

First Presbyterian Church
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The Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PUNTA GORDA
FLORIDA — ECO: A COVENANT ORDER OF EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIANS

MAY 2017



OUR MISSION AND PURPOSE

LOVING...GROWING...GOING...in JESUS!

*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.*

Stay connected when you're away. Watch our worship service LIVE! Go to our website at:
www.fpcpunta.org and click on the link "Watch services LIVE here" on our homepage.



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A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH



A PURPOSE-DRIVEN CHURCH

For as the earth
 bringeth forth
 her bud,
 and as the garden
 causeth the things
 that are sown in
 it to spring
 forth;

so the Lord GOD
 will cause
 Righteousness and
 praise to
 spring forth
 before all the
 nations.

Isaiah 61:11

WORSHIP MINISTRY



SUMMER WORSHIP CHANGE

Sunday May 21st through Sunday October 15th
Blended (contemporary and traditional) service at 10:00am

Our regular Sunday schedule (9:00am and 10:30am) resumes October 22nd

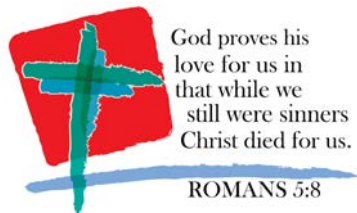


Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service
Living Cross and Easter Lilies



Photos by Kay Callahan and Randy Curtis

PASTOR LARRY'S WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY



We are presently engaged in a study of Paul's Epistle to the Romans. We meet every Wednesday at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall for study and discussion — and one never knows where that discussion will go! If you haven't already joined our group, please do so now! Just (as a suggestion) read the Book of Romans and you'll be ready to go!

Pastor Larry

Session Highlights—April 2017

- 1) Membership: 114
- 2) Discussed an issue with our air conditioning unit. The Property Committee will seek estimates.
- 3) A request to commit a \$5,000 donation to Crossroads Hope Academy in Punta Gorda will be shared with the congregation.
- 4) Negotiations continue with Peace River Presbytery.
- 5) Discussed a concern on ways to increase attendance at our special services.
- 6) Session members agreed to commit to the study "Becoming a Flourishing Church".

MEET OUR OFFICERS

ELDERS



DEACONS

Jay Aldridge — Administration	625-3480
Nancy Beasom — Fellowship	505-9383
Joe Brooks — Administration	231-360-5727
Joan Hoffman — Ministry	639-4907
Marguerite O'Brien — Administration	639-7226
Dianne Sizemore — Mission	676-7086
Gail Thornton — Clerk of Session	916-1726
Diane Culver-Truby — Worship	637-7407
Don Washabaugh — Worship	255-8616

Laurel Aumend — Flowers	625-5238
Margie Smith — Prayer Shawls	833-0185
Georgia Cherny — Communion	456-7468
Phyllis Ehrhardt — Visitation	863-884-7489
Helmut Ehrhardt — Helping Hands	863-884-7489
Kay Callahan — Loaves and Fishes	916-9252
Phyllis Richardson — Communication	575-9344
Jean Cleffi - Kitchen	639-6395

MEET THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN STAFF



Pastor
Steve Mock
steve@fpcpunta.org



Assistant Pastor
Larry Yerger
revyerger@yahoo.com



Music Director
Randall Curtis
randy@fpcpunta.org



Office Manager
Debbie Rostad
debbie@fpcpunta.org



Volunteer Office Assistant
Gail Thornton
gail@fpcpunta.org



Volunteer Office Assistant
Dianne Sizemore
dgsizemore@comcast.net



Treasurer
Joe Cherny
cjchern321@yahoo.com

THIS 'N THAT

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



We welcome material for our church newsletter. All contributions are subject to editing with regard to the subject matter and space requirements. Articles for the **SUMMER issue** of The Messenger are due in the church office by **Monday, May 15th**.

WEEKLY PRAYER SERVICE



Please join your church family in the Conference Room **Sundays at 6pm**. Come and share in this experience of God's people praying together.

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?

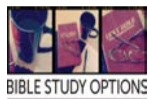
Are you willing to deliver a meal that someone else has fixed? If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please speak to Kay Callahan, our Deacon of this ministry, or call the church office.

