



## ***Our Mission:***

*To identify and strengthen leaders so that every congregation makes new and mature disciples for Jesus Christ.*

## **Easter Edition**

It's hard to believe that Easter is this Sunday! This week, Christians throughout the world are remembering how Jesus was handed over, suffered, died, and was raised from the dead, so that they might be made right with God. In our Presbytery as well, our churches are coming together for Holy Week services.

There will be joint services between Gulfport, Lakeview, Trinity, Good Sam, and Woodlawn, as well as First Port Richey and Trinity Seven Springs (see below for more info on each of these services). The annual Easter Sunrise service at [Bayshore Pres](#) (6:45am) is also expected to draw many Presbyterians together.

Sometimes it seems like the world isn't as friendly to the Gospel or to the Church as it used to be. The power of a connectional church is that we've got each other to rely on. We're not in this alone; we have God and each other. We can support one another and share each others' load, through prayer and through fellowship. I would encourage everyone reading this newsletter to pray for the services at all of the churches in their area, not just their own, lifting one another up to God.

Let us remember the power of the Resurrection; the power of true life in the face of what looked like defeat. Easter is a time of celebration and victory; this Sunday we rejoice for Christ's victory over death, and our own sure and certain place in God's family that was its result. May the blessing and power of Christ and his Resurrection be with you all!

In Christ,

Rev. Dave Baker,  
Stated Clerk and Director of Communications  
Presbytery of Tampa Bay



## News From Around the Presbytery

### Regional Commission Meetings

Regional Commission Meetings are just around the corner! Each Commission will be discussing the future of the regional system in listening sessions, as well as handling other business specific to the region, so please remember to elect commissioners to come from your church! Agendas and further information will be forthcoming; times and locations are below:

- East Regional Commission:
  - Thursday April 28th, 7pm to 9pm at [First Auburndale PC](#)
- Hillsborough Regional Commission:
  - Tuesday April 26th, 9am to 1pm at [Temple Terrace PC](#)
- West Regional Commission:
  - Saturday April 30th, 9am to Noon at [Peace Memorial PC](#)

---

**Beth-El**  
*Farmworker Ministry, Inc.*



**Beth-El Open House**

**April 17th 2-5pm**

The mission of Beth-El is committed to supporting the farm working community and our neighbors in need through opportunities for hunger relief, education, healthcare, and spiritual growth.

During the open house, guests will have an opportunity to learn more about these initiatives as well as see many of the new renovations around our campus. There will also be bus tours of the local community so that visitors can gain a first hand glimpse of the challenges many of our farm workers face.

For more information, please call them at [813-633-1548](tel:813-633-1548).

---

## Denise Lay Ordination and Installation

Thanks to everyone who came out and made this such a great event!



Young Voices of Africa Evening Concert

The African Children's Choir is on a mission to generate hope, healing and justice for the vulnerable children of Africa caught up in areas of conflict and crisis, to enable these children to become change makers in Africa.

The Concert will be held at the Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church at Downtown Clearwater on April 1, 7PM. Doors open at 6:30. No tickets needed and seating is first come, first served.

You will be thrilled by an inspiring program of choral music from their native countries, with the added drama of colorful costumes and dancing. Please join us to support these beautiful children.

[Click here](#) for more information.

---



### West Region Joint Services at Gulfport Beach

Come join local Presbyterian Churches for the **3rd Annual Good Friday Service** at Gulfport Beach at noon. Lakeview, Trinity, Gulfport, Good Samaritan and Woodlawn Churches will be joining us, and this year Maximo Presbyterian Church may also participate!

The service is hosted by Gulfport Presbyterian Church and Rev. Micki Robinson. The venue will be the pavilion near the casino. In case of rain, please come to the church instead: [5313, 27th Ave S Gulfport](#).

You can bring your beach or lawn chairs if you have them!

---

### Presbytery of Tampa Bay Gathering at GA

222nd Meeting of the General Assembly is coming up in June. The Commissioners and Young Adult Advisory Delegate from Tampa Bay are

registered and have received their committee assignments. Now, for all you others who are interested in attending GA in beautiful Portland Oregon, please check out this link: [www.pcusa.org/ga222](http://www.pcusa.org/ga222).

