



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ March 28, 2019

~ PALMA SOLA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ~

Palma Sola Moving Ahead into God's Future!

As I prepare to retire on June 2nd, I wanted our Outreach and Communications chairs to share with Peace River Presbytery how Palma Sola is sharing God's love in Christ with our community and world through our Outreach and Communications efforts.

First, our Outreach Chair, Andrea Harmon writes: "The Outreach Team helps the congregation reach out in fellowship and fun as we share God's love in Christ by serving others in our community and world. Based on congregational input, our major mission focus areas are Education and Literacy, Elderly Connections and Support, and Food Security. We partner with many organizations in our community and world in these focus areas. One of the highlights of our Education and Literacy initiative is serving as a Business Partner for a local elementary school where we are pen pals to 2nd grade students, donate clinic and classroom supplies, help in the classroom, and bless teachers with meals and special treats. We strive to connect with the elderly and homebound by working closely with several senior housing communities to provide transportation to worship and fellowship events as well as volunteering with Meals on Wheels. Our Food Security mission provides ongoing, non-perishable, food collections to support local food pantries. Volunteers serve at Our Daily Bread soup kitchen, and we help



fill children's backpacks with food for the weekend through donations to F.E.L.T. (Feeding Empty Little Tummies). In addition, we've sponsored several *Hope Seeds* seed packing events that provide garden seeds to hungry people all over the world. Our generous and loving congregation supports missionaries

in the Middle East and Guatemala in addition to many local and international Presbyterian missions. We have reached out to the community's spiritual needs by teaching the Bible survey class *The Story*, leading a grief support group, and offering a Blue Christmas Service during the holidays. We share our campus daily with scouting groups, a music program for low socio-economic children, Samaritan Counseling of the Gulf Coast and, as of this week, the West Manatee Fire Department administrative offices. The Outreach Team continues to look for ways to connect Palma Sola with our local community while serving and worshipping together."



To strengthen our efforts to share God's love in Christ and invite our community to join us in worship, study, fellowship, and service, our Communications Team, headed by Chair Liz Brackmann, is implementing and exploring a wide range of communications tools. Liz notes: "We're working to better support and equip our members to extend personal invitations to friends, to greet and identify the needs of visitors, and to interact with our campus partners. This includes worship bulletin inserts to use as informal invitations, content for email invitations and social media posts. In our visitor welcome packets, we now include invitations to an upcoming event to encourage guests to take the next step."

"We're also reaching out to our community through colorful direct mail invitations to a variety of related learning, serving, fellowship, and worship activities over the upcoming one to two months. The first of these, *Christmas 2018*, focused on Pastor Indy's December sermon series from the Gospel of Matthew ('The Return of the King'), a Christmas concert by the Gulf Coast Flute Choir, our Hanging of the Greens, Blue Christmas (at Palma Sola Botanical Park), and Christmas Eve Candlelight Services. Currently we are giving out our second extended opportunity for guests to experience us, *Spring 2019*, which encompasses a five-session class on the Life and Teachings of Jesus, packing of Hope Seeds, and Easter week worship services including Easter SONrise Service at PSBP."

"In addition, a new website is in progress, and different web-based community and faith bulletin boards are being used to advertise events."

As you can see, God is on the move at Palma Sola, drawing us out into his mission in the world. Even as this congregation transitions to its next pastor, it's "keeping its eyes on the ball" by following Jesus as we share God's love wherever and however God leads!

Indy Dennis, Pastor, Palma Sola Presbyterian Church
www.pspchurch.org

*Each week, the newsletter will feature a congregation, covenant partner,
or ministry of Peace River Presbytery.
To learn even more, please visit the church or ministry web sites.*

BREAKING NEWS – MARCH 15

Federal Appeals Court Rules that Clergy Housing Allowance Exclusion Is Constitutional

March 15, 2019 – In a ruling with major implications for clergy across the United States, the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals has issued its decision holding that the clergy housing allowance exclusion in federal tax law **is constitutional**. This appeals court decision reverses the lower court's decision in which the housing allowance exclusion was ruled unconstitutional.

It is unknown at this time whether the case will be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, and if so, whether the Supreme Court will take it up.

A copy of the decision is available [here](#).

