



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Presbytery Newsletter ~ September 13, 2019

MOORINGS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Lives Transformed for Christ

As I sit down to write, lives hang in the balance – in the Bahamas, and possibly elsewhere as Dorian finally moves northward. Our hearts are broken by the devastation and loss. This is a heartbreak that tears at us and also that feeds a humility deep within: there but for the grace of God...

As the stories from Dorian start rolling in, I begin to wonder: what would happen if we had a similar grasp of the spiritual storms and currents that swirl around us throughout life; what would happen if we understood more deeply that lives might be lost if we forgo living more openly, more overtly, more strategically for Jesus Christ?

These questions can apply to us as individuals, and they can apply to us as churches. For a church the question amounts to this: Do we provide spiritual high ground where people can come to find the life-giving safety of Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit? Do we point people to the life-saving work of Jesus? Are we willing to go out of our way, even to sacrifice a little of our own safety and security, to ensure others find new life in Christ? One story I just heard was about a Bahaman who was rescuing people one-by-one with his boat, broadcasting his phone number over social media, saying that he would come get people who were trapped. He even indicated it was a calling for him. We are similarly called, equipped not with boats, but with the good news of Jesus Christ.

Transformation. As a result of conversations at a leadership retreat a few years ago, Moorings adopted the phrase, “Lives Transformed for Christ.” This is no mere vision statement for our programs, but also serves as a barometer for our own lives. It does provide parameters for ministry focus, but it also reminds us of who we need to be, how we need to be, why we need to be, and for whom we need to be it. The work of Christ should be evident to us, in us and through us. Even as we seek to engage in compelling and effective ministry, we need always to reflect on our own lives, asking ourselves to what extent we allow God entry, cooperate with him in his work, and let him change us to be more and more like Jesus.

Contemporary Worship. As we seek to be the transformed people of God, we are open to transforming the corporate life of the church as we begin to witness and experience the impacts of generational change. In the fall of 2018, we hired a contemporary worship leader (Todd Henderson), and in January of this year, we launched a contemporary evening service. Meeting weekly through Season (January through Easter), we moved to a monthly service over the summer. It was an admitted risk, but one that was carefully thought through. Imagine our delight when, at our July service – at the beginning of “high





summer” when that summer exodus is well on its way – we had one of our highest levels of attendance at 60 participants (only Easter was higher at 65!). A wonderful opportunity also opened up this summer because of having this contemporary worship team: Our VBS featured a live band! The children loved singing along (see left), and particularly enjoyed the opportunity to join the band on the stage. It is an experience they won’t easily forget, and the songs they sang will continue to embed the gospel message into their hearts and minds.

March Mission Month. Another new effort this past year focused on freeing our mission outreach team to truly lead the congregation in mission outreach. We had our first mission month when the team communicated our calling, offered opportunities to learn about mission partners, organized events that involved the congregation in ministry, and led the appeal to raise funds to support mission ministry locally and overseas. The effort was successful because everyone was faithful – the team, the congregation, and God himself who provides what we need to do the work to which he calls us! The team is now getting a head start for next year’s mission month, and is applying all they learned as they plan for 2020.



Moorings Boy Scout troop joins members on this year’s Walk for Water, raising awareness for the widespread need in much of the world to walk extensive distances to get potable water.

Bible Study & Spiritual Growth. In April, we completed a two-year survey of the Bible. As a result of this invaluable time, members and friends learned more about God’s work in the world that started “In the beginning,” and gained appreciation for the connection between the Old and New Testaments. Through the relationships developed and the conversations centered on Scripture, new church leaders were also identified. We will continue with Bible study at the church, including both a new Sunday morning component as well as a mid-week opportunity, as an important avenue for building up the body of Christ. Also, this coming year, Moorings members are participating in bringing the course, *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement* to Southwest Florida, beginning in January. All are invited to participate. For more information on “Perspectives,” go to perspectives.org and stay tuned for more information.



Gratitude and Prayer. We at Moorings are grateful for God’s guidance and provision as we seek to serve him faithfully in Southwest Florida and as a part of Peace River Presbytery. Please pray for us as we seek to follow Jesus, listen to the Holy Spirit, and honor God in who we are and what we do.