If you do decide to go to Portland, please do let Patrice Hatley [Patrice@pbtty.com](mailto:Patrice@pbtty.com) know of your plans as soon as possible. We will be hosting folks from Tampa Bay for dinner together on Tuesday evening June 21 and would like to include you in our reservation. Since that is the only night Commissioners have free, there will be many Presbyteries attempting to make large group restaurant reservations, so we need to know of your interest in participating by no later than April 29.

And, yes, please be in prayer for our church and the commissioners who will be working very hard to prepare and participate on our behalf!

---



**Cuba!**

Coach and Coordinator Patrice Hatley and Moderator Marsha Rydberg are extending their invitation to a conversation about the recent visit to Cuba and most importantly about developing relationship with our brothers and sisters in the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba (Iglesia Presbiteriana-Reformada en Cuba). We will enjoy some Cuban pastries and conversation together at the Presbytery of Tampa Bay office located at 4704 Kelly Rd, Tampa on **Tuesday, April 5 from 1:30-3:00 pm.**

Information about the Cuban Partnership Network will be discussed. There is an opportunity coming in October to join other PC(USA) people from around the US in a relationship-building trip to Cuba. The visit will include the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Matanzas as well as churches in all three Cuban Presbyteries.

We are blessed with the presence of many Cuban-Americans among us in the Presbytery of Tampa Bay, exiles from their homeland. We can learn more about their experiences and life stories, too, as we seek to come together by the GRACE of God! Marsha Rydberg speaks Spanish, so if you need assistance in communication during our time together, she is a great help!

Please let Ann Marie Fizzano know if you plan to come so we may have plenty of refreshments to offer! You may reach her through email at [office@pbty.com](mailto:office@pbty.com) or by calling the office at [\(813\) 868-4800](tel:8138684800).



### **A Free Retreat of Respite and Renewal for Church Professionals & Their Families**

Are you looking for a moment to rest and recharge after Holy Week and Easter?

Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center has the event for you. We invite all church professionals and their families serving in Peace River or Tampa Bay

Presbyteries to enjoy a time of Sabbath in the beauty of God's creation. Come be our guest for this two-night, three-day event designed to give you plenty of time for rest and relaxation. The schedule is flexible allowing you to hike, study, and worship or enjoy times of quiet solitude in the beauty of God's creation.

The event begins at 11:00 am on Monday, March 28th, and concludes at 2:00 pm on Wednesday, March 30th. Private bedrooms and all meals (Monday lunch through Wednesday lunch) are provided. Whether you can come for a day or all three days, you won't want to miss this opportunity for Sabbath at Cedarkirk. Please contact the camp office at [\(813\) 685-4224 ext. 2](tel:8136854224) or [info@cedarkirk.org](mailto:info@cedarkirk.org) to make your reservations for this free event.

---

## Website Feedback Survey

Please take a moment to fill out this survey:  
[Presbytery Website Feedback Survey](#)

This survey will help drive the conversation about how the Presbytery website can best help you and your church. If you're getting this newsletter, you're encouraged to take the survey, even if you're not a pastor or elder. It should take less than 10 minutes to do.

We'll also be conducting interviews with those who are most often using the website. We don't want this update to merely be a cosmetic upgrade, but a way to truly make the most of modern technology in support of our ministries. So if you have ideas or frustrations, or just want to be part of the conversation, I'd encourage you to take part in the online survey above and one of the feedback sessions (Presbytery breakout or webinar).

---

## Handbell Request

Forest Hills Presbyterian Church is looking for a set of handbells to expand their music program. Does your church have hand bells that need a new home? Please contact Forest Hills PC at [\(813\)932-6149](tel:8139326149) or [office@fhpctampa.org](mailto:office@fhpctampa.org).

