

**First Presbyterian Church**  
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 Punta Gorda, Florida 33950

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 Website: [www.fpcpunta.org](http://www.fpcpunta.org)



# The Messenger

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

## SUMMER 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.

**It's SUMMER!**

**SUMMERTIME**

LAZY DAYS OF BRIGHTEST SUN  
SOUNDS OF LAUGHTER AND CHILDREN'S FUN  
FLOWERS BLOOMING AT THEIR PEAK  
CHILDREN PLAYING HIDE AND SEEK

FAMILY VISITS FAR AND NEAR  
BASEBALL GAMES OUR TEAMS WE CHEER  
PICNICS IN OUR YARD OR PARK  
SONGS AND LAUGHTER UNTIL DARK

TIME TO CHAT A LITTLE LONGER  
FRIENDS WHOSE TIES MADE EVEN STRONGER  
FAMILY TIME TO LOVE AND SAVOR  
HOT DOGS AND ICE CREAM TO TASTE THE FLAVOR

GOD HAS BLESSED US WITH THIS SEASON  
TREASURE IT FOR ALL THESE REASONS  
REST AND FEEL HIS PRESENCE NEAR  
LOVE THIS TIME AND GIVE A CHEER

Holy Spirit / Nancy Beasom



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A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH



A PURPOSE-DRIVEN CHURCH

# WORSHIP MINISTRY



## SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays through October 13th  
Blended (contemporary and traditional) service at 10:00am  
Our regular Sunday schedule (9:00am and 10:30am)  
resumes October 20th

# WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY



Join us when you can on Wednesdays at 10am  
through the summer months  
for a time of Bible Study!  
June - Led by Pastor Larry Yerger  
July and August - Led by Pastor Steve Mock

# UPDATE FROM PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE



As the Pastor Nominating Committee proceeds in the selection process for our new pastor, there is **a need to raise an initial amount of \$10,000** to cover expenses including travel, interviews, relocation of the new pastor, plus salary during the overlap period before Pastor Steve retires.  
Pray on how our Lord would have you help this special need and also for the PNC as they seek the pastor God has for us here at First Presbyterian Church.  
Please mark your donations as "PNC". **Thank you!**

# Session Highlights - May 2019

- 1) Membership: 103
- 2) Prayer Time for people and church needs
- 3) Capital Fund - \$13,367.00
- 4) Pastor Nominating Fund - \$2,550.00
- 5) Report on Presbytery Meeting by Gail Thornton
- 6) Insurance Claim to be filed for damage to multiple electronics in church from lightening strikes

# MEET OUR OFFICERS

## ELDERS



## DEACONS

Nancy Beasom — Fellowship	505-9383	Laurel Aumend — Flowers	625-5238
Rich Harris — Property	629-8336	Margie Smith — Prayer Shawls	833-0185
Jean LaMantia— Ministry	525-4266	Bev Brady — Communion	843-838-9021
John Evans — Administration	616-551-6438	Phyllis Ehrhardt — Visitation	863-884-7489
Bruce Peters — Administration	352-552-2324	Helmut Ehrhardt — Helping Hands	863-884-7489
Dianne Sizemore — Mission	676-7086	Kay Callahan — Loaves and Fishes	916-9252
Gail Thornton — Clerk & Discipleship	916-1726	Marj Haun — Communications	661-2881
Diane Culver-Truby — Worship	637-7407	Lynn Lang — Library	979-7238
Don Washabaugh — Worship	255-8616	Jean Cleffi — Kitchen	639-6395

# MEET THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN STAFF



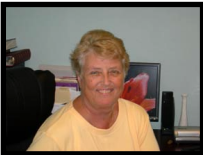
**Pastor**  
Steve Mock  
steve@fpcpunta.org



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



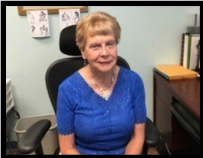
**Choir Director**  
Joan Byron  
jfb Byron@comcast.net



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



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



**Volunteer Office Assistant**  
Billie Sixt



**Volunteer Office Assistant**  
Bonnie Brown



## 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 September issue are due Monday, August 12th*

### 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?

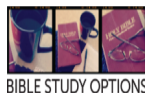
Are you willing to deliver a meal that someone else has fixed? If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please speak to Kay Callahan, our Deacon of this ministry, or all the church office.

### 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 Thursdays, June 13th, 27th, July 11th, 25th, August 8th, and 22nd**. 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 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



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



**W**omen's Bible Study will take a hiatus for the summer. We will resume our regular schedule in the fall. Watch for the date! At that time we will conclude our study of Max Lucado's "Unshakable Hope". Have a great summer!

### PRAYER SHAWL GATHERINGS



**T**he Prayer Shawl group will resume meeting in November, but we will keep knitting and crocheting all summer! Thank you for your prayers and financial support of this ministry to our members and community.

### TREASURES TABLE



**W**e 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.

## FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR PASTOR LARRY AND ANDREA



*Sunday, June 30th  
following the Worship Service*

*Plan to stay for a Farewell Reception honoring Pastor Larry and Andrea Yerger and the time they have served and ministered to our congregation*

*Please bring Finger Foods and Sweets to share*

# MISSION MINISTRY

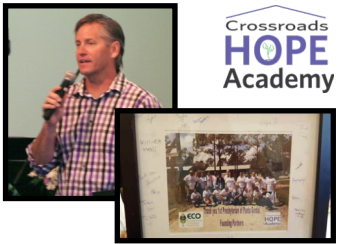
## HELPING MISIÓN PENIEL (IMMOKALEE, FLORIDA)

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 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](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).