Moorings Presbyterian Church, Naples
www.mooringschurch.org

PRESBYTERY-WIDE GATHERING

Saturday, September 14, 2019

11:00 a.m.

Worship, Barbeque, Fellowship, and Games

and

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF PRESBYTERY

10:00 a.m.

(The Meeting Packet is posted on the [Presbytery Meetings](#) page of the web site.)

~~~~~

Location: First Presbyterian Church of Port Charlotte

2230 Harriet St. | Port Charlotte, FL 33952

~~~~~

- **The Special Called Meeting begins at 10:00 am (Registration 9:00 am)**
- **Worship begins at 11:00 am, followed by barbeque and games.**

~~~~~

**ALL are invited!**

[Information Flyer](#) for the Barbeque Gathering

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING of PRESBYTERY**

**Saturday, September 14, 2019**

10:00 a.m. (Registration 9:00 a.m.)

First Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte

(The Meeting Packet is posted on the [Presbytery Meetings](#) page of the web site.)

~~~~~

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING of PRESBYTERY

Thursday, September 26, 2019

1:00 p.m. (Registration 12:00 p.m.)

Hope United Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers

(The Meeting Packet will be posted on the web site on Thursday, September 19)

**SERVICE of INSTALLATION of
REV. DR. BRANDI CASTO-WATERS
as Pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church
Cape Coral, Florida**

Saturday, September 21, 2019

4:00 p.m.

Reception immediately following.

PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY and BRADEN RIVER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WELCOME:

Rev. Dr. Shannon Jung as part-time Stated Supply Pastor, beginning in September. A life-long Presbyterian, Shannon has had a variety of small church and university academic experiences. He is married to Patricia, and they have three sons and six grandchildren.

MADAGASCAR MISSION NETWORK

Biennial Meeting

Orlando, FL: October 10-12, 2019

All are welcome to join our PC(USA) Mission Co-Workers to Madagascar,

Daniell and Elizabeth Turk,

for this wonderful event.

If you are interested in mission in Madagascar, please consider this attending.

[Madagascar Mission Network Brochure](#)

[Madagascar Mission Network Conference Registration](#)

~~~~~

Also, watch for information regarding an event at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Venice.

The Turks will be coming to Trinity on Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>.

Details coming ...

**~ ATTENTION: CLERGY ~**

**The following event is sponsored by the  
Florida Council of Churches:**

**October 13-14: Faith-Rooted Organizing Retreat**

Location: Life Enrichment Center, Leesburg

Topic: Dreaming God's Dream Together – Faith Leaders Advancing Shared Hope

