



March 26, 2020

Presbytery News

Homestead Presbytery ZOOM Forum: Coronavirus: Faith, not fear

Wednesday, April 1, 2020 1:00PM-2:00PM

For pastors, clerks of sessions and Presbytery leaders
(to participate see information below)

Our fourth ZOOM Forum will be on Wednesday, April 1, at 1pm. We'll be holding them weekly every Wednesday through April. The forum is a good way to stay connected with your colleagues in ministry in Homestead Presbytery. We all know it's challenging to plan more than a week or even a day ahead during this critical time. Our hope is the Forum will be a source for pastoral support; the sharing of ideas, resources, and needs; as well as the stories of what your congregations are doing this crisis.

Please register below for each Forum. Registration is NOT a requirement. It does help us to facilitate the Forum and explore the suggestions, comments, and questions you bring. We are exploring several options with Zoom that would expand our capacity for hosting meetings, worship services, prayer groups, Bible studies and a variety of options that allows for breakout rooms during a larger meeting. And I am getting better every meeting with my technology skills in hosting the ZOOM Forums and other Presbytery meetings.

More and more of our Homestead congregations are experimenting with new ways to connect both with their members and their communities. It isn't easy, we know. We'd all rather be back to where we were six weeks ago. But keep experimenting and follow this advice and request using words from Mary Kay DuChene at LeaderWise: "There's one other thing to remember about adaptive leadership right now: you never do it alone. Find people to share experiences with and bounce ideas off - virtually of course. Share your learnings. And may this new kind of togetherness-in-leadership bring you some semblance of comfort in these days of disruption and chaos." Talk to each other, and to your Presbytery. We are a people who belong, to God and to each other.

Please check our resource page for COVID-19 on Homesteads web page <https://homesteadpres.org/covid-19> often. We are adding new things every day. If possible, we'd really like to have the links to all of our congregation's virtual worship services and post them on the resource page. Members of Homestead's Disaster Response Team and COM Liaisons will be contacting each congregation regularly to

check and see how things are going, hear what needs the Presbytery can assist with, and offer their support for your ministries.

If your congregation has an immediate and specific need, however, please let the Presbytery know directly by calling/texting my cell phone (803-556-3355) or the office phone (402-474-0612). Or email me, your Interim Executive Presbyter, at stephene@homesteadpres.org.

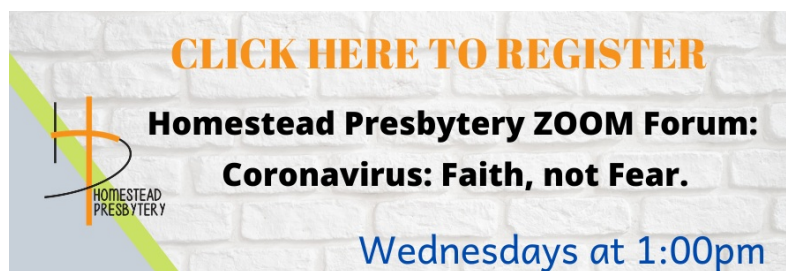
The Presbytery staff – Ray, Cheryl, and Jes, are all working from their homes until at least the end of April, taking our cues from the state and national governments and health departments. We are available by email and phone during business hours and I am available for emergency or critical situation calls 24 hours a day. All meetings, teams, commissions, committees and councils are being held virtually. You will find the dates and times of all Presbytery meetings on the web page.

You are in our thoughts and prayers. We know our God is an awesome God and is holding each of us in a loving, compassionate, healing, and grace filled embrace.

Grace and Peace,

Stephen

God of all Grace,
we don't doubt that you are with us in the midst of this crisis,
but we worry about ---
what tomorrow will bring
who will suffer
how we will manage
when this will be over,
and we wonder if the next bend we're going around
will lead to rapids or still water.
In your mercy, Dear Lord,
swaddle us with your abiding presence
and keep us from flailing.
Rock us in your holy arms and calm us
so we may breathe
and believe that you are always here
though we cannot gather in your name. Amen



[Communion in an Emergency/Pandemic](#)

Click the link above to read the Advisory Opinion on worship and communion from the Communications Department of the Office of the General Assembly



As we struggle to adjust to a world that keeps us apart, InLighten Films can help bring us



together with original, high-quality, Bible-based short films. You can even watch each movie in it's entirety before you decide whether or not to purchase!

<https://inlightenstream.com/>

Answers to Kid's questions about COVID-19



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is distributing to mid councils this gleaned list of resources. PDA has done the hunting and gathering so you do not have to spend time finding and vetting the information. PDA will update the report regularly.

[Download
List](#)

Weekly Prayer Requests

Panama

Please keep the Panama Presbyterian Church in your thoughts and prayers as they seek God's guidance navigating fresh and new ways to serve Christ in an ever-changing world. We seek a path to reaching out to those in our local community who do not belong to a church or who have left the faith as a community. We are seeking to respond to the growing numbers who call themselves "spiritual but not religious". Prayers for the rise of genuine community in faith and of faith. As always, we also hold all in our Presbytery fellowship in prayer.

Homestead Presbytery

840 S. 17th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

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

Friday 9:00am-12:30pm

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