



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Presbytery Weekly E-Newsletter ~ November 6, 2020

From the General Presbyter

Dear Friends,

Uncertainty has been the theme of 2020. We have not known what to expect from one day to the next and will not know for quite a bit longer. That type of long-term uncertainty causes tremendous stress for people, which is why you keep hearing about an increase in mental health concerns and calls for self-care.

This fall I am taking a class in the Neuroscience of Coaching and this week's class, held on election day, was centered on what happens in the brain when we are stressed. Chronic stress causes us to begin to see things as threatening that really are not, which lowers our ability to be creative and hopeful. We also know that our body's immune response is lower when we are very stressed, which is not what we want right now.

Stress is an inevitable part of life. The problem comes when we do not do what is necessary to renew our bodies and minds so that we can increase our hope, joy, and creativity. Renewal happens through prayer and meditation, through hope and compassion, from modest exercise, laughter, and playfulness. We need short bursts of renewal several different times in the day. Negative emotions are stronger than positive emotions, so we need more positive encounters in our day, some say as much as three times more positive than negative.

As Christians, we know where our certainty is, in the love of God in Christ. We can begin to practice and share these renewal opportunities with our family and friends so that the level of stress in our communities might decrease. We all need renewal, remember that Jesus went off by himself to pray. I invite you in the coming weeks to find ways to renew yourself and to encourage others to do so, until we have left the pandemic behind.

Blessings,
Melana

Stated Meeting of Presbytery

Thursday, November 19, 2020

By Zoom Conference

9:00 am – Meeting Begins

Pre-Registration will be required. Information will be posted soon.

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**Pre-Meeting Finance Forum**

By Zoom Conference

8:15-8:45 am

Open to all who are interested in learning more about the  
Presbytery's finances and budget, or who have a question for their church.  
Pre-Registration will be required. Information will be posted soon.

These meetings will be through separate Zoom links, but you will have time to do both.

### **Attention All Finance Chairs, Mission Chairs, and Treasurers**

On Thursday, November 19, 8:15-8:45 am (before the Stated Meeting begins),  
you will have an opportunity to join the *Finance Forum* with the  
Presbytery's Treasurer and Finance Team members.

This is a great opportunity to ask questions about the Presbytery's  
finances and budget, as well as to ask for advice or assistance for your own church.  
This Forum will be conducted by Zoom and advanced registration for the Zoom link is required\*.

This will be a separate link from the Stated Meeting Zoom link  
and there will be time to participate in both meetings.

\*Please watch for further information on how to register for  
the Finance Forum and the Stated Meeting of Presbytery.

All are invited to attend.



### **Congratulations**

**Pastor Emeritus, Rev. Dr. Timothy Stewart**

[Press Release from Burnt Store Presbyterian Church](#)



### **Links of Love – Presbyterian Giving Catalogue**

[Host a Virtual Alternative Giving Market with Links of Love](#)

### **Madagascar Mission Network**

**Mission Conference 2020: November 12-14**

For information, click: [Virtual Conference Information](#)

### **Safe Gatherings**

It is very important to assure that church staff and volunteers have the needed training when leading and managing programs for children and youth. Peace Presbyterian Church is successfully using a *Safe Gatherings* (<https://safegatherings.com>) module that focuses on this subject and may be of interest to your church. Please consult the Peace Presbyterian Church website or contact the Director of Ministries to Children, Youth, and Families at Peace Presbyterian Church, Eirinn Camphire, at [e.eirinn@gmail.com](mailto:e.eirinn@gmail.com)

### Position Opening

First Presbyterian Church of Port Charlotte

[Office Administrator](#)

Part Time: 28 hours/week, Monday-Thursday

Click on the Office Administrator link for the application.

### 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)

### Presbytery Calendar: November 2020

*You may view the entire calendar on the Presbytery web site: [www.peacriverpresbytery.org](http://www.peacriverpresbytery.org)*

*Please email corrections or additions to [lori@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:lori@peacriverpresbytery.org)*

#### ***Sunday, November 8***

Installation Service for The Rev. Dr. Ruth Smalt at Siesta Key Chapel (10:00 am)

#### ***Tuesday, November 10***

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

#### ***Wednesday, November 11***

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

#### ***Thursday, November 12***

Finance Team (9:30 am by Zoom Conference)

#### ***Thursday, November 19***

Pre-Meeting Finance Forum (8:15-8:45 am by Zoom Conference)\*

Stated Meeting of Presbytery (9:00 am by Zoom Conference)\*

#### ***Thursday, November 26***

Thanksgiving – PRP Offices Closed

**Friday, November 27**

PRP Offices Closed

\*Pre-Registration will be required to receive the Zoom links for each of these meetings.  
Details will be posted soon.  
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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:

- Rev. Dr. Harry Schill (HR) – Continued prayer for his treatment and recovery from bile duct cancer.
Address for cards – 16001 Via Solera Cir., #105, Fort Myers, FL 33908
- Rev. Alan Adams (HR) – Continued prayer for his treatment and recovery from tonsil cancer.
Address for cards – 69 Windmill Blvd., Punta Gorda, FL 33950
- Our Nation
- 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.