



April 23, 2020

Presbytery News

From the Church Vitality Committee

Grace and Peace to you, Sisters and Brothers in Christ!

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? —Isaiah 43:19

Ministry has moved outside the box! I do not mind change, but that does not mean that I actively seek it! Creativity in communication, Bible study, meetings, and worship (to name a few) have become the order of the day. I am not fond of an empty sanctuary and eagerly await a return to gathering in worship as the people of God, but we have discovered new ways to do things that are reaching out to new audiences as well as our own. I am unsure of the long-term outcome, of course, but a blending of old and new ways can only enhance bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to a broader group of people.

We are becoming less intimidated by electronic communications and discovering that many of the new options should not be ignored, and are a great means of connecting with a younger generation, as well as groups that normally can not perhaps be there on Sunday morning. In essence, in order to become more vital, perhaps we need to as the Lord's help in overcoming our fear of change.

New Worshiping Communities/Vitality is keenly interested in all of the congregations of our Presbytery being empowered to become more vital. We see it already as a survival instinct responding to the current epidemic. Just take some time while you have it and ask yourself, "What needs to remain" after it is all over. This is a golden opportunity to further grow the Spirit among us. Shalom!

Darin Bentzinger
Panama Presbyterian



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**
OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Faith Leaders Support/Resilience Webinar



**Tuesday March 28th
7 pm via Zoom**

Kathy Riley from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has secured a panel of leaders to lead a Faith Leaders Support/Resilience Webinar for Clergy and other leaders of Homestead Presbytery. They will offer some resilience tools and information and respond to questions that the participants bring up. Make sure you Register by clicking the button below!

REGISTER



FRAUD ALERT - URGENT

There is a scam email being sent to Church members asking you to purchase gift cards. Members at Westminster have been victim to this scam.

**Please DO NOT RESPOND to
it! It is a fraud attempt.**

Be assured that a Church staff member will **NEVER SOLICIT YOU** in this manner.



Presbytery
ASSEMBLY

In these times of social distancing, we have decided that for the safety of everyone, the May 21st Stated Meeting will be conducted via Zoom. We will be having a walk through of the program prior to the 21st for those who are new to Zoom or would like a little practice before the meeting so

STAY TUNED for more information on that! Make sure you register below! If you aren't registered we won't know to send you the Zoom link for the meeting!

[Register for Presbytery!](#)



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission

Giving Amid Change

Bryce Wiebe offers a brand new, versatile piece, suitable for use as a call for the offering on any given Sunday and ready as a digital resource.

It's available as a script for a liturgist read or a mid-council leader to record; it's available as an audio clip; and it's available as a drag-and-drop video clip for anyone planning worship in these extraordinary times. Please let your congregational leaders know of their availability.

[Watch or Download Here](#)

End-of-Life pastoral care resources / Resources at the time of death

The PC(USA) Office of Theology and Worship has developed resources for prayer at the time of death in situations where patients are quarantined, pastors or loved ones are not permitted to be present, and medical personnel may be seeking to offer spiritual care.



Two documents are provided, each in two versions: **Prayer at the Time of Death** ([booklet](#), [larger print](#)) and **Comforting the Bereaved** ([booklet](#), [larger print](#)).

These materials are based on the Book of Common Worship © 2018. Adapted with permission of Westminster John Knox Press.

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!](#)

Weekly Prayer Requests

We ask for prayers this morning for Connie Fichtl and her family who are members of New Zion Presbyterian Church in Clarkson. Since Covid-19 they have lost two of their family members, Connie's sister, Nancy Wylie and her mother Marcella Fichtl (non Covid - 19 related). Our hearts go out to them. It is so difficult to lose family members but especially at this time. We are saying prayers for all who are losing loved ones.



Please keep the Huxtable family in your prayers.

Mary Jane Huxtable-Koch, the wife of long time pastor of Eastridge, Tom Huxtable, passed away on April 13th. Mary Jane was a founding member of Eastridge Presbyterian Church in Lincoln, and held many roles in the church and Lincoln Community.

Private family burial service at Lincoln Memorial Cemetery April 29, 2020.
Public memorial service at a later date to be determined. Cards to the family

and Memorials can be sent in her name to Eastridge Presbyterian Church, 1135
Eastridge Dr., Lincoln, NE 68510.

Schuyler

First Presbyterian Church of Schuyler would love your prayers for our continued ministry with our members and in our community. Please pray for those within our county who have been impacted or are suffering from Covid-19. We also seek prayers for the Colfax County Food Pantry, located in Schuyler, and the significant increase in needs they're experiencing during the pandemic.

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

