



# PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



## Presbytery Weekly E-Newsletter ~ February 19, 2021

### From the General Presbyter

Dear Friends,

Thank you to those of you who responded to my request last week to hear how you are nurturing disciples in your church and community. We are going to be sharing some of those stories in this newsletter as we receive them each week. Early in the pandemic John Krazinski had a YouTube show that focused on Some Good News. We have good news to share and this section will focus on the good work that is happening with congregations.

The second of the Seven Marks of a Vital Congregation is Intentional Authentic Evangelism. The words that are chosen to describe this are important. It is intentional because we plan to share the message of Christ outside the doors of the church. We want to do that in authentic ways, not manipulative or shallow ways. Intentional, authentic evangelism grows out of discipleship. As we learn more about who we are in Christ, we want to share that with others, not just in words, but in the very ways we live and the choices we make.

Authentic evangelism is about relationships, not about programs or committees or strategies to get new members. We have a team looking at the possibility of beginning a new worshipping community, which would be a community formed in relationship and understanding of how people are searching to fill the emptiness in their lives. We know Who can fill that emptiness, but we have to hear where people are before knowing how to help them meet Christ.

These are exciting times for the church of Jesus Christ. They are also anxious times. Everything around us is changing and we need to find ways to be share our authentic, loving witness in new ways. Please send me some good news about how you and your congregation are doing intentional, authentic evangelism. I look forward to hearing from you.

*Note: I continue to work mostly from home. If you want to contact me, please call my cell number rather than the office, or email me. Thank you. Cell number 417-489-0024*

Grace and Peace,  
Melana

## Good News from Congregations

# 'THE LITTLE CHURCH THAT COULD'



Not even the gray skies outside on a rainy St. Valentine's Day could dispel the palpable joy inside at First Presbyterian Church of Port Charlotte. Earlier that morning, FPCPC's Session had received—duly masked—fifteen new members and affiliates who were then recognized during the Sunday worship service. Spearheading the effort were Joan Barry and Barbara Edwards of the church's OUTREACH & MISSIONAL TEAM. Both Joan and Barbara summed up their particular motivation: "Simply getting new members may be fine but **keeping** them and **encouraging** them to serve the Lord in the church and the world is what it's all about." In fact, in a survey most of the newcomers expressed a desire for spiritual growth through engaging FPCPC in the larger community.

In a way, with only 120 members, First Presbyterian Church of Port Charlotte may just be a parable of the children's book *The Little Train That Could*. By God's grace they went out chugging ... and did it!

### Stated Meeting of Presbytery

**Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am**

By Zoom Conference – ***Advance Registration Required***

**\*\* Registration will close at Noon on Monday, February 22. \*\***

If you did not receive the *Registration Email* from Alesia, please contact her at [alesia@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:alesia@peacriverpresbytery.org).

The Packet for the meeting is posted on the Presbytery's web site.

Go to [www.peacriverpresbytery.org](http://www.peacriverpresbytery.org); Events & News;

Stated and Called Meetings; Highlights, Minutes, and Packets.

You will need the user name and password to access the Packet.

If you need assistance, please let us know.

~~~~~

also ...

Finance Forum

**Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 8:15-8:45 am**

By Zoom Conference – ***Advance Registration Required***

This is a **different Zoom link than that for the Stated Meeting**,  
and the times are coordinated so that you may participate in both.

Please contact Lori Doyal ([lori@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:lori@peacriverpresbytery.org)) to receive  
the link for the Finance Forum. Invitation emails *will not* be issued for this forum.

The Finance Forum is open to everyone, not just finance people,  
who would like to learn more about the Presbytery's Three Streams of Funding  
as well as to ask questions for your own churches.

Members of the Finance Team will be available to answer your questions.

### **From the Finance Team**

Churches, if you have not submitted your *2021 Estimate of Giving Form*,  
please do so as soon as possible.

You may email it to Lori Doyal, [lori@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:lori@peacriverpresbytery.org)  
or mail it to the Presbytery Office, Attn. Lori Doyal, Finance Administrator.  
The form and other related materials were emailed to Church Pastors and Clerks of Session  
last November. It is not available on the web site as it is specific to each church.  
If you did not receive this packet, or have questions, please contact Lori.

### **Beth-El: Share our Stories**

**A Virtual Evening of Storytelling**

**March 4, 2021, 7:00 p.m.**

A Zoom Event

[Click for more information.](#)

We will hear the stories of farmworkers and their families and how, together,  
we can alleviate hunger, provide access to education, health, and spiritual growth.

### **Association of Smaller Congregations**

**Online Conference: March 19 & 20, 2021**

Conference registration is \$80 per person.

Register online at [www.presbyacs.org](http://www.presbyacs.org). Contact registrar at (706) 373-9480 or email at  
[registrarasc@bellsouth.net](mailto:registrarasc@bellsouth.net) for further information. Keynoter is Maryanne McKibbon.

Please use this link to get to the special registration form:

[Products – Association of Smaller Congregations \(presbyasc.org\)](#)

<https://www.presbyasc.org/shop/>

### **Save the Date: April 27, 2021**

#### **[Leading the Church into the Post Covid World](#)**

Presenter: Rev. Tod Bolsinger

Sponsored by the Synod of South Atlantic

## Misión Peniel: a Ministry of Peace River Presbytery

Web Site: [www.misionpeniel.org](http://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@peaceriverpresbytery.org](mailto:miguel@peaceriverpresbytery.org)  
Ruth DeYoe, Mission Coordinator – [ruth@peaceriverpresbytery.org](mailto:ruth@peaceriverpresbytery.org)

## Information on the Presbytery's Web Site

The *Presbytery's Covid-19 Resource Page* includes:

- Links to various continuing education opportunities.

~~~~~

The *PRP Web Site Resource Tab* (top of home page) includes:

- The 2021 PRP *Remittance Form* for Churches
- Handbook for Clerks of Session

There is a lot of other information on the web site that might be of use or interest to you.

Take time to explore.

If you have any corrections or updates to information, please contact  
Lori Doyal, [lori@peaceriverpresbytery.org](mailto:lori@peaceriverpresbytery.org)

## Job Opportunity

Northminster Presbyterian Church in Sarasota is seeking a part-time, full-charge Bookkeeper (approximately 16 hours a week) with knowledge of fund accounting.

For more information, please call 941-355-4729 or email [office@npcsarasota.org](mailto:office@npcsarasota.org).

## Presbytery Calendar: February 2021

You may view the entire calendar on the Presbytery web site: [www.peaceriverpresbytery.org](http://www.peaceriverpresbytery.org)

Please email corrections or additions to [lori@peaceriverpresbytery.org](mailto:lori@peaceriverpresbytery.org)

### ***Thursday, February 4***

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

### ***Tuesday, February 9***

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

### ***Wednesday, February 10***

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

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

**Thursday, February 11**

Steering Committee (8:30 am by Zoom Conference)

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

**Thursday, February 25**

Finance Forum (8:15 am by Zoom Conference) – Open to All

Stated Meeting of Presbytery (9:00 am by Zoom Conference) – Advance Registration Required

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](http://www.beth-el.org)
- Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center: [www.cedarkirk.org](http://www.cedarkirk.org)
- Presbyterian Homes & Housing Foundation of FL: [www.phhf.com](http://www.phhf.com)

**Prayer Needs**

**Please continue to pray for:**

- 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](mailto:lori@peacriverpresbytery.org) or 941-426-8421, ext. 401.