

10:30am Worship Service

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

The Kingsfold Trumpet

Alfred V. Fedak

CALL TO WORSHIP

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Roy & Kathy Belville

INTROIT

Joyful, Joyfiul, We Adore Thee

Hymn to Joy

Chancel Choir

\*HYMN #244

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we know we ought to be watching for signs of Your presence and of Your Son's coming. But we are so easily distracted by what is none of our business, like Peter worrying about the Master's love for John; or even by what is our business, like Martha cooking up a storm in her kitchen; or by sheer fatigue, like the disciples in Gethsemane. Forgive our distraction, most patient Lord, and let this Advent season find us alert to Your presence and eagerly looking forward to the coming of Your Son, both at Christmas and at the end of time. (Silent Confession)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

\*GLORIA PATRI #813

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Taken from the Nicene Creed (Unison)

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

In the Silence, Wondrous Love

Ruth Elaine Schram

Chancel Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONSE

Come, Holy Child

R. P. Curtis

OFFERTORY

In the Bleak Mid-Winter

arr. Charity Boyles

\*DOXOLOGY #815

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Blessed God, we stand before You as Your people, offering to You what we can in anticipation of Your coming again to earth. You give us much, we give You little - yet You are gracious to bless what we give. Please accept these small gifts and transform them into the work of Your reign on this earth, as we make ready for the newborn Christ. In His name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:6-7

MESSAGE

Who is Jesus? - Friend

Pastor Steve Mock

\*HYMN #461

In Remembrance

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Invitation and Prayer of Dedication  
Sharing the Bread and Cup  
The Prayer of Thanksgiving & the Lord’s Prayer (debts/debtors)

\*HYMN #630

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

\*BENEDICTION

\*RESPONSE

Threefold Amen

R. P. Curtis

\*Please stand, if able

Hearing assist devices are available at the tech booth – please feel free to ask for one.

CCLI #1140231 CVLI #504065392

9:00am New Beginnings Service		
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SPECIAL MUSIC	<i>Christmastime</i>	
	New Beginnings Praise Team	
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE		
*PRAISING GOD IN SONG	<i>Lord, I Lift Your Name on High</i>	
	<i>O Come, O Come Emmanuel</i>	
	<i>Worthy, You Are Worthy</i>	
PRAYER		
OFFERING	<i>Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus</i>	
SPECIAL MUSIC	<i>Christmas Is Coming</i>	
	New Beginnings Praise Team	
SCRIPTURE		Isaiah 9:6-7
MESSAGE	<i>Who is Jesus? – Friend</i>	Pastor Steve Mock
SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER		
*CLOSING SONG		<i>Emmanuel</i>
<hr/>		

MINISTRY OF PRAYER		
<i>Prayer Focus</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Pray for persecuted Christians throughout the world.</li><li>Pray for those who serve in the military and their families during the war against terrorism.</li><li>Pray for our church and ECO as we seek to be a flourishing church that makes disciples of Jesus Christ</li><li>Pray for Charlotte County, for revival and renewal as part of Prayers Over Charlotte.</li><li>Pray for Lisa Alfonsi and Eric Stone &amp; family, missionaries that we support.</li><li>Pray for those affected by the hurricanes, especially Puerto Rico, and the fires in California.</li><li>Pray for the church affected by the shooting in Texas.</li></ul>		
<i>Those Who Grieve</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Pray for Phyllis Richardson and family, whose husband Ed went home to the Lord on November 25th.</li></ul>		

<i>Those with Special Needs</i>		
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
<i>Those who are in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes</i>		
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>		
<i>Refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the 10:30am service</i>		

**CELL PHONES** – Please remember to silence or turn off your mobile devices.  
**FLOWERS** – The flowers are given by Diane Tabert in loving memory of Fred.  
**DECEMBER NEWSLETTER** – Available in the church foyer and on our website.  
**PICTURE DIRECTORIES** – Available in the church foyer.

**MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES**

**GATHER FOR PRAYER** – Please join others on **Sunday mornings at 10:10am** in the Conference Room to pray for our worship services. Also, **a prayer meeting is held Sunday evenings at 6pm** in the Conference Room. Come and be a part of what God’s Spirit is doing in our church and community.

**PLEDGE CARD** – If you haven’t returned your pledge card for 2018, please do so as soon as possible. Pledge cards are available on the table in the back of the Sanctuary. Thank you.

**CHRISTMAS CANTATA** – **Sunday, December 17th, at the 10:30am service**, the Chancel Choir will present a Christmas Cantata called “*The Winter Rose*”. Come join us for this special musical presentation that will open your hearts for the season of Christmas. Invite friends and neighbors to attend with you!

