



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ November 29, 2017

The Hands and Feet of Presbyterians at Work Across our Presbytery by: Charmaine Ponkratz

It is remarkable to hear the goodness of Presbyterians as they present the face of Christ into the community. In this message I would like to highlight just three of those initiatives and the churches doing the life-changing work.

Let's start in the south, with **LoveINC**, an organization that mobilizes local churches (20 of them in total) to transform lives and communities in the name of Christ. *INC--- In the Name of Christ*. Clever! According to their website they "connect with church partners and the surrounding community while mobilizing the body of Christ to function as local missionaries." Here's how it works. They verify the needs of neighbors in need, a vetting process of sorts, assess needs and connect their clients with a church that is willing and able to assist, all with the goal of achieving a life transformation.

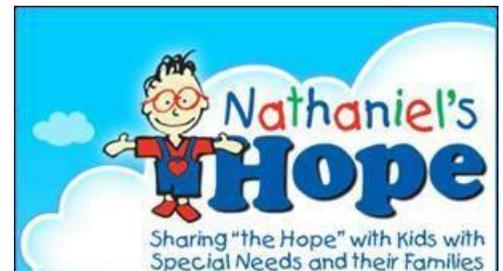


Besides offering financial support for the LoveINC clients, First Presbyterian Church, Bonita Springs recruits volunteers to staff the intake process. They interview clients by telephone to verify needs and then help assign those needs to the local churches and service organizations.

When hurricane Irma hit, First Presbyterian Church established an Irma Community Relief Team, raised money specifically to meet the local needs, and worked through LoveINC to distribute that money to families and individuals whose needs have been verified.

If you want to learn more about LoveINC, just click here: <http://www.loveincswfl.org/>

Moving up the road to Venice Presbyterian Church, they have long offered Nathaniel's Hope Buddy Break, a free kids respite program where kids with special needs (VIP kids) make new friends and enjoy all kinds of activities, while on the church campus, giving their caregivers a much needed break from the overwhelming caretaking responsibilities! The church hosts the VIP kids once a month providing a safe environment to have fun and establish meaningful friendships with other kids and adults.



Church volunteers receive training and agree to a background check; all to prepare for the opportunity to extend the love of Christ into the community.

If you want to learn more about Nathaniel Hope's Buddy Break, just click here: <https://www.nathanielshope.org/events-programs/buddy-break/>

Back on the road again, this time stopping at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church where they are busily getting ready for their 22nd Annual Christmas Market as I write this article. Shoppers at their Christmas Market are introduced to local,



national and international nonprofit organizations. Each participating organization hosts a festive holiday booth which affords them the opportunity to educate the community about their organizations' services, to recruit new volunteers and to fund raise in ways in keeping with the holiday spirit. Each organization provides a "shopping list" that reflect how donations will be used to benefit their clients. Shoppers may choose between simply making a donation to an organization or purchasing the tangible gifts that some organizations present at their booth. I saw a mighty scrumptious looking table of sweet treats!

The Kiwanis Book Bus provides free books for every child and the local Boy Scouts have the grills going for lunch.

This year there are 22 organizations participating in the Market; from Feeding Empty Little Tummies to Thornwell Home for Children and from Manatee County Habitat for Humanity to Heifer International.

If you want to learn more about the Christmas Market, just click here:

<http://www.kpcbrenton.org/missions/annual-christmas-market>

I'll be back on the road, either in cyberspace or on your campus, watching for the wonderful ways in which you are being the hands and feet of Christ all across Peace River Presbytery.

Charmaine Ponkratz

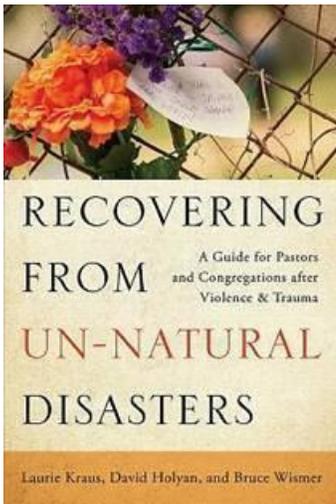
Committee on Ministry 2017 Co-Moderator and 2018 PRP Moderator Elect

Un-Natural Disasters Workshop

Wednesday, December 6, 2017

9:30-11:30 a.m.

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, North Port, FL



"As news stories about gun violence, suicides and sexual abuse seem far too common, it's important for pastors and faith leaders to learn how to handle un-natural disasters that could or perhaps already have occurred within their communities."

(from the back cover of the Recovering from Un-Natural Disaster)

On Wednesday, December 6, 2017 from 9:30-11:30, we are pleased that the leadership of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance will be with us to lead a conversation on this tragic, timely, and now all too familiar topic. The workshop will be at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in North Port.

Given the tragic events of the past month, the book RECOVERING FROM UN-NATURAL DISASTERS: A Guide for Pastors and Congregations after Violence and Trauma, will be a helpful resource for us all. If you would like a **FREE** copy of this book, please let Alesia at the Presbytery Office know (alesia@peacriverpresbytery.org).

The book was authored by Laurie Kraus, Director of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Bruce Wismer, Co-pastor of Pine Shores Presbyterian Church, Sarasota, and David Holyan. The authors have leaders in the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network, and often been our denominations first responders to some of the worst un-natural tragedies that have occurred in our country over the past decade. They are also certified compassion fatigue professionals through the International Association of Trauma Professionals.

Please join Laurie Kraus, Director in PDA, Jim Kirk, the Associate Director of PDA for National Disasters, and Bruce Wismer on Wednesday, December 6th from 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in North Port, for a conversation on this timely book and subject, given recent events.