---

## Joint Services Between FPC Port Richey and Trinity Seven Springs

Isn't it great when Presbyterians do things together? [First Presbyterian Church of Port Richey](#) will be participating in the Tenebrae Worship Service

at [Trinity Presbyterian Church of Seven Springs](#), at 7 p.m. on Maundy Thursday, March 24; FPC will then host a Good Friday service with participation from Trinity at 12 p.m. on March 25.

## Mission Opportunities

From the FLAPDAN Front



### OGHS

Did you know your **One Great Hour of Sharing** contributions are making a huge difference in our own communities? There are eight projects here in Florida which have received OGHS funds within the past year, four of which are disaster related projects supported through grants from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance:

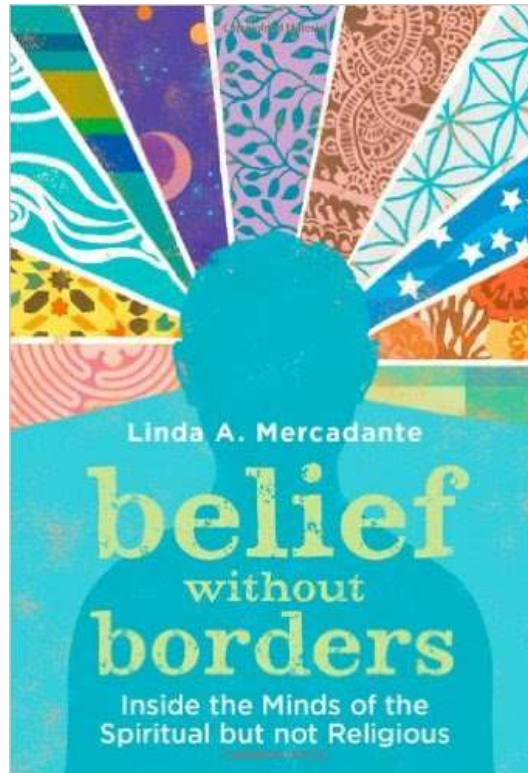
- Okaloosa and Walton Counties Long Term Recovery following Spring 2014 flooding in the Florida panhandle.
- Springwater Presbyterian Church in Brandon, FL whose contents were destroyed in a July 2015 fire.
- Pasco County Long Term Recovery following Summer 2015 flooding north of Tampa.
- Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network (FLAPDAN) to continue the work of coordinating preparedness, response and recovery at the congregation, presbytery, community and state levels.

Find out more

at <http://specialofferings.pcusa.org/oghs> or <http://pda.pcusa.org/>

## Upcoming Workshops





## Eckard College Lecture Series Continues:

Monday, April 11, 2016, 7:30 p.m. | Fox Hall

Join Dr. Linda Mercadante, Straker Chair of Historical Theology, Methodist Theological School in Ohio, for a lecture on "[Belief without Borders: Inside the Minds of the 'Spiritual but not Religious'](#)"

Linda Mercadante is the B. Robert Straker Professor of Historical Theology at The Methodist Theological School in Ohio and is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Her areas of research interest include constructive theology; theology and culture; faith and film; addiction recovery; gender/race/ethnicity; interreligious dialogue; trinity; trauma/victimization; spiritual memoir; spiritual geography; and the "spiritual but not religious" movement. A recipient of the Henry Luce III Fellowship in Theology, she is the author of *Belief without Borders: Inside the Minds of the Spiritual But Not Religious*; *Bloomfield Avenue: A Jewish-Catholic Jersey Girl's Spiritual Journey*, and numerous essays on a variety of topics concerning faith and culture in American life.

---

## Leveraging Your Emotions in Challenging Situations



**MAXIMIZING THE IMPACT OF OVER 600 LEADERS IN FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS SINCE APRIL 2010!**

Do you have your emotions, or do your emotions have you? This 1.5 hour session is designed for faith community leaders who want to develop their understanding of emotions in the context of their leadership and ministry.

Participants will experience ways to notice, capture, and channel your emotions instead of your emotions having a hold on you.

