



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ December 21, 2018

From Your 2019 Incoming Moderator

Rev. Dawn Mayes

“A New Year ... An Open Heart”



Thank you for the honor of electing me to serve as moderator of our Presbytery in the year ahead. In preparation for this role, last month I attended the Mid-Council Moderators' Conference in Louisville. What a joy to be with 105 other moderators, from Puerto Rico to Prospect Hill, from Long Island to Los Ranchos, from Seattle to Scioto Valley! We sometimes hear stories of denominational struggle and decline, but this conference lifted up all the good things that God is doing in the PCUSA.

The General Assembly co-moderators were part of the conference leadership. They reminded us that God is always doing something new! They shared their experiences of traveling around the country seeing how God is at work. A church with a worship attendance of about 30 is doing valuable ministry in providing food for children who are hungry. A larger church with more resources is creating mission partnerships to meet needs and change lives. They encouraged us that churches of all sizes and contexts can be vital, because our ability comes not from ourselves, but from Christ, who is the head of the Church.

Having served the past year on the Steering Committee, and before that three years on the Committee on Ministry, I've had the privilege of seeing the new things God is doing in our Presbytery. From First Port Charlotte's "Turquoise Tables" to Kirkwood's "The Well" to First Sarasota's "Invest in Children," from the Misión Peniel Garden to Beth El's dental clinic to our partnership with Matanzas Presbytery in Cuba, the Presbytery is sharing God's love in new and creative ways.

In her sermon at the conference, GA co-moderator Cindy Kohlmann focused on the love of God we have in Jesus Christ, and the truth that nothing can separate us from that love. Because we are secure in God's love, she said, nothing should hold us back from what God is calling us to do. We can step out in faith and take risks, because God promises that "we are more than conquerors," she affirmed.

Her co-moderator, Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri, emphasized the same theme: "Approach newness with an open heart," she said. "We don't know...what's ahead, but we know that God is with us. Let go of fear of what is new and trust God."

With a new year on the horizon, I hope that we will have "an open heart" to see the new things God might be calling us to do. I look forward to serving with you, as together we seek to accomplish the vision God has given us, and to be part of God's work of transforming the world with the love of Jesus Christ.

Faithfully,
Dawn Mayes

Update from your General Presbyter Nominating Committee:

The work continues and we are pleased to report that in-person interviews with finalists have been completed, the LeaderWise assessments are being conducted, the committee is proceeding with its due diligence and remains on track to provide for a springtime transition.

LeaderWise is a psychological consulting group that administers five assessment inventories and generates a report that identifies individual strengths and development opportunities, provides another perspective on the gifts that have the potential to make the candidate(s) successful in ministry, along with areas that may be challenging.

We covet your prayers that we may hear God's plan for the next chapter of ministry at Peace River Presbytery.

Submitted by scribe Charmaine Ponkratz on behalf of fellow GPNC members: Carson Brown, Terri Jo Crego, Jeff DeYoe, Kelly Fitzgerald, Gene George, Linda Getzen, Sung Lee and Doug Pratt.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE for PRESBYTERY OFFICE

The Presbytery Offices will be closed:
Monday, December 24-Friday, December 28
and Monday, December 31 from 12:00 noon -Tuesday, January 1.
We will resume regular hours on Wednesday, January 2.

ATTENTION CHURCHES & CLERGY:

2019 IRS Business Mileage Rate: 58 cents per mile

<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-issues-standard-mileage-rates-for-2019>

ATTENTION CHURCH FINANCE PERSONNEL and SESSIONS:

The deadline for 2018 contributions to and through Peace River Presbytery
is Friday, January 4, 2019.

For contributions to be posted for 2018, they must be received (not postmarked) by this date.
For additional information, please contact Lori Doyal, PRP Financial Secretary and Communications Coordinator:
lori@peacriverpresbytery.org / 941-426-8421, ext. 401

BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.

A ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma



PO Box 860 | Wimauma, FL 33598

Phone: 813-633-1548 ext. 223

Web: www.beth-el.org

[December Newsletter](#)

MISIÓN PENIEL

A Ministry of Peace River Presbytery to the Farmworker Community in Immokalee

208 Boston Ave., PO Box 1204, Immokalee, FL 34143

www.misionpeniel.com

Facebook: "Misión Peniel"

Critical needs for December and January include blankets of any size and men's and women's jackets. The mornings are very cold for the farmworkers and many of the trailers and camps they live in do not have sufficient heat. Contact us if you'd like these items to be picked up. Thank you for any donations you are able to make at this time.

Staff Contacts:

- Rev. Miguel Estrada, Pastor, P: 239-633-2181, E: miguestrada@hotmail.com
- Ruth DeYoe, Mission Coordinator, P: 386-793-6151, E: ruthdeyoe@gmail.com
- General Email: misionpenielpeacriver@gmail.com

Contributions to Misión Peniel (checks or online):

- Mail to: Peace River Presbytery, 5600 Peace River Road, North Port, FL 34287
- Checks can be made payable to Peace River Presbytery or to Misión Peniel.
- Please note *Misión Peniel* in the memo section.
- Click on the "Donate" button on the Misión Peniel web site.
- Contributor information is provided to Misión Peniel each month.

CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

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

www.cedarkirk.org

*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.

PRAYER NEEDS

Please continue to pray for:

- The family and loved ones of the Rev. John Cairns, a Member of Presbytery, who passed away earlier this month.
- Jim and Becky Beckwith - health
- Beth-El Farmworker Ministry (in Wimauma)
- Misión Peniel Farmworker Ministry (in Immokalee)
- 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 2018

December 2	<u>Presbyterian Women - Covenant Partner of PRP</u>
December 9	<u>Trinity Presbyterian Church, Venice</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Chuck Wiggins Email: cjw049@gmail.com
December 16	<u>Church of the Palms</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Stephen McConnell Email: smcconnell@churchofthepalms.org Associate Pastor: Rev. Dr. Hmingi Browne Email: hbrowne@churchofthepalms.org Associate Pastor: Rev. Laurie Haas Email: lhaas@churchofthepalms.org
December 23	<u>First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Glen Bell Email: gbell@FirstPresSarasota.org Associate Pastor: Rev. Kelly Fitzgerald Email: kfitzgerald@FirstPresSarasota.org
December 30	<u>Presbytery Team and Committee Moderators and Members</u>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

[Board of Pensions Retirement Planning Seminar](#)

Tuesday & Wednesday, January 29-30, 2019

Faith Presbyterian Church, Cape Coral

SAVE the DATE:

Thursday, February 28, 2019

Stated Meeting of Presbytery

*(including the honoring of The Reverend Graham Hart,
General Presbyter, on the occasion of his retirement.)*

Location: First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota

Sunday, March 3, 2019

Peace Presbyterian Church - Dedication Service

ALTAR CLOTH NEEDED

The Rev. Dr. Marg Towner, a member of PRP, is seeking the donation of a communion table cloth (called an *Altar Cloth*) with the Christian symbol on it, but not Presbyterian.

If you have one that you would be willing to donate,
please contact Marg at: margtet@comcast.net

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: DECEMBER 2018

You may view the entire calendar on the Presbytery web site: www.peacriverpresbytery.org

Please email corrections or additions to lori@peacriverpresbytery.org

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

Monday, December 24-Friday, December 28

Presbytery Offices Closed

Tuesday, December 25

Merry Christmas!

Monday, December 31

New Year's Eve

Presbytery Offices Close at Noon

CHURCHES of PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

Please visit our web site, www.peacriverpresbytery.org/churches

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

