



# PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ July 6, 2017

Rev. Dr. Jim Kirk,  
Associate for Disaster Response (U.S.) &  
Member of Peace River Presbytery

Throughout my ministry as a teaching elder I have embraced the affirmation that the PCUSA is a connectional church. Long before Peace River Presbytery stated that part of the Presbytery's mission was "...to connect disciples...", PRP was connecting disciples in faithful service. Whether it was the youth mission trips to West Virginia, the camping and conference opportunities at Cedarkirk, the long-term response to Hurricane Charley, the regular gatherings of the Presbytery or the myriad of other PRP mission opportunities, we have connected as the body of Christ to further God's work.

In the past seven months, my appreciation for the connectional nature of the PCUSA has deepened. In August of 2016, I was called to be the Associate for Disaster Response (U.S.) for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. In the past months, I have been in touch with over 80 Presbyteries across the United States. The conversations ranged from a quick check-in to a response that will last years. Somewhere during the conversation, the connectional nature of the church was affirmed.

Consider the following ways that your connection to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance connects you to life-giving mission.

***The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)*** [www.pcusa.org/OGHSmag](http://www.pcusa.org/OGHSmag)

Your gifts to the OGHS offering supports three very important ministries of the PCUSA. OGHS supports Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People Program and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Through your support, you have connected with communities impacted by Hurricane Matthew and provided crucial funding for the work of long-term-recovery that will continue for years to come. You have connected with refugees fleeing life-threatening conditions to find a safe environment that is life-giving. You have connected with communities that have been impacted by human-caused disaster and helped them find the emotional and spiritual balance to make meaning out of what seems meaningless.

***PDA National Work Team Sites*** <http://pda.pcusa.org/page/work-teams-locations/#top>

Presbyterian Mission Work Teams have connected with individuals and families that lack the resources to rebuild after a disaster. Disasters have the greatest impact on those with the least resources. Volunteer mission teams are essential for an impacted community to recover. Volunteer mission teams live out the words spoken by Saint Teresa of Avila in the 16th century, "*Yours are the feet with which he (Christ) walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he (Christ) blesses all the world.*"

During the first quarter of 2017 the Volunteer Mission Team ministry of PDA connected 1523 volunteers to communities in need of their support.

Currently PDA is working with 32 Volunteer Host Sites in 17 states. With the recent number of major natural disasters teams are needed now more than ever. Mission Teams have come from Peace River but more are desperately needed. To hear of one groups experience, link to <http://pieterdecker.com/West%20Virginia%202016.mp4>.

To read a more complete listing of ways PDA works to connect faithful disciples with needs link to <http://pda.pcusa.org/pda/resource/mission-mosaic-2016/>. At this link, you will find the Mission Mosaic which is PDA's Annual Year in Review for 2016.

Thank you for connecting with PDA and connecting with people in need. You are making a difference. You are addressing physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

Peace,  
Jim Kirk  
Associate for Disaster Response (U.S.) & Member of Peace River Presbytery  
[jim.kirk@pcusa.org](mailto:jim.kirk@pcusa.org)  
[www.pcusa.org/pda](http://www.pcusa.org/pda)



## MEMORIAL SERVICE

for

JO ANN LEASURE

11:00 a.m., Friday, July 14, 2017

Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2439 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, FL

## PRESBYTERY OFFICE NOTES

**Phones:** To better facilitate workload management, the phones of the Presbytery Office will be placed on automatic routing from 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. each day. If you would like a return phone call, please leave a voicemail message, including your name and phone number. The staff will answer the incoming phone calls beginning at 1:00 p.m. The staff will also check voicemail messages at 1:00 p.m. and do their best to return calls as soon as possible.

**Office Hours:** 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday -Thursday and 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Friday

## 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:

- Summer Camp - *Our traditional week-long residential camps for 1st-12th graders.* June 4-July 28
- Challenge to Change - *A unique mission-trip program designed for a variety of groups.* Year-round
- Family Retreat - *Our annual family retreat and reunion event! Come and reconnect!* Sept. 1-3
- Silent Retreat – *A new retreat designed for folks who are seeking space to listen to God.* TBA
- Falltastic - *A special fall event designed for our elementary friends.* Sept. 29-30
- Senior Adults Retreat - *A day-event designed just for our senior friends.* Oct. 11
- Fusion - *A Cedarkirk event for middle and high school youth!* Nov. 10-12 & 17-19

- 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).

## BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.

*A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma*

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

The worshipping community of Beth-El would like to add Christian banners to its worship space. If your church or congregation has a banner, vestments or other worship supplies that you would like to donate, please contact [Kathy@beth-el.org](mailto:Kathy@beth-el.org). Gracias!

### POSITION OPENING:

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry is a non-profit mission supporting farmworkers and our neighbors in need through hunger relief, education, health initiatives and spiritual care. The mission is currently seeking a director of children and youth ministries for the mission's worship communities, 20 to 35 hours per week. Candidate will be responsible for coordination of all children and youth activities including summer VBS, Christian Education curriculum, teen youth group and Sunday school. Ideal candidate must be fluent in both Spanish and English with background in education (Christian education preferred). Valid driver's license, background check and drug screening are required. Beth-El Farmworker Ministry is an equal opportunity employer.



PO Box 860 | Wimauma, FL 33598

Phone: 813-633-1548 ext. 223

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

[July Newsletter](#)

## MISION PENIEL

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

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

Please be sure to contact us to schedule your next visit and reserve a date to volunteer at Mision Peniel! Thank you for your ongoing partnership with this mission!

### 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: [misionpenielpeacriver@gmail.com](mailto:misionpenielpeacriver@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:**

- The Family, Friends, Church Family (Covenant Presbyterian, Ft. Myers) and Presbytery Friends of Jo Ann Leasure in the wake of her passing. Her Memorial Service is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on Friday, July 14 at Covenant Presbyterian, Fort Myers.
- Beth-El Farmworker Ministry
- Kathryn Pendergrass (wife of Rev. Dr. Daniel Pendergrass) - diagnosed with a rare form of lung cancer
- Robert Berger – Rev. Dr. Jim Berger’s 96-year old father. Hospitalized in PA from an apparent stroke
- Jim & Becky Beckwith – health
- Rev. Dr. Clint Cottrell (Pastor of Cypress Lake P.C.) - health
- Nathan Hart (Graham’s son) and his family – health
- Rev. Dr. Lou Thompson – health
- Phil Kuehl (husband of Rev. Elizabeth Kuehl, Faith, Cape Coral) – continued recovery
- Rev. Dr. Paul Eckel - health
- Robert Dennis, son of Rev. India Dennis – mental health issues
- Greg Beckwith (son of Jim and Becky Beckwith) – on kidney transplant list
- Grandson of Tim and Martha Halverson - suffering from a rare autoimmune disease
- 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: JULY 2017:**

July 2	<u>PDA/FLAPDAN – Covenant Partner of Peace River</u>
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July 9	<u>Lely Presbyterian Church, Naples</u> Supply Pastor: Rev. Dr. Harry Schill III Email: <a href="mailto:h_schill3@verizon.net">h_schill3@verizon.net</a>
July 16	<u>Moorings Presbyterian Church, Naples</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Doug Learned Email: <a href="mailto:jsullivan@mooringschurch.org">jsullivan@mooringschurch.org</a> Associate Pastor: Rev. Jaci Smith Patman Email: <a href="mailto:jpatman@mooringschurch.org">jpatman@mooringschurch.org</a>
July 23	<u>Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples</u> Interim Pastor: Rev. Bob Sheldon Email: <a href="mailto:rsheldon@vpcnaples.org">rsheldon@vpcnaples.org</a>
July 30	<u>St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, North Port</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Rafael (Ray) Quiles Email: <a href="mailto:chaprafi@gmail.com">chaprafi@gmail.com</a>

### **CHURCH SUPPORT STAFF OPENINGS**

[PT Director of Congregational Care & PT Music Director  
\(2 Positions\) – Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood](#)

[Director of Christian Education – Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers](#)

[Administrative Secretary \(Part Time\) – Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, N. Fort Myers](#)

### **PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: JULY 2017**

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

**Thursday, July 6**

Mision Peniel Team – Immokalee (10:00 a.m.)

**Tuesday, July 11**

Committee on Ministry (9:00 a.m.)

**Thursday, July 13**

Board of Trustees (9:30 a.m.)

**Friday, July 14**

Memorial Service for Jo Ann Leasure – Covenant Presbyterian Church, Ft. Myers (11:00 a.m.)

**Wednesday, July 19**

Personnel Team (10:00 a.m.)

**Thursday, July 20**

Steering Committee (9:30 a.m.)

**CHURCHES of PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY**

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

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