This webinar will be held Thursday, April 7, 2016, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with a tuition of \$40. For more information and to register: [check out the website.](#)

---

## Habits of the Heart for Healthy Congregations

Parker J. Palmer's "Habits of the Heart" are deeply ingrained ways of seeing, being, and responding to life that involve our minds, our emotions, our self-images, our concepts of meaning and purpose.

At this retreat you will learn **new skills for fostering leadership** - both within yourselves and among others - for the sake of **revitalizing faith communities** locally and globally. Join like-minded peers and discover ways to renew your spirit and the spirit of your community of faith. Teams are encouraged to attend together to be able to apply shared learnings in your local contexts.

The conference will take place August 1-4 near Chicago IL.

[Find out more about this conference here.](#)

## Prepare Enrich Training

If you're not familiar with Prepare/Enrich, it's perhaps the most effective tool for premarital and marital counseling that I am aware of. If you are a Teaching Elder, I would very highly recommend that you take advantage of this training, hosted by our own Rev. Bill Cooley.

You can receive this training on May 6th from 9am to 3:30pm at the Presbytery Office. The total cost of the training is \$195, although the CCV has made scholarships available for Teaching Elders for 50% of the cost (email David Bonnema: [bonnema@palmaceia.org](mailto:bonnema@palmaceia.org)). Please contact Bill Cooley for more information: [pastorbillhome@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbillhome@gmail.com).

RSVP at this link: [May 6th](#)

Learn more about Prepare/Enrich by clicking below:



## Job Opportunities

### Beth-El Job Opening:

Beth-El is looking for an older teen or adult to lead the summer youth activities.

The position will lead all youth activities, serve as a liaison with Cedarkirk for our scholarship program, and assist the operations manager in coordinating incoming mission teams.

A valid driver's license is required.

For more information or to apply, please contact Beth-El at [info@beth-el.org](mailto:info@beth-el.org).

---

### Village PC Job Opening:

**Office Assistant (Technical)**  
**Part-time: 16 hours per week**

Perform routine clerical and administrative functions such as drafting correspondences, scheduling, organizing, and providing general administrative and computer support to the church office.

Basic clerical and administrative skills to include computer software knowledge (Power Point, MS WORD, Excel, Publisher, & basic web skills).

**Custodian, Part-time up to 16 hours per week**

General labor and cleaning duties so as to keep the facility buildings (church sanctuary & administrative buildings) as well as surrounding grounds in clean and safe condition.

Successful applicant must pass Level 2 Background Screening prior to hire, possess valid Florida driver's license, and have reliable transportation (with proof of insurance).

Send resumes to [suegoldstein.vpc@gmail.com](mailto:suegoldstein.vpc@gmail.com)

---

**Northwood PC Job Opening:**

Full Time Director of Youth and Family Ministries

Northwood Presbyterian Church seeks an enthusiastic person for ministry to our youth and their families.

Resumes may be sent to [northwoodpcsearch@yahoo.com](mailto:northwoodpcsearch@yahoo.com). Job description is available upon request at same email.

---

**Korean Presbyterian Church of Tampa Job Opening:**

**Full-time or Part-Time EM Pastor**

KPCT is currently seeking an EM Pastor to shepherd the Young Adult and Youth Group of high school and middle school students. The church is located at 6510 Yosemite Dr., Tampa, FL 33634.

For more information please contact Ki Choi at [kih.choi3@gmail.com](mailto:kih.choi3@gmail.com) or read the [position description](#).

---

**Temple Terrace PC Job Opening:  
Leader of Youth Ministry and Christian Education**

Do you know someone interested in "reaching and inspiring youth, within our congregation and through community outreach by creative programs promoting Christian growth and spiritual development"?

Temple Terrace Presbyterian Church seeks to hire an enthusiastic individual as our Leader of Youth Ministry and Christian Education.

For more information see: <http://www.ttpresbyterian.com/new-leader-of-youth-ministry-and-christian-education/>

---

Presbytery of Tampa Bay | [813 868 4800](tel:8138684800) | [presbyteryoftampabay.com](http://presbyteryoftampabay.com)