



December 16, 2021

Presbytery News

2021 Remittances are due January 4th!



January 4, 2022 is the last day that we will receive/deposit remittances for 2021. Any 2021 remittances received after Jan 4 will be recorded as 2022 remittances.

Deadline for 2021 Boundary Training is 12/31

The Commission on Ministry reminds all persons required to complete the Boundary Training for 2021 that this is to be completed by December 31, 2021. The courses are listed on the Presbytery [website](#). If you cannot locate your log in information, please contact Stated Clerk Ray Meester. Thank you.



Special Prayer Request

Prayers are needed for Mike Masters, husband of Rev. Leanne Masters, at Southern Heights Presbyterian Church in