



# PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ January 17, 2019

Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, Bradenton

## From the Big Green Church.....

One of my most vivid memories of coming into Peace River Presbytery was standing on the floor for examination. A pastor stood up and said, "In looking at your Statement of Faith, I see that you reference the Holy Spirit quite a bit. Are you sure you're not Pentecostal?" The question was tongue-in-cheek...I think...but in my head I kept saying, "that's all I know."



Kirkwood was what churchy people call a "redevelopment" – a church on the decline with no real vision for the future, other than to survive. By training, I am not a "redevelopment" pastor. Whatever this "redevelopment" (or now we use words like "revitalization" or "vital congregations") business was, nobody at Kirkwood knew anything about it. So, instead, led by what we did know – the Holy Spirit – we started taking risks all over the place.

Going from 2 identical services to 3 unique services was a risk. Partnering up with local businesses and other non-profits was a risk. Developing a new worshipping community within an existing one while trying to reach the unchurched and maintain Presbyterian polity was a risk. Opening up a community garden and children's library was a risk. Transforming worship spaces to accommodate families with special needs children (and adults) was a risk.



Today, Kirkwood is unrecognizable from the church that it was 10 years ago. It is generationally and socio-



economically diverse, multi-ethnic and multi-cultural, passionate about the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the unparalleled value of evangelism, and has more “unchurched”, “de-churched”, new believers than it does cradle Presbyterians. That was another risk – shifting the focus from “kin”dom to Kingdom.

This year, The Well, our new worshipping community within the existing one, was standing room only on Christmas Eve. It reaches capacity on a weekly basis and now we are, once again, facing the risks that come with growth.

About two years ago we started getting pastors and elders from all over the country coming to visit us and learn about how we went from being a redevelopment to a thriving congregation. We try to be gracious in hosting them when they come but we always tell them right up front that we have no idea what we are doing. It’s not a program. It’s not a big-box curriculum. It’s not a coaching strategy or prescribed plan.

All we are is a committed group of followers of Jesus Christ pursuing the work of God in Bradenton, taking risks by the power of the one thing we do know – the Holy Spirit!

In the Grip of Grace,  
Hope Lee



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.

### COMING UP ...

**Thursday, February 28, 2019**  
**Stated Meeting of Presbytery**  
and

**Honoring The Reverend Graham Hart, General Presbyter,**  
**on the occasion of his retirement.**

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Location: First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota

Registration Begins - 8:00 a.m.

Financial Forum – 8:30 a.m.

Meeting Begins – 9:00 a.m.

Lunch reservations will be required in advance. Details will be posted soon.

### UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND the PRESBYTERY:

**Sunday, January 20, 2019**

Installation Service for The Reverend Robert Marrow  
4:00 p.m. at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples

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**Saturday, February 9, 2019**

[Dr. Hunter Farrell, Director, World Mission Initiative](#)

(Pittsburgh Theological Seminary)  
Guest Speaker at the Faith Focus Weekend  
First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota  
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**Saturday, February 23, 2019**

[The Life and Friendships of C.S. Lewis](#)

Church of the Palms, Sarasota  
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**Sunday, March 3, 2019**

Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch - Dedication Service  
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**Tuesday, April 30, 2019**

[Faith Place Safety Seminar](#)

Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda  
Registration required by April 22<sup>nd</sup>

**ATTENTION CHURCHES & CLERGY:**

**2019 IRS Business Mileage Rate: 58 cents per mile**

<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-issues-standard-mileage-rates-for-2019>

**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)

[January 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"

**Critical needs for December and January** include blankets of any size and men's and women's jackets. The mornings are very cold for the farmworkers and many of the trailers and camps they live in do not have sufficient heat. Contact us if you'd like these items to be picked up. Thank you for any donations you are able to make at this time.

**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)

*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:**

- Fred Chamberlain (President, Board of Trustees) and Family, in the loss of his mother-in-law this week.
- 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: JANUARY 2019**

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| January 6  | <u>Peace River Presbytery</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| January 13 | <u>First Presbyterian Church, Bonita Springs</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Doug Pratt<br>Email: <a href="mailto:dpratt@fpcbonita.org">dpratt@fpcbonita.org</a><br>Associate Pastor: Rev. Steven Grant<br>Email: <a href="mailto:sgrant@fpcbonita.org">sgrant@fpcbonita.org</a><br>Associate Pastor: Rev. Brad Rogers<br>Email: <a href="mailto:brogers@fpcbonita.org">brogers@fpcbonita.org</a> |
| January 20 | <u>Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Hope Lee<br>Email: <a href="mailto:hope@kpcbradenton.org">hope@kpcbradenton.org</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| January 27 | <u>First Presbyterian Church, Lehigh Acres</u><br>Stated Supply Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jim Berger<br>Email: <a href="mailto:drjimberger@gmail.com">drjimberger@gmail.com</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

## **PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: JANUARY 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, January 17**

Steering Committee (9:00 a.m.)

Congregational Vitality Team (1:00 p.m.)

### **Sunday, January 20**

Installation Service for Rev. Robert Marrow (4:00 p.m. at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples)

### **Monday, January 21**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Presbytery Offices Closed

### **Tuesday, January 29 and Wednesday, January 30**

Board of Pensions Retirement Planning Seminar (Faith Presbyterian Church, Cape Coral)

## **PEWS for SALE**

Lely Presbyterian Church, Naples, has 150 pews for sale. Each pew is 40 inches long. The church is asking \$75 each, with 90-day notice.



If interested, please contact Bill Moyer: 239-825-2220 / [wamoyer1958@gmail.com](mailto:wamoyer1958@gmail.com)

## **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.



