



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Presbytery Weekly E-Newsletter ~ May 8, 2020

From the General Presbyter

Dear Friends,

As people have begun returning to work, to shopping and eating in restaurants, and other “normal” activities, there has been a great deal of discussion about returning to in-person worship. The [resource page](#) has several new articles and a podcast about things to consider as decisions are made about returning. Those decisions are made by each session, but Randy Moody and I are willing to provide support and resources as you deliberate. One of the biggest questions being discussed is whether congregational singing should be discontinued until there is a vaccine. Several of the articles provide information about this. Please share other information you find that might be helpful for pastors and sessions as they discern when to return to some form of in-person worship.

As I have mentioned previously, pastors have been working over-time to keep churches connected through worship, Bible study, devotionals, and pastoral care. Many pastors would have scheduled vacation time after Easter, and many had continuing education events planned. None of those things have happened and many pastors are getting tired. I would encourage you to find ways to provide some relief for your pastors. I have recorded a sermon in the presbytery office and will record another tomorrow in the sanctuary at Burnt Store. Those are available for use so that pastors might have a week without writing a sermon. (These sermons are on the resource page under the Worship Link heading, or you can email me for the link). This could be a week that you strongly encourage them to take even more time off. A session could also decide to share in online worship with another congregation so that the pastor would not have to write a sermon. Be creative about finding ways to make space for your pastors to rest and rejuvenate.

The work of each congregation and pastor continues to be in my prayers. Thank you for all the ways you are doing ministry in new and creative ways.

Grace and peace,
Melana

Congratulations to Carson Brown

... for his election as President of the Florida Gulf Coast University Student Government Senate!

As President, Carson’s responsibilities include presiding over the Senate, appointing committees, signing bills, and overseeing the \$1.5 million budget accrued through Activity and Service fees paid by students as a condition of tuition. Each of FGCU’s 15,000+ students pay these fees, currently \$11.70/credit hour. These A&S funds are allocated by the Senate to various student organizations, sports clubs, and university departments. As Senate President and head of the Legislative Branch, Carson will supervise that process.

Carson is a Ruling Elder for Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church and is Co-Moderator of the Presbytery’s Communication, Connection, and Community Team.

Stated Meeting of Presbytery

Date Change To:

Saturday, September 12, 2020 *

Location: Venice Presbyterian Church

**Original date was Thursday, May 28, 2020.*

Presbytery Calendar: May 2020

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

Please email corrections or additions to lori@peacriverpresbytery.org

Team, Committee, and other meetings are being conducted via video conferencing during this time of the stay-at-home guidelines. Please check the calendar regularly for additions or changes.

Tuesday, May 12

Committee on Ministry (9:00 am – Zoom Conference Meeting)

Wednesday, May 13

Cuba Partnership Task Force (3:00 pm – Conference Call Meeting)

Thursday, May 14

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

COVID-19 Wish List for Beth-El Farmworker Ministry

Diapers, Size 4 and 5	Gift Cards	All Purpose Flour	Peanut Butter
Sanitizer	Deodorant	Spaghetti Sauce	Pancake Mix
Face Masks	Toothpaste	Powdered Milk	Granola Bars
Gloves	Feminine Products	Evaporated Milk	Apple Sauce
Paper Products	Adult Diapers	Boxed Cereal	Macaroni and Cheese
Sanitizing Detergents	Baby Wipes	Canned Meats	Maseca Tortilla Mix
Disinfecting Wipes	Bread	Canned Fruits	Rice and Beans
Bar Soap	Coffee	Pasta	Crackers
Toilet Paper	Oats	Rice	Canned Vegetables

If you can help provide any of these items, please call Beth-El at 813-633-1548.

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

Misión Peniel: a Ministry of Peace River Presbytery

Web Site: www.misionpeniel.org

Prayer Needs

Please pray for:

- Our nation and the other countries of the world
- Front Line Health Care Workers and other First Responders
- 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

Please visit our web site, www.peaceriverpresbytery.org/churches

Click on the city, then the church, to visit their web site.



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@peaceriverpresbytery.org or 941-426-8421, ext. 401.