



*October 15, 2019*

## Homestead Disaster Response Team Update

-Sue Babovec, Co-Lead, Homestead Disaster Response Team

Following the floods of March, 2019 - 86% of the counties in Nebraska were declared to be disaster areas - including many within the border of Homestead Presbytery.

Schuyler, Columbus, North Bend, Fremont, Nebraska City, Walthill, Niobrara and Norfolk were especially hit hard.

Homestead Presbytery immediately applied for a \$7500 grant from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance - which was used in the above named areas for immediate needs as well as to host three FEMA meetings for help groups in Fremont, Columbus and Nebraska City at the Presbyterian Church in each community.

We have had three teams from PDA personnel over the months, assessing the initial damage; visiting to give us guidance for setting up possible host sites in churches (Fremont and Columbus) and to offer Resiliency Training for those helping directly with the disaster victims.

It has been hard for PDA to wrap their head around the damage - it covers such a wide area and damage is not as visible as with a tornado or earthquake. Buildings are still standing - they are just ruined internally.

Mold is "invisible" until you are in it - breathing it, smelling it, getting sick from it. Flood waters eventually (but sometimes not for a long time) dry up and it looks like all is well - you can't necessarily see the sand and silt (inches and inches of it) on the previously lush Nebraska topsoil until you stand in it!

With no crop this year, it will be difficult (if not impossible) for farmers to have the funds (loans) to buy seed, fertilizer and sometimes equipment for next year. This has a "ripple effect" - as farmers can't farm, they move; as they move, they take children from the schools which decreases the amount of state aid a school has; as families move, small, rural churches have even more decline in membership to meet even the basic budgets.

We Nebraskans will be dealing with and will be affected by the Flood of 2019 for many years!

Homestead Presbytery was also able to apply for a \$5,000 grant from PDA to assist the North Bend pastor and his family in replacing some of the many items they had stored in their basement when nearly every basement in North Bend flooded - with sewage backup.

Representatives from Homestead Presbytery have spent many hours in Fremont, Columbus and Mead helping set up Long Term Recovery Groups to oversee the reconstruction and rebuilding of many of the flooded areas. (And now appears that such a group will be established in Nemaha County as well.) We will shortly be making grant applications to provide up to about \$40,000 to help these groups with unmet needs. (Columbus serves five counties, including Schuyler in Colfax County.)

There is much need beyond what PDA can provide - and thankfully there are two other sources of funding for needs in these areas. Many other denominations have similar programs to PDA and will be bringing large grants to the table for use as needed. And, Homestead Presbytery has a fund for donations to be used within the boundaries of the presbytery as needed. Some of you have contributed to this - and more will be doing so - and we thank you very much! Every single dollar helps!

The initial team of twelve has met; an "official" name for the committee has been decided upon (Disaster Response Team); assignments have been made (based on interest and ability); an outline of the Team's activities has been written (and will be presented at the November Presbytery Meeting); and we are moving into "action instead of just words." We operate on the philosophy that no one has to do everything, but everyone must do something!

Galatians 6:2 tells us "to bear one another's burdens." We do this by remembering those in need in our prayers and by sharing financial gifts that came to us from God as we are able.

## Presbytery News



Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation

### WHAT'S YOUR BIG IDEA?

Would your congregation like to increase their impact in your community but lack the funds to get a big idea started? Do you have a project already in the works but could use additional funding to take it to the next level? Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation could be the answer to help you fund your project or program. We are offering annual grants to PCUSA churches and related organizations in Nebraska for new or ongoing outreach activities which enhance or expand some aspect of your ministry. Grants totaling more than \$164,000 were awarded during our last grant cycle. The Spring Grant Cycle process begins in December with grants awarded in April. Visit our website at [www.nebpresby.org](http://www.nebpresby.org) or call Audrey Richert at 402.420.9877 to learn more about our grant guidelines.

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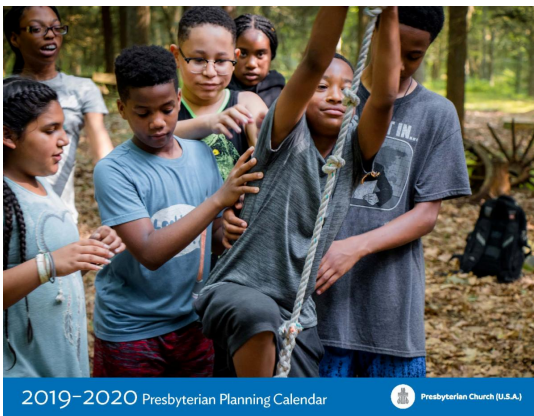
The Registraton is now OPEN for  
the November 21st Presbytery  
Assembly at **Laurel United**

Presbyterian Church. Click the button to get registered!

