



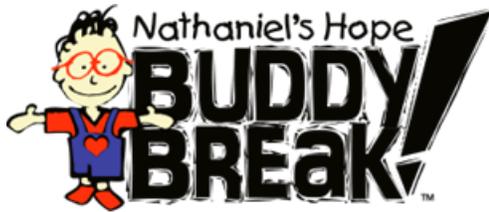
PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Presbytery Newsletter ~ August 16, 2019

Venice Presbyterian Church: Buddy Break

Since our founding in 1953 as a drive-in church, Venice Presbyterian Church has continued seeking creative ways to share the hope of Jesus Christ with the Venice-area community. One of the ministries that VPC has been called to offer is Buddy Break, an outreach ministry to children with special needs and their families.



In 2008, VPC partnered with the Orlando-based ministry Nathaniel's Hope to launch Buddy Break in Venice. On the third Saturday of each month, children with special needs and their siblings come to the church for three hours of enjoyment. Each child is paired one-on-one with a "Buddy," who has been trained and background-checked for everyone's safety. The Buddies are mostly Venice Presbyterian Church members and teens, but the Buddy Break program also welcomes volunteers from the community – many of whom have subsequently become involved in the life of the congregation through this doorway to serve. Buddy Break is a free program, and children

must register in advance. Each child's caregiver receives an orientation on the first time they bring their child(ren) to Buddy Break.

Buddy Break is a volunteer-led, child-focused program, and each child and their Buddy can spend the three hours doing whatever the child desires. Each month has a special theme, and there are various activities on the church campus. One room offers arts and crafts; another room has games, toys, and puzzles. The music room is filled with child-friendly instruments. In another place, kids can have fun dressing up in costumes. The fellowship hall is transformed into an indoor gym with balls, mazes, and other physical activities. Some kids enjoy quiet time looking at books in the church library. Children and their buddies kick soccer balls or throw footballs on the church lawn. And this month celebrates the installation of a new Buddy Break "music garden," with outdoor instruments for the kids to enjoy.

For many of these kids, Buddy Break is a highly-anticipated date on the calendar each month. These children have a wide variety of exceptionalities – autism, Down's syndrome, and many other types of special needs. A special highlight each year is the Buddy Break Christmas pageant, where kids who rarely get the chance to star in school plays re-enact the story of Christ's birth. Recurring special events at Buddy Break have included fire trucks from the Venice Fire Department, a petting zoo from the 4H club, and face painting by a local clown-artist. Buddy Break has truly become a community ministry.

In addition to giving love and attention to kids with special needs, Buddy Break welcomes the siblings of these kids, who enjoy the one-on-one attention of their own Buddy – and who also enjoy bonding with other kids

who understand the unique life of a special-needs family. And of course, Buddy Break provides the parents/caregivers much-needed respite care.

Many of our congregations in Southwest Florida are striving to attract younger families. We've found Buddy Break to be a wonderful way to build bridges of connection with families in our community – and a real way to share the love of Jesus. We would welcome volunteers from other local churches, but our dream would be for Buddy Breaks to begin at other churches so that families could have multiple opportunities each month for this much-needed ministry. (Our families have traveled to the Venice Buddy Break from as far as Bradenton, Myakka City, and Punta Gorda). Before we started, we visited Buddy Break programs at small churches in Orlando that were only able to host a handful of



kids each month – but what a difference in the lives of those families! If you'd be interested in seeing Buddy Break, or in knowing more about how to begin a Buddy Break in your context, please contact us (buddybreak@venicepres.org) or Nathaniel's Hope (info@nathanielshope.org).

SPECIAL PRESBYTERY-WIDE EVENT!
Saturday, September 14, 2019

Barbeque Fellowship, Food, and Games
and
Presbytery Called Meeting

~~~~~  
Location: First Presbyterian Church of Port Charlotte  
2230 Harriet St. | Port Charlotte, FL 33952  
~~~~~

Open to ALL!

Please read flyer and share with others. Reservation deadline: September 5th.

[Information Flyer](#)

~ UPDATE FROM YOUR GENERAL PRESBYTER NOMINATING COMMITTEE ~

The good Lord has led us to a candidate to become our next General Presbyter. At this point all information remains confidential, for obvious reasons. But we wanted you to know that your prayers, and ours, have been answered. Please watch for future communications over the next month to learn more.

Sincerely,
Your General Presbyter Nominating Committee
Peace River Presbytery

SERVICE of INSTALLATION of
REV. DR. BRANDI CASTO-WATERS

as Pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church
Cape Coral, Florida

Saturday, September 21, 2019
4:00 p.m.
Reception immediately following.

