



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Presbytery Weekly E-Newsletter ~ July 17, 2020

From the General Presbyter

Dear Friends,

This year has not been at all what any of us were expecting when we began it. We were making our plans for the summer, for the fall, for the next school year. Suddenly all our plans went out the window and we have had to regroup. Every day since the middle of March has brought uncertainty about when things would go back to “normal.” Many people have decision fatigue, largely over things we never decided before, we just did. Who knew we would have to decide whether it feels safe to go out to eat in a restaurant or go to a movie or get a haircut or go to church? We are experiencing grief over all the losses we have experienced in the last months, some larger than others, but all losses.

Churches have had to make difficult decisions about closing and reopening buildings and how to provide worship to everyone. Congregations with childcare centers have had to make decisions about providing care so that parents can work while keeping staff and children safe. Many families have postponed memorial services and couples have had small, outside weddings rather than what had been planned. Pastors have been working overtime to find creative ways to do pastoral care, worship, Bible study. Sessions and congregations have been creative about ways to keep mission work going, but it has been tiring for many.

Perhaps we could learn something important for our faith from these strange times. Many of us tend to forget in times of stress that God is at work in the world and we are not responsible for everything. Maybe it is time for us to focus our minds, hearts, and lives on the God who loves us beyond measure and trust that the uncertainty, the fatigue, the grief, can be handled because we are not alone. When things seem to overwhelm us, we could remember that Jesus said, “I am with you always, even to the close of the age.” We could use that line and change it as a reminder that we do not walk alone: “I am with you always, even in the uncertainty of these days.” When we allow Christ to guide us, we can weather anything, and that changes everything.

Blessings,
Melana

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

Misión Peniel: a Ministry of Peace River Presbytery

Web Site: www.misionpeniel.org

As a mission of the Presbytery, we rely on the churches of Peace River Presbytery for 100% of our budget. Thank you for your faithful support of this presbytery ministry.

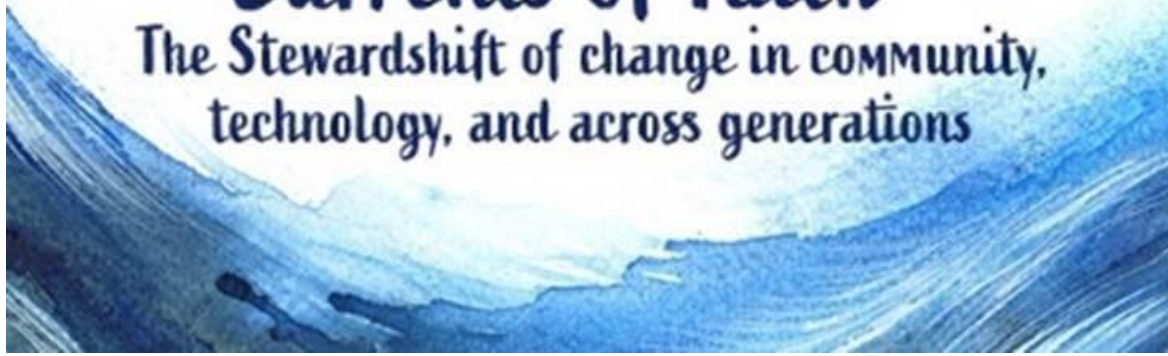
Additional ways to support during this pandemic:

1. Food Drives or additional funds for the following non-perishables: Rice, Beans, Canned Protein (chicken, tuna, Vienna sausages, beef stew), Peanut Butter, Pasta and Tomato sauce;
2. Contributions to the COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund, which is providing limited financial assistance to farmworkers/families affected by COVID-19 with rental and utility assistance and health care related assistance (designate to COVID RELIEF);
3. Prayers for the Immokalee community as the percentage of positive cases of COVID continues to rise.

For the latest updates, visit us on Facebook (Mision Peniel), Instagram (misionpenielimmokalee) and subscribe to our quarterly newsletter via our website.



Currents of Faith
The Stewardship of change in community,
technology, and across generations



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

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](#)

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.

Position Opening

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

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

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@peacriverpresbytery.org or 941-426-8421, ext. 401.