ministry** is a mobile outreach program of the homeless in southwest Florida. We provide the following services: Transportation to and from appointments; mobile lunch program; portable shower truck; case management; benefit application assistance; facilitate medical and mental health treatment; resource referrals; weekly men's, women's and co-ed Bible studies; food pantry and hygiene closet; mobile lunch truck; and much more.



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

**Crossroads Hope Academy** is a home and school for foster boys who have had multiple failed placements in the Florida foster care system. Making the transition from family life – even dysfunctional family life – to foster child is an unimaginably difficult proposition. Some kids have substantial complications for which the current foster care system is not well equipped to handle. These kids get moved from failed placement to failed placement. Their esteem suffers; they fall behind in school or drop out; many end up homeless. Crossroads specializes in these cases.

At Crossroads we take in these boys, between 12 and 18 years of age, and offer them a stable home – for most it is the first stable home they have ever known. Crossroads has specially trained staff, counselors, and teachers who work to retrieve these kids from despair and help them grow and transition into well-adjusted and self-sufficient adults. Crossroads would not be successful without the financial and volunteer support of our community. Providing the level of interaction, intercession, and care these boys need is much more costly than it is to meet the needs of kids who have not gone through their trauma. These costs are recouped by society ten-fold in the future as we break the cycle of government dependence, crime and irresponsible behavior which so often befalls kids who are otherwise abandoned.



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

**Misión Peniel** began as a pastoral ministry of charity and service, providing food, clothing, fellowship and emergency support to farmworkers in Immokalee in September of 2006. Beginning in 2013, Misión Peniel became a ministry of Peace River Presbytery while continuing to be a vehicle for people of faith to respond to a call for compassionate service to complement the focus on social justice provided so aptly through the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. Under the leadership of Pastor Miguel Estrada, they address the isolation and injustice among migrant workers in Immokalee and provide support through spiritual and material care. They bring together people of faith and compassion to act with farm workers to achieve fundamental change in their living and working conditions.



[svdp-dov.org/sacred-heart](http://svdp-dov.org/sacred-heart)

Through the generosity of the parishioners of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, local churches, businesses, other generous donors and several fundraisers, **St. Vincent de Paul** is able to distribute food, clothing, household goods, furniture and provide limited financial assistance for past due rent and utilities, educational assistance and programs to break the cycle of poverty which helps families struggling to make ends meet.

# WORSHIP MINISTRY



*Sunday Mornings - 10:30am Worship Service (Also Online)*  
*Sunday Evenings - 6:00pm Prayer Meeting (On Facebook)*



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



*Chancel Choir*  
*We will resume rehearsals on Thursday, August 26th, at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary.*  
*Returning and new members are WELCOME!!*  
*Please contact Joan Byron at 941-661-1553 for more information.*



Saturday, October 2	Alzheimer's Walk (FPC will sponsor a team)
Monday, October 18	Burgers and Badges BBQ for Sheriff Dept. & EMTs
Tuesday, October 26	Mural Walk in downtown Punta Gorda
Monday, November 8	Mural Walk in downtown Punta Gorda
Wednesday, November 17	Welcome Back BBQ
Saturday, November 27	Hanging of the Greens
Friday, December 3	Bob Hope Concert at Military Museum
Sunday, December 5	Christmas Concert followed by cookies and punch
Wednesday, December 8	Church-wide Christmas Dinner
Sundays, December 12 & 19	Christmas Open House at home of Barksdale and Bo
Friday, December 24	Christmas Eve Service

# FPC ACTIVITIES



## PRAYER SHAWL GATHERINGS

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



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

*We will resume in the Fall!*



## GAME FELLOWSHIP

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

WEDNESDAY  
BIBLE  
STUDY



## DONUTS & DOCTRINE

*Resumes Wednesday, September 8th, 10:00am*

*This fall we will look at I and II Samuel*



## WEDNESDAY EVENING SUPPER AND BIBLE STUDY RESUMES in SEPTEMBER!

**Wednesdays, September 8th through October 20th**

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

Following supper, at 5:45pm, we will watch the video series  
*The Chosen* (Season 2, Episodes 2-8)

with discussion afterwards from 6:30pm to 7:00pm

## SOCIABLE SINGLES

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

*Sign up in the church foyer*

*Friday, August 6th, 12:00pm*

*Donato's  
Port Charlotte*



*Friday, August 20th, 12:00pm*

*Luigi's  
Port Charlotte*



# 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 Patricia MacDonald*  
*on the birth of her new grandson Jonah William MacDonald*  
*Jonah was born on July 5th to Tiffany and Jim of Lake Elsinore, CA*

*Congratulations to Larrie and Marjorie Tisdale*  
*on the birth of their 7th great-grandson Bennett Adam Tisdale*  
*Bennett was born on July 10th to Ian and Kaitlyn of Louisville, KY*

## *Special Mission Support*



Gail Thornton  
with lunches  
to be delivered  
to Jesus Loves You Ministry



### Outreach Opportunity - Jesus Loves You Ministry

The Missions Team is taking donations  
of socks and underwear from August 8th to 22nd

Men's boxers/briefs - Medium/Large  
Women's - Size 5 to 7

\$\$ Donations also accepted  
Make checks payable to FPC ("Socks" in Memo Line)

# AUGUST 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	Bruce Peters	11	Jene Shafer	21	Dave Woods
2	Rachel Pfaender	12	David & Ella Sifferd	22	Teri York
3	Linda Potthoff	13	Ron & Billie Sixt	23	Carol Zutter
4	Larry & Pat Pritchard	14	Andy & Nancy Smith	24	Sharon Albright
5	Barksdale & Bo Pullen	15	Margie Smith	25	Jay Aldridge
6	David & Milanne Richards	16	Bo & Karen Sostar	26	Rex & Helen Anderson
7	Jack & Patty Rothley	17	Anne Swift	27	Laurel Aumend
8	Barbara Ryan	18	Gail Thornton	28	Denny & Minty Ausman
9	Charles Sampsel	19	Larrie & Marjorie Tisdale	29	Ron Beasom
10	Elaine Schultz	20	Don & Mary Anne Washabaugh	30	Roy & Kathy Belville
				31	Shirley Berg



17—Susie Lorenz  
 22—Neta Gensemer  
 26—Joanie Mock  
 30—Marion Brown



5—Larry & Sue Mesler                      62 yrs.  
 16—Andy & Nancy Smith                      63 yrs.  
 18—Charlie & Doris Costa                      59 yrs.  
 23—Pete & Debbie Rostad                      46 yrs.  
 29—Ron & Neta Gensemer                      68 yrs.