



# PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



## Presbytery Weekly E-Newsletter ~ May 21, 2021

### Thornwell

#### **“Building Tomorrow’s Families”**

Founded in 1875, Thornwell is a diverse, non-profit ministry across Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina, committed to the most innovative and effective solutions to heal, strengthen, and empower children and families. Thornwell aligns with child welfare agencies to prevent child abuse and neglect, build up and reunite families, and support healthy communities in the name of Jesus Christ.

Thornwell began as a dream in the heart of a young Presbyterian minister, William Plumer Jacobs, of First Presbyterian Church in Clinton, South Carolina.

Dr. Jacobs’ dream was energized when 10-year-old Willie Anderson of a nearby community gave Reverend Jacobs fifty cents and said, “This is to help build your orphanage.”

Dr. Jacobs named the orphanage after a mentoring theological professor, and Thornwell opened its doors on October 1, 1875, to 10 orphaned children. Dr. Jacobs’ belief “that God so willed and would, therefore, support the endeavor,” carried him and his beloved orphanage throughout the years until his death in 1917.

Dr. Jacobs documented the progress and struggles of the fledgling orphanage in his diary. Many find his recorded words inspirational for their demonstrations of his reliance upon the Lord for provisions for his children. Further, Dr. Jacobs’ diary catalogs the answers that God provided. Those answers were often exactly what Dr. Jacobs needed and came at just the right time.

The Home of Peace was the original residence of Dr. William Plumer Jacobs. In his home, Dr. Jacobs and his wife, Mary, welcomed the first children to find a refuge at Thornwell.

For nearly a century-and-a-half, Thornwell continues to meet the call for help from society’s most vulnerable—its children and families in need. Whether providing the safety and security of a place to call home, reuniting families after a crisis, or finding a forever family for a child who has no one to care for them, Thornwell has kept the faith with its mission of healing and hope.

Through the years, our mission has expanded into educational and family-oriented services to help prevent families from falling apart, rather than simply reacting after they do. As an organization, we have adapted in the past as society changed around us, and we will continue to meet future challenges head-on, because so many depend on our success.

## What We Do to Help Children and Families



Family changes everything in a child's life, and Thornwell addresses the welfare of children not as a singular event, but rather as a comprehensive, ongoing cycle of services and support designed to help children and families, no matter what stage of life they're in.

**Foster Care** – We help place children who have no relatives to care for them with loving families who can provide the security and shelter of a stable home.

**Residential Care** – We provide a safe family-like home setting where children can recover from trauma and disruptions while their families cope with crisis. The new legal realities mean that big changes have come to Thornwell, but we remain committed to providing residential care for children and families in need.

**Child Development Services** – We provide nurturing care and educational support to children and families to support healthy futures for kids.

**Academic Services** – We provide essential education support that addresses distinct learning gaps and provides personalized learning for children and families in need.

**Family Engagement** – We offer several highly-personalized programs to teach parents important skills and coping tools that help them build a stable family and strengthen it over time through love and support.

**Transitional Living Services** – We help young people on the verge of adulthood adjust to an independent life outside the foster care system, with housing, life skills training, advanced education support, and workforce preparedness resources.

For more information on Thornwell, visit the website: [www.thornwell.org](http://www.thornwell.org)

### **Stated Meeting Offering**

The offering from the May 13<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of Presbytery is being collected to benefit Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center. Please send your check, payable to Peace River Presbytery, and marked “Stated Meeting Offering” to:  
Peace River Presbytery | 5600 Peace River Rd. | North Port, FL 34287.

### **Synod of South Atlantic Webinar: “So You Are Thinking of Retiring”**

**Tuesday, June 15, 4:00-5:40 pm via Zoom**  
[Click for Registration Information](#)

### **News from FLAPDAN (Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network, in Partnership with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance)**

#### **Hurricane Season Preparedness Tips**

“It’s that time of year again! Colorado State University has announced their predictions as “above average” for the 2021 Hurricane Season. Thankfully we have a much better hold on the coronavirus pandemic than we did a year ago. Still, we need to prepare for this season with our safety protocols in minds.”

Please read the entire newsletter from [FLAPDAN](#) for information.

There is also information on the Presbytery’s Resource Page about Disaster Preparedness.

### **Around the Presbytery**

**Saturday, June 12, 10:00 am-1:00 pm**  
Wintergarden Presbyterian Church’s  
**Garden of Eatin’ Community Garden and Food Forest**  
**Dedication & Pig Roast**  
See [Information Flyer](#)  
**All are invited and welcome!**

### **Position Openings at Churches (Non-Clergy)**

Children and Youth Coordinator - First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota

[Position Description](#)

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Audio-Video Coordinator - Christ Church of Longboat Key

[Position Description](#)

## 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: May 2021

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, May 6**

Mision Peniel Team (10:30 am by Zoom Conference)

### **Sunday, May 9**

Happy Mother's Day

### **Tuesday, May 11**

Committee on Ministry (9:00 am by Zoom Conference)

### **Wednesday, May 12**

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (10:00 am by Zoom Conference)

Human Resources Team (3:00 pm by Zoom Conference)

Cuba Partnership Task Force (5:00 pm by Zoom Conference)

### **Thursday, May 13**

Stated Meeting of Presbytery (9:00 am by Zoom Conference / 8:00 am Check In Begins)

### **Monday, May 17**

Outreach and Nurture Team (10:00 am by Zoom Conference)

### **Thursday, May 20**

Finance Team/Board of Trustees (9:30 am by Zoom Conference)

### **Monday, May 31**

Memorial Day – Presbytery 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:

- DeAnne Sawyer (former Mision Peniel Team Co-Moderator) – Successful surgery on May 21 and recovery from triple by-pass heart surgery
- The people of Myanmar
- Rev. Dr. Harry Schill – for successful recovery following surgery to remove a cancerous tumor.
- Our Nation
- The Congregations and Pastors of Peace River Presbytery
- 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.