R.O.M.E.O.S. & J.U.L.I.E.T.S. BREAKFAST



R.O.M.E.O.S. (Retired Old Men Eating Out Someplace) and J.U.L.I.E.T.S. (Joyful Understanding Ladies Inconspicuously Eating Together Someplace) will meet for breakfast at the **Sky View Café, Punta Gorda Airport**. Meet us at **8am on Thursdays, May 4th & 18th**. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship.

THE SECOND CUP (OF COFFEE)



The Second Cup Bible Study discussion group will meet **at the church at 9:30am on Thursdays, May 4th & 18th**.

GAME MORNING



Join us for Game Mornings **on Tuesdays, May 9th, 23rd, and 30th from 10am to Noon** in Fellowship Hall.

ADDRESS & EMAIL UPDATE



Please advise the church office when you change your mailing and/or email address. Thank you.

COMPUTER AVAILABLE FOR YOUR USE



We've set up a computer in the Conference Room for those of you who need the use of one. It has high-speed internet access and is available during office hours. We suggest that you call ahead to reserve time.

CHURCH LIBRARY



Need a good book to read? We have a wide variety of books including a large assortment of Christian Fiction. Please stop by, take a look, and check one out!

SPONSOR SUNDAY FLOWERS



The cost to sponsor flowers is **\$37.50**. To make a donation, please sign up on the sheets in the church foyer. You may list the flowers in honor and/or in memory of something or someone. When you sponsor flowers for a Sunday and would like to take them with you after the service, please stop in the kitchen after the last service and see the deacon in charge that day.

FURRY FRIENDS



Please remember our furry friends! 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.

ECO SHIRTS



First Presbyterian ECO shirts are available for a \$20 donation that will go to Missions. See Pastor Steve if you would like one.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Our women's Bible study meets **Tuesdays, May 2nd and 16th at 10:00am**, at the home of Sharon Cuzner, 2615 Rio Grande, PGI. This six-week study by Rick Warren, **Everything is Possible with God — Understanding the Six Phases of Faith**, combines a video presentation with a study guide and discussion. Topics include “How God Builds Your Faith”, “How to Deal with Difficulties” and “How to Make Wise Decisions” among others. The study is about 1 1/2 hours with time for fellowship and refreshment. **We will conclude this study on Tuesday, June 6th. All women are welcome!**

We will take a hiatus for the summer and reconvene on Tuesday, September 19th.

TREASURES TABLE



Visit the Priceless Treasures table in 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.

PRAYER SHAWL GATHERINGS



Prayer Shawl Gatherings will be on hiatus until November. They will then resume meeting the second Monday of each month at 10am in Fellowship Hall.

GRATITUDE

WHAT WOULD I HAVE DONE
WITHOUT YOUR HELP TODAY
TURNING SORROW INTO JOY
EACH STEP ALONG THE WAY.

GRANTING ME YOUR BLESSINGS
AND FILLING ME WITH LOVE
STRENGTHENING MY HALTING STEPS
AS YOU WATCH ME FROM ABOVE.

I WISH THE WORLD WOULD HEAR MY SONG
ALONG EACH PATH I TROD
YOU ARE MY GREAT REDEEMER
MY SAVIOR AND MY GOD.

Nancy Beasom and the HOLY SPIRIT



Women's Afternoon Tea

On the afternoon of March 25th the women of JPC gathered for a pleasant Afternoon Tea. Fellowship Hall was transformed into an appropriate Tea setting. They dined on mini tea sandwiches and scones (lemon curd, Clotted cream, jams). The dessert tray held chocolate covered strawberries, petit fours, cream puffs and lemon parfait. Centerpieces were made by Rachel Pfaender.

Nancy Smith instructed us on Tea Etiquette. Phyllis Ehrhardt read the history of afternnon teas and a poem about favorite tea cups. Glee Miller sang "Tea for Two", accompanied by Nancy Smith.

Hostesses for the Tea were Diane Culver-Truby, Rachel Pfaender, Joan Hoffman, Glee Miller and Bonnie Brown. Co-Chairwomen were Nancy Smith and Phyllis Ehrhardt.



