



# PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



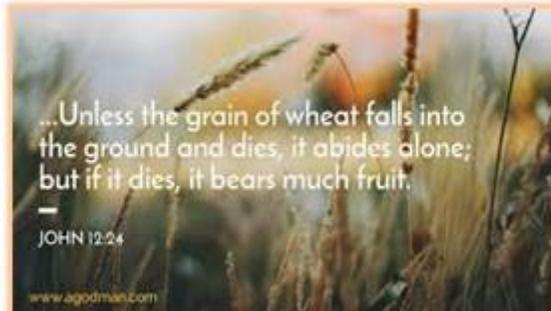
Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ April 4, 2019

## SPEAKING FROM THE HART

“Letting Go... Letting Come” is something we all do every single day.

We fall asleep at night with the conviction we will wake up in the morning.

We bury seeds in the ground (or as Jesus said – Unless a seed falls into the ground and die...) in hope of a plentiful harvest.



We do our work for a season, then it is time to let go in the assurance that God is not finished with either the work nor the worker.

In the end, we close our eyes one final time, in sure and certain hope of resurrection to life eternal.

Life is about letting go and letting come.

When I ...

look at the canvas of my life that was lifted up at the Presbytery meeting, especially with my children and close colleagues being able to be present and share their reflections,

or replay some of the kind and generous words spoken at the retirement celebration or when I have been visiting churches,

or read the cards you have sent,

I am filled with gratitude.

Additionally, when I recognize ...

- there is work still to do, but someone else will need to finish that work,
- and there are new chapters yet to be written,

I am excited for you.

There is also some sadness in my heart, both in the letting go, and knowing that not all our hopes and dreams were realized. Yet, even then, we are invited to let go and trust that the reconciling work of Christ will make all things new. In the end, even if not complete in this life, we trust that God's shalom will bring all things to wholeness, completeness, and peace.

I also recognize that **together** we have done some amazing things. A few include:

- Mision Peniel was birthed,
- multiple hurricane recoveries with the help of PDA occurred,
- 3 new church developments continue as vibrant communities of faith, hope, love, and witness,
- a partnership with Matanzas Presbytery in Cuba has begun,
- over \$800,000 has been set aside to use the income from for Blessing Grants - which are meant to spark the imagination and creativity of congregations to reach their communities in new ways,
- we continue to support an incredible Camp and Conference Center - Cedarkirk and the amazing work at Beth El,
- many faithful and gifted pastors over the years have been called who serve with energy, intelligence, imagination love,
- we have been blessed with incredible and dedicated leaders in this presbytery who faithfully serve as moderators, team leaders, and committee members,
- we continue to be served by an incredible and dedicated staff in Alesia and Lori in the office; and in Alan and Randy as elected staff of the Presbytery,
- and the list can go on.

In these last few weeks, I have gone back to the litany (see below) that was offered at the February Presbytery Meeting when the Presbytery acted on my retirement request. It is also about letting go and letting come, and I offer it again for our prayer and reflection.

There is one more "Speaking from the Hart" that I will write, but for now – thank you. As we live into this season of letting go and letting come, and as we get ready to move into the next chapter, I am confident and hopeful that "the God who began the good work in us will bring it completion ..."

With all the array of emotions, especially gratitude and hope,

Thank you,

*Graham*

Graham Hart – General Presbyter

## RECOGNITION OF RETIREMENT

### LITANY

Rev. Dawn Mayes

Let us pray for the saving presence of our living Lord:

In your world, **be present, Lord.**

In this presbytery, **be present, Lord.**

In the hearts of all your people, **be present, Lord.**

Let us pray for the mercy of the Lord:

For work begun but not yet completed, **Lord, have mercy.**

For expectations not met, **Lord, have mercy.**

For wounds not healed, **Lord, have mercy.**

Let us give thanks for our journey together:

For friendships made, for joys celebrated, **thanks be to God.**

For wounds healed, expectations met, and promises kept, **thanks be to God.**

For our fellowship in Jesus Christ, and for the love of God,

which has sustained us, **thanks be to God.**

### DISSOLUTION

Do you, the members and friends of Peace River Presbytery, release Graham from service as your General Presbyter? **We do, with thanks to God.**

Do you, Graham, recognize and accept the completion of your ministry with this presbytery? **I do, with thanks to God.**

### THANKSGIVING OF FAITHFUL SERVICE

*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.*

### **IMPORTANT!**

#### **Faith Place Safety Seminar**

Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda

Tuesday, April 30, 2019, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

\*Registration Deadline: Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>

Required (COM Policy) to attend: Members of Presbytery, Ministerial Candidates and Inquirers

Also should attend: Pastors, Staff and Elders with roles in Christian Education and Personnel.

Please click on link above for more information.

### **NEXT STATED MEETING of PRESBYTERY**

**Thursday, May 16, 2019**

Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples

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

**Tuesday, April 30, 2019**

**Faith Place Safety Seminar**

Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda

\*Registration Deadline: Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>

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**Wednesday, May 22, 2019**

[POAMN Regional Conference](#)

St. Leo, FL

### **NOTICE – PCUSA PLANNING CALENDARS**

The PCUSA Store is changing the format of the Planning Calendars to be a 16-month, rather than 18-month format to be more in line with the church calendar.

The calendars for 2019-2020 will begin with September 2019 (instead of June) and go through December 2020.

Orders will not be shipped from PCUSA until August 2019.

Church Offices and Clerks of Session, please watch for an email from Lori (PRP Office) within the next two weeks with the Order Form for Calendars.

If you order through the Presbytery Office, you receive a pass through discount because of the bulk order that the Presbytery Office places.

Questions? Please contact [lori@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:lori@peacriverpresbytery.org)

### **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: [misionpenielpeacriver@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.cedarkirk.org)

**SUMMER EMPLOYMENT**

Do you enjoy working with children and youth? Do you love playing and worshiping 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: APRIL 2019**

April 7	<u>Rev. Graham Hart</u> Email: <a href="mailto:graham@peacriverpresbytery.org">graham@peacriverpresbytery.org</a>
April 14	<u>Buckingham Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Randy Moody Email: <a href="mailto:bpcpastor@comcast.net">bpcpastor@comcast.net</a>
April 21	<u>Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center</u> Executive Director: Rev. John Reiter Email: <a href="mailto:john@cedarkirk.org">john@cedarkirk.org</a>
April 28	<u>Westminster Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u> Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. John Wintringham Email: <a href="mailto:friartuk@wcc.net">friartuk@wcc.net</a>

### **PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: APRIL 2019**

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

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

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

**Thursday, April 4**

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

**Tuesday, April 9**

Committee on Ministry (9:00 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 21**

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.peacriverpresbytery.org/churches](http://www.peacriverpresbytery.org/churches)

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

