



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ April 18, 2019

~ HAPPY EASTER ~
From Your Presbytery Staff

Cedarkirk Camp & Conference Center

This is an incredibly busy time of the year out at Cedarkirk, your camp and conference center, as we prepare for another exciting summer of ministry. In just two months, we will be welcoming and serving nearly **1,500 children and youth** in Christ's name. This summer's theme is **Peace Works**. Using stories from the Bible, campers will learn that the God who created and sustains us wants us to live in harmony, and that true peace is achieved through small actions and decisions we take part in every day!



Cedarkirk's mission statement is short and simple. **We are a place apart to build up the body of Christ in love.** That means providing programs, spaces, and experiences where people connect with one another and with God in transforming ways. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, we witness lives changed and hearts opened to the love and grace of God.

Both our summer campers and year-round retreat guests live in a world where a myriad of voices tell them that they are lacking. Voices that say:
You are not good enough, do better.
You are not rich enough, earn more.
You are not popular enough, act differently.



Experiences at Cedarkirk speak a different message:
You are God's good creation.
God provides you with abundant blessings.
You are loved.

Experiences at camp give God's children of all ages a taste of what is possible. We are reminded that **we are created** in the image of God. We are affirmed that **God loves us** no matter what. We are challenged to **share that love with others** and **serve the world** around us.

As we approach **Pentecost Sunday**, your church has an opportunity to help support the unique faith formation that takes place at Cedarkirk. The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to **support young people in Christ** and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. Your support helps nurture the faith of those who are the church to come — children, youth, and young adults.



If your church is participating in the Pentecost Offering, **40% of the offering** can be retained by your congregation and designated to make an impact in the lives of young people. **I invite you to consider Cedarkirk's life-changing ministry with young people as a recipient of your Pentecost Offering.** If you are not participating in the church-wide offering, please

think about Cedarkirk as a possible special emphasis offering or mission effort. Cedarkirk truly makes an impact in the lives of so many people. Right now, Cedarkirk is in the midst of a capital campaign to build a new dining hall where all of God's children can be welcomed at the table. We are seeking to improve **accessibility and the ministry of hospitality**



offered to so many children, youth, and adults through our summer programs and throughout the year. We are thrilled to have **raised 1.5 million dollars** towards our goal. Our hope is to **reach 2.5 million** by the end of 2019 enabling us to break ground on this new facility. Gifts received from the Pentecost Offering will be utilized to strengthen these efforts and this place apart. **Your support is critical** and makes a difference in the ministry of this special place! If you would like more information about Cedarkirk, or the capital campaign, please contact me at john@cedarkirk.org or 813-685-4224. We would love the opportunity to come and share with you about all of the ministry you help support and



the ways you can get involved with this important work. As always, I am incredibly grateful for your consideration, your prayers, and the variety of ways that you support Cedarkirk.



Peace,
Rev. John Reiter
Executive Director
www.cedarkirk.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.

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 22nd**

**** 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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Saturday, May 4, 2019

[Health and Wellness Fair](#)

Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch

All are invited!
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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*

**Beth-El**  
*Farmworker Ministry, Inc.*

PO Box 860 | Wimauma, FL 33598

Phone: 813-633-1548 ext. 223

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

[April 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: [miguestrada@hotmail.com](mailto:miguestrada@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. Terri Jo Crego (pastor of First, Port Charlotte) – loss of her mother this week
- 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><br>Email: <a href="mailto:graham@peacriverpresbytery.org">graham@peacriverpresbytery.org</a>                                         |
| April 14 | <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 21 | <u>Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center</u><br>Executive Director: Rev. John Reiter<br>Email: <a href="mailto:john@cedarkirk.org">john@cedarkirk.org</a>     |
| April 28 | <u>Peace River Presbytery</u>                                                                                                                                |

## **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 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.

