



**PEACE RIVER  
PRESBYTERY**



From the staff of Peace River Presbytery:

**A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR**

Come, Holy Spirit,  
Spirit of the Risen Christ,  
Be with us today and always.  
Be our Light, our Guide,  
And our Comforter.  
Be our Strength, our Courage,  
And our Sanctifier.

May this new year be a time  
Of deep spiritual growth for us,  
A time of welcoming  
Your graces and gifts,  
A time for forgiving freely  
And unconditionally,  
A time for growing  
In virtue and goodness.

Come, Holy Spirit,  
Be with us today and always.  
Amen.

*Please add these concerns to your personal prayer list.*

**Please continue to pray for:**

Rev. Rosemary Gremban  
Rev. Dr. Ted Land  
Rev. Dr. Bob Rea  
Pastors and Educators in transition  
Those affected by natural disasters in the United States  
Nations in crisis

**Please also keep in your prayers:**

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry  
Misión Peniel  
Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center

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**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE CONGREGATION OF THE WEEK – January 1**

**First Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte**

First Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte, is in a time of transition and an Administrative Commission is in place working with the Session. An Interim Pastor Nominating Committee has been at work and will soon announce an Interim Pastor. Rev. Dr. David Uhl has been preaching on a Sunday supply basis and the church's attendance during this difficult time has remained strong. The outreach of their pre-school, Small World Christian Learning Center, continues to make a difference in the community. Please pray for the church in this time of transition.

**LIST FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY:**

January 1	First Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte
January 8	Wintergarden Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte Ruth Schaaff, Temporary Supply <a href="mailto:revruth2@yahoo.com">revruth2@yahoo.com</a>
January 15	Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda Tim Stewart, Pastor <a href="mailto:sunburn1320@mac.com">sunburn1320@mac.com</a> Valerie Bell, Associate Pastor <a href="mailto:pastorval@embarqmail.com">pastorval@embarqmail.com</a>
January 22	First Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda Steve Mock, Pastor <a href="mailto:revmock@fpcpunta.org">revmock@fpcpunta.org</a>
January 29	Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church, Sarasota Karl Kling, Pastor <a href="mailto:karlklngdmin@aol.com">karlklngdmin@aol.com</a>

The articles below may interest you. I have found some of them in my reading, and others have been passed on to me. ***Just click on the underlined phrases.***

[Study: Christianity grows exponentially in Africa](#)

USA Today: Rapid growth in developing nations offset declines in Christianity's traditional strongholds, according to a report released Monday by the Pew Research Center.

Houston Chronicle: [Disorganized religion](#)

[Watch Night](#)

In William H. Lamar IV's family, Watch Night means singing and praying out the old year and welcoming with joy the new year. Whether at church or at home, they gather and God visits.

[Other people's freedom](#)

Christian Century blogs: Religious progressives should support significant accommodations for religious beliefs -- even those with which they disagree.

Reuters, blog: [UN condemns religious intolerance, drops 'defamation' line for first time in years](#)

[Sainthood for Kateri Tekakwitha](#)

Montreal Gazette: Credited with miracles, Lily of the Mohawks to be canonized.

NPR: [Vatican declares boy's recovery a 'miracle'](#)

[Five social media trends that are reshaping religion](#)

Religion Dispatches: Over the past couple years, religionistas of all sorts have attempted to navigate a new media landscape in which old constructions of religious authority, identity and practice are changing almost by the minute.

**PRESBYTERY CALENDAR** (for more details, go to [www.peaceriverpresbytery.org](http://www.peaceriverpresbytery.org))

**DECEMBER, 2011**

30<sup>th</sup>

Presbytery office closes at NOON

**JANUARY, 2011**

3<sup>rd</sup>

Mission, Vision, Standing Rules Guide Team

5<sup>th</sup>

Records and Overtures Committee

Brown Bag Luncheon – Interim, Designated, Stated Supply, and Temporary Supply Pastors

9<sup>th</sup>

Committee on Representation

10<sup>th</sup>

Committee on Ministry

11<sup>th</sup>

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

12<sup>th</sup>

Board of Trustees

Leadership and Congregational Development Committee

Nominations Committee via conference call

16<sup>th</sup>

Presbytery office is closed

17<sup>th</sup>

Evangelism and Church Development Committee

19<sup>th</sup>

Mission and Justice Committee

Theology and Worship Committee

25<sup>th</sup>

Retired Clergy

26<sup>th</sup>

Council