# AUGUST 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	Andy & Nancy Smith	11	Gail Thornton	21	Lois Zietz
2	Jerry & Margie Smith	12	Larrie & Marjorie Tisdale	22	Carol Zutter
3	Mae Snyder	13	Verna Wargo	23	Jay Aldridge
4	Bo & Karen Sostar	14	Don & Mary Anne Washabaugh	24	Rex & Helen Anderson
5	Mary Stones	15	Doug & Esther Wheeler	25	Laurel Aumend
6	Sarah Stones	16	Dave Woods	26	Ron & Nancy Beasom
7	John Stremming	17	Joseph Yerger	27	Roy & Kathy Belville
8	Larry & Betty Strong	18	Larry & Andrea Yerger	28	Shirley Berg
9	Anne Swift	19	James & Teri York	29	Rick & Kay Berner
10	Diane Tabert	20	Charles & Evelyn Zietsma	30	Joe & Betty Brooks
				31	Bonnie Brown



17—Susie Lorenz	28—Georgia Cherny	5—Larry & Sue Mesler	60 yrs.
22—Neta Gensemer	30—Marion Brown	11—Joe & Georgia Cherny	7 yrs.
25—Gayle Rosa	30—Pauli Purcell	16—Andy & Nancy Smith	61 yrs.
26—Joanie Mock		18—Charlie & Doris Costa	57 yrs.
		29—Ron & Neta Gensemer	66 yrs.





# JULY 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	Glee Miller	11	Jim & Marge Parks	21	Jack & Patty Rothley
2	Bob & Sammi Mischler	12	Bruce Peters	22	Sharon Russell
3	Steve & Joanie Mock	13	Donna Peterson	23	Barbara Ryan
4	Nancy Murphy	14	Rachel Pfaender	24	Charles Sampsel
5	Edwina Norton	15	Linda Potthoff	25	Elaine Schultz
6	Robert & Eleanor Norton	16	Larry & Pat Pritchard	26	Veralou Scott
7	Marguerite O'Brien	17	Bill & Pauli Purcell	27	Jene Shafer
8	David Osweiler	18	David & Milanne Richards	28	Barbara Shinn
9	David & Jane Otoupal	19	Phyllis Richardson	29	Dave & Ella Sifferd
10	Nelson & Florence Parker	20	Fred & Gayle Rosa	30	Ron & Billie Sixt
				31	Dianne Sizemore



4—Betty Brooks	16—Barbara Shinn	20—Marjorie Haun		
10—Mae Snyder	16—Ernie Lehman	20—Bruce Peters		
11—Billie Sixt	18—Sandy Fisher	20—Dave Woods	7—Charles & Evelyn Zietsma	46 yrs.
13—Bonnie Brown	18—John Douglas	23—Ron Beasom	11—Don & Mary Anne Washabaugh	44 yrs.
			18—Randy & Diane Curtis	38 yrs.



## MINISTRY OUTREACH



Welcome 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.

We 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.



We also 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 is given to them to provide needed food to local families.

## 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 Hood, Texas.
- \* 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.
- \* 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 in Colorado Springs, Colorado.
- \* 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.

# FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES



# MEMBER CARE



Sunday, June 16th



*Congratulations to Gail Thornton, on the birth of her 26th great-grandchild, Alexander Gage Garcia. Alexander was born on May 14th to Rachel and Abel of Montgomery, Illinois.*



*Please pray for Roy and Kathy Belville and family. Roy's mother, Irene Belville, went home to the Lord on May 15th.*



Friday, June 7th  
12:00pm  
Donato's  
1900 Tamiami Trail  
Port Charlotte

Sign up in church foyer



# SOCIABLE SINGLES

LUNCH - 1st and 3rd Friday of each month

Friday, June 21st  
12:00pm  
Red Lobster  
1331 Tamiami Trail  
Port Charlotte

Sign up in church foyer

## For July and August events:

Check the Sign-Up sheets in the Church Foyer  
Watch the Church Bulletin for announcements



# JUNE 2019 CHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR AND CELEBRATIONS

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Each month we remember church members and friends on a rotating basis...



1	Dick & Sandy Fisher	11	Joan Hoffman	21	Jean LaMantia
2	Ray & Cheri Foley	12	Bob & Jean Humphreys	22	David & Lynn Lang
3	Frances Frost	13	Bill & Ellen Hutt	23	Ernie & DeAnn Lehman
4	Arlene Gebel	14	Pat Ihrrie	24	Marcia Ling
5	Ron & Neta Gensemer	15	Bob & Beverly Ingalls	25	Al & Susie Lorenz
6	Rich & Barb Harris	16	Mary Kasbohm	26	Connie Luther
7	Marjorie Haun	17	Tom & Carol Kerr	27	Myles MacDonald
8	Curtis & Nancy Heitschmidt	18	Mary Kimberly	28	Steve MacDonald
9	Anna Hill	19	Art & Fran Koon	29	Gene & Barbara McPherson
10	Jean Hinman	20	Carolyn Kvam	30	Larry & Sue Mesler



1—Laurel Aumend	12—Rick Berner
2—Gail Thornton	13—Donna Peterson
10—Mary Anne Washabaugh	26—Marge Parks
	29—Joan Byron



6—Bob & Jean Humphreys	55 yrs.
10—Fred & Gayle Rosa	25 yrs.
14—Ron & Nancy Beasom	61 yrs.
14—Helmut & Phyllis Ehrhardt	18 yrs.
24—Bo & Karen Sostar	15 yrs.
26—Steve & Joanie Mock	43 yrs.
28—Rex & Helen Anderson	62 yrs.
28—Bill & Sonja Dosse	61 yrs.
30—Art & Fran Koon	57 yrs.