~~~~~

Registration information will be shared by the Synod of South Atlantic
when it becomes available.

~~~~~

Contact information for Rev. Dr. Russell Meyer, Executive Director, Florida Council of Churches:

[RMeyer@floridachurches.org](mailto:RMeyer@floridachurches.org) / 813-763-3610

**~ ATTENTION: CLERKS OF SESSION ~**

Clerks, please mark your calendars for the following dates in September and October, for the Annual Review of the Session Minutes and Records Books and Biennial Administrative Review. The invitation letter and checklist and Biennial Administrative Review Form were mailed to you on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

Please make your attendance plans known by emailing the contact person for the workshop you plan to attend:

Saturday, September 14, 9:00 a.m. | Location: First Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte

Contact: Judy Bremer, [jdybrmr@comcast.net](mailto:jdybrmr@comcast.net) / 941-966-0394

Saturday, September 21, 10:00 a.m. | Location: Trinity Presbyterian Church, Venice

Contact: Judy Bremer, [jdybrmr@comcast.net](mailto:jdybrmr@comcast.net) / 941-966-0394

Saturday, October 12, 10:00 a.m. | Location: Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, N. Fort Myers

Contact: Rebecca Nicholson, [love2point@yahoo.com](mailto:love2point@yahoo.com) / 941-655-8163

Saturday, October 26, 9:00 a.m. | Location: Northminster Presbyterian Church, Sarasota

Contact: Sally Kirby, [kirbyjack5030@comcast.net](mailto:kirbyjack5030@comcast.net) / 941-351-3115

Please Note: If no one registers in advance for one of the workshops, it will be canceled without further notification.

Clerks, if you have any questions or cannot find your packet, please contact Judy Bremer (information listed above).

# Beth-El

*Farmworker Ministry, Inc.*



PO Box 860 | Wimauma, FL 33598

Phone: 813-633-1548 ext. 223

Web: [www.beth-el.org](http://www.beth-el.org)

“Feeding the mind, spirit, and body of farmworkers and our neighbors in need through opportunities for hunger relief, education, healthcare, and spiritual development.”

[September Newsletter](#)

[“Walk With Us” – Leaders Lunch – October 2nd](#)



## MISIÓN PENIEL

*A Ministry of Peace River Presbytery to the Farmworker Community in Immokalee*

208 Boston Ave., PO Box 1204, Immokalee, FL 34143

[www.misionpeniel.com](http://www.misionpeniel.com)

Facebook: “Misión Peniel”

### **Staff Contacts:**

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

### **Contributions to Misión Peniel (checks or online):**

- Mail to: Peace River Presbytery, 5600 Peace River Road, North Port, FL 34287
- Checks can be made payable to Peace River Presbytery or to Misión Peniel.
- Please note *Misión Peniel* in the memo section.
- Click on the “Donate” button on the Misión Peniel web site.
- Contributor information is provided to Misión Peniel each month.

## **CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER**

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

[www.cedarkirk.org](http://www.cedarkirk.org)



*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](http://www.cedarkirk.org).

**FREE TO GOOD HOME:**

Complete set of *Spurgeon's Expository Encyclopedia*, as well as *Calvin's Commentaries*.

Contact Chuck Wiggins at Trinity Church in Venice, 941-493-0018, ext. 222.

"Come 'n Get Em!"

**EVENTS AROUND the PRESBYTERY:**

**[ABC of DEMENTIA](#)**

Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> – Palma Sola Presbyterian Church

All are invited.

~~~~~

[LIVING PROOF SIMULCAST with BETH MOORE](#)

Saturday, September 28th – Church of the Palms

POSITION OPENINGS:

[Christian Education Director](#)

Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples

~~~~~

**Stated Clerk**

**Denver Presbytery, Colorado**

**[Narrative / Job Description](#)**

~~~~~

Executive Director for Long Term Recovery

Duplin County, North Carolina

The Disaster Recovery Group of Duplin County (North Carolina) is receiving applications for the position of Executive Director of their long-term recovery group.

[Click here](#) for information on the job description and how to apply.

PRAYER NEEDS

Please pray for:

- The People of The Bahamas
- Rev. Dr. Daniel Pendergrass - health
- 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
- Les and Cindy Morgan, PCUSA Mission Co-Workers in Bangladesh

PRESBYTERY PRAYER GUIDE: SEPTEMBER 2019

September 1	<u>Daniell and Elizabeth Turk</u> PC(USA) Mission Co-Workers, Serving in Madagascar
September 8	<u>The Bahamas – Hurricane Recovery</u>
September 15	<u>Moorings Presbyterian Church, Naples</u> Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Doug Learned Associate Pastor: Rev. Jaci Smith Patman
September 22	<u>Cuba Partnership</u>
September 29	<u>Westminster Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u> Stated Supply Pastor: Rev. R.C. Smith

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: SEPTEMBER 2019

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

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

Saturday, September 14

Annual Session Records Review (9:00 am at First, Port Charlotte)
PRP Special Called Meeting (10:00 am at First, Port Charlotte)
Presbytery Fall Gathering and Barbeque (11:00 am at First, Port Charlotte)

Thursday, September 19

Steering Committee (9:00 am)

Saturday, September 21

Annual Session Records Review (10:00 a.m. at Trinity PC, Venice)

Installation Service for Rev. Dr. Brandi Casto-Waters (4:00 pm at Faith PC, Cape Coral)

Thursday, September 26

PRP Special Called Meeting (1:00 pm at Hope United Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers)

CHURCHES of PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

Please visit our web site, www.peacriverpresbytery.org/churches

Click on the city, then the church, to visit their web site.



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.