



# PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



## Presbytery Weekly E-Newsletter ~ November 20, 2020

### From the General Presbyter

Dear Friends,

Thank you for attending today's Presbytery meeting. At one point we had nearly 160 people on the Zoom call! We elected new members of committees and a new moderator, the Rev. Rex Childs. We are truly grateful for the leadership of Wayne Largent through this unusual year. His calm presence has guided us through technical difficulties, difficult conversations, and some wonderful worship and education.

Charmaine and I shared a state of the Presbytery report outlining where we stand in our vision, values, and strategic priorities. Despite the strangeness of the year, we have done some wonderful work together and we can look forward to much more in 2021. If you want to see that report, you can find it on our resource [page](#) at the bottom of the column marked "Denominational Resources."

Today we had the opportunity to hear about stewardship and generosity in these times from Allen Walworth. Allen had some wonderful ideas and resources to share. You can find the outline of his top 10 best practices from churches that are thriving in 2020 on the presbytery resource [page](#) at the bottom of the column labelled "Denominational Resources." Allen invited the presbytery to go to his [website](#) for free resources on year-end giving.

Allen said that churches need to make generosity a core value and that can be said of presbyteries as well. This presbytery has been generous this year in giving to the most vulnerable in our midst, not just to our mission partners, but to those in each of your communities. You continue to make a difference where you are. I would invite you to consider sharing your gifts through the Presbytery offering that would normally have been taken during worship. The offering for this meeting is designated for the work of Beth-El Mission in Wimauma. If you would like to make an offering, please send a check, made out to Peace River Presbytery, marked for "Offering for November Presbytery meeting. The address of the office is Peace River Presbytery, 5600 Peace River Rd., North Port, 34287. The total of the offering received will be sent to Beth-El.

There will not be a newsletter next week so that staff can enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday. While it will be an unusual holiday for many of us, I pray that you will find time to give thanks to God for all the blessings in your life.

Peace,  
Melana

## Advent Time: Devotions for the Congregation

Are you looking for theologically sound, inspiring and affordable Advent devotions for the congregation?

The *Presbyterian Outlook* is once again offering accessible and inspiring daily devotions for Advent written by Jill Duffield — and designed to be emailed to the congregation.

We hear often these days that we are living through unprecedented times. Our experience of time has been altered in recent months. Our routines and rhythms, milestones and rituals, are upended. As we enter the liturgical season of Advent, when we are to eagerly prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ and also anticipate his return, how will we mark this time? What will we do to be good stewards of our time?

We will explore being aware of God's presence in the moment even as we anticipate Jesus' incarnation. These devotions will seek to help us recognize God's *kairos* time within and working through our challenging *chronos* time.

**Order with immediate download!**

[Learn more, preview and buy 4 weeks of Advent devotions for \\$20.](#)

### Cents-Ability Offering at Work

*(a portion of your Cents-Ability Offering supports  
The Presbyterian Hunger Program)*

Dear Presbytery of Peace River, Members, and Congregations,

We here at Presbyterian Hunger Program are writing to sincerely say thank you for your gifts. They are a huge help in a hard year, showing both your presence and care, as well as financial undergirding of this ministry that works to alleviate hunger and eliminate its root causes of hunger and poverty.



As people of faith, we're called to notice, pray for, and act in the world around us. And we're called to speak hope, to be beacons in difficult times. We all know that so far in 2020, we are living in the midst of an intense, exhausting, difficult period.

Your contributions are a sign of hope. Because of you, churches and organizations are able to distribute more food to people who are hungry and also to do education and advocacy to help ensure future food security for vulnerable communities. Because of you, global partners living in places of war, violence, famine, drought or flooding have better access to safety, health, and basic needs. Because of you, activists working on root causes of hunger who have been targeted, threatened, or worn out, know that they are not alone.

The people, churches and organizations that we relate to in this work also bring hope to this world, and they show signs of how love, mercy, and justice can break through difficult moments in history to shine brightly. We are grateful for them, and grateful

for you, and grateful to have this calling entrusted to us by God, who holds the whole world in caring hands.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Rebecca Barnes".

Rebecca Barnes

Coordinator, Presbyterian Hunger Program

[www.pcusa.org/hunger](http://www.pcusa.org/hunger)

## **The 2021 APCE Annual Event is Virtual!**

Attention Educators, Youth Directors, Pastors, and other ministry leaders/volunteers: if you've ever wondered how attending the Annual Event of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE) could support your ministry, 2021 is a great year to find out! Because the conference will be held virtually, this year's registration fee is only \$100! Registration gives participants access to the entire live experience, as well as 90 days of access to the recordings for worship, plenaries, and workshops.

Scholarships are available for those who need additional financial support.

For more information about the APCE Virtual Event, visit: <https://apcenet.org/2021-annual-event>

## **Bibles for Presbyterian Villas**

If any church has NIV or NRSV Bibles to share, Presbyterian Villas would like to have 20 for their library. Please contact Melana ([melana@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:melana@peacriverpresbytery.org)) if you are able to supply these resources.

## **Safe Gatherings**

It is very important to assure that church staff and volunteers have the needed training when leading and managing programs for children and youth. Peace Presbyterian Church is successfully using a *Safe Gatherings* (<https://safegatherings.com>) module that focuses on this subject and may be of interest to your church. Please consult the Peace Presbyterian Church website or contact the Director of Ministries to Children, Youth, and Families at Peace Presbyterian Church, Eirinn Camphire, at [e.eirinn@gmail.com](mailto:e.eirinn@gmail.com)

## **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.

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

### **Contacts:**

Rev. Miguel Estrada, Pastor – [miguel@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:miguel@peacriverpresbytery.org)  
Ruth DeYoe, Mission Coordinator – [ruth@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:ruth@peacriverpresbytery.org)

## **Presbytery Calendar: November 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)*

### ***Thursday, November 26***

Thanksgiving – PRP Offices Closed

### ***Friday, November 27***

PRP Offices Closed

Team, Committee, and other meetings are being conducted via Zoom Video Conference until further notice.  
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:

- Rev. Dr. Harry Schill (HR) – Continued prayer for his treatment and recovery from bile duct cancer.  
Address for cards – 16001 Via Solera Cir., #105, Fort Myers, FL 33908
- Rev. Alan Adams (HR) – Continued prayer for his treatment and recovery from tonsil cancer.  
Address for cards – 69 Windmill Blvd., Punta Gorda, FL 33950
- Our Nation
- 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

Go to [Peace River Presbytery Churches](#)

to visit each of the church's web sites.



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](mailto:lori@peacriverpresbytery.org) or 941-426-8421, ext. 401.