



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ February 13, 2018

CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY

At Peace Presbyterian, the Stephen Ministry Group has been reading Option B by Sheryl Sandberg and Adam Grant. In this excellent book on processing grief, there is a chapter on building resilience. To be resilient, you have to believe these four things: you have some control over your life, you can learn from failure, you matter as a human being, and you have real strengths to rely on and share. The authors speak of the value of having a growth mindset instead of a fixed one. So while you may not be naturally good at something, you know that you can learn and develop skills. The book is not written from a Christian perspective, but there is much for Christians to learn about “pressing on” here as Paul says to the Philippians. In fact, this chapter on resilience made me think of this scripture.

^{NRS} **2 Timothy 1:5-9** I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; ⁷ for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. ⁸ Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, ⁹ who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began...

Friends, we have the power of God given to us in the Spirit of Christ Jesus. Though we are surely called to suffer with Christ for the gospel, which is painful, we have a high and holy calling, one that can transform people in our congregations, and then move into the neighborhood to begin to change the world with the good news of Christ’s saving love.

The Congregational Vitality Team is eager to work with churches, especially smaller ones, to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of hands and hearts, through putting our heads together, so that you can build strength, power, love, and self-discipline, even as you suffer for this high and holy calling. If you are interested in working with us, please let me know. edeibert@peacepcusa.com

Peace and grace to you as you prepare for a holy Lent,

Elizabeth M. Deibert
Moderator, Congregational Vitality Team
Pastor, Peace Presbyterian Church

STATED MEETING OF PRESBYTERY
Thursday, February 22, 2018
Theme: Organizational Health

First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota
2050 Oak Street | Sarasota, 34237

8:00 a.m. ~ Registration Begins
9:00 a.m. ~ Finance Forum with Presbytery's Finance Team and Treasurer*
9:30 a.m. ~ Stated Meeting Begins

** The Team and Treasurer are available to answer your questions about the Presbytery's budget, Three Streams of Giving, Church Commitment/Estimate of Giving Forms and more. They are also available to assist churches if needed.*

~ LUNCH ~

\$10.00 (payable at registration).

Includes a boxed lunch from Corkscrew Deli: Sandwich, Pasta Salad, Beverage, etc.
(If you need a non-meat option, you must note that with your reservation).

Lunch Reservations **ARE REQUIRED no later than 11:00 a.m., Thursday, February 15th.**

Contact Lori Doyal at the Presbytery Office to make reservations:

lori@peacriverpresbytery.org / 941-426-8421, ext. 401 **

Attendees without reservations(by the deadline) **WILL NOT** be guaranteed lunch.

(This includes choir and orchestra members.)

PLEASE DO NOT WAIT until the last minute and **DO NOT WAIT** for the Meeting Packet to be posted!

Make your reservation early!

*** Include your name, phone number, email, and church.*

Group reservations must include each attendee's name and the above requested information.

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**A Special Invitation to a Special Presbytery Meeting - February 22<sup>nd</sup> - First, Sarasota**

At the February 2013 Presbytery Meeting, Debbie Rundlett (pastor, author, seminary professor, coach, presbytery leader) was our key note speaker as we formally launched our presbytery's new organizational design. Many still remember her skit which related to what/who was driving our congregation's organizational bus ... who/what was in the driver's seat (i.e Vision, Relationships, Structure, or Goals/plans). Also at the meeting, Debbie shared with us material that many sessions used over the next year called: The Journey (note - that eventually became a book many congregations and church leaders have used).

Five years later, as we continue in our Presbytery's focus on "things that make for vital, alive, and growing congregations", we have invited Debbie back to be with us at the February 22<sup>nd</sup> Presbytery Meeting at First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota. We are encouraging every session to have at least 2-4 current ruling elders who are on the session, in addition to the regular elder commissioners, to come and be part of the workshop Debbie will be doing as a part of our meeting. Also, for worship, we will have a mass choir as well as the group *First Brass* in worship leadership.

**... FROM the PRESBYTERY OFFICE ...**

1. Clerks of Session and Church Offices, the deadline for lunch reservations for the Stated Meeting of Presbytery is **11:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>**. Please remind your Elder Commissioners, other Elders, and Staff of this reservation deadline, and encourage all to make their reservations prior to that day. See above for lunch details.

2. Clerks of Session or Church Offices, please send your updated list of Ruling Elders to Lori ([lori@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:lori@peacriverpresbytery.org)), to be included in the Presbytery's newsletter email distribution list. Include name, email address, and class. *Thank you to those of you who so far who have been able to do this!*

## MISION PENIEL

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

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

### 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.

## 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)

[February 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)

*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).

## PRAYER NEEDS

**Please continue to pray for:**

- Rev. Susan Rice – health and treatment for cancer
- Jim and Becky Beckwith, and their son, Greg – health
- Rev. Dr. Lou Thompson – health
- Phil Kuehl (husband of Rev. Elizabeth Kuehl, Faith, Cape Coral) – health
- Robert Dennis (son of Rev. India Dennis) – mental health issues
- The communities, across the U.S. and Puerto Rico, still recovering from the hurricanes and fires
- 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: FEBRUARY 2018:**

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| February 4  | <u>First Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dino Rustin<br>Email: <a href="mailto:dino@firstpresbradenton.com">dino@firstpresbradenton.com</a><br>Associate Pastor: Rev. Mary Beth McSwain<br>Email: <a href="mailto:marybeth@firstpresbradenton.com">marybeth@firstpresbradenton.com</a> |
| February 11 | <u>Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Hope Lee<br>Email: <a href="mailto:hope@kpcbradenton.org">hope@kpcbradenton.org</a>                                                                                                                                                    |
| February 18 | <u>PRP Stated Meeting at First, Sarasota</u><br>Key Note Speaker: Rev. Dr. Debbie Rundlett                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| February 25 | <u>Oak Pointe Church, Bradenton</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Jane Jones-Norris<br>Email: <a href="mailto:jjn7416@gmail.com">jjn7416@gmail.com</a>                                                                                                                                                                  |

**CHURCH SUPPORT STAFF OPENINGS**

First Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte:

[Church Secretary](#)

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Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda:

[Organist/Primary Accompanist](#)

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Faith Presbyterian Church, Cape Coral:  
[Graphic Designer and Marketing Coordinator](#)

### **PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: FEBRUARY 2018**

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, February 15**

11:00 a.m. Deadline: Lunch Reservations for Stated Meeting of PRP

#### **Thursday, February 22**

Stated Meeting of Presbytery at First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota

### **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.

