



# The Messenger

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



November 2019

## 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](http://www.fpcpunta.org) and click on the link "Watch services LIVE here" on our homepage.



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## WORSHIP MINISTRY

### ***SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE - 10:30AM***

*Dedication Sunday - November 10th  
Please bring your Pledges*

*Annual Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, November 17th, 11:30am*



### ***FPC'S ANNUAL CONCERT SERIES***



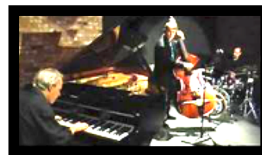
*Stephanie Smith, Organ*

*Sunday, September 29, 2019*



*Eirinn Abu, Saxophone*

*Sunday, October 27, 2019*



*Isaac Mingus Trio*

*Sunday, February 16, 2020*



*SWFL Hand Bell Ensemble*

*Sunday, March 22, 2020*

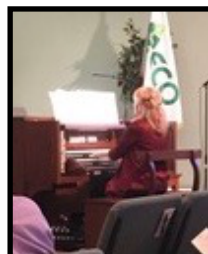


*Chamber Accord*

*Sunday, April 26, 2020*



*Sunday, September 29, 2019*



*Pick up a brochure of the entire  
Concert Series for 2019-2020*

## PASTOR STEVE'S WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

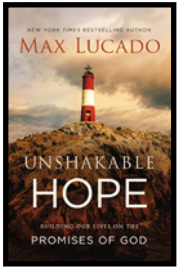
WEDNESDAY  
BIBLE  
STUDY



*Join us every Wednesday at 10am to study God's Word. Pastor Steve leads the time of discussion and exploration of books of the Bible. We are currently studying the letter of Paul to the Romans. Come and grow your faith and understanding in God's Word as His Spirit opens up our minds to His truth.*

# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



Presbyterian Women's Bible Study will resume on **Tuesday, November 5th**. We will continue with Session #9 of "Unshakable Hope" by Max Lucado. The study uses a video component as well as study guide. This study helps us stand on the definitive declarations of our mighty and loving God who governs the world according to His great and precious promises. We meet from 10:00am - 11:30am the first and third Tuesdays of each month at the home of Kathy Belville, 6400 Taylor Rd #211, Punta Gorda. For additional information and directions to Kathy's home, please call Kathy at 508-733-0546 or the church office at 941-639-1959.

*All women are invited to join us for study, fellowship, and refreshments!*

## PRAYER SHAWL GATHERINGS Resumes Monday, November 11th



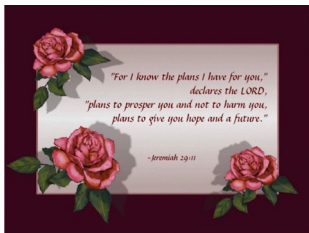
The Prayer Shawl group meets the second Monday of each month at **10am in Fellowship Hall**. Please join us when you can. If you don't knit or crochet, perhaps you'd like to make a donation to support this ministry.

## 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.

## UPDATE FROM PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE



The Pastor Nominating Committee is working with two pastoral candidates. We shall keep you advised as we proceed.

Jay Aldridge, Committee Chairman

*Please pray for the PNC as they seek the pastor God has for us. Donations are being accepted to help cover expenses including travel, interviews, relocation of the new pastor, plus salary during the overlap period before Pastor Steve retires.*

*Please mark as "PNC". Thank you!*

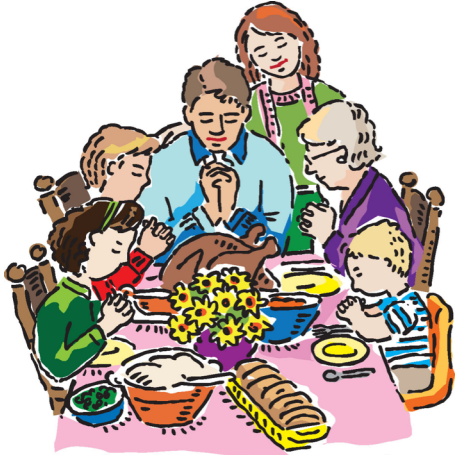
## Session Highlights - October 2019

- 1) Membership: 100 - New Covenant Partners - Jim and Patricia Nuznoff and Robert Cuzner
- 2) Prayer time for our church family, church needs, and the direction for our future
- 3) Capital Fund - \$13,371.64 (Unchanged) and PNC Fund - \$7,834.30
- 4) Financial Report - We have a Year-to-Date deficit of \$32,000. There have been several unexpected expenses and the unpledged giving is lower than anticipated
- 5) The Nominating Committee will place in nomination at the Annual Congregational Meeting the following: Elders for Class 2022: Nancy Beasom, Jean LaMantia and Don Washabaugh; for Class of 2020: Ron Sixt to complete the remaining term of Dianne Sizemore; plus the 2020 Nominating Committee Members
- 6) Approved calling our Annual Congregational Meeting for November 17th for election of Elders and 2020 Nominating Committee and to dissolve the pastoral relationship between Pastor Steve Mock and the church effective 12/31/19
- 7) Mission Study Team Report came up with 4 points - Encourage volunteerism, Involve whole congregation in inviting others, Small Groups - short term sessions, and Midweek activities
- 8) Approved Baptism on November 10th at the 10:30am Worship Service of Carmelo Josiah Hall, son of Cara Coletti and Corey Hall