Please email your reservations to alesia@peacriverpresbytery.org by **Monday, November 27th** if you would like to attend this workshop and let her know also if you would like a **FREE** copy of the book, **Recovering from Un-Natural Disasters**.

BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.

A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma

www.beth-el.org



PO Box 860 | Wimauma, FL 33598

Phone: 813-633-1548 ext. 223

Web: www.beth-el.org

[November Newsletter](#)

*Beth-El is looking for donations of furniture for its office and dental clinic.
Please contact their office if you have desks, tables, or bookcases.*

CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

A place apart to build up the body of Christ in love.

www.cedarkirk.org

2017 Events:

- Challenge to Change - *A unique mission-trip program designed for a variety of groups.* Year-round
- Silent Retreat – *A new retreat designed for folks who are seeking space to listen to God.* TBA
- Christmas Retreat – *A little bit of summer camp at Christmas time!* Dec. 22-23

*Thank you for supporting Cedarkirk and holding this ministry in your prayers for the last 45 years.
We look forward to witnessing God's handiwork here in the years to come!*

For additional information, please contact the camp office at (813) 685-4224 or visit www.cedarkirk.org.

MISION PENIEL

A Ministry of Peace River Presbytery to the Farmworkers in Immokalee

www.misionpeniel.com

Please be in prayer for the mission, which sustained considerable damage from Hurricane Irma. The mission office has damage from the roof falling in on the office area, and the farmworkers have a lot of damage to their residences, most of which are mobile homes.

Staff Contacts:

- Rev. Miguel Estrada, Pastor, P: 239-633-2181, E: migustrada@hotmail.com
- Ruth DeYoe, Mission Coordinator, P: 386-793-6151, E: ruthdeyoe@gmail.com
- General Email: misionpenielpeacriver@gmail.com

Addresses:

- Facility Address: 208 Boston Ave., Immokalee, FL 34142 (not for mailing)
- Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1204, Immokalee, FL 34153
- Mailing Address for Contributions*: Peace River Presbytery, 5600 Peace River Road, North Port, FL 34287

***Contributions to Mision Peniel:**

- Mail to: Peace River Presbytery, 5600 Peace River Road, North Port, FL 34287
- Checks can be made payable to Peace River Presbytery or to Mision Peniel.
- Please note *Mision Peniel* in the memo section.
- Contributor information is provided to Mision Peniel each month.

Other Information:

- Collection Centers for Mision Peniel Supplies ([click for information](#))
- Critical Needs List ([click for information](#))

CHOIR ROBES

We have 60 robes in a wide range of sizes, including four that have closed sleeves suitable for a director or organist. Some need repair of zippers or hems. The robes were made by Collegiate(now Murphy) Robes. They are a pale grey/blue with front pleats and a sapphire blue yoke. The PCUSA cross is embroidered in the center of the yoke.

If anyone is interested, please call Rachel Martin at First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota, 941-955-8119.

Any reasonable offer will be accepted.



PRAYER NEEDS

Please continue to pray for:

- Dave Gowen and Family, in the loss of his wife, Marjorie Ann, on November 19. Dave is a Parish Associate at Faith Presbyterian, Cape Coral.
- The families and communities of Sutherland Springs, TX, Las Vegas, NV & New York City, NY
- The communities and responders affected by the fires in California
- All who are still recovering from the hurricanes
- Beth-El Farmworker Ministry
- Kathryn Pendergrass (wife of Rev. Dr. Daniel Pendergrass) - lung cancer, under Hospice care
- Robert Berger – Rev. Dr. Jim Berger’s 96-year old father
- Jim & Becky Beckwith – health
- Rev. Dr. Lou Thompson – health
- Phil Kuehl (husband of Rev. Elizabeth Kuehl, Faith, Cape Coral) – going through chemotherapy
- Robert Dennis, son of Rev. India Dennis – mental health issues
- Greg Beckwith (son of Jim and Becky Beckwith) – on kidney transplant list
- Misión Peniel

- Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center
- Dan and Elizabeth Turk, PCUSA Mission Co-Workers in Madagascar
- Les and Cindy Morgan, PCUSA Mission Co-Workers in Bangladesh

PRESBYTERY PRAYER GUIDE: NOVEMBER 2017:

November 5	<u>Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, Sarasota</u> Pastor: Rev. Michael Mansperger Email: covenant.presbyterian@comcast.net
November 12	<u>Stated Meeting of Presbytery on Thursday, November 16</u> at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, Bradenton
November 19	<u>Drs. Les and Cynthia Morgan</u> Covenant Partners of Peace River Presbytery
November 26	<u>Siesta Key Chapel</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Kathi Wiggins Email: pastork@comcast.net

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: NOVEMBER~DECEMBER 2017

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

All meetings are at the Presbytery Center location in North Port, unless otherwise posted.

Thursday, November 30

Steering Committee (9:30 a.m.)

Monday, December 4

Nominations & Representation Committee (Conference Call Meeting - 10:30 a.m.)

Planning Team (1:00 p.m.)

Wednesday, December 6

Un-Natural Disasters Workshop (9:30 a.m. at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church)

Thursday, December 7

Mision Peniel Team (10:00 a.m. in Immokalee)

Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team (10:00 a.m.)

Tuesday, December 12

Committee on Ministry (9:00 a.m.)

Wednesday, December 13

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (10:00 a.m.)

Thursday, December 14

Finance Team/Board of Trustees (9:30 a.m.)

Friday, December 22

Presbytery Offices Closed

Monday, December 25

Merry Christmas

Presbytery Offices Closed

Tuesday, December 26

Presbytery Offices Closed

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.

