



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Presbytery Weekly E-Newsletter ~ May 7, 2021

From the General Presbyter

Dear Friends,

This coming Thursday, May 13, is our spring presbytery meeting. Once again it will be a virtual meeting. We have had better attendance at virtual meetings than in-person meetings, but we certainly miss the fellowship that is shared when we are in a building together. We will offer some fellowship time in breakout rooms at the end of the presbytery meeting if you would like the opportunity to talk with others.

There are some extremely exciting things coming to the presbytery meeting and I hope you will take the time to read through the reports and motions before the meeting. Our education time will be two-fold. We will hear reports from some of the churches who received Blessing Grants on the mission they have been able to achieve because of your generosity. We will also hear from the Office of Vital Congregations about what our year of preparation will entail and how each church in the presbytery can be part of prayer and Bible study focused on transformation. Hope you will join us for this meeting. Registration is open.

Last week I talked about the webinar with Tod Bolsinger entitled Leading the Church in a Post-COVID World. Dr. Bolsinger made several important points about the opportunity we have coming out of the pandemic to make significant shifts that can strengthen the church. He mentioned four underlying conditions in the church that need to be addressed. The second he mentioned was the lack of enduring Christian community. Deep Christian community is about so much more than fellowship dinners and study groups. It is about being present for one another in times of crisis and joy. It is about sharing the deep hurts that come as part of life and supporting one another through them. Deep Christian community reaches beyond the walls of the church and builds into the broader community, including people who might be different than we are. We get a glimpse of the kingdom of God when we enter into deep Christian community.

I would be glad to hear how your church is practicing deep community within and outside your church doors. I continue to pray for you and your ministries.

Blessings,
Melana

Stated Meeting of Presbytery Thursday, May 13, 2021 by Zoom Conference

Advance Registration is required. If you have not received an email invitation to register, please email alesia@peacriverpresbytery.org or call 941-426-8421, ext. 403. Registration will close at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, May 12.

The Stated Meeting Packet is posted on the web site.

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The Stated Meeting Offering will benefit Cedarkirk.

Please mail checks to the Presbytery Office, attention Lori Doyal, Finance.

Make checks payable to Peace River Presbytery, with the memo noted for "Stated Meeting Offering".

## **Synod of South Atlantic Webinar: "So You Are Thinking of Retiring"**

**Tuesday, June 15, 4:00-5:40 pm via Zoom**

[Click for Registration Information](#)

## **Congratulations!**

**Amy Cerniglia**, an Inquirer in Peace River Presbytery and a member at Peace, Lakewood Ranch, won the Barbara Watson Smith Presbyterian Bible Content Award from Dubuque Seminary.

The award is given to the student who scores highest on the Bible Content Exam, a required exam for ordination given by the PCUSA.

## **News from FLAPDAN (Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network, in Partnership with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance)**

### **Hurricane Season Preparedness Tips**

"It's that time of year again! Colorado State University has announced their predictions as "above average" for the 2021 Hurricane Season. Thankfully we have a much better hold on the coronavirus pandemic than we did a year ago. Still, we need to prepare for this season with our safety protocols in minds."

Please read the entire newsletter from [FLAPDAN](#) for information.

There is also information on the Presbytery's Resource Page about Disaster Preparedness.

## **Beth-El Mentoring Program**

See [flyer](#) for upcoming training and information.

## **Around the Presbytery**

I had asked to hear what churches had learned during this crisis and here is one response.  
I would love to share others ... Melana

## **Christ Church COVID-19 Key Learnings**



1) Music Ministry has relied on soloists; trumpet, flautist, organist and Director of Music to lead in music worship. The lack of choir has created flexibility in selecting different songs and musical compositions for service. While we have missed the choir, many of the new options will likely remain in the “new normal.”

2) Sunday School conducted by pastors via Zoom after worship service has been successful. This has been well received and-has allowed us to maintain contact with snowbirds and visitors throughout the year. As we are able to continue this, it will allow us to develop aspects of ministry into year-round offerings, as opposed to seasonal.

3) Because Live Streaming has become a "staple" to our worship service, we are looking to hire ongoing technical support to manage our live streaming service. We will be evolving from church volunteers to more experienced technical assistants to provide a more professional presentation. We plan to develop the use of the new software we purchased to enhance our screen presentations in worship. For a small church, our YouTube viewership has remained surprisingly high, and includes some overseas regulars.

4) Improving the A/V capability in Fellowship Hall offers several benefits; for our best-attended services, we can now offer effective overflow participation in the service in Fellowship Hall, which is a new benefit. Also, it will enable us to offer live streaming of other congregational events for those who are unable to attend in person.

5) While we hope our network of small groups can be reactivated post-pandemic, the ability to provide Men's and Women's Bible Study options via Zoom has been very helpful. Zoom provides flexibility to participants if they cannot attend Bible Study in person.

### Position Openings at Churches (Non-Clergy)

**Children and Youth Coordinator - First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota**

[Position Description](#)

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Audio-Video Coordinator - Christ Church of Longboat Key

[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

Presbytery Calendar: May 2021

*You may view the entire calendar on the Presbytery web site: www.peacriverpresbytery.org
Please email corrections or additions to lori@peacriverpresbytery.org*

Thursday, May 6

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

Sunday, May 9

Happy Mother's Day

Tuesday, May 11

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

Wednesday, May 12

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

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

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

Thursday, May 13

Stated Meeting of Presbytery (9:00 am by Zoom Conference / 8:00 am Check In Begins)

Monday, May 17

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

Thursday, May 20

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

Monday, May 31

Memorial Day – Presbytery Offices Closed

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
- Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center: www.cedarkirk.org
- Presbyterian Homes & Housing Foundation of FL: www.phhf.com

Prayer Needs

Please pray for:

- The people of Myanmar
- Rev. Dr. Harry Schill – for successful recovery following surgery to remove a cancerous tumor.
- 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 or 941-426-8421, ext. 401.