**\*\*NOTE- The first registration e-mail says Wayne. That was a mistake!**

REGISTER NOW

## Miss out on the 2019-2020 Planning Calendar order?



You're in luck if you missed out on ordering the 2019-2020 Planning Calendars. The Presbytery has some extra calendars available for purchase!

Contact Jes at [hpoffice@homesteadpres.org](mailto:hpoffice@homesteadpres.org) to get them before they're gone!!

REGISTER

## Opportunities to Learn and Grow



### YOUTH RETREAT

**Bring your whole youth group!  
Join us for an overnight retreat Nov. 1-2**

Youth Groups of all sizes: Register TODAY for this great retreat at Calvin Crest. Retreat Leader Bryce Wiebe will help us explore the theme To Whom Does Your Church Belong?

Begins with supper on Friday, Nov. 1 and ends after lunch on Nov.  
2. More info and registration can be found at [www.calvincrest.org/youth](http://www.calvincrest.org/youth)

## Join us for a Weekend with Diana Butler Bass

November 8, 9, & 10



Diana's book, [Grateful: The Subversive Practice of Giving Thanks](#), challenges us to embrace all of life with an attitude of gratitude. This is not just a flip saying, this is a challenge to all of us when life is most challenging, to be transformed by the practice of gratitude, and to be a transforming agent in the world. Join us for conversations with Diana about gratitude and it's transforming power in our lives and in our communities.

**Friday dinner and conversation** - 6:30 - 8:30 pm @ Southern Heights Presbyterian Church in Lincoln (5750 S. 40th St, Lincoln)

**Saturday Lectures & Lunch** -  
9:30 - 3:30 pm @First Presbyterian Church (840 S. 17th St, Lincoln)

**Sunday Worship** - 11 am @First Presbyterian Church (840 S. 17th St, Lincoln)

**NOTE:** Reservations are required for Friday dinner and Saturday lunch. For more information and registration, visit [fpclincoln.org/grateful](http://fpclincoln.org/grateful)

*Sponsored by First Presbyterian Church Lincoln, Southern Heights Presbyterian Church, and Homestead Presbytery*

*Holy Friends*

**Clergy  
Clinic in  
Family  
Emotional  
Process**



Friends learning with friends.  
Join us in interfaith dialogue  
to foster a better, more  
tightly-knit community right  
here in the capital city!

Background for the discussion  
will come from Barbara Brown  
Taylor's [Holy Envy](#).

**Gatherings 7:00pm-8:30pm on  
the 4th Monday of the month**  
(October 2019-April 2020) at  
Bryan West  
(16th and South St.)

There is no cost and you can  
easily register by clicking the  
button below!

For more information, contact  
Thomas Dummermuth  
([tdummermuth@eastridge.org](mailto:tdummermuth@eastridge.org))  
or Lew Kaye-Skinner  
([lew@kayeskinner.com](mailto:lew@kayeskinner.com))

[Facebook Page](#)

[Register Here](#)

With today's rising level of anxiety in  
society and its resulting impact on  
families, there is little doubt that such  
anxiety will impact the church with  
increasing intensity in the years  
ahead. The resulting elevation of  
pressures within congregations and  
the increasing demands which that  
places on clergy make it imperative  
that leaders step back occasionally  
from the fray to assess their own  
capacity for managing themselves in  
a calmer, more differentiated way.

Clergy Clinic in Family Emotional  
Process is designed to enhance the  
ability of participants to function as  
self-differentiated leaders within their  
own ministry setting. It will provide a  
safe forum for processing challenging  
situations in one's ministry, while also  
facilitating reflection on a way of  
thinking about the human condition  
which has implications for all aspects  
of life.

**Location:** Lombard, IL (Chicago  
area)

**Group B dates**  
November 11-13, 2019  
March 9-11, 2020  
May 18-20, 2020

The deadline to register with  
**a savings of \$200** has  
been **extended to October 14,**  
**2019.**

[Register Here](#)

*Get Lost in a Book*

GRAMMY AWARD-WINNING ARTIST  
FOR THE #1 SONG "BLESSINGS"

LAURA STORY  
WITH JENNIFER SCHUCHMANN

# WHEN GOD DOESN'T FIX IT

LESSONS YOU NEVER WANTED TO LEARN,  
TRUTHS YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT



Click Image to Order!

Grammy Award-winning songwriter Story had a fairy-tale life---until her husband was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Can blessings arise from broken dreams? Tackling common myths about God and hardship, she examines what happens when life doesn't turn out as we expect---and offers assurance that although our situation may never get better, we *can* grow because of it.

## Weekly Prayer Requests

### *Columbus Federated*

Federated Church would appreciate prayers for the following: wise discernment and unity through our transition, vision for the future, peace and harmony among members & joy in our time of change as we work together.

### **Homestead Presbytery**

840 S. 17th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

**Monday-Thursday 9:00am-4:00pm**

**Friday 9:00am-12:30pm**

Office: 402.474.0612

Interim EP: 803.556.3355

Stated Clerk: 402.217.3684