Photos by Joanie Mock and Andrea Yerger

MAY 2017 CHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR

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	Jean Cleffi	11	Sheila Dabney	21	Dick & Sandy Fisher
2	David & Cathy Coleman	12	Don & Anna Belle DeBlauw	22	Carol Fogg
3	Cara Coletti	13	Steve DeJong & Ellie Nicolay	23	Ray & Cheri Foley
4	Charlie & Doris Costa	14	Len & Connie Diller	24	Jim & Carol Foster
5	Sam & Carol Crockett	15	John & Ramona Douglas	25	Rob & Elizabeth Frank
6	Irene Csontos	16	Helmut & Phyllis Ehrhardt	26	Arnold & Lois Anne Galbraith
7	Diane Culver-Truby	17	Alan Engstrom	27	Arlene Gebel
8	Jill, Daniel, & Michael Curtis	18	John & Gail Evans	28	Ron & Neta Gensemer
9	Randy & Diane Curtis	19	George & Beverly Fallenbeck	29	William Griffiths
10	Robert & Sharon Cuzner	20	Tim & Fran Farris	30	Rich Handschumacher
				31	Robert & Carolyn Hansman



4—Connie Luther	14—Sam Crockett	21—Anne Swift
6—Shirley Berg	15—Sarah Stones	22—Nancy Murphy
7—Jill Curtis	15—Rex Anderson	22—Charlie Costa
11—Art Koon	16—Jason Hill	24—Joan Hoffman
12—Gail Evans	17—Jay Aldridge	28—Joseph Yerger
13—Charles Sampsel	19—Robert Cuzner	



2—George & Beverly Fallenbeck	2 yrs.
5—Jack & Patty Rothley	55 yrs.
6—Albert & Susie Lorenz	45 yrs.
24—Pat & Mary Ann Patterson	51 yrs.
27—Rick & Kay Berner	50 yrs.

MEMBER CARE



Susan Lorenz hails from Franklinville, New York, where she is a lifetime member of Franklinville Presbyterian Church. She has worked in nursing for over forty years. Susie enjoys crocheting, crosswords, travel and painting. Susie has already become a part of FPC's Prayer Shawl Ministry, Welcome Bag Ministry, and the Mission Team volunteering for Misión Peniel.

Dear Church Family,
This is a sincere thank you for all that you did for us when Dave had his stroke. Knowing that we had the support of all of you was such a blessing. The visit and help from Steve & Joanie, the flowers that Laurel brought, and the prayer shawl delivered by Phyllis made us realize that we really do have two church families. Please keep us in your prayers while Dave recovers, as you will be in ours. God willing we will be back next year.

In His Name, Dave & Milanne Richards



SOCIABLE SINGLES

DINNER - 1st Friday of each month

LUNCH - 3rd Friday of each month



Friday, May 5th, 5:00pm
 Bella Napoli
 1938 Kings Highway, Port Charlotte
 To carpool, meet at the church at 4:30pm



Friday, May 19th, 12:00pm
 Scott's Brewhouse
 Fishermen's Village, Punta Gorda
 No carpool for this lunch

NEW MISSION PROJECT

Punta Gorda Veterans Village



The Mission Committee has begun a new mission project in the Veterans Village on Taylor Road by reaching out and helping the military veterans living there. Volunteers of America is the national organization responsible for Veterans Village, whose mission is to help homeless veterans build a future. These Veterans are dealing with disabilities such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and are struggling to survive.

We have decided to help the Veterans Committee each month by providing needed items and food. Dollar donations are also accepted. Please follow announcements in the church bulletin for ways we can help these veterans build a productive future.

Laurel Aumend and Gail Thornton are coordinating this ministry here at First Presbyterian Church.

FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

Turkey & Noodles Dinner

TURKEY & NOODLES DINNER

Gail Thornton, Chef

Wednesday, May 24th

5:30pm

Cost \$5.00

Ice Cream Social

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Wednesday, June 21

6:30pm

POTLUCK - April 19th



Photos by Andrea Yerger

MISSION MINISTRY



HELPING MISIÓN PENIEL (IMMOKALEE, FLORIDA)



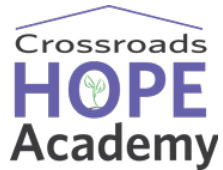
Our mission outreach to Misión Peniel in Immokalee with **Pastor Miguel Estrada** continues through the collection of food, clothing and other items as well as our monthly trips to serve at the mission. Misión Peniel needs donations of RICE and PINTO BEANS (collected the second Sunday of every month), clothing, and gently used blankets and towels. They may be placed in the plastic bin and wicker chest that are in the church foyer.