PRESBYTERIAN PLANNING CALENDARS

Many of you have inquired about the Planning Calendars and when they will arrive. In the letter that was sent to churches, Clerks of Session, and pastors in May, it stated that the soonest the Presbytery would receive the calendars from the PCUSA Store would be mid-August and that PCUSA had changed the calendars to begin with the month of September. I checked again this week with the PCUSA Store and was told that they have not received the calendars yet from the printer. They hope to receive them within the next few days, after which they will begin shipments to the Presbyteries. As soon as our shipment arrives, I will be in touch with those churches who placed orders to arrange distribution. --- Lori, Presbytery Office

~ ATTENTION: CLERGY ~

**The following two events are sponsored by the
Florida Council of Churches:**

September 12-13: Florida Clergy Convening

Location: Florida Hotel, Orlando

Topic: Clergy Impacting Legislative Reform for Florida
~~~~~

#### **October 13-14: Faith-Rooted Organizing Retreat**

Location: Life Enrichment Center, Leesburg

Topic: Dreaming God's Dream Together – Faith Leaders Advancing Shared Hope  
~~~~~

Registration information will be shared by the Synod of South Atlantic
when it becomes available.
~~~~~

Contact information for Rev. Dr. Russell Meyer, Executive Director, Florida Council of Churches:  
[RMeyer@floridachurches.org](mailto:RMeyer@floridachurches.org) / 813-763-3610

#### ~ ATTENTION: CLERKS OF SESSION ~

Clerks, please mark your calendars for the following dates in September and October, for the Annual Review of the Session Minutes and Records Books and Biennial Administrative Review. The invitation letter and checklist and Biennial Administrative Review Form were mailed to you on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

Please make your attendance plans known by emailing the contact person for the workshop you plan to attend:

Saturday, September 14, 9:00 a.m. | Location: First Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte

Contact: Judy Bremer, [jdymr@comcast.net](mailto:jdymr@comcast.net) / 941-966-0394

Saturday, September 21, 10:00 a.m. | Location: Trinity Presbyterian Church, Venice

Contact: Judy Bremer, [jdymr@comcast.net](mailto:jdymr@comcast.net) / 941-966-0394

Saturday, October 12, 10:00 a.m. | Location: Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, N. Fort Myers

Contact: Rebecca Nicholson, [love2point@yahoo.com](mailto:love2point@yahoo.com) / 941-655-8163

Saturday, October 26, 9:00 a.m. | Location: Northminster Presbyterian Church, Sarasota

Contact: Sally Kirby, [kirbyjack5030@comcast.net](mailto:kirbyjack5030@comcast.net) / 941-351-3115

Please Note: If no one registers in advance for one of the workshops, it will be canceled without further notification.

Clerks, if you have any questions or cannot find your packet, please contact Judy Bremer (information listed above).

## 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)

[August 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)



*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).

### **POSITION OPENING:**

#### **Executive Director for Long Term Recovery – Duplin County, North Carolina**

The Disaster Recovery Group of Duplin County (North Carolina) is receiving applications for the position of Executive Director of their long-term recovery group.

[Click here](#) for information on the job description and how to apply.

### **PRAYER NEEDS**

#### **Please pray for:**

- Ruth DeYoe (Mision Peniel Mission Coordinator) – recovery from knee replacement surgery
- Rev. Dr. Daniel Pendergrass - health
- The General Presbyter Nominating Committee (GPNC)
- 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: AUGUST 2019**

|           |                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| August 4  | <u>Thornwell Home for Children</u><br>Web Site: <a href="http://www.thornwell.org">www.thornwell.org</a>                                                                                   |
| August 11 | <u>Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, Sarasota</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Michael Mansperger<br>Email: <a href="mailto:covenant.presbyterian@comcast.net">covenant.presbyterian@comcast.net</a> |
| August 18 | <u>Venice Presbyterian Church, Venice</u><br>Senior Pastor: Rev. Chris Romig<br>Email: <a href="mailto:cromig@venicepres.org">cromig@venicepres.org</a>                                    |

|           |                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|           | Associate Pastor: Rev. Carolyn Wilson<br>Email: <a href="mailto:cwilson@venicepres.org">cwilson@venicepres.org</a>                                                    |
| August 25 | <u>Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church, Sarasota</u><br>Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Kathleen Weller<br>Email: <a href="mailto:thecelticmonk@att.net">thecelticmonk@att.net</a> |

**PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: SEPTEMBER 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, September 2**

Labor Day – Presbytery Offices Closed

**Wednesday, September 4**

Interim Pastors (9:30 am – by GoToMeeting)

**Thursday, September 5**

Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team (10:00 am)

Mision Peniel Team (10:00 am at Mision Peniel, Immokalee)

Board of Trustees/Finance Team (11:30 am at Mision Peniel, Immokalee)

**Tuesday, September 10**

Committee on Ministry (9:00 am)

**Wednesday, September 11**

Interim Pastors (9:30 am – by GoToMeeting)

Personnel Team (1:30 pm – by GoToMeeting)

Cuba Partnership Task Force (3:00 pm – by Conference Call)

Nominations Committee (4:00 pm – by GoToMeeting)

**Saturday, September 14**

Annual Session Records Review (9:00 am at First, Port Charlotte)

PRP Special Called Meeting (10:00 am at First, Port Charlotte)

Presbytery Fall Gathering and Pig Roast (11:30 am at First, Port Charlotte)

**Thursday, September 19**

Steering Committee (9:00 am)

**Saturday, September 21**

Annual Session Records Review (10:00 a.m. at Trinity PC, Venice)

Installation Service for Rev. Dr. Brandi Casto-Waters (4:00 pm at Faith PC, Cape Coral)

**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.



The Presbytery Newsletter is a weekly publication of Peace River Presbytery.  
If you wish to be unsubscribed from the distribution, or if you know someone who would like to receive the newsletter, please contact Lori Doyal at the Presbytery Office:  
[lori@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:lori@peacriverpresbytery.org) or 941-426-8421, ext. 401.