



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Presbytery Weekly E-Newsletter ~ May 26, 2021

Cuba Partnership Update

A Words of Thanks, a Pentecost Season Greeting and Updates from our Brothers and Sisters of the Matanzas Presbytery in Cuba ...

Words of Thanks

Presbyterians around the country responded with overwhelming compassion to the plea for Synod support and at Easter time! The treasurer of the PC(USA) Cuba Partners Network reports that \$250,000 was received in response. Peace River Presbytery, through its local churches responded to this urgent plea without hesitation! Needless to say, the witness of God's presence through a spirit of solidarity and partnership is a bright light bringing hope and renewed possibilities for Christ's church in Cuba! **Thank you** to all who were able to respond to this urgent need this spring!

Pentecost Greetings from the Matanzas Presbytery

Dear brothers and sisters, receive greetings in the love of Christ, and in the Spirit of Pentecost.

In these times when various crises are going through our families, faith communities and countries, it is very necessary to evoke the spirit of Pentecost. Today "speaking" in multiple ways the language of God must be lived in the diversity of solidarity actions, in sensitivity to situations of injustice regardless of the place, in the ability to move towards respectful dialogue, in intercessory prayer and in every concrete gesture that glorifies God in the midst of current contingencies. Thus, "unanimously, together", we will be able to continue the walk of love, peace and justice that we have already undertaken for years.

We thank God for the experiences already lived as partner Presbyteries. Thank God for the blessings that he still has reserved for our Presbyteries and Churches through caring love.

Let us continue serving God "trying to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called in the same hope of your vocation" (Ephesians 4: 3, 4)

A Pentecost greeting to every parishioner, every local Church, and every person or institution of good will who works alongside you in the ongoing work of building up the kingdom of God where wherever we may be!

In the Spirit of Pentecost,

—Pastor Liz Eleyne Capó Lima, chairperson of the Inter-Presbytery Relations Committee

Moving Forward with Hope: Sister Church Partnership Updates

Please note: Churches throughout Cuba are still not able to meet for worship or other activities. They remind us, though, that the church of Jesus Christ is NEVER closed; Christ's presence continues to guide and provide for them! Each church mentioned below continues to lift up Peace River Presbytery and all of its churches in their weekly prayers.

Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church's Sister Church: El Redentor/Versalles

The churches in Matanzas are still not meeting in person due to high numbers of new COVID cases. At El Redentor/Versalles the Pastor, Carlos Ham and his wife, Tania, are able to deliver worship and Bible study materials to their members for use during WhatsApp and Zoom meetings. This enables them to see first-hand, how everyone is doing and identify any concerns or needs within their faith community.



Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church's Sister Church: El Perico

Pastor Zorky reports that vaccines are starting to be available in her community. She is thankful for the vaccine and the fact that no one in her congregation has been infected by COVID. Her congregation continues to pray for family and friends who have been affected by the coronavirus. In the midst of all the challenges of the day, Zorky continually reminds her congregation of the daily beauty that God provides through nature.



Covenant Presbyterian Church's Sister Church: El Fuerte, Cárdenas

The ongoing food shortages have prompted the church to expand its garden to provide nutritious vegetables for their faith community. Although still shut down by mandate of the government, their Living Waters filtration system, housed on church premises, continues to provide clean water for the community. Church members help Pastor Yamilka with visitations. Members who do have online access, try to keep in touch through WhatsApp.

First Presbyterian, Naples's Sister Church: El Centro, Matanzas

Central's luncheons for seniors are now "pick up" lunches. Last week, they were able to provide them with a pork dish. Pork per pound was 40 pesos, and is now up to 90 pesos, so inflation is still really high. They are hoping they will be able to get vaccine shots in the next several weeks.

First Presbyterian, Sarasota — Juan G. Hall, Cárdenas

Pastor Alison values the ability to stay in touch with other pastors and some of their members through WhatsApp. Devotional messages of hope, perseverance and comfort are shared regularly, along with identifying needs of their faith community. Often times the youth of the church will stand in the long lines for food and other goods on behalf of the senior church members. They also host a Living Waters filtration system, providing clean water for the community.

The Matanzas Theological Seminary sent a separate newsletter of its own. Click [here](#) to read.

Beyond Pandemic Possibilities

Peace River Presbytery will begin planning partnership trips once the global pandemic has subsided and the Cuba Partnership Network in consultation with various presbyteries has confirmed they would be ready to receive us. In the meantime, our Presbytery's Cuba Partnership Task Force (which operates more like a team) continues to meet to receive updates and explore creative and meaningful ways to stay connected.

Please direct any questions or feedback to Co-Moderators, Keven Morris (pastor@hopeunitedchurch.net) and Ruth DeYoe (ruth@peaceriverpresbytery.org)

May we continue to give thanks to God for this growing partnership and keep our brothers and sisters and the ministries they lead in our prayers as well!

Celebrating Christ's Partnership,
Ruth DeYoe and Kevin Morris



Special Called Meeting of Presbytery

Thursday, June 3, 2:00 pm via Zoom Conference

Advance Registration is required no later than noon, Wednesday, June 2.

[Email invitations to register were sent out earlier this week.](#)

****You must click on the link in that email to submit a request to be registered.**

Contact Alesia at alesia@peaceriverpresbytery.org before June 1st if you did not receive the email.

Stated Meeting Offering

The offering from the May 13th 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!

**** RSVPs are appreciated! ****

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.

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
Ruth DeYoe, Mission Coordinator – ruth@peacriverpresbytery.org

Presbytery Calendar: June 2021

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

Please email corrections or additions to lori@peacriverpresbytery.org

Thursday, June 3

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

Special Called Meeting of Presbytery (2:00 pm by Zoom Conference; pre-Registration required by noon on Wednesday, June 2nd)

Tuesday, June 8

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

Wednesday, June 9

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

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

Thursday, June 10

Finance Team (9:30 am by Zoom Conference)

Thursday, June 17

Steering Committee (9:00 am by Zoom Conference)

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
- Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center: www.cedarkirk.org
- Presbyterian Homes & Housing Foundation of FL: www.phhf.com

Prayer Needs

Please pray for:

- The family of Maytha Harper (Clerk of Session of FPC Lehigh Acres) who passed away on May 9th.
- Alberta Adams (former PW Moderator) – cancer; in Hospice Care. Address for cards:

3734 Prairie Dunes, Sarasota, FL 34238

- DeAnne Sawyer (former Mision Peniel Team Co-Moderator) - recovery from triple by-pass heart surgery on May 21
- Jennie Thomas' (Member of Presbytery) father, Jim Mabry – wisdom for doctors for aortic valve replacement
- 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 or 941-426-8421, ext. 401.