



# PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



## Presbytery Newsletter ~ March 18, 2020

### From the General Presbyter ...

Dear Friends,

Who knew so much could change in a week, and so rapidly? Decisions have been made by sessions and pastors that are difficult, but necessary. With the advice from the White House that came out on Monday afternoon, and the states of emergency declared in most of our cities and towns, the church needs to model care and grace.

As of today, there is a Presbytery website that is specifically designed to provide links for you as you navigate unknown waters. I will update it regularly with information from denominational sources, worship resources, blogs that might provide guidance, and practical advice from governmental entities. If you know of something that would be worth sharing, please send it to me via email at [melana@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:melana@peacriverpresbytery.org). The new site can be found at [prpresources.weebly.com](http://prpresources.weebly.com). There will also be a connection to our regular webpage.

On Monday, pastors representing half the churches in the presbytery met together via Zoom to talk about decisions that were being made and to share questions. Another such meeting is now scheduled for 11am on Monday, March 23. In this meeting I hope we can break into groups and pray for one another and the work we are called to continue. It is also my hope that we might decide to set up prayer partners to hold each other up and share with one another through these days filled with so much unknown.

Steering Committee meets tomorrow, March 19, and will be talking about ways the presbytery might support churches through this time. We are aware of the financial difficulties that will be faced because the offering plates are not passed for several weeks. Churches with preschools are faced with financial difficulties while trying to support teachers and staff as everything is shut down. There is the concern about isolation of people who live alone and for the elderly who might not have ways to get food and medicines. We are walking off the map, as Tod Bolsinger said, and we have to make our way together. Please feel free to call or email me for support.

There is also much hope around and that is what we are called to share. Several pastors in the presbytery are sharing daily devotionals on Facebook Live or sending out devotional emails. The church can be a model of living in hope and not fear because we have faith in the One who makes all things new.

I continue to hold you in prayer.

Blessings,  
Melana



# Around the Presbytery



**Attention Music Directors!** Cantata Books available, free, first come basis. Check the [list](#).

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**Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center is seeking a new Executive Director.** The Executive Director Search Committee has posted information on the search. [Information](#).

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If you have information you would like to share about your pastor or your church, please contact Lori Doyal, [lori@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:lori@peacriverpresbytery.org) or 941-426-8421, ext. 401.

## Presbytery Calendar: March 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.*

### **Thursday, March 19**

Steering Committee (9:00 am – GoToMeeting)

## Misión Peniel: a Ministry of Peace River Presbytery

Web Site: [www.misionpeniel.org](http://www.misionpeniel.org)

## 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)
- 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:**

- Our Nation and the other countries of the world
- 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.