



# PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Presbytery Weekly E-Newsletter ~ March 5, 2021

## From the General Presbyter

Dear Friends,

Thank you to those who have responded to the newsletter requests to hear how congregations are already doing the work of the Seven Marks of Vital Congregations. We will continue to share those in the Good News from Congregations section of the newsletter. This week you will hear the work that Kirkwood is doing with a school in their community.

The fourth mark of Vital Congregations is about empowering servant leadership. As reformed churches we believe that everyone is called by God to their vocation and to their work in the church. "God handed out gifts above and below, filled heaven with his gifts, filled earth with his gifts. He handed out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher to train Christ's followers in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church, until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ." (Ephesians 4:11-13, The Message, Eugene Peterson)

Empowering servant leadership is the obvious result of discipleship. As people learn and grow in faith, they discover who God is calling them to be and what God might be calling them to share and do. Churches with a diversity of leadership, not just a few people who do everything, are equipped to invite others to join their work because there is always room for new ideas and new people. Servant leadership gives a different entry point into the church other than public worship. Many millennials would welcome an opportunity to make a difference in the community but would never just show up for worship. What are you already doing to empower new leaders in your congregation? What might need to change to make room for empowering leadership?

If there are ways you are already doing this in your church, I invite you to write something for the newsletter and we will share it. We learn best when we share ideas with one another.

Blessings,  
Melana

*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.*

Good News from Congregations

Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, Bradenton

Kirkwood has dedicated itself to being a strategic partner of the Manatee County School District during this COVID season. Through years of relationship with local schools we were able to be ready to serve the moment the pandemic hit.

We hosted a Wi-Fi bus all spring long and then sponsored Seabreeze Elementary School with Hope4Communities, preparing children in poverty with everything they would need for a successful school year.

Most recently, we hosted Southeast High School's International Baccalaureate Pinning Ceremony that they were unable to have at the school due to COVID. Southeast is one of two Manatee County High Schools that is a Title 1 school --- 76% of the students live at or below the poverty line. It is over 55% Hispanic and overwhelmingly attended by minority students. Kirkwood has developed an extensive partnership with Southeast over the years including ministries of hygiene and direct classroom support.



**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/products)

<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@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:miguel@peacriverpresbytery.org)  
Ruth DeYoe, Mission Coordinator – [ruth@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:ruth@peacriverpresbytery.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: March 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, March 4***

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

#### ***Monday, March 8***

Presbyterian Women Spring Retreat

Virtual World Digital Task Force (2:30 pm by Zoom Conference)

#### ***Tuesday, March 9***

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

CCC Team (2:00 pm by Zoom Conference)

#### ***Wednesday, March 10***

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (10:00 am by Zoom Conference)

Stewardship Work Group (2:00 pm by Zoom Conference)

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

#### ***Monday, March 15***

Outreach and Nurture Team (10:00 am by Zoom Conference)

#### ***Thursday, March 18***

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

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 pray for:**

- Rev. Dr. Harry Schill – "...for God's mercy to shrink the bile duct tumor so that surgery can be done."

- Rev. Dr. Kathi Wiggins and Family – loss of her younger brother
- Becky Beckwith and Family – loss of husband, Jim Beckwith (past Moderator of Presbytery and Committee on Ministry member). Address for Becky Beckwith: 617 Woodlawn Drive, Bradenton, FL 34210
- The Congregations and Pastors of Peace River Presbytery
- 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.