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE – 7:00 PM**

**CHRISTMAS GATHERING DINNER** - The Fellowship Team invites you to their 2017 Christmas Dinner **THIS Saturday, December 9th at 5:30pm**. Meat, beverages and cake will be furnished. Please bring your favorite dish for the buffet table. Cary Price, Organist, will entertain us. Please sign up in the church foyer.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN’S CHRISTMAS LUNCH** – All women of the church are invited to our Christmas Lunch on **Saturday, December 16th at 11am** in Fellowship Hall. Please bring finger sandwiches or desserts to share; as well as cookies and cookie tins to package for shut-ins, veterans and police officers.

**SOCIABLE SINGLES** – Please sign up in the church foyer for this event: **Friday, December 15th, 5:00pm – Christmas Party** at the home of Nancy Murphy, 24101 Green Heron Dr., Port Charlotte. Ham will be provided. Bring a dish to pass. Carpool from the church at 4:30pm.

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA** – Remember a loved one this Christmas by giving a poinsettia to help decorate the church. Suggested donation is \$7 per poinsettia. Special envelopes for your poinsettia donations are on the table in the back of the sanctuary. **Please return your envelope by December 17th** in order to be listed in a special bulletin insert.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR CARA COLETTI** – If you would like to send a Christmas card to Cara, one of our prayer recipients, please address the envelope:  
Homestead Correctional Institution  
Cara N. Coletti Y49443  
19000 SW 377 Street Suite 200  
Florida City, FL 33034

**Both Cara’s and the Return Addresses must be handwritten! NO glitter on cards!**

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY** This **Tuesday, December 5th at 10am**. Our study is “*The Armor of God*” by Patricia Shirer. We meet at the home of Sharon & Robert Cuzner, 2615 Rio Grande Drive, PGI. All women are invited.

**WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** — Pastor Larry’s Bible Study meets every Wednesday at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome as we study the Book of Hebrews.

**RICE & PINTO BEANS SUNDAY** – We will collect rice & pinto beans for Misión Peniel **next Sunday, December 10th**. Please place your items in the tall container in the church entrance.

**PRAYER SHAWL GATHERING** – If you like to knit or crochet, please gather with us in Fellowship Hall **Monday, December 11th at 10am**.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** – **Monday, December 11th** for January newsletter.

**SHOEBOX GIFTING FOR MISIÓN PENIEL** – Fill a shoebox for the children at Misión Peniel. The shoeboxes will be collected until **Sunday, December 17th**. A list of suggested items is in the church foyer. Mark the box “boy” or “girl” and the age on it. **Do not wrap it**, as we will add items to each box.

**SHOEBOX DELIVERY TO MISIÓN PENIEL** – We will deliver the Christmas Shoeboxes to Immokalee on **Friday, December 22nd. WE NEED EXTRA VOLUNTEERS FOR THIS TRIP!** Call Dianne Sizemore or the church by **Monday, December 11th to volunteer**. We carpool from the church at 12:15pm.

Also, place donations of *gently used blankets, sheets, towels, long-sleeve t-shirts and regular shirts* in the wicker basket.

**CROSSROADS MINISTRY** – If you would like to donate to the ministry of 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 missionary 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 when 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 bin overflowing each week. **Some suggestions: peanut butter, jelly, cereal and soup.**

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.fpcpunta.org)) by clicking on the link: WATCH LIVE AND RECENT SERVICES HERE.

**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 3rd thru December 10th		
<u>Sunday, December 3</u>	<i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	
6:00pm	Prayer Meeting	
<u>Monday, December 4</u>		
3:30pm	Worship Team	
<u>Tuesday, December 5</u>		
10:00am	Women’s Bible Study at the Cuzners	
<u>Wednesday, December 6</u>		
10:00am	Bible Study	
<u>Thursday, December 7</u>		
5:30pm	Praise Team	
7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal	
<u>Saturday, December 9</u>		
5:30pm	Christmas Gathering Dinner	
<u>Sunday, December 10</u>	<i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	
9:00am	New Beginnings Worship	
10:30am	Traditional Worship	
6:00pm	Prayer Meeting	

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.

25250 Airport Road  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
941-639-1959 (phone)  
941-637-3763 (fax)  
Email: [first@fpcpunta.org](mailto:first@fpcpunta.org)  
Office hours: 9:00am to 1:00pm Monday – Thursday  
Website: [www.fpcpunta.org](http://www.fpcpunta.org)

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 3, 2017

9:00am & 10:30am

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 are living in this area, either permanently or for the season, we invite you to join hands 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  
Georgia Cherny  
Kay Callahan, Nancy Murphy,  
Jean LaMantia, Sharon Russell