NEXT STATED MEETING of PRESBYTERY

Thursday, May 16, 2019

Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples

~~~~~  
**OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND the PRESBYTERY:**

**Monday, April 1-Tuesday, April 2, 2019**

[PRP Presbyterian Women's Retreat](#)

Day Spring Conference Center, Ellenton  
~~~~~

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

[Faith Place Safety Seminar](#)

Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda

*Registration Deadline: Monday, April 22nd
~~~~~

**Wednesday, May 22, 2019**

[POAMN Regional Conference](#)

St. Leo, FL

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

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

Facebook: "Misión Peniel"

**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)

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

## **SUMMER EMPLOYMENT**

Do you enjoy working with children and youth? Do you love playing and worshipping in the beauty of nature? Are you seeking to hear what God is calling you to do this summer – and beyond? Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center invites young adults at least one year beyond their high school graduation to consider serving as part of our 2019 Summer Staff. Visit [www.cedarkirk.org/summer/employment](http://www.cedarkirk.org/summer/employment) to learn more about our life-changing summer community and how you might serve.



## **SUMMER CAMP CHANGES LIVES!**

Are you looking for a summer program for your child that will provide him or her with opportunities for spiritual, physical, and social growth? Cedarkirk offers small-group, residential camp programs that allow children and youth to explore, learn, and just be themselves. Besides being fun, summer camps help kids: improve confidence and self-esteem; learn a new skill; improve critical thinking and decision-making abilities; experience the wonder of the natural world; learn to live and work as part of a community; and connect with God in a place where earnest discussions and honest dialogue allow them to make their faith their own. Send your camper to Cedarkirk this summer to discover how a single summer can last a lifetime! Visit [www.cedarkirk.org](http://www.cedarkirk.org) for program dates, details, and registration.

*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).

## **POAMN REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

(Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry Network)

["Engaging Aging in Today's World"](#)

May 22, 2019 in St. Leo, FL

## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

[Building and Maintenance Worker – First, Port Charlotte](#)

## **PRAYER NEEDS**

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

- Rev. Dr. Valerie Bell - health
- 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: MARCH 2019

|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| March 3  | <u>Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jeffrey DeYoe<br>Email: <a href="mailto:jdeyoe@covpcfm.com">jdeyoe@covpcfm.com</a>                                                                                                |
| March 10 | <u>Christ Church of Longboat Key</u><br>Stated Supply Pastor: Rev. Dr. Norman Pritchard<br>Email: <a href="mailto:revnmp@comcast.net">revnmp@comcast.net</a>                                                                                          |
| March 17 | <u>Faith Presbyterian Church, Cape Coral</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Tim Halverson<br>Email: <a href="mailto:tim@fpcf.org">tim@fpcf.org</a>                                                                                                               |
| March 24 | <u>Beth-El Farmworker Ministry</u><br>Executive Director: Rev. Kathy Dain<br>Email: <a href="mailto:kathy@beth-el.org">kathy@beth-el.org</a><br>Pastor: Rev. Tamara Leonard-Lara<br>Email: <a href="mailto:pastor@beth-el.org">pastor@beth-el.org</a> |
| March 31 | <u>Palma Sola Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u><br>Pastor: Rev. India (Indy) Dennis<br>Email: <a href="mailto:pastorindy@gmail.com">pastorindy@gmail.com</a>                                                                                         |

### PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: APRIL 2019

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

Please email corrections or additions to [lori@peaceriverpresbytery.org](mailto:lori@peaceriverpresbytery.org)

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

#### **Monday, April 1 – Tuesday, April 2**

Presbyterian Women's Retreat (Ellenton, FL)

#### **Thursday, April 4**

Mision Peniel (10:00 a.m. in Immokalee)

#### **Tuesday, April 9**

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

#### **Wednesday, April 10**

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

#### **Thursday, April 11**

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

#### **Thursday, April 18**

Steering Committee (9:00 a.m.)

**Friday, April 19**

Good Friday (Presbytery Offices Closed)

**Sunday, April 20**

Easter

**Monday, April 22**

Registration Deadline for Faith Place Safety Seminar (April 30)

**Tuesday, April 30**

Faith Place Safety Seminar (9:00 am-1:00 pm at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church)

**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.