## THANKSGIVING BLESSINGS

**THANKSGIVING  
TIME**



***"Blessing and glory and  
wisdom and thanksgiving and  
honor and power and might  
be to our God  
forever and ever! Amen."***

**Revelation 7:12, NRSV**

*“Thanks to God”*

Thanks for prayers that thou hast answered,  
Thanks for what thou dost deny.  
Thanks for storms that I have weathered,  
Thanks for all thou dost supply.  
Thanks for pain, and thanks for pleasure.  
Thanks for comfort in despair.  
Thanks for grace that none can measure,  
Thanks for love beyond compare.

Thanks for roses by the wayside,  
Thanks for thorns their stems contain.  
Thanks for home and thanks for fireside,  
Thanks for hope, that sweet refrain.  
Thanks for joy and thanks for sorrow,  
Thanks for heav'nly peace with thee.  
Thanks for hope in the tomorrow,  
Thanks through all eternity!

—August Storm, 1891

GOLDEN TONES  
AND PUMPKINS RIPE  
TREES AGLOW  
OF EVERY TYPE.

HARVEST TIME  
LOOK HOMEWARD TIME  
AS FROM MY WINDOW  
PRAYERS TO GOD DO CLIMB.

GOD IS GOOD  
AND GOD IS GREAT  
LET US ALL SING PRAISES  
NO MATTER OUR FATE.

FRIENDSHIP, FAMILY  
SONGS OF LOVE  
SENT TO US  
FROM HIM ABOVE.

TENDER SMILES  
AS SOFT EYES GLEAM  
FROM EACH OTHER'S  
FACE IT SEEMS.

AROUND OUR TABLE  
EACH BOWS HIS HEAD  
TO THANK OUR LORD  
FOR OUR DAILY BREAD.

## Nancy Beasom and the HOLY SPIRIT

# Puzzle!

Use the food key to complete Acts 14:17, NIV.

**KEY**

# THANK YOU, LORD



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













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**ACTS 14:17, NIV**

Answer: "He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy." Acts 14:17, NIV



# FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES



## Pot Luck and a Movie

Wednesday, November 13th, 5:30pm

*Sign up in the church foyer*

*Bring your favorite dish to share*



**Church Picnic**  
Ponce de Leon Park  
October 13th



## DECORATE THE CHURCH!

Join in decorating the church  
for the holidays

**Friday, November 29th, 10am**

Assemble Decorations

Set up the Christmas Trees

Coffee and Donuts will be served

**Saturday, November 30th, 10am**

Decorate the Church

A Light Lunch will be served

Watch for Sign up sheets

## CHRISTMAS GATHERING DINNER

**Saturday, December 7th**  
**5:30pm**

The Fellowship team invites you to a  
Christmas Gathering Dinner  
in Fellowship Hall. Meat, beverages and  
cake will be provided. Please bring  
your favorite dish for the buffet table.

Watch for Sign up sheets

# 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.



## CROSSROADS HOPE ACADEMY (*PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA*)

To learn about volunteer opportunities at Crossroads, visit their website at [www.Crossroadspg.org](http://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!**



## ANTIOCH PARTNERS MISSIONARIES



Eric and Debbie Stone have served as missionaries in Guatemala for 21 years. Their mission is to facilitate Kingdom presence amid social crisis and 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.thegrovechurch.com).

# MINISTRY OUTREACH



**W**e support the ministry of St. Vincent de Paul, located next door to us. Food and paper products are collected in the blue bin in our church foyer. **Our special Thanksgiving offering, collected through November 17th, is given to them to provide needed food to local families. Special Thanksgiving Gifting envelopes can be found in the church foyer or you can use a pew envelope. Every dollar helps!**

**W**e are helping Veterans Village by providing needed items and food. Dollar donations are used to purchase gift cards. As a way to thank our Veterans, we have "Thank You" notecards that you can take and write on.



Receiving gift cards!



**W**elcome Bags are available in our church foyer. 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.

## 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 Camp Casey, located near Seoul, South Korea.
- \* 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, stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.
- \* Timothy Laux - ETVSN, Navy, grandson of Diane Tabert, stationed at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Georgia.
- \* Capt. Eric Engstrom, Army Intel., son of Alan Engstrom, stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.
- \* 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 Camp Pendleton, California.
- \* Navy Seaman Tyler Beasom, Navy, grandson of Ron & Nancy Beasom, training at Coronado Island, California.
- \* PFC Brian K. Hulshoff, Army, grandson of David & Lynn Lang, stationed at Fort Hood, Texas.
- \* 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.*



# MEMBER CARE



*Robert Cuzner is a familiar face to our FPC family. His hometown is Marblehead, Massachusetts. He was self-employed as a watchmaker. Robert serves in our Sound and Tech booth on Sunday mornings and regularly bakes cookies for Fellowship Hour.*



