



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Presbytery Weekly E-Newsletter ~ April 17, 2020

FROM THE GENERAL PRESBYTER

Dear Friends,

Easter blessings! I pray that you experienced the joy of the Resurrection in whatever way you celebrated last Sunday. In these days that can seem lonely, depressing, and dark, we know the power of the One who brings light, hope, comfort, and strength. May you find ways to experience the wonder of God's grace and love in your life this week. Pastors, musicians, worship committees, and youth leaders are finding so many different ways to connect and to share worship and study opportunities. Thank you all for what you are doing in these times to keep us connected to the truth we know in Jesus Christ.

The Presbytery applied for two grants through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for the community in Immokalee, one for Misión Peniel and one for the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. Both grants were funded for \$5,000 each, providing much needed support for farmworkers who are extremely vulnerable during this pandemic. Thank you for your support of PDA and the One Great Hour of Sharing offering that makes such grants possible. Misión Peniel and Beth-El continue to need financial support as they provide much-needed food with less coming from food pantries because of the empty shelves in grocery stores. Please pray for these ministries and consider how you might be able to support them financially, as churches and as individuals.

Columbia Seminary is starting a new learning opportunity this Sunday, April 19, that is open to anyone. This will be a Bible study led by a professor from the seminary and the pastor of First Presbyterian, Atlanta, and will be live at 9:30-10:30am each Sunday for the next five weeks. You can go to this [link](#) to sign up and receive extra materials for study or you can join the live stream on Sunday and learn as you go. This is great for individuals, Sunday school classes, or Bible study groups.

There are several new links that have been added to the [resource page](#) this week. These range from financial implications of the CARES Act to scripture placemats for children to a prayer weekend geared to mental health concerns. If you find helpful resources, please share them with me.

You should have received an email stating that the Steering Committee has changed the date of the next Stated Presbytery Meeting from May 28 to Saturday, September 12, 2020. The meeting will still be at Venice. The Steering Committee is working hard to follow the CDC guidelines for gatherings and to keep everyone safe.

May you find in these days something restful or hopeful that you can take with you into the days when we will be back to "normal." Perhaps now is the time we might consider what God can do in our lives and in our churches through this time.

Blessings for this coming week.

Melana

STATED MEETING of PRESBYTERY

Date Change To:

Saturday, September 12, 2020 *

Location: Venice Presbyterian Church

**Original date was Thursday, May 28, 2020.*

The **Board of Pensions** is offering a deferment of dues to churches with fewer than 300 members and one pastor enrolled. Other churches may qualify too. For information go to <http://prpresources.weebly.com>, look under denominational resources and click on Board of Pensions Deferment Info. The information is also on the Peace River Presbytery Facebook page.

Harry Chapin Food Bank and the Presbyterian Hunger Program

The following link is to an article written by Rebecca Barnes, Coordinator of the Presbyterian Hunger Program. The article includes information about the Harry Chapin Food Bank, which is a very important resource for Mision Peniel.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/eco-journey/2020/04/10/food-bank-supporting-communities-in-covid-19/>

Presbytery Calendar: April-May 2020

You may view the entire calendar on the Presbytery web site: www.peaceriverpresbytery.org

Please email corrections or additions to lori@peaceriverpresbytery.org

Team, Committee, and other meetings are being conducted via video conferencing during this time of the stay-at-home guidelines. Please check the calendar regularly for additions or changes.

Are You Registered for Summer Camp Yet?

June and July may seem a long way off, but Cedarkirk's summer programs are filling quickly and you don't want to miss out! Sign up today for your week of games, songs, worships, cookouts, and time to hang out with your new best friends. Try exciting activities like canoeing, archery, campfires, zip lining, and kayaking. Deepen your connection to God and learn new things about yourself as you spend time in the woods away from your usual routine. Visit www.cedarkirk.org to register online. For more information or to request a confidential scholarship, please contact the camp office at 813.685.4224 x2 or camps@cedarkirk.org.

Misión Peniel: a Ministry of Peace River Presbytery

Web Site: 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
- Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center: www.cedarkirk.org
- Presbyterian Homes & Housing Foundation of FL: www.phhf.com

Prayer Needs

Please pray for:

- Our nation and the other countries of the world
- Front Line Health Care Workers and other First Responders
- 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.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 or 941-426-8421, ext. 401.