The next trip to Misión Peniel is **Friday, May 26th.**

We carpool from the church at **12:15pm.**

Please volunteer to help by contacting Dianne Sizemore at 941-676-7086 or the church office.

CROSSROADS HOPE ACADEMY (PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA)



Crossroads Hope Academy is a boarding school for foster boys ages 12-18, who have difficulty with placement in traditional foster families. Nationwide, Crossroads is the only boarding school that works with kids who have had academic and other challenges. To learn about volunteer opportunities at Crossroads, visit their website at www.Crossroadspg.org or talk to First Presbyterian Church member Ron Beasom.

THE STONE FAMILY (ZACAPA, GUATEMALA)



Eric and Debbie Stone are one of our missionary partners through Antioch Partners. For the past three years in January the Stones have helped facilitate a children's camp in Rio Dulce, Guatemala, three hours from their home. In March they traveled back to Rio Dulce to conduct a small business seminar. The Stones are in their fifth year teaching in the public school in Pueblo Modelo, where the student population has grown to over 500 students. Debbie Stone has expanded the Sewing Ministry to include making and selling perfumes. Learn more about the Stones at www.theantiochpartners.org.

LISA ALFONSI (LIMA, PERU)



Lisa Alfonsi was called to participate in God's mission in Peru and she is also one of our missionary partners through Antioch Partners. Lisa has been serving in Lima since September 2013. She uses her experience as an occupational therapist to serve the disability community and their families in a variety of ways under the leadership of a local church. Lisa also assists with organizing and hosting short term mission teams who come from the U.S. to serve alongside this church, serving those in the community who have disabilities. Learn more about Lisa at www.theantiochpartners.org.

MINISTRY OUTREACH

Our "Welcome Bag" Ministry has been a great success. The Visitation Team (Phyllis Richardson and Pat Ihrle for Waterford; Nancy Smith and Susie Lorenz for Creekside; and Phyllis Ehrhardt and Nancy Murphy for Tuscany Isles and Oak Harbour) continued their monthly calls through April. They will then be on hiatus until October.

"Thank you all for your prayers for our work. Every Sunday I greet a couple that I first met when he was washing his car in his driveway! Praise the Lord!"

Phyllis Ehrhardt



Mission Trip to Immokalee
Friday, March 24th



PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Prayer

O Prince of Peace, we humbly ask Your protection for all our men and women in military service. Give them unflinching courage to defend with honor, dignity and devotion the rights of all who are imperiled by injustice and evil. Guard our churches, our homes, our schools, our hospitals, our factories, our buildings, and all those within from harm and peril. Protect our land and its people from enemies within and without. Grant an early peace with victory founded upon justice. Instill in the hearts and minds of men and women everywhere a firm purpose to live forever in peace and good will towards all. Amen.

- * Lt. Alex Treadwell, Army, grandson-in-law of Diane Culver-Truby, stationed at Fort Bragg, NC..
- * Capt. John McPherson, Air Force, grandnephew of Marguerite O'Brien, stationed at McChord Air Force Base in Washington State.
- * Capt. Ryan Swisher, Army Ranger, grandson of Rachel Pfaender, attending MIT to pursue a Master's Degree and a teaching career at West Point.
- * Capt. John Mock, Army, nephew of Steve & Joanie Mock, stationed at Fort Irwin, CA.
- * PFC Caleb Driggers, Army, step-grandson of Diane Tabert, stationed in Hawaii.
- * Capt. Eric Engstrom, Army Intel., son of Alan Engstrom, stationed in Colorado Springs.
- * PV2 Mitchell Salicki, Army, grandson of Rex & Helen Anderson, stationed at Camp Drum in New York.
- * Sgt. Joshua Rowell, US Marine Corps, boyfriend of Dianne Sizemore's granddaughter Kylie, stationed at Navy Base Kitsap in Silverdale, WA.
- * Pvt. Harrison Raymond Klipstine, Army, great nephew of Dianne Sizemore, stationed at Fort Sill in Oklahoma.

Do you have a family member serving in the military?

If so, we'd like to add them to the newsletter prayer list. Fill out the form that's on the sign-up table in the church foyer and place it in the HELMUT or let the church office know.