*Jim and Patricia (Patti) Nuznoff hail from Tallmadge, Ohio. They enjoy the worship and great church family at FPC. Patti has previously served as an Elder and Deacon. Jim's hobbies and interests are Amateur Radio and Sports Cars.*



Births in the Church Family



*Our prayers and sympathy are shared with Nancy Murphy, whose brother James Huston went home to the Lord on October 8th.*

*Congratulations to Larrie and Marjorie Tisdale, on the birth of their new great-grandson, Luke Anthony Tisdale. Luke was born September 18th to Nick and Dana.*

*Congratulations to Diane Tabert on the birth of her new great-granddaughter Madalena Caulfield. Madalena was born September 19th to Katalina and Jake.*

*Congratulations to Beverly Brady on the birth of her first great-grandson James Brady Anderson. James was born September 22nd to Erin and Brian.*

*Congratulations to Cara Coletti and Corey Hall on the birth of their son Carmelo Josiah Hall. Josiah was born on September 24th.*

## SINGLES MINISTRY

Friday, November 1st  
12:00pm

River City Grill

131 W. Marion Avenue  
Port Charlotte

Sign up in the church foyer

## SOCIABLE SINGLES

LUNCH - 1st and 3rd Friday of each month

Friday, November 15th  
12:00pm

Red Lobster

1331 Tamiami Trail  
Port Charlotte

Sign up in the church foyer



# NOVEMBER 2019

## 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 Rachel Pfaender	11 Charles Sampsel	21 Bo & Karen Sostar
2 Linda Potthoff	12 Elaine Schultz	22 John Stremming
3 Larry & Pat Pritchard	13 Veralou Scott	23 Anne Swift
4 Bill & Pauli Purcell	14 Jene Shafer	24 Diane Tabert
5 David & Milanne Richards	15 Dave & Ella Sifferd	25 Gail Thornton
6 Phyllis Richardson	16 Ron & Billie Sixt	26 Larrie & Marjorie Tisdale
7 Fred & Gayle Rosa	17 Dianne Sizemore	27 Verna Wargo
8 Jack & Patty Rothley	18 Andy & Nancy Smith	28 Don & Mary Anne Washabaugh
9 Sharon Russell	19 Donald & Stephanie Smith	29 Dave Woods
10 Barbara Ryan	20 Jerry & Margie Smith	30 James & Teri York



2—Nancy Beasom	5—Diane Culver-Truby	17—Jerry Smith
2—Larry Mesler	7—Alan Engstrom	19—Verna Wargo
4—Ray Byron	14—Ron Sixt	30—John Evans
	17—Milanne Richards	



2—Ray & Joan Byron	34 yrs.
5—Lee & Anne Swift	48 yrs.
29—Bill & Pauli Purcell	10 yrs.

# 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 December issue are due  
Monday, November 11th*

## WEEKLY PRAYER SERVICE



Please join your church family in the Conference Room **Sunday evenings 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 all 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 Thursday, November 14th**. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship.

## THE SECOND CUP (OF COFFEE)



The Second Cup Bible Study discussion group, led by Dave Sifferd, resumes on **Thursday, November 14th at 9:15am** in the Conference Room.

## GAME FELLOWSHIP



Game Fellowship is held **every Thursday from 10am to Noon** in **Fellowship Hall**. Join us to play or just to observe.

## 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



Would you like a First Presbyterian ECO shirt? See Pastor Steve if interested.



# MEET OUR OFFICERS

## ELDERS



## DEACONS

Nancy Beasom — Fellowship	505-9383
Rich Harris — Property	629-8336
Jean LaMantia— Ministry	525-4266
John Evans — Administration	616-551-6438
Bruce Peters — Administration	352-552-2324
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
Bev Brady — Communion	843-838-9021
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



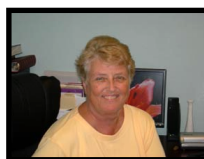
**Pastor**  
Steve Mock  
steve@fpcpunta.org



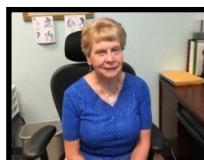
**Office Manager**  
Debbie Rostad  
debbie@fpcpunta.org



**Choir Director**  
Joan Byron  
jfbbyron@comcast.net



**Secretary / Treasurer**  
Gail Thornton  
gthorn1941@aol.com



**Volunteer Office Assistant**  
Billie Sixt



**Organist**  
Stephanie Smith  
mornsun381@gmail.com



**Volunteer Office Assistant**  
Bonnie Brown



### First Presbyterian Church

25250 Airport Road  
Punta Gorda, Florida 33950



Telephone: (941) 639-1959  
Email: [first@fpcpunta.org](mailto:first@fpcpunta.org)  
Website: [www.fpcpunta.org](http://www.fpcpunta.org)



# ECO

A Covenant Order  
of Evangelical  
Presbyterians



**A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH**

**A PURPOSE-DRIVEN CHURCH**