



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Presbytery Weekly E-Newsletter ~ July 10, 2020

Update from the Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance



The Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance, Inc. is happy to announce a resounding **“YES”** vote from the Collier County Planning and Zoning Commission last Thursday to build 128 decent, safe, hurricane-resistant, rental units for low-income farmworker families in Immokalee.

At last year’s spring Stated Meeting of Peace River Presbytery, the churches and members were challenged to contribute \$100,000 to start us on our way to purchasing the land, 10 acres off Lake Trafford Road in Immokalee. Through the generosity of our churches, we exceeded the challenge and, after the final meeting of Collier County Commissioners in September, we expect to close and begin the infrastructure.

Short term, IFHA is dedicated to solving the problems of families living in unsafe and unhealthy conditions such as mold, rats, snakes, poor or no electrical connections, poor or no bathing and toilet facilities, families forced to live with strangers in the house, broken appliances and other fixtures, lack of play and study areas, and rents consuming 50-60% of the family’s income per month. Especially in these times of coronavirus, the population has experienced mass contagion due to overcrowded living conditions.

Long term, we hope for a community with pre- and after-school care, playgrounds, computer access, homework assistance, adult education, religious services and affordable rents. Children will do better in school. Families will be safer and healthier.

Housing has been the missing link for many years in assisting farmworker families to escape poverty and exploitation. Lower rents will free up needed money to buy food, clothing, medicines, and other necessities. The ripple effect will be economic growth and stability for the city of Immokalee. The IFHA goal is to build affordable, low-maintenance, well-managed, housing with this neighborhood-model and have the dilapidated trailers some now call home condemned by the county.

IFHA, Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization and this project will be entirely funded by foundation grants, individual and organization donations. There will be no mortgage and IFHA will be exempt from paying real estate tax. Take a look at our website: IFHA.info

We are so grateful to the churches of Peace River Presbytery for your prayers and faith in our mission and giving us the jump-start to do what we know the Lord is calling us to do. You are our partners in this endeavor. Any questions can be directed to Carleton Cleveland, 203-247-9118 or Alan Penick, 941-735-1231.

And we congratulate the addition of our newest board member, PRP General Presbyter, Rev. Melana Scruggs. Welcome aboard! Our Hands--God's Work.

Webinar: COVID-19: Support for Mental Health, Bereavement and Grief

The Center for Disaster Philanthropy in partnership with the New York Life Foundation will be offering a webinar on July 14th, 2020 starting at 2:00 p.m. to discuss **COVID-19: Support for Mental Health, Bereavement and Grief.**

As the pandemic continues, serious mental health needs are emerging, including mental illness, depression, anxiety and suicide risk. This webinar is designed to help raise awareness of the intersection of mental health and COVID-19.

The discussion will include what professionals are seeing as individuals, families and communities endure the stresses of uncertainty, illness, death and the economic impacts of the pandemic; the role of cultural sensitivity in addressing the traumas of disaster; how funders are responding to the enormity of the losses; and opportunities for innovative and collaborative grant making.

To register for this event please go to: <https://disasterphilanthropy.org/event/covid-19-support-for-mental-health-bereavement-and-grief/>



**COVID-19:
Support for Mental
Health, Bereavement
and Grief**

July 14, 2020
2 p.m. ET/1 p.m. CT

WEBINAR

 Center for Disaster Philanthropy

Peace River Presbytery's Outreach and Nurture Team encourages you to note the following opportunities:

Blessing Grants

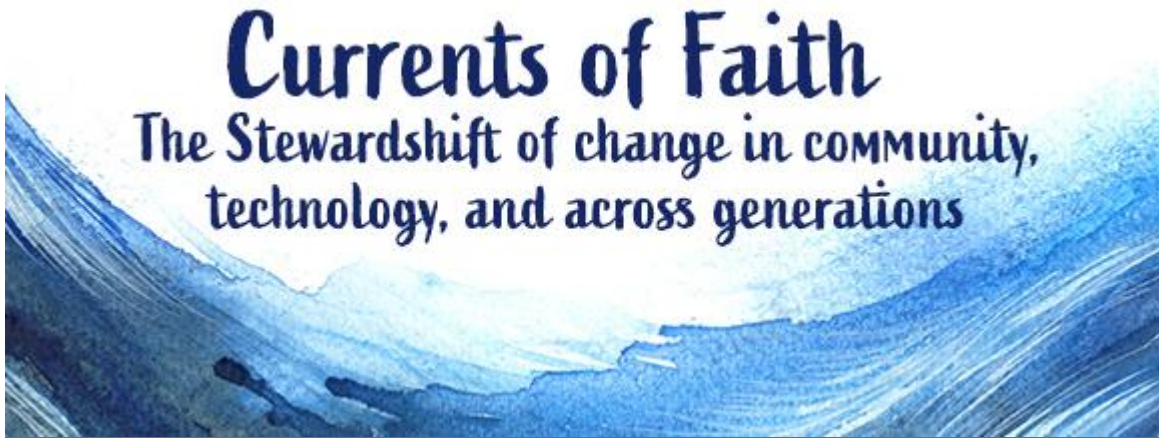
Has your congregation dreamt of growing a ministry but need some financial support to make it a reality? Consider applying for a Blessing Grant! Extended deadline to September 1st. Learn more [here](#).

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry School Supply Drive

You can help Beth-El Farmworker Ministry right from the comfort of your couch! Do some back to school shopping on Amazon. All you have to do is click and the supplies will ship directly to Beth-El in Wimauma.

This is an initiative of Peace River Presbytery to support one of our mission partners during a time of social distancing. We hope you can help! Browse the wish list today:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2IUOYC16Z5SP?ref=wl_share



Virtual Conference Registration is Open

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers they shall not overwhelm you. – Isaiah 43:1-2

[Registration for the Stewardship Kaleidoscope 2020 virtual conference is now open.](#)

Please join us in the Fall for three consecutive Tuesdays: September 22, September 29, and October 6 at 11:30 a.m. eastern/8:30 a.m. pacific. Each week we will hear theological, practical, and actionable perspectives. After the presentation a live Q&A session will follow – allowing additional time to share and learn further.

- **September 22:** Hear from **Eric Barreto** of Princeton Theological Seminary on the Acts of the Apostles in the 21st century – imagination, vision, and creativity in responding to our call;
- **September 29:** We will learn with consultant **Bonnie Ives Marden** about the ways in which faith shapes our financial health, and get practical tools for church financial management;
- **October 6:** **Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow** will provide perspectives on engaging congregations across generations, cultures, and ethnicity to imagine building the church for forward thinking funding and functioning.

A link to participate in the weekly events will be emailed to registrants a few days prior to each program.

Register [Here](#) and see more at StewardshipKaleidoscope.org

PCUSA Planning Calendars

Due to the Covid-19 circumstances, the Presbytery Office will not be placing a bulk order of the Planning Calendars this year. In previous years, the Presbytery Office has placed a bulk order to include all of the churches that wanted to order through the Presbytery Office.

This year, churches will need to order the Planning Calendars directly from the PC(USA) Store.

To do so, you may contact the PC(USA) Store through one of the following methods:

Email: support@pcusastore.com

Phone: 1-800-533-4371

Please note that if you go to the website, www.pcusastore.com, you will need to do a “search” for “Planning Calendar” for it to show up.

The calendar dates are September 2020-December 2021.

Misión Peniel: a Ministry of Peace River Presbytery

Web Site: www.misionpeniel.org

Position Opening

[Music and Choir Director – Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church, Sarasota](#)

Presbytery Office

The staff of the Presbytery Office continues to work diligently for you, while doing so remotely and safely. Mail is being picked up daily.

Please check the web site for the staff’s cell phone numbers, should you need to reach any of them by phone.

[Contact PRP Staff](#)

Presbytery Calendar: July 2020

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

Please email corrections or additions to lori@peaceriverpresbytery.org

Tuesday, July 14

Pastors’ Conversation (9:30 am by Zoom Conference)

Cuba Partnership Task Force (10:00 am by Zoom Conference – Private Account)

Thursday, July 16

Steering Committee (9:00 am by Zoom Conference)

Pastors’ Conversation (1:30 pm by Zoom Conference)

Friday, July 17

Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team (10:00 am by Zoom Conference)

Tuesday, July 21

Pastors’ Conversation (11:00 am by Zoom Conference)

Thursday, July 23

Pastors’ Conversation (1:00 pm by Zoom Conference)

Tuesday, July 28

Pastors’ Conversation (9:30 am by Zoom Conference)

Thursday, July 30

Pastors’ Conversation (11:00 am by Zoom Conference)

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

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
- Health Care Workers
- 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

Ongoing Prayers for our brothers and sisters in Cuba:

- We have been asked to join them in prayer at 9:30 am each morning in solidarity during this difficult time.
- We also pray for their wellbeing and safety during this time of crisis, both physically and spiritually.

Churches of Peace River Presbytery

Please visit our web site, 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 or 941-426-8421, ext. 401.

