

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

SEPTEMBER 2018



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.



A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH



A PURPOSE-DRIVEN CHURCH



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WORSHIP MINISTRY



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

There will be one blended service
Sundays through October 14th at 10am

Our regular Sunday schedule will resume
October 21st

9am *New Beginnings* Praise Service
10:30am Traditional Service



Choir Rehearsals resume on
Thursday, September 20th at 7pm

PASTOR LARRY'S WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

August. *August. August?* Can you believe it? It's already "back-to-school" time for the kiddies. But how about you? Have you "taken the Summer off" and ready to start Bible Study? If the yen for knowledge of Scripture and how that knowledge relates to our everyday lives is in you, then join us on Wednesday mornings at 10am as we enter the world of the Bible and bring it into the 21st Century...Hope to see you there!

Blessings and peace....

Pastor Larry



Session Highlights - Summer 2018

- 1) Membership: 113
- 2) Property Maintenance Items:
The floors in Fellowship Hall, Kitchen and Bathrooms have been refinished.
The carpets in the Sanctuary and Choir Room are to be stretched and cleaned.
We are taking bids for a new Air Conditioner for the Choir Room.
- 3) Employing Joan Byron as Choir Director, effective September.
- 4) Elected Gail Thornton as Commissioner to the Presbytery Meeting September 28-29th in Miami Springs.
- 5) Special Congregational Meeting called for Sunday, September 9th, following the service, for the purpose of electing Marj Haun as Deacon of Communications and Lynn Lang as Deacon of the Library.

MEET OUR OFFICERS

ELDERS



DEACONS

Nancy Beasom — Fellowship	505-9383
Rich Harris — Property	629-8336
Jean LaMantia— Ministry	525-4266
Marguerite O'Brien — Administration	639-7226
Bruce Peters — Administration	352-552-2324
Dianne Sizemore — Mission	676-7086
Gail Thornton — Clerk & Discipleship	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
Marj Haun — Communications	661-2881
Lynn Lang — Library	979-7238
Jean Cleffi — Kitchen	639-6395

MEET THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN STAFF



Pastor
Steve Mock
steve@fpcpunta.org



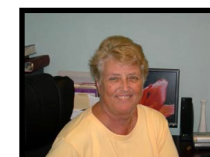
Assistant Pastor
Larry Yerger
revyerger@yahoo.com



Choir Director
Joan Byron
jfb Byron@comcast.net



Office Manager
Debbie Rostad
debbie@fpcpunta.org



Volunteer Office Assistant
Gail Thornton
gthorn1941@aol.com



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 October issue are due September 10th.

WEEKLY PRAYER SERVICE



Please join your church family in the Conference Room **Sundays at 9:40am and 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, September 6th and 20th.** Come and enjoy the food and fellowship.

THE SECOND CUP (OF COFFEE)



The Second Cup Bible Study discussion group, led by Dave Sifferd, is on hiatus until the fall.

GAME MORNING



Game Mornings are held **Tuesdays from 10am to Noon** in **Fellowship Hall.** Our September dates are **September 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th.**

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. Donations are sent to the Animal Shelter.

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

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIBLE STUDY



Presbyterian Women's Bible Study will reconvene on **Tuesday, October 2nd at 10:00am**, and will meet the first and third Tuesday of each month through the Spring term.

We will continue our study of James. If you missed the first part of this study, not to worry. Join us now for the rest of the story, as each study is separate and can stand alone as to how we are to live our lives as Christian Women.

See you in October!

