



# PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



## Presbytery Weekly E-Newsletter ~ July 24, 2020

### Update from Cedarkirk

My favorite thing about summer camp – from my days as a camper to my current role as a director – is the community built every week. From song times to Bible studies, family-style meals to snacks around a campfire, everything we do is intentional in the role it plays in developing community. Within a few days, the awkward introductions and icebreakers far behind them, campers are building deep friendships, contributing to a cohesive whole much greater than themselves, and experiencing the presence of God.



How then, do we accomplish this in a time when it simply isn't safe for us to be together physically? For us, the answer to that question involved a significant shift in thinking and practice. We decided to offer Cedarkirk at Home, a program that incorporated a box of goodies from camp and online interaction between camper groups and counselors.

At camp, technology is often a dirty word: one of summer camp's biggest selling points is that we offer programs and curricula that get kids *away* from screens and active outside. This summer, however, technology seemed the best way to build relationships among campers, and between campers and counselors – and, it worked beautifully.

We held participatory, corporate worships and small-group Bible study discussions over Zoom. Campers had access to pre-recorded, counselor-led instructional videos for games, craft projects, and activities that got them out of the house and into nature. With a little tweaking, we discovered many of the games we play here at camp could work over a Zoom conference. We even had daily family lunches where campers and counselors would eat lunch "together" and chat, just like we do at camp.

While Cedarkirk at Home was very different from a week spent in residence at Cedarkirk, we were able to instill the personal and spiritual growth that happens during a more typical program. Many of the intangible benefits of a camp experience, it turns out, can be accomplished through a computer screen with some planning and practice.

"Virtual" camp will never replace the real thing, but we have uncovered elements of our program that could be offered year-round, and at little or no cost, so that even more people can experience this special place apart. This pandemic has certainly changed our perspective on how we relate to guests and deliver our mission. It has been a blessing and a privilege to realize that with a little creativity we can carry out our mission in new and exciting ways in the midst of difficult circumstances.

We are thankful for our partnership with Peace River Presbytery and its congregations. Thank you for holding Cedarkirk in your prayers and we look forward to welcoming you back as soon as it is safe to do so!

**Matthew Shick**

Acting Executive Director

Cedarkirk Camp & Conference Center

**Misión Peniel: a Ministry of Peace River Presbytery**

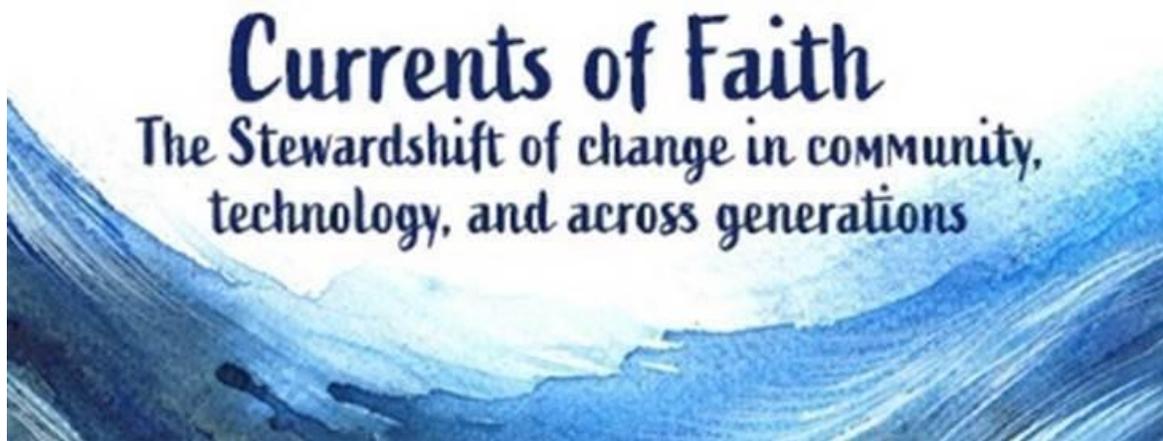
Web Site: [www.misionpeniel.org](http://www.misionpeniel.org)

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.



## 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](http://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](mailto:support@pcusastore.com)

Phone: 1-800-533-4371

Please note that if you go to the website, [www.pcusastore.com](http://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.

## Presbytery Calendar: July 2020

You may view the entire calendar on the Presbytery web site: [www.peaceriverpresbytery.org](http://www.peaceriverpresbytery.org)

Please email corrections or additions to [lori@peaceriverpresbytery.org](mailto:lori@peaceriverpresbytery.org)

### 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](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
- 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](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.