



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter – March 28, 2017
Lil Rea, Steering Committee Co-Moderator

Where's the Chocolate?

We are about half way through Lent and I am wondering if you have managed to stay away from the chocolate or refrain from your favorite indulgence, going to the movies, eating ice-cream etc. Growing up in a mostly Catholic neighborhood in New York City, what one was going to give up for Lent was a major topic of consideration and as a Protestant minority I always felt somewhat smug about "my church did not require me to give anything up".

As I look back to our youthful discourses, how to get around the Lenten promise was of prime importance and my friends developed a myriad of excuses which would allow the banned treat to be enjoyed.



A quick click on the internet provides pages and pages on the history of Lent and the various observances of different denominations. Lent is the Old English word for spring and is used in some form by the English, Dutch and German speaking countries. The German meaning may stem from the German word for length or long and may refer to the lengthening days. In most other languages its name is a derivative of the Latin term Quadragesima, or the forty days.

In early Christian times the 40 days of Lent were a time of preparation of new members leading up to Baptism on Easter Eve. Fasting was a major rule of the early church which required strict adherence. Throughout the centuries the Lenten requirements have changed (I was relieved to see that if you were over 60 you were not required to fast) but the purpose has stayed the same. Lent is a season of finding a way to help us imitate Christ, concentrate on greater spiritual awareness and express greater love and concern for others. Today few people fast but many practice giving up or adding something to their daily lives. It is never too late to start a Lenten practice and the list below is for your consideration

Do You Want To Fast This Lent?

(In the words of Pope Francis)

- Fast from hurting words and offer kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

Blessings,

Lil Rea, Steering Committee Co-Moderator



Tomorrow at 5:00 pm, join us in Tampa for the major March and Vigil for Human Rights from Publix to Wendy's!

The Florida grand finale of the CIW's 14-day, 12-city **Return to Human Rights Tour** is nearly upon us! Tomorrow evening, the tour arrives in Tampa for a strong conclusion: the **March and Vigil for Human Rights from Publix to Wendy's!** Allies from across the Sunshine State are invited to join farmworker families from Immokalee so that, together, we continue to demand that both Publix Supermarkets and Wendy's commit to respecting farmworkers' human rights, and join the award-winning Fair Food Program.

WHAT: March and Vigil for Human Rights from Publix to Wendy's

WHERE: Publix Greenwise in Tampa's Hyde Park neighborhood (2401 W Azeele St.)*

WHEN: Wednesday, March 29 at 5:00 pm

*Parking is available at the lot located next to 205 S Howard Ave. Spots are limited, so please arrive early if you plan to park there.

Register your participation by filling out the [online registration form!](#)

Through powerful, on-the-ground organizing, the movement for Fair Food has transformed the landscape of human rights in U.S. agriculture. And now, more than ever, is a critical time to stand up with communities leading their own struggles for

justice. The Fair Food Program is proof that a new world is indeed possible. Join us in strengthening and expanding these unprecedented worker protections by bringing Publix Supermarkets and Wendy's to the table!

Join the CIW tomorrow as we call on Publix and Wendy's to do the right thing, and join the Fair Food Program!

Contact Patricia at patricia@allianceforfairfood.org for more information.

FAITH PLACE SAFETY WORKSHOP

To honor the policy that all ministers and ministerial inquirers and candidates shall be required to attend a seminar offered by the Presbytery **biennially** on the issues of sexual misconduct, a **Faith Place Safety Workshop** will be offered on **Tuesday, May 2nd** at First Presbyterian Church of Port Charlotte (2230 Harriet Street, Port Charlotte.)

Schedule:

- Registration – 8:30 a.m.
- Workshop – 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (lunch included)
- Cost - \$10.00 payable at Registration

Who should attend?

All Pastors, Staff, and Elders with roles in Christian Education and Personnel, Inquirers, and Candidates.

Reservations are necessary. Email: alesia@peacriverpresbytery.org, call the Presbytery Office: 941-426-8421, or fax the Presbytery Office: 941-423-9412. Include the names and titles of those who will be attending.

