



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Presbytery Newsletter ~ January 17, 2020

From the General Presbyter ...

This was a busy week in the life of the Presbytery. Committee on Ministry met on Tuesday and the Steering Committee met on Thursday. Thank you to all those who have made a commitment to serve in the structure of the Presbytery. We are able to do so much more together than we ever could alone. Many people joke about Presbyterians and our committees, but we know the strength of the Holy Spirit working in a group of people seeking discernment.

We are beginning this month to live into the new structure of the Presbytery. Committees are getting orientation to their work and you will hear more from them in the coming months. There are places for people who want to be involved in a short-term project to be at work without making a three-year commitment, so stay tuned to hear about those opportunities. This is an exciting time in the life of Peace River Presbytery.

Our next Presbytery meeting will be Thursday, February 27, at Church of the Palms in Sarasota. We have invited Tod Bolsinger, author of [Canoeing the Mountains](#), to be our guest speaker. Tod has recommended that we encourage as many people as possible to read this book before his presentation. I have read it twice, and highly recommend it. Please bring members of your church to hear Tod and then go back to discuss what your church might need to do to live into the future.

I hope you will make note of some opportunities for learning, fellowship, and fun around the Presbytery that are listed below. One of the things that drew me to this presbytery was the interest in increasing the relational nature of the churches as we work and play together. Please share with me or with Lori things that your pastor(s) is/are doing or teaching, and opportunities for learning and fellowship within your church. I look forward to sharing in some of these opportunities with you.

On this Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend, I will be attending a workshop at Covenant in Ft. Myers, led by Carolyn Helsel from Austin Seminary. The workshop will focus on how white Christians can talk faithfully about racism. Increasing diversity is one of the benchmarks for the presbytery and hopefully we can find other ways to have these conversations. I would also recommend reading Malcolm Gladwell's [Talking to Strangers: What We Should Know about the People We Don't Know](#).

I look forward to continuing to meet people as I visit and attend meetings and would be glad to hear from anyone with concerns or questions.

Blessings,

Melana



Around the Presbytery



The Presbytery will install the Rev. T.J. Remaley as Associate Pastor at Faith, Cape Coral on Saturday, January 18, at 4pm. All are invited to join in this joyous occasion.

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First Presbyterian Church of Lehigh Acres, is hosting a free concert by Re-Creation, which will be this Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. For more information, click this link:

[Re-Creation Worship Concert](#)

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Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch, is hosting a Jazz Concert: "Ring in the '20s", next Thursday, January 23rd at 7pm, with Bill Carter of Presbybop. For more information, click on this link:

[Jazz Night](#)

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Church of the Palms' Community Speaker Series will be on Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. The Guest Speaker will be Father Gregory Boyle, Jesuit Priest and the Founder of Homeboy Industries, the largest gang-intervention and rehabilitation program in the world. For more information, click on this link:

[Community Speaker Series: Father Gregory Boyle](#)

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Siesta Key Chapel, Sarasota, is hosting a *Theologian in Residence* for the month of January. For more information on Joyce MacKichan Walker and the classes that she is teaching, click on this link:

[Theologian In Residence](#)

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The Cuba Partnership trip is February 6-11. Please be in prayer for those who are traveling and for those they will meet in Cuba. The Presbytery has an opportunity to share in ministry with The Evangelical Reformed Theological Seminary in Matanzas by providing meals for students, faculty, staff, and some in the community. There is a \$7500 matching grant for each of the next three years. If you or your church would like to give toward this, please send the check to the presbytery marked for the Matanzas Seminary meal fund. It would be wonderful if the group going over could assure the seminary that funds were available for 2020.

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Did you know that there are several pastors in the presbytery who regularly participate in 5K/10K runs/walks? But, we've never done one all at the same time. So, we're inviting anyone who is interested to join us for the Robinson Preserve Twilight 5K/10K in Northwest Bradenton on March 27th @ 5:30pm. The cost is \$35 if you are registered by **January 27th**. You can register

here: <https://raceroster.com/events/2020/23043/robinson-preserve-twilight-5k-and-10k-run?fbclid=IwAR3aUth2ETeg-rp6zugY3--ttb5fddDikN6UThbQIPUNsWGb2OE4ZLThVU>

Please contact Rev. Dr. Hope Lee or Rev. Terri Jo Crego if you have any questions. And, if you decide to register, please let Hope know at hope@kpcbrenton.org so we can organize a way to meet up at the event.



~ Sunrise in Cuba ~

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If you have information you would like to share about your pastor or your church, please send an email to Lori Doyal, [lori@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:lori@peacriverpresbytery.org).

## **Important Notice from the Presbytery Finance Office:**

***Churches ... Please send in your Estimate of Giving Forms for 2020.***

Send to the attention of Lori Doyal, PRP Financial Secretary and Communications Coordinator.

The form may be emailed to [lori@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:lori@peacriverpresbytery.org)

or mailed to Lori at Peace River Presbytery | 5600 Peace River Rd., North Port, FL 34287

Questions may be directed to Lori Doyal, [lori@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:lori@peacriverpresbytery.org) / 941-426-8421, ext. 401

## **Presbytery Calendar: January 2020**

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 noted.*

### **Saturday, January 18**

Installation Service – Rev. TJ Remaley (4:00 pm at Faith PC, Cape Coral)

**Monday, January 20**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Presbytery Offices Closed

**Thursday, January 23**

Human Resources Team (10:00 am)

Communication, Connection, and Community Team (1:00 pm)

**Covenant Partners of Peace River Presbytery**

Click on the links to visit each ministry's web site:

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry – Wimauma: [www.beth-el.org](http://www.beth-el.org)

Mision Peniel Farmworker Ministry – Immokalee: [www.misionpeniel.com](http://www.misionpeniel.com)

Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center: [www.cedarkirk.org](http://www.cedarkirk.org)

Presbyterian Homes & Housing Foundation of FL: [www.phhf.com](http://www.phhf.com)

**Prayer Needs**

**Please pray for:**

- Jaquelin Guedes and family. She is the wife of Pastor Armando Guedes, of the Presbyterian Church in Jaquey Grande, Cuba. She is currently undergoing multiple test but responding well to early treatments.
- 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

**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.



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.