



# PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ December 14, 2017



## *Living Into Advent at Misión Peniel*

The traditional “gifts” of the advent season can be found in so many of the mission’s activities over the past few months.

### **HOPE...**

The outpouring of love and support that we received after Hurricane Irma was overwhelming! From donations of needed commodities to financial help for hurricane relief efforts to countless volunteers to help organize and distribute the needed items into the community; you restored our hope for being able to meet so many immediate needs of our beloved farmworker community! We are truly grateful and blessed!

We are hopeful that we will be able to resume worship, study and fellowship gatherings in January, with better space, new chairs, tables and updated equipment and materials... including our kitchen inspection approval!!!

We carry hope into 2018 and beyond for the ongoing work of exploring affordable, safe and sustainable housing options for farmworkers. We have begun meeting with our Presbyterian Disaster Assistance leadership and the Coalition of Immokalee Workers to discern how best to meet those ongoing needs. The hope is growing!

We carry hope into 2018 for developing a community garden in the mission’s backyard. We hope to break ground by February!

### **PEACE...**

We find daily reassurance and peace that in the midst of turmoil, God is working a good thing through the mission; through the churches and volunteers that come to serve and through the farmworkers who share their resilient faith with all of us.

### **JOY...**

Peniel means “the face of God”. Seeing and sharing this “face of God” continues to bring such joy through the kind of partnership in mission that allows us to serve one another in Christ’s name. The dedication of time, heartfelt interest and compassion shown by volunteers, the presbytery and its churches is the cause of great joy with appreciation! Partnership in mission is a joy-filled, beautiful thing!

### **LOVE...**

God’s love for the vulnerable and marginalized leads the work and witness of Misión Peniel. It’s a love that is contagious for anyone who spends time with the farmworkers and their children. It’s the kind of love that says “welcome, biendvenido, bienveni... you are a child of God and we care about you with the love of Christ!”

I want to add one more gift of this advent season; the gift of **EXCITEMENT!**

We are excited about the following ways we are ending this year and beginning 2018...

- Annual Christmas gift box and new shoes for the children (**Dec. 22— extra elves needed!**);
- **Dec. 28th “Holiday Day Camp”** for children and youth, led by the Moorings, Vanderbilt and Covenant Youth Groups;
- ***New communication process for all of the churches:*** you’ll be receiving a brief monthly mission update on the 15th of each month, suitable for bulletin or newsletter publishing;
- Our ***OPEN HOUSE for churches and friends on Sunday, February 11th, 2-4 p.m.***, offering a “taste” of Misión Peniel, featuring cultural food, music, interactive activities for all ages, and additional information about our vision for 2018 and beyond! Look for more information and separate invitation soon. For now, please SAVE THE DATE!

***COME AND SHARE IN WHAT GOD IS DOING THROUGH MISIÓN PENIEL!***

FELIZ NAVIDAD and PROSPERO AÑO NUEVO from

—*Pastor Miguel Estrada, Ruth DeYoe and the entire Misión Peniel Planning Team*

“May you have the gladness of Christmas  
which is Hope;  
The spirit of Christmas  
which is Peace;  
The excitement of Christmas  
which is Joy;  
The heart of Christmas which is Love.”  
—Ada V. Hendricks

**BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.**

*A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma*

[www.beth-el.org](http://www.beth-el.org)



PO Box 860 | Wimauma, FL 33598

Phone: 813-633-1548 ext. 223

Web: [www.beth-el.org](http://www.beth-el.org)

[November Newsletter](#)

*Beth-El is looking for donations of furniture for its office and dental clinic.  
Please contact their office if you have desks, tables, or bookcases.*

**CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER**

*A place apart to build up the body of Christ in love.*

[www.cedarkirk.org](http://www.cedarkirk.org)

**2017 Events:**

- Challenge to Change - *A unique mission-trip program designed for a variety of groups.* Year-round
- Silent Retreat – *A new retreat designed for folks who are seeking space to listen to God.* TBA
- Christmas Retreat – *A little bit of summer camp at Christmas time!* Dec. 22-23

*Thank you for supporting Cedarkirk and holding this ministry in your prayers for the last 45 years.  
We look forward to witnessing God's handiwork here in the years to come!*

For additional information, please contact the camp office at (813) 685-4224 or visit [www.cedarkirk.org](http://www.cedarkirk.org).

## **MISION PENIEL**

*A Ministry of Peace River Presbytery to the Farmworkers in Immokalee*

[www.misionpeniel.com](http://www.misionpeniel.com)

Please be in prayer for the mission, which sustained considerable damage from Hurricane Irma. The mission office has damage from the roof falling in on the office area, and the farmworkers have a lot of damage to their residences, most of which are mobile homes.

### **Staff Contacts:**

- Rev. Miguel Estrada, Pastor, P: 239-633-2181, E: [migustrada@hotmail.com](mailto:migustrada@hotmail.com)
- Ruth DeYoe, Mission Coordinator, P: 386-793-6151, E: [ruthdeyoe@gmail.com](mailto:ruthdeyoe@gmail.com)
- General Email: [misionpenielpeaceriver@gmail.com](mailto:misionpenielpeaceriver@gmail.com)

### **Addresses:**

- Facility Address: 208 Boston Ave., Immokalee, FL 34142 (not for mailing)
- Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1204, Immokalee, FL 34153
- Mailing Address for Contributions\*: Peace River Presbytery, 5600 Peace River Road, North Port, FL 34287

### **\*Contributions to Mision Peniel:**

- Mail to: Peace River Presbytery, 5600 Peace River Road, North Port, FL 34287
- Checks can be made payable to Peace River Presbytery or to Mision Peniel.
- Please note *Mision Peniel* in the memo section.
- Contributor information is provided to Mision Peniel each month.

### **Other Information:**

- Collection Centers for Mision Peniel Supplies ([click for information](#))
- Critical Needs List ([click for information](#))

## **PRAYER NEEDS**

### **Please continue to pray for:**

- Rev. Dr. Daniel Pendergrass and Family, in the loss of his wife, Kathy.
- The communities and responders affected by the fires in California
- Rev. Dave Gowen and Family, in the loss of his wife, Marjorie Ann.
- The families and communities of Sutherland Springs, TX, Las Vegas, NV & New York City, NY
- All who are still recovering from the hurricanes
- Beth-El Farmworker Ministry
- Kathryn Pendergrass (wife of Rev. Dr. Daniel Pendergrass) - lung cancer, under Hospice care
- Robert Berger – Rev. Dr. Jim Berger's 96-year old father
- Jim & Becky Beckwith – health

- Rev. Dr. Lou Thompson – health
- Phil Kuehl (husband of Rev. Elizabeth Kuehl, Faith, Cape Coral) – going through chemotherapy
- Robert Dennis, son of Rev. India Dennis – mental health issues
- Greg Beckwith (son of Jim and Becky Beckwith) – on kidney transplant list
- Misión Peniel
- Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center
- Dan and Elizabeth Turk, PCUSA Mission Co-Workers in Madagascar
- Les and Cindy Morgan, PCUSA Mission Co-Workers in Bangladesh

### **PRESBYTERY PRAYER GUIDE: DECEMBER 2017:**

December 3	<u>PRP's Seminary Students (Candidates &amp; Inquirers)</u> Candidates: Rex Childs, Cynthia Franklin, Jordan Goodwin, Debra Graves, Laurie Haas, Lynne Peter, Susan Wills, Carolyn Wilson / Inquirer: Christian Faux
December 10	<u>Mision Peniel</u> A Ministry of PRP
December 17	<u>Trinity Presbyterian Church, Venice</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Chuck Wiggins Email: <a href="mailto:cjw049@gmail.com">cjw049@gmail.com</a>
December 24	<u>Venice Presbyterian Church, Venice</u> Pastor: Rev. Chris Romig Email: <a href="mailto:cromig@venicepresbyterian.org">cromig@venicepresbyterian.org</a>
December 31	<u>Presbyterian Women</u> A Covenant Partner of PRP

### **PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: DECEMBER 2017**

You may view the entire calendar on the Presbytery web site: [www.peacriverpresbytery.org](http://www.peacriverpresbytery.org)

All meetings are at the Presbytery Center location in North Port, unless otherwise posted.

#### **Thursday, December 14**

Finance Team/Board of Trustees (9:30 a.m.)

#### **Friday, December 22**

Presbytery Offices Closed

**Monday, December 25**

Merry Christmas

Presbytery Offices Closed

**Tuesday, December 26**

Presbytery Offices Closed

**CHURCHES of PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY**

Please visit our web site, [www.peacriverpresbytery.org/churches](http://www.peacriverpresbytery.org/churches)

Click on the city, then the church, to visit their web site.

