



# PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



## Presbytery Newsletter ~ January 31, 2020

Dear Peace River Presbytery,

The culture is shifting radically, and the church is not really keeping up with the changes. One of the people I read and listen to for staying in touch with the shifts is Carey Nieuwhof, a Canadian pastor. He writes a blog and has a wonderful podcast that comes out every Tuesday. He has several books and courses on leadership and change that I have utilized and recommend. At the beginning of the year his blog focused on five trends that will affect how we lead in 2020. Click [here](#) to read the whole post.

The second of his five points got me thinking about how we navigate the future. He says we are moving from a do-it-yourself culture to a do-it-for-me culture. Just think about all the ways you can speed up the work you do in the kitchen, already chopped vegetables and fruit, pre-sliced cheese, or whole meal boxes that come with everything you need. (Full disclosure – I just got my first Hello Fresh box this week.) We are a culture that wants to speed things up, which means having things pre-done for us.

Nieuwhof says that the two underlying reasons for this shift are the lack of time most people face and the number of decisions we are required to make daily. There comes a point where we don't want to decide what to have for dinner, which means the recipe and the items needed to make dinner waiting for me at home is wonderful. Plus, I don't have to take the time to go to the grocery to find and purchase the items for the meal. All of this makes sense to me. It's how Nieuwhof suggests that we make the shift that got me thinking about what it means for the church, particularly the Reformed church.

Nieuwhof suggests that we make access to our product or service simpler. What does that mean for Presbyterians who believe in the priesthood of all believers and who encourage reading and understanding Scripture on a personal, as well as corporate, level? What could we do to make access simpler, but not dumb-down our faith? If we could answer those questions, we might find that we could make a shift in who we reach and how we grow disciples. This is a conversation that would be worth having together. I invite you to email me with responses or to post on the presbytery's Facebook page so that we might share ideas together. It is an exciting time to be disciples and to grow disciples.

Melana Scruggs  
General Presbyter



## MODERATOR'S STOLE

Community church in Englewood has created a Moderator's stole for the Presbytery. Moderator Wayne Largent wore it for the installation of TJ Remaley at Faith, Cape Coral on January 18. This will be passed to the next moderator in November and enjoyed by the Presbytery for years to come.

*Thank you, Community Church!*



## Around the Presbytery



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.

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*Imagination Counts!* You are invited to **First, Sarasota's Faith Focus Weekend**, featuring Dr. Eric Barreto, Professor of New Testament at Princeton Seminary ... **Saturday, February 8**, 9:30-11:00 am. Click for [Invitation from Pastor Glen Bell](#) and [Information Flyer](#). These are two separate links.

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All ladies are invited to the Peace River Presbytery **Presbyterian Women 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering**, Hosted at First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota on **Saturday, February 22**, 9:00 am-1:30 pm. Keynote Speaker: Rev. Kelly Fitzgerald, Associate Pastor for Family Ministry at First Sarasota. Registration deadline: February 3. [Click for the Information Flyer and Registration Form](#).

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**Science vs Faith?** Is mainstream science incompatible with genuine Christian faith? Pastors, Elders, and Church Professionals are invited to Trinity Presbyterian, Venice for a Luncheon on **Tuesday, March 17**, 12:30-2:00 pm. **Dr. Greg Cootsona, Theologian in Residence** will address this issue. RSVP to the church by Friday, March 13. [Click for Information Flyer](#).

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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--ttb5fddDikN6UThbQIPUNSSWGb2OE4ZLThVU>

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](mailto: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)

~ SAVE the DATE ~

**Stated Meeting of Peace River Presbytery**

**Thursday, February 27, 2020**

Host Church: Church of the Palms, Sarasota

8:00 am – Registration Begins

8:30 am – Finance Forum with the PRP Finance Team

9:00 am – Stated Meeting Begins

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Lunch Details will be posted next week. Lunch Reservations are required by 10:00 am, Friday, 2/21.

Contact: [lori@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:lori@peacriverpresbytery.org) or [alesia@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:alesia@peacriverpresbytery.org)

or call 941-426-8421 (Lori – ext. 401 / Alesia – ext. 403)

**Presbytery Calendar: February 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.*

**Monday, February 3**

Outreach and Nurture Team (1:00 pm)

**Thursday, February 6-Tuesday, February 11**

Cuba Partnership Trip

**Wednesday, February 5**

Interim Pastors (8:30 am – GoToMeeting)

**Thursday, February 6**

Mision Peniel Team (10:00 am in Immokalee)

**Tuesday, February 11**

Committee on Ministry (9:00 am)

**Wednesday, February 12**

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (10:00 am)

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

**Thursday, February 13**

Finance Team/Board of Trustees (9:30 am)

**Monday, February 17**

Presidents' Day – PRP Office is Open

**Tuesday, February 18**

Pastoral Care Team (11:00 am)

Communication, Connection, Community Team (2:00 pm)

**Thursday, February 27**

Stated Meeting of Presbytery (9:00 am at Church of the Palms)

**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:**

- Fernando Castillo (father of Miguel Estrada's wife, Marifrans) – serious health problems. Marifrans and 3-year old, Mia, have flown to Guatemala to be with her father.
- 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@peaceriverpresbytery.org](mailto:lori@peaceriverpresbytery.org) or 941-426-8421, ext. 401.