



*April 9, 2020*

## Presbytery News

As we journey to the cross and empty tomb this holy weekend the leadership and staff of Homestead Presbytery want to wish you a blessed Good Friday and a joyous Easter. We are thankful for your faithful ministry during this crisis for:

- the ways you are demonstrating Christ's love in churches, communities, and those who are suffering and struggling to live and stay healthy
- faithfulness to the resurrected Christ as you have found new and creative ways to worship and proclaim the Good News: waving palms in parking lots; celebrating the Lord's Supper over the internet; and finding new ways to connect with and care for all of God's children
- your continued commitment to be the body of Christ here in this part of Nebraska and around the world by supporting the work we do together as Homestead Presbytery through your financial gifts, making calls to check in on colleagues and fellow churches, partnering with other churches in your area to worship together and demonstrate that we really are one body.

### Psalm 46

- 1 God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;  
3 though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
- 4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- 5 God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;  
God will help it when the morning dawns.
- 6 The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;  
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
- 7 The Lord of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our refuge.

8 Come, behold the works of the Lord;  
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;  
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;  
he burns the shields with fire.

10 'Be still, and know that I am God!

I am exalted among the nations,  
I am exalted in the earth.'

11 The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

We take refuge in the knowledge that God has determined to be in our midst, even as the earth changes, the mountains tremble, and our nations are in an uproar. God has been faithful in the past and promises to walk with us in our uncertainty. May this Eastertide be a blessing to each of you.

Grace and Peace,  
Stephen



## SPECIAL CALLED PRESBYTERY ZOOM MEETING

**Tuesday, April 14, 2020  
10:00 am**

**Register by Sunday night. Zoom link and other  
necessary information for the call will be e-mailed on Monday.**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

[Read Entire Call](#)



## You're invited to an Easter Celebration!

The coronavirus will not stop us from celebrating the risen Christ on Easter. The PC(USA) virtual Easter service brings a message of hope to all and can be viewed in English, Spanish and Korean.

[Watch or Download  
Here](#)

# Words from the Church Vitality Committee

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

A word of support and solidarity to all of you carrying the message of truth and hope through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! It has been quite a 2020 so far, eh! Yet I have learned some lessons.

The Priesthood of All Believers is alive and well! Though we hold this as an essential doctrine in the Reformed Tradition, we have seen the real power of it in the last few months.

We are communicating differently. Though people still ask me as their pastor how someone is faring, I began early on encouraging more direct communications between parishioners. The result has been very positive. Rather than a communications web with my phone being the center, more of a fabric is being weaved. Congregants are ministering to one another more so than before the crisis.

Indeed, not only are they simply asking how one is coping, they inevitably ask if there is anything else they might do to serve one another. They are praying, running errands, encouraging, as well as listening to one another in more intentional ways. THESE are things that strengthen the bond between people and their God.

The Priesthood of All Believers is central and necessary in understanding how to foster increased vitality in Panama Presbyterian Church. This must continue in our permanent future if we are to remain vital as a congregation

---

## Update from Calvin Crest



The World has changed. Here's what's new with Calvin Crest.

I haven't sent out a mass email letting you know what was up with Calvin Crest because you've probably been inundated with those messages from every business that has your email

address. And you were focusing on setting up a home work space for you and your kids. And figuring out how to remain connected to people. And working through worship opportunities. And deciding how best to be socially distant.

You had important things on your mind and those things will continue to weigh on you.

Life has changed for so many of us. Places like Calvin Crest will be even more important when we are on the other side. We will need places to gather. Places to be in joyful fellowship. Places to experience genuine face-to-face community. Places to relax and let the burdens of life slip away.

[Read more from Craig here](#)

---



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER  
ASSISTANCE**

**OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE**

**FREE 1 Hour  
EMOTIONAL & SPIRITUAL  
CARE WEBINARS**

Homestead Presbytery will be scheduling a time in the next couple of weeks to participate in the webinar as a group virtually. This will include leadership from Presbyterian Disaster and a discussion guide. More details will be coming out in the next few days

[Learn More](#)

---

## 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*

Steve Niles was taken to the hospital Tuesday night for what was diagnosed as a mini stroke. He's home, recovering and doing ok with no permanent damage. Prayers for Steve & his family and the New Zion Congregation.

---

## *Pender*

The United Church thanks you for including us on the prayer calendar for April. In these unprecedented times, we ask for prayers for not only our church and community, but the whole world that this pandemic has affected. Prayers for the families that will need help with childcare and food if our schools shut down and since the Food Bank is at our church, we can help provide assistance to those who will need us more than ever.

---

### **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

