



April 2, 2020

Presbytery News

A Resource and Prayers for Times of Anxiousness

I've shared these with several pastors and church leaders in Homestead over the last week. They've been a big help when I feel my anxiety level rise from watching too much news, several hours a day on Zoom meetings, and thinking I'm reading a foreign language as I try to understand the CARES Act. The article is from Sojourners Magazine "Coping with Anxiety in a Pandemic" by J. Dana Trent. The Prayers come from the Celtic tradition, Northumberland and Iona. I keep them in front of me as a screen saver on my laptop. When I take a break from being digitally connected and the virtual meetings going on, they remind me of what God spoke to Elijah at Horeb:

11 He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. 13 When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' 1 Kings 19:11-13

And they are a reminder of God's grace and peace that surrounds all of God's children. I hope they will be a blessing to you.

Grace and Peace,

Stephen Earl

COPING WITH ANXIETY IN A PANDEMIC
BY J. DANA TRENT

Sojourners Magazine March 24, 2020

<https://sojo.net/articles/coping-anxiety-pandemic>

Christ, as a light
illumine and guide me.

Christ, as a shield
overshadow me.
Christ under me;
Christ over me;
Christ beside me
on my left and my right.
This day be within and without me,
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.
Be in the heart of each to whom I speak;
in the mouth of each who speaks unto me.
This day be within and without me,



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, **HOPE**

[Guidance for COVID-19 Emergency & Short/Long-Term Recovery Grants](#)

PDA has allocated funds from critical reserves for the COVID-19 response. Due to the global and denomination wide impact of the pandemic, funds will be limited and prioritized according to urgency of need.



The PC(USA) Store has loads of helpful resources linked below!

[Click for Resources](#)

10 Stewardship Do's during the pandemic and 1 "Do NOT"

1. **Pray.** It's what we do. I won't belabor this point.
2. **Cut yourself some slack.**



The last time leaders in the Church had to navigate post-Christendom, during a global pandemic is only right now. There's no rule book. Trying to lead a community, sustain its ministries financially, all the while experiencing and processing the pandemic, yourself is going to be tough. Rest and give yourself patience, mercy and grace.

[Read all 10 Points](#)

Weekly Homestead Zoom Forum



Click the video above to watch yesterday's Zoom forum. They happen weekly on Wednesday's at 1pm. Registration is not required but very helpful. Click the link below to head to the Homestead new Covid-19 resource page to register for one or all of the dates through April. Once you register make sure you download the "Instruction and Link for Zoom Forums" (bottom left of the new resource page) This is a recurring Zoom forum through the month of April, so the link for the meetings will NOT change. So if hold on to that document you'll have all you need for joining the calls!

[Register now!](#)



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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 Resource List](#)

Weekly Prayer Requests

Pawnee City

Please keep Pawnee City in your prayers as they (and I) will be going through a transition this year with my retirement. Finding the money for an ongoing full time pastor will be a challenge for these two churches as they continue to work together with both denominations to search for an interim and the next pastor. Our after school group continues to grow as we are now averaging over 30 children. With my wife and I leaving, the group will need at least two more committed adults for the next school year. Our Sunday morning coffee and cookies before and during church is going well. Also the second Sunday after church lunches and the mixture of contemporary Christian music along with the traditional hymns and power point each Sunday.

Homestead Presbytery

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