PRAYER SHAWL GATHERINGS

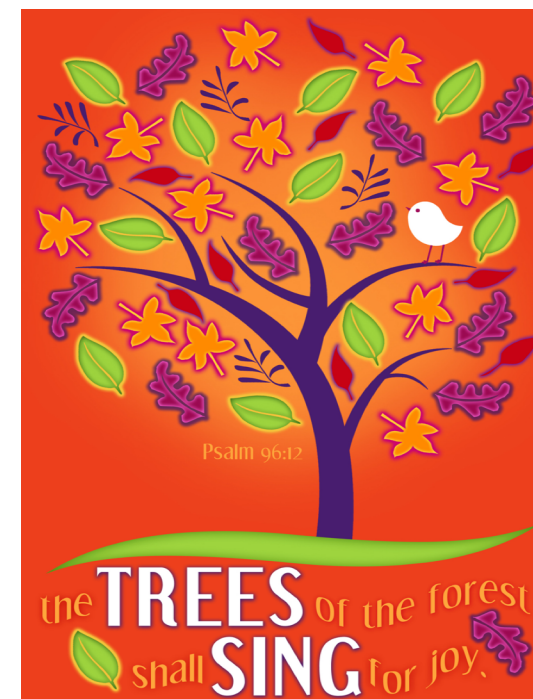


The Prayer Shawl group is on hiatus until November. They will then resume meeting the second Monday of each month at 10am in Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your support of this ministry to our members and community.

TREASURES TABLE



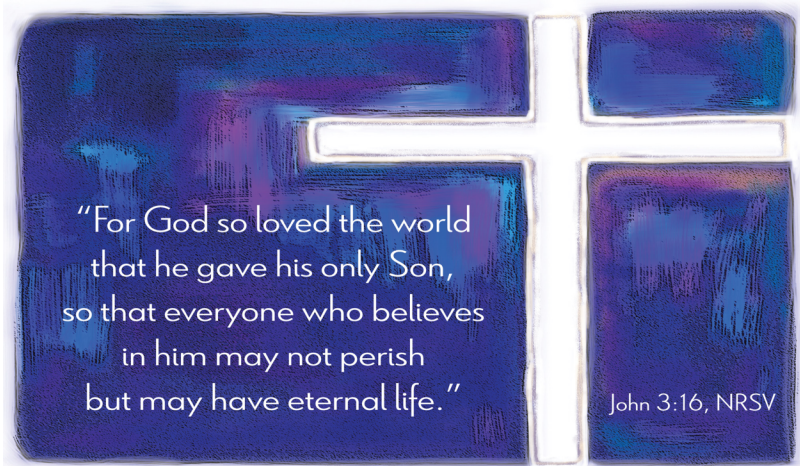
We are seeking donations of your "treasures" (no clothing, please) to add to the Treasures Table in Fellowship Hall. Also, please visit the table and if you find a "treasure" that you like, put a donation in the container. Proceeds are for outreach projects.



*Let the heavens rejoice,
let the earth be glad;
let them say among the nations,
"The Lord reigns!"*

1 Chronicles 16:31

POETRY



Have You Not Known?
by Georgia Cherny

Isaiah 40:28

“Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, the creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.”

Need an ear to hear your worries?
Need a hand to hold your own?
Need a friend that never leaves you?
Need to know that you belong?
Need a break from all your troubles?
To be accepted, understood?
Need to know God keeps His promise?
Need to know you’re not alone?

Just reach up in faith believing.
“Just believe”, is what He says.
Just believe His love receiving.
Broken Hearted, just say yes.
I want to claim God’s love and promise.
John 3:16 just says it all!
I want to prove Him ever faithful.
I want to be one of His own.

Pray for help and understanding.
Pray to know and claim the truth.
Pray to find His perfect footsteps -
Told in Scriptures Old and New.
When you find them, follow in them.
Find a preacher tried and true.
Follow him into the water
And be baptized and renewed.

Now, get ready for the battle.
The worldly system still wants you.
Stand fast in faith and never falter.
Claim the Holy Spirit’s view.
God will provide, Jehovah Jira!
Come trusting as a little child,
No turning back from this good way.
Give up the doubt-filled fearful days.

And Child know this; His love and blessing will follow you. The freedom of a truth bound, hopeful life is sweet. The only real reason the world followers want to pull you back is jealousy! If they only knew, they could have the Love of Jesus too. If they only knew.....

SEPTEMBER 2018
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	Roy & Kathy Belville	11	David & Cathy Coleman	21	Len & Connie Diller
2	Shirley Berg	12	Cara Coletti	22	Bill & Sonja Dosse
3	Rick & Kay Berner	13	Charlie & Doris Costa	23	John & Ramona Douglas
4	Joe & Betty Brooks	14	Irene Csontos	24	Helmut & Phyllis Ehrhardt
5	Bonnie Brown	15	Diane Culver-Truby	25	Alan Engstrom
6	Marion Brown	16	Randy & Diane Curtis	26	John & Gail Evans
7	Kay Callahan	17	Daniel, Jill, & Michael Curtis	27	George & Beverly Fallenbeck
8	Bonnie Carey	18	Robert & Sharon Cuzner	28	Tim & Fran Farris
9	Joe & Georgia Cherny	19	Sheila Dabney	29	Dick & Sandy Fisher
10	Jean Cleffi	20	Don & Anna Belle DeBlauw	30	Carol Fogg



2—Pat Ihrie
5—Pat Patterson
8—Joe Brooks
17—Tim Farris
22—Rich Harris
26—Karen Sostar
28—Betty Strong



1—Jim & Marge Parks 26 yrs.
9—Ernie & DeAnn Lehman 57 yrs.
28—Larry & Betty Strong 61 yrs.
30—Dick & Sandy Fisher 52 yrs.

MEMBER CARE



Doris Henning

*Happy 102nd
Birthdy*

July 20



*Congratulations to Carol Zutter, great grandma to
Madison Marie Dykeman, born July 7th to Kayla and Andrew of Rock Hill, SC.*

*Congratulations to Carol Zutter, great grandma to
Hudson Wyatt Shackelford, born July 31st to Jaimie and Dylan of Punta Gorda.*

*Our prayers and sympathy are shared with Carolyn Kvam-Hansman
and family, whose husband Robert went home to the Lord on June 13th.*

*Our prayers and sympathy are shared with Marguerite O'Brien and
family, whose brother Ed Tezekjian went home to the Lord on July 24th.*

*My son, Ken and I want to thank you, my church family, for your prayers
over his recent surgery. Prayers were answered as he is doing well.
Again, thank you for your prayers and concern. Joan Hoffman*



SINGLES MINISTRY



SOCIABLE SINGLES

LUNCH - 1st and 3rd Friday of each month

*Friday, September 7th,
12:00pm*

**Phil's 41
Restaurant**
Punta Gorda

Sign up in church foyer



*Friday, September 21st,
12:00pm*

Beef 'O'Brady's
1105 Taylor Street
Punta Gorda

Sign up in church foyer

FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES



CHURCH PICNIC

Wednesday, October 17th, 4:00pm

Ponce de Leon Park

Fried Chicken provided

Bring a dish to pass, beverage, and place service

There will be games!



June 20, 2018



FLORIDA



THERE IS A FEELING
THAT KNOWS NO REST
ALIKE THE TIDE.

TO DREAM OF VENTURE
TO THE LAND
WHERE FLOCKS OF BIRDS
AND FLOWERS STAND.

I KNOW THIS PLACE
ALONG THE WAY
AS PART OF ME
THAT WANTS TO STAY.

IT BECKONS ALWAYS
IN MY DREAMS
AND STAYS FOREVER
LIKE THE STREAMS.

AND I WILL GO
TO SETTLE THERE
AND NEVER MORE
WILL SEARCH OR CARE.

THIS PLACE I KNOW
DOWN DEEP INSIDE
IS WHERE ONE DAY
I WILL RESIDE.

By NANCY BEASOM / HOLY SPIRIT

MISSION MINISTRY

HELPING MISIÓN PENIEL (IMMOKALEE, FLORIDA)

Our mission outreach to Misión Peniel in Immokalee with **Pastor Miguel Estrada** continues through the collection of Rice and Pinto Beans, clothing and other items. They may be placed in the plastic bin and wicker chest that are in the church foyer.

Our Christmas outreach this year will be the collection of new children's books and stuffed animals. This is in lieu of our annual shoebox project. Watch the bulletin for more details.



CROSSROADS HOPE ACADEMY (PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA)

To learn about volunteer opportunities at Crossroads, visit their website at www.Crossroadspg.org or talk to First Presbyterian Church member Ron Beasom.

Another way to help Crossroads - when you place an order from Amazon, please consider going to <https://smile.amazon.org> and select Crossroads Hope Academy as your charity. Crossroads earns a percentage of your purchase with no cost to you. Thank you!



Crossroads
HOPE
Academy



ANTIOCH PARTNERS MISSIONARIES



Eric and Debbie Stone are missionaries in Zacapa, Guatemala, where their mission is to facilitate Kingdom presence amid social crisis. They envision a community of churches with whom they share close bonds of trust and fellowship. Learn more about the Stones ministry at www.theantiochpartners.org.

Lisa Alfonsi was called to participate in God's mission in Lima, Peru. 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 is also working with Free Wheelchair Mission, assembling and distributing wheelchairs to people in need. Learn more about Lisa at www.theantiochpartners.org.



THE GROVE CHURCH (PORT ST. LUCIE, FLORIDA)



The Grove Church in Port St. Lucie is a new church plant of Indian River Presbyterian Church in Fort Pierce. Our church is supporting this new church plant through our missions budget. Their church plant pastor, Rev. David Hancock, reported to us that they have celebrated many baptisms and that it feels like all of their dreams are beginning to come true and take shape. He adds "Stories of new life are being written through the love and message of Jesus and we couldn't be more ecstatic! We love each and every one of these people and what God is doing in their lives". Visit their website at www.thegrovechurch.com.

WELCOME MINISTRY / VETERANS VILLAGE

The Visitation Team will resume regular neighborhood visits in October. If you have a new neighbor or should greet someone at Church that is new to the area, please give them one of our Welcome Bags.



We are helping Veterans Village by providing needed items and food. Dollar donations are also accepted. As a way to thank our Veterans, we have "Thank You" notecards that you can take and write on.



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.

- * Capt. Alex Treadwell, Army, grandson-in-law of Diane Culver-Truby, stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.
- * Major John McPherson, Air Force, grandnephew of Marguerite O'Brien, stationed at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois.
- * Major Ryan Swisher, Army Ranger, grandson of Rachel Pfaender, teaching at West Point Academy.
- * Capt. John Mock, Army, nephew of Steve & Joanie Mock, stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia.
- * PFC Caleb Driggers, Army, step-grandson of Diane Tabert, stationed in upper New York State.
- * Timothy Laux - ETVSN, Navy, grandson of Diane Tabert, stationed at Naval Base Kitsap in Bremerton, WA.
- * Capt. Eric Engstrom, Army Intel., son of Alan Engstrom, stationed in Colorado Springs, Colorado.
- * Pvt. Mitchell Salicki, Army, grandson of Rex & Helen Anderson, stationed at Fort Drum, New York.
- * PFC Harrison Raymond Klipstine, Army, great nephew of Dianne Sizemore, stationed in Honolulu, Hawaii.
- * 2nd Lt. Paul Corbitt Geuy, Army, great nephew of Dianne Sizemore, attending the Ohio State University Dental School Program in Columbus, Ohio.
- * 2nd Lt. Zadick Self, Marines, grandson-in-law of Ron & Nancy Beasom, stationed at MCB Quantico in Virginia.
- * PFC Brian K. Hulshoff, Army, grandson of David & Lynn Lang, stationed in Poland.
- * Lt. Col. Robert C. Prijatelj, US Marine Corps, son of Bob and Dona Prijatelj and nephew of Laurel Aumend, stationed in Washington D.C.
- * MSgt. Nick Weiss, Air Force, grandson of Gail Thornton, is home based.

*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.*