If unable to participate in the Presbytery-offered training, the minister shall work with Presbytery to find a suitable alternative. Failure to comply may result in investigation and discipline.

We are fortunate that Patti Jung, Visiting Professor of Christian Ethics, St. Paul School of Theology, and author of "Professional Sexual Ethics", has agreed to facilitate the workshop. This year's offering will discuss: Child Protection to include such topics as mandatory reporting, confidentiality, two-deep adult leadership rule, screening of volunteers; background checks, and specific Florida law considerations.

Note: A notice and flyer for this important event were sent to all Churches, Members of Presbytery, Candidates, and Inquirers last month.

BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.

A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma

POSITION OPENING:

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry supports farmworkers and our neighbors in need through Hunger Relief, Education, Health Care, and Spiritual Development. The mission currently has an immediate opening for a Youth Leader to oversee the youth programs at the mission. Responsibilities include leading Tuesday night youth group, occasional weekend field trips, and summer child and youth programs. Ideal candidate should have some theological training, work well, and enjoying working with, children and teens from various backgrounds. Average number of hours per week will vary from 20 to 35 hours per week. Candidate must have a clean driving record and submit to a background check. Please submit resume and three references to info@beth-el.org. No Phone Calls Please. 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

www.beth-el.org

[March Newsletter](#)

MISION PENIEL

A Ministry of Peace River Presbytery to the Farmworkers in Immokalee

UPDATES:

We are also exploring plans for an Open House at the new location after Easter. In the meantime, please make note of the following updated contact information:

Location: 208 Boston Ave., Immokalee, FL 34142

Mailing: P.O. Box 1204, Immokalee, FL 34153

General Email: misionpenielpeaceriver@gmail.com

Staff Contacts:

Pastor Miguel Estrada, P: 239-633-2181, E: migustrada@hotmail.com

Ruth DeYoe, Mission Coordinator, P: 386-793-6151, E: ruthdeyoe@gmail.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!

Note the following important information:

Mission Location:

208 Boston Avenue, Immokalee, FL 34142

Mailing Address (excluding contributions):

P.O. Box 1204, Immokalee, FL 34143

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.

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

## **POSITION OPENING**

[Director of Worship Arts – Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda](#)

## **PRAYER NEEDS**

### **Please pray for:**

- Kathryn Pendergrass (wife of Rev. Dr. Daniel Pendergrass) - diagnosed with a rare form of lung cancer

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

- 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 – continued recovery from extensive neck surgery
- 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
- Beth-El Farmworker Ministry
- 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: APRIL 2017:**

|          |                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April 2  | <u>Cedarkirk Camp &amp; Conference Center</u><br>Executive Director: Rev. John Reiter<br>Email: <a href="mailto:john@cedarkirk.com">john@cedarkirk.com</a>             |
| April 9  | <u>Buckingham Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Randy Moody<br>Email: <a href="mailto:bpcpastor@comcast.net">bpcpastor@comcast.net</a>           |
| April 16 | <u>Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jeff DeYoe<br>Email: <a href="mailto:jdeyoe@covpcf.com">jdeyoe@covpcf.com</a>                      |
| April 23 | <u>Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Clinton Cottrell<br>Email: <a href="mailto:clint@clpc.us">clint@clpc.us</a>                    |
| April 30 | <u>Hope United Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Kevin Morris<br>Email: <a href="mailto:pastor@hopeunitedchurch.net">pastor@hopeunitedchurch.net</a> |

## PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: APRIL 2017

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

### **Monday, April 3**

Nominations & Representation Committee (10:00 a.m.)

Planning Team (1:00 p.m.)

### **Thursday, April 6**

Mision Peniel Team (9:30 a.m. at Covenant P.C., Ft. Myers)

### **Tuesday, April 11**

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

### **Wednesday, April 12**

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (10:00 a.m.)

