



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Presbytery Weekly E-Newsletter ~ September 30, 2021

Peace River Presbytery Retreat

Dear Friends,

I'm thankful to Melana for giving the Communication, Connection, and Community Team the opportunity to use this week's newsletter to share some important information about one of the most exciting networking opportunities in our presbytery.

One of the things I admire most about the PC(USA) is how we function as a connexional church. Congregations, pastors, lay leaders, and mid councils all work together to accomplish incredible things for Christ and our communities. This spirit is embodied in our presbytery through our covenant partners and missions. Beth-El, Mision Peniel, FLAPDAN, and the Presbyterian Homes and Housing Foundation each play a unique role in our ability to do exciting and new things for others and share our talents and abilities to show God's love.



Of course, we can't forget Cedarkirk. For decades, Cedarkirk has been the "place apart" that has provided rest and retreat for many in the Tampa Bay and Southwest Florida areas and beyond. Cedarkirk's setting among the trees of Hillsborough County provides a beautiful backdrop for groups seeking to gather and enjoy God's creation and one another.

So it will be with us, as we prepare to gather on November 17 and 18 at Cedarkirk for our 2021 Peace River Presbytery retreat. This will be our first in person gathering since our February 2020 stated meeting — wow! Think about that for a moment. What better way to celebrate God's grace than reuniting in a place where His beauty can be seen, felt, and known.

It's not too late to register for these two days of worship, relaxation, individual and collective time for thought, and so much more. We'll take communion, learn who our 2021 Blessing Grants recipients are, take advantage of Cedarkirk's incredible team building and networking resources, and encounter campfires, s'mores, and cinnamon rolls. It really will be a time to remember.

The planning group for this retreat has met many times since June, seeking to engineer a COVID-cognizant time together that will allow us to gather safely. Know that your health and the health of your congregations are our foremost concerns.

We sincerely hope you'll register for these two days together. A full schedule, including time on both days for individual retreat and for exploration of Cedarkirk's resources (a perfect place for sermon writing, meditating, or conversation), will be sent soon to those who have registered.

Book your spot now by emailing alesia@peacervillepresbytery.org before Thursday, October 7. Pastors, elders, deacons, staff, lay leaders, committee and team members, and church members are all welcome. Spouses are invited as well. We're excited to share this time together and can't wait to see you soon, as we continue to be the connections church together.

With grace and thankfulness for God's work in you,
Carson Brown
Co-Moderator, Communication, Connection, and Community Team

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

Stated Meeting of Presbytery
Thursday, October 14, 2021

9:00 am via Zoom Conference

Watch your email for details and registration information.

Valuable and Important Meeting for Clergy on October 6th

Guest Speaker: Dr. Paul Simeone
VP-Medical Director of Behavioral Health at Lee Health
Clinical Assistant Professor, FSU College of Medicine.

Topic: Living, Learning & Growing In A Time of Great Unrest: A Brief View from the Frontlines

Date/Time: October 6, 2021, 12:00-1:30 pm

Where: Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church
8260 Cypress Lake Drive

Fort Myers, FL 33919

Cost: Free. A boxed lunch will be provided. [Click here to reserve a meal and to confirm you are attending.](#)

This may be one of the most important meetings we have had in years! COVID has hit us hard and the clergy are on the front lines helping others cope with the pandemic. This has created stress on the clergy and on those we work with day to day.

Dr. Simeone has a presentation that will help the clergy in clear and practical terms in helping themselves deal with the stress of the pandemic but also help clergy in helping others. It is fully expected that much of the socio-psychological fallout of the pandemic has yet to happen, so this is a meeting not to be missed as it will directly help you and those you serve!

Who is Dr. Paul Simeone?

Paul Simeone, Ph.D. is currently the VP-Medical Director of Behavioral Health at Lee Health, and Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Behavioral Sciences & Social Medicine, Florida State University College of Medicine.

Dr. Simeone received his M.A. in experimental psychology from Mount Holyoke College, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in clinical psychology from The Institute for Advanced Psychological Studies at Adelphi University in New York.

Dr. Simeone has a long list of qualifications including extensive work at Harvard and in Cambridge and is uniquely qualified to speak on the issues we are facing with COVID unrest.

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](#)

[Event Flyer](#)

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**Faith Focus Weekend: "Bridging the Gap"**

**Sunday, October 24, 2021**

First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota

[Invitation Letter](#)

[Event Flyer](#)

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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:**

**Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood**

**Bell Choir Director**

[Position Description](#)

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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:

- Rev. Dr. Jeff DeYoe (Covenant, Ft. Myers) – health
- Rev. Dr. Taylor Hill – health

- Rev. Dr. Harry Schill – health
- Afghanistan, Haiti, Cuba, Myanmar, and all those affected by Hurricanes Ida and Nicholas
- 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, PC(USA) 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.