



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Presbytery Weekly E-Newsletter ~ September 10, 2021

From the General Presbyter

Dear Friends,

There is so much going on in the world that is difficult, tragic, and out of our control. Sometimes we can forget that we know the One who can bring good out of all things. God is always at work to bring healing, wholeness, and grace into our lives and the world. We take our faith from the words of Hebrews 1:1-3a: "Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³ He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word." Christ sustains us now and always. That is the good news we celebrate and share!

When we keep our eyes on Christ rather than on the fear and incivility all around us, we can be the church and lead others to know love and grace. Too often social media, the news, our family and friends, pull our attention from Jesus and we lose our way. Once, on a silent retreat, I was hiking an unknown path that was very muddy. I did not want to slip and fall, so I kept my eyes on the path and the muddy spots. Suddenly I realized that looking down I would not see the markers on the trees that kept me on the path. That was my message from God for that retreat. If I keep my eyes on the mud, I miss the marks for the path. Let's look up from the mud and see where God is guiding us, trusting that God is walking with us.

Blessings,
Melana

Peace River Presbytery Church Leadership Retreat

at

Cedarkirk Camp & Conference Center
Wednesday, November 17 and Thursday, November 18
Registration Deadline Extended To: Thursday, October 7, 2021

All are welcome!

[Registration and Information Packet](#)

Includes:

Letter from the Communication, Connection, and Community Team
Registration Information and Schedule

Registration Form

Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance (IFHA)

The Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance (IFHA) plans to build a community of 128 rental units, with a community center, to replace the dilapidated and overcrowded shacks and trailers now serving as living quarters for farmworker and other low-income families in Immokalee.

As a 501(c)3 non-profit, IFHA will be able to offer safe housing at a fraction of what families are paying now.

For more information and to learn how you can help, email: ifhafi@comcast.net or go to the website: www.immokaleefairhousing.org, click on "Get Involved", and complete the contact form.

Haiti Earthquake

Information on the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Response

[Click to read the article.](#)

Florida Clergy Convening

The 2021 Florida Clergy Convening will be held virtually again this year. The convening is hosted by the Florida Council of Churches and presented by Pastors for Florida Children. The theme for this year's convening is, "Called, Prepared, Sent."

Our keynote speaker is Fed Ingram, Secretary-Treasurer of the American Federation of Teachers. Ingram grew up in inner-city Miami, where he attended public schools. Pursuing his love of music, he attended Bethune-Cookman University on scholarship and became the first member of his family to earn a postsecondary degree, in music education. He served as a music teacher and band director in Miami-Dade public schools for 10 years. Ingram is also the immediate past president of the 140,000-member Florida Education Association.

Convening Schedule:

- 9:30 a.m. Welcome & Opening Remarks - Dr. Russell Meyer; Centering Reflection & Scripture Reading - Dr. James Morris; Invocation - Rev. Joyce Lieberman
- 9:45 a.m. Keynote Address - Fedrick C. Ingram, American Federation of Teachers
- 10:00 a.m. Legislative Advocacy: Public Education
- 11:00 a.m. Legislative Advocacy: Criminal Justice, Voting Rights/Redistricting, etc.
- 11:45 a.m. Celebration of Denominational Leadership
- 11:50 a.m. Charge & Sending Forth - Rt. Rev. Frank Madison Reid, III, Presiding Prelate 11th Episcopal District AME Church (Invited)
- 12:00 p.m. Adjourn

For more information or to register go to: <https://bit.ly/FLCLERGY2021>. Be sure to register by close of business on September 14, 2021. A link to the virtual convening will be emailed out to registrants a few days prior to the event. For more information, contact Rev. Rachel Gunter Shapard at rguntershapard@cbf.net.

2021 FLORIDA CLERGY CONVENING (Virtual)
- Called, Prepared, Sent -

Hosted by:  Presented by: 

Workshop Presenters:
ACLU Florida, Florida PTA, Florida School Boards Association & Southern Poverty Law Center

Workshop Topics:
Legislative Advocacy for Criminal Justice, Voting Rights/Redistricting, and Public Education.

Keynote Speaker

Fedrick C. Ingram
Secretary-Treasurer,
American Federation of Teachers

Thursday, September 16th
9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Register by COB on Sept. 14th <https://bit.ly/FLCLERGY2021> 

Rev. Rachel Gunter Shapard
Regional Vice President, Black Belt
Together for Hope
<http://hope.cbf.net>
C: 904-502-5158

Beth-El: Ministry in the Summer

The following video link celebrates a summer of good ministry at Beth-El in 2021.
Click on the link to see the many things that took place.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-PiCe6N6HM&ab_channel=Beth-ElFarmworkerMinistry%2CInc

Around the Presbytery

Events:

Rev. Dr. Cleo LaRue Preaching Seminar
Saturday, October 16, 2021

Sponsored by Church of the Palms and Light of the World International Church

[Information Letter](#)

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**In Need Of:**

**St. Paul's Presbyterian Church**

is in need of an Advent Wreath and Stand.

If you have these items that you would be willing to give to or share with St. Paul's, please call Debbie at 941-426-2552.

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Position Openings:

**Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers
Spanish Pastor (Temporary Part-Time)**

[Job Posting](#)

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**First Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte  
Organist**

[Job Posting](#)

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**Siesta Key Chapel, Sarasota
Music Director**

[Job Posting](#)

[Position Description](#)

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

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:

- Afghanistan, Haiti, Cuba, Myanmar, and all those affected by Hurricane Ida
- Rev. Winston Lawson & Family, in the loss of his brother in Jamaica this week

- Graham & Linda Hart, in the loss of her step father, Al Knox, member of Church of the Palms
- Rev. Dr. Taylor Hill – health
- Rev. Dr. Harry Schill – health
- 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.