



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Presbytery Weekly E-Newsletter ~ November 5, 2021

Looking Ahead

Greetings, Friends!

On behalf of the Communication, Connection, and Community Team, I'd like to welcome you to the newsletter, and thank Melana for allowing us to use this week's column to highlight a few important and exciting things happening in your presbytery. Here at the beginning, let's all take a moment to smile together and celebrate yet another wonderful week. As the hecticness of the season draws near, I encourage you to slow down and consider the beauty in the special and simple things God has set aside for us. It's a wonderful life... (wow, I guess Christmastime really *is* coming fast!)

We'd like to say thank you to everyone who has registered for the November 17-18 presbytery retreat at Cedarkirk. We're so excited to gather together in person for the first time in nearly two years. Those who have registered can expect an email on Monday with important information to know before we arrive in Lithia Springs in just a few weeks. At this retreat, we'll seek to celebrate the exciting things God has been doing in our midst as congregations, and lift up new ideas and dreams for an inclusive, inviting, and inspiring future for our presbytery. More opportunities for these conversations will emerge as we begin to build meetings and events for next year -- for more on that, keep reading!

Your presbytery is moving in an exciting direction. So much is happening behind the scenes, as we pray for 2022 to be a year like no other. We sense God calling us towards true connection found in intentional fellowship, story sharing, and vital conversations. If these sound like things that interest you, mark your calendar for our in-person 2022 stated meetings: Thursday, February 24, Thursday, May 26, and Saturday, October 15. We also take cues from the lesson of the year -- that we can be "together" from anywhere! Our friends on Outreach and Nurture are working to provide opportunities for virtual connection designed to link our presbytery no matter our distance. These are not the only ways that we're moving towards modernization and expanding our connectivity. By early next year, we'll have a new website; among other things, it will include easy access to documents, a means to securely process electronic payments, and a syncable calendar to help you stay connected to presbytery events. As we move towards this future, we do so remembering that there is no one building, committee, or church that makes up Peace River -- it's all of us; and, when we joyfully come together to celebrate that diversity and dream together for the future of what presbytery can be, there's no limit to what we can accomplish.

Finally, we pause to celebrate the past and the present. As 2021 draws to a close, I hope you'll join me in thanking the many people who have helped guide us through this year. Those deserving particular mention include Melana, Randy, Alesia, Lori, Devon, Ruth, and Miguel -- our incredible staff. We thank them for keeping our presbytery chugging along. Moderator Rex Childs has led us through a year of six virtual presbytery meetings (yes, that's a lot) with grace and understanding as we continue to figure out how to raise

our hands on Zoom. Our outgoing team and committee moderators also deserve special recognition; all have led their groups through completely new tasks and goals brought by the 2019 revisioning plan. We have reason to celebrate so many people, and we thank God for that.

As the retreat and 2022 both approach, I invite you to say a prayer for your presbytery. God is calling us to do a brand new thing. It is indeed springing forth; now, it's time for us to perceive it (and act on it)!

Grace and peace,

Carson Brown

Co-Moderator, Communication, Connection, and Community Team

Ruling Elder, Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church



Groundbreaking Set for Project Bringing Housing for Low-Income Immokalee Residents

IMMOKALEE, FL – A little more than four years after Hurricane Irma devastated much of what was already substandard housing in Immokalee, the Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance (IFHA) is breaking ground on what will become a 128 rental unit community for farmworker and other low-income residents. The groundbreaking ceremony for the first phase of the project will be held on their 10-acre Lake Trafford Road property in Immokalee on **November 10, 2021, at 10:00 am**. Dr. Arol Buntzman, Board Chair of the nonprofit Alliance, will preside, with Collier County Commissioner William McDaniel serving as keynote speaker. The public is invited to attend.

The project is being funded solely through donations from supporters like Bank of America, concerned community members, and a number of churches throughout the region. The first phase of the project is scheduled to be completed in December 2022. When finished, the full project will include a community center and athletic fields. “The ripple effect in Immokalee will be economic growth and stability,” said Dr. Buntzman. “Our community should serve as a model for others who wish to provide affordable housing for low-income families in Immokalee and elsewhere.”

Dr. Buntzman explains that many of these families are currently paying as much as 60% or more of their combined income to live in dilapidated trailers, often shared with another family. He indicated that rent for the planned units will be less than 30% of family income, freeing up resources for medical care, clothing, food, and other necessities. For more information, please email IFHAFL@comcast.net.

About the Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance

The Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance is a nonprofit 501(c)3 created in 2018 by a group of concerned citizens who saw the damage done by Hurricane Irma to already substandard trailers and shacks rented by farmworker and other low-income families in Immokalee. The IFHA vision is for these families to have access to secure, affordable, hurricane-resistant rental housing, which will strengthen the community by fostering

health, education, dignity, and financial stability. The organization has embarked on a project to create community awareness and raise funds for a 128 rental unit complex in Immokalee.

Around the Presbytery

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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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. Sally Bull (HR) – loss of her husband on October 31
- Rev. Dr. Jeff DeYoe (Covenant, Ft. Myers) – health

- Mía Estrada (Pastor Miguel's 7-year old daughter) – health
- Lori Doyal (PRP Financial Admin/Communications Coord) – knee surgery recovery
- Rev. Dr. Taylor Hill – 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.