### **Thursday, April 13**

Maundy Thursday

### **Friday, April 14**

Good Friday – PRP Offices Closed

### **Sunday, April 16**

Easter

### **Wednesday, April 19**

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

### **Thursday, April 20**

Steering Committee (9:30 a.m.)

### **Thursday, April 27**

Congregational Vitality Team (12:30 p.m.)



**CHURCHES of PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY**

(click on church name to link to its web site)

|                                                   |                                                  |                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Arcadia</b>                                    | <b>Bonita Springs</b>                            |                                                  |
| <a href="#">First Presbyterian Church</a>         | <a href="#">First Presbyterian Church</a>        |                                                  |
|                                                   |                                                  |                                                  |
| <b>Bradenton</b>                                  | <b>Bradenton</b>                                 | <b>Bradenton</b>                                 |
| <a href="#">Braden River Presbyterian Church</a>  | <a href="#">First Presbyterian Church</a>        | <a href="#">Kirkwood Presbyterian Church</a>     |
| <a href="#">Oak Pointe Church</a>                 | <a href="#">Palma Sola Presbyterian Church</a>   | <a href="#">Westminster Presbyterian Church</a>  |
|                                                   |                                                  |                                                  |
| <b>Cape Coral</b>                                 | <b>Englewood</b>                                 | <b>Fort Myers Beach</b>                          |
| <a href="#">Faith Presbyterian Church</a>         | <a href="#">Community Presbyterian Church</a>    | <a href="#">Chapel by the Sea</a>                |
|                                                   |                                                  |                                                  |
| <b>Fort Myers</b>                                 | <b>Fort Myers</b>                                | <b>Fort Myers</b>                                |
| <a href="#">Buckingham Presbyterian Church</a>    | <a href="#">Covenant Presbyterian Church</a>     | <a href="#">Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church</a> |
| <a href="#">Hope United Presbyterian Church</a>   |                                                  |                                                  |
|                                                   |                                                  |                                                  |
| <b>Lakewood Ranch</b>                             | <b>Lehigh Acres</b>                              | <b>Longboat Key</b>                              |
| <a href="#">Peace Presbyterian Church</a>         | <a href="#">First Presbyterian Church</a>        | <a href="#">Christ Church of Longboat Key</a>    |
|                                                   |                                                  |                                                  |
| <b>Naples</b>                                     | <b>Naples</b>                                    | <b>Naples</b>                                    |
| <a href="#">First Presbyterian Church</a>         | <a href="#">Lely Presbyterian Church</a>         | <a href="#">Moorings Presbyterian Church</a>     |
| <a href="#">Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church</a>    |                                                  |                                                  |
|                                                   |                                                  |                                                  |
| <b>North Fort Myers</b>                           | <b>North Port</b>                                | <b>Palmetto</b>                                  |
| <a href="#">Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church,</a> | <a href="#">St. Paul's Presbyterian Church</a>   | <a href="#">Palmetto Presbyterian Church</a>     |
|                                                   |                                                  |                                                  |
| <b>Port Charlotte</b>                             | <b>Port Charlotte</b>                            | <b>Punta Gorda</b>                               |
| <a href="#">First Presbyterian Church</a>         | <a href="#">Wintergarden Presbyterian Church</a> | <a href="#">Burnt Store Presbyterian Church</a>  |
|                                                   |                                                  |                                                  |
| <b>Sarasota</b>                                   | <b>Sarasota</b>                                  | <b>Sarasota</b>                                  |
| <a href="#">Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church</a>     | <a href="#">Church of the Palms</a>              | <a href="#">First Presbyterian Church</a>        |
| <a href="#">Northminster Presbyterian Church</a>  | <a href="#">Pine Shores Presbyterian Church</a>  | <a href="#">Presby. Church of the Covenant</a>   |
| <a href="#">Siesta Key Chapel</a>                 |                                                  |                                                  |
|                                                   |                                                  |                                                  |
| <b>Venice</b>                                     | <b>Venice</b>                                    |                                                  |
| <a href="#">Trinity Presbyterian Church</a>       | <a href="#">Venice Presbyterian Church</a>       |                                                  |

