

10:30am Worship Service		
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS		
PRELUDE	<i>Sing We Now of Christmas</i>	Douglas E. Wagner
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE		Charlie and Doris Costa
INTROIT	<i>How Great Our Joy!</i>	Traditional German Carol
*HYMN #278		<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>
PRAYER OF CONFESSION		
O God, whose wondrous love took the form of a little boy, we confess, honestly and sadly, our great lack of love. We fail to love the unlovely, because the effort seems foredoomed. We forget that, in Your sight, none of us is lovely. We find it hard to love our loved ones without bending, manipulating or otherwise using them. We forget that, with You, love means acceptance first. And Lord, we suspect that we do not love even ourselves properly; and that the poverty of our love may reflect our failure to accept the riches of Your love, offered to us, again and again, freely and gladly, in the form of that little child. Forgive us, merciful Lord, for His sake. <i>(Silent Confession)</i>		
WORDS OF ASSURANCE		
*GLORIA PATRI #813		
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH <i>Taken from the Nicene Creed (Unison)</i>		
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. Amen.		
ANTHEM	<i>Heard About a Newborn King</i>	David Lantz III
PASTORAL PRAYER		
RESPONSE	<i>Isn’t He?</i>	John Wilber
OFFERTORY	<i>Good Christian Men, Rejoice</i>	Wilbur Held
*DOXOLOGY #815		
*PRAYER OF DEDICATION		
We give our gifts in love and thanksgiving for all that we have been given. Let our giving, gracious God, be not the end point but rather the beginning. Let our gifts of love and gratitude travel where we do not, making pathways of hope where there is none. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.		
SCRIPTURE	Isaiah 9:6-7	
MESSAGE	<i>Who is Jesus? – Caregiver</i>	Pastor Steve Mock
*HYMN #256		<i>Love Has Come!</i>
*BENEDICTION		
*RESPONSE	<i>Emmanuel</i>	Latin Hymn
*Please stand, if able		
Hearing assist devices are available at the tech booth – please feel free to ask for one.		
Refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the 10:30am service		
CCLI #1140231 CVLI #504065392		

9:00am New Beginnings Service		
SPECIAL MUSIC		
<i>Never Been a Night</i>		New Beginnings Praise Team
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE		
*PRAISING GOD IN SONG		<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful</i>
		<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>
		<i>Manger Medley</i>
PRAYER		
OFFERING		<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>
SPECIAL MUSIC		<i>Go Tell It on the Mountain</i>
		New Beginnings Praise Team
SCRIPTURE		Isaiah 9:6-7
MESSAGE	<i>Who is Jesus? – Caregiver</i>	Pastor Steve Mock
*CLOSING SONG		<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>
MINISTRY OF PRAYER		
Prayer Focus		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pray for persecuted Christians throughout the world.Pray for those who serve in the military and their families during the war against terrorism.Pray for our church and ECO as we seek to be a flourishing church that makes disciples of Jesus ChristPray for Charlotte County, for revival and renewal as part of Prayers Over Charlotte.Pray for Lisa Alfonsi and Eric Stone & family, missionaries that we support.Pray for those affected by the hurricanes, especially Puerto Rico, and the fires in California.Pray for the church affected by the shooting in Texas.		
Those Who Grieve		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pray for Phyllis Richardson and family, whose husband Ed went home to the Lord on November 25th.		
Those with Special Needs		
Rachel Pfaender		Rev. Larry Yerger
Kay Callahan		Helen Anderson
Ella Sifferd		Nancy Beasom
Dianne Sizemore		Cara Coletti
Joe Brooks		Joe Cherny
Ken Haun		Richard Hill
Helmut Ehrhardt		Ernie Lehman
Lynn Lang		
Those who are in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes		
Barbara Shinn, <i>The Palms of Punta Gorda</i>		Marion Brown, <i>Royal Palm</i>
Lorraine Sisson, <i>Saginaw, MI</i>		Mae Snyder, <i>Port Charlotte Rehab</i>
Doris Henning, <i>Sandhill Gardens</i>		
<i>Please keep the office updated concerning your requests.</i>		
CELL PHONES – Please remember to silence or turn off your mobile devices.		
CHURCH NEWSLETTER – Available in the church foyer and on our website.		
PICTURE DIRECTORIES – Available in the church foyer.		
FLOWERS – The flowers are given by Joe Cherny to the Glory of God.		

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE – TONIGH 7:00 PM
YEAR-END GIVING – To make sure your giving for 2017 gets credited for 2018, please have your offering/gift to the church before December 31, 2017. . donations received after that date will be applied to one’s 2018 giving.
2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES AVAILABLE – The 2018 offering envelopes are now available for you to pick up on the table in the foyer. If you do not see your name; or if you haven’t used envelopes in the past, but would like to have one, please bring them to the office know and we’ll assign a box of envelopes for you to use.
WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY — Pastor Larry’s Bible Study will meet this Wednesday, December 27th.
R.O.M.E.O.S. (<u>R</u> etired <u>O</u> ld <u>M</u> en <u>E</u> ating <u>O</u> ut <u>S</u> omeplace) & J.U.L.I.E.T.S. (<u>J</u> oining <u>U</u> s <u>L</u> adies <u>I</u> nconspicuously <u>E</u> ating <u>T</u> ogether <u>S</u> omeplace) - will meet at Sky View Café at the Punta Gorda Airport THIS Thursday, December 28th 8:00am. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship.
SIGN UP TO HELP TAKE THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS DOWN – Please sign up on Friday, January 5th, at 10am to help take down and store our decorations. <u>Many hands make light work!</u>
SOCIABLE SINGLES – Please sign up in the church foyer for these events: Friday, January 5th, 12:00pm – Outback Steakhouse, Port Charlotte. Carpool from the church at 11:30am. Friday, January 19th, 12:00pm – Hurricane Charley’s, Punta Gorda. No carpooling.
TURKEY & NOODLES DINNER AND PROGRAM – Join us on Wednesday, January 17th, at 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall. The program is “Out of My Hat: Juggling and Illusions by Gerald Tricarico. Donation - \$5.00 per person. Please sign up in the church foyer.
MISIÓN PENIEL IN IMMOKALEE – Place donations of <u>gently used blank sheets, towels, long-sleeve t-shirts and regular shirts</u> in the wicker basket.
CROSSROADS MINISTRY – If you would like to donate to the ministry Crossroads Hope Academy, please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and on the memo line write “Crossroads.”
SUPPORT THE “PUNTA GORDA VETERANS VILLAGE” ON TAYLOR ROAD – Please place donated items in the green basket in the church foyer.
MISSIONARY SUPPORT – We are financially supporting two mission families through Antioch Partners. If you would like to make a donation, please make checks payable to the church and on the memo line write “Stone Family (Guatemala) or “Lisa Alfonsi” (Peru).
LOAVES AND FISHES MINISTRY – Are you interested in making a meal where there is a short-term need in the congregation due to an illness or loss? Or deliver a meal that someone else has fixed? If so, please call the church office to volunteer.
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MINISTRY – Our RED “Welcome Bags” are in the church foyer waiting for you to deliver to a new neighbor in your neighborhood.
PLEASE BRING IN FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY - Let us see the blue food boxes overflowing each week. Some suggestions: peanut butter, jelly, cereal and so on.
FURRY FRIENDS – Our furry friends need your help! 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. For questions, ask Randy or Diane Curtis.

PRAYER EMAIL LIST – If you would like to be on Pastor Steve’s prayer email list, please email Pastor Steve at **steve@fpcpunta.org**.

OUR DAILY BREAD – This booklet of daily devotionals is on the table in the back of the Sanctuary.

MUSIC MINISTRY – Special Music is available in an mp3 format by emailing Randy at **rpc1220@me.com**. We also have a private Facebook page where music and occasional videos are uploaded for your enjoyment. To gain access to this page, please email Randy. Live streaming of services is available on our website homepage (**www.fpcpunta.org**) by clicking on the link: WATCH LIVE AND RECENT SERVICES HERE.

THE FELLOWSHIP TEAM requests your comments and suggestions for our activities. An “idea box” is in the church foyer.

TREASURES TABLE – Visit the Presbyterian Women’s Priceless Treasures table in the Fellowship Hall. You may place your “treasures” there (no clothing, please); or if you find a “treasure” that you like, put a donation in the container. Proceeds are for outreach projects.

FLOWERS – May be sponsored for the **cost of \$37.50**. To make a donation, sign up in the church foyer. You may list the flowers in honor and/or in memory of something or someone.

EVENTS FOR THE WEEK	
December 24th thru December 31st	
<u>Sunday, December 24</u> 7:00pm	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent / Christmas Eve</i> Candlelight Communion Service
<u>Monday, December 25</u>	<i>Christmas Day</i>
<u>Thursday, December 28</u> 8:00am	R.O.M.E.O.S. & J.U.L.I.E.T.S.
<u>Sunday, December 31</u> 9:00am 10:30am	<i>New Year’s Eve</i> <i>New Beginnings</i> Worship Traditional Worship

SERMON NOTES

Isaiah 9:6-7 (NIV)

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Loving...Growing...Going...in Jesus!



OUR VISION AND PURPOSE

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

ALL IN JESUS’ NAME!

ECO’S VISION

... to build flourishing churches that make disciples of Jesus Christ

December 24, 2017 9:00am & 10:30

WELCOME

This morning as we join in worship, our hope is that each of us will find renewed life, health and strength in God. We are glad to welcome each visitor and friend and that you have chosen to hear God’s call with this congregation. If you living in this area, either permanently or for the season, we invite you to join us in ministry with us by becoming a covenant partner of our congregation.

PASTOR
ASSISTANT PASTOR
MUSIC DIRECTOR
OFFICE MANAGER
LITURGIST
USHERS

Rev. Steve Mock
Rev. Larry Yerger
Randall Curtis
Debbie Rostad
Marguerite O’Brien
Jean LaMantia, Kay Callahan,
Sharon Russell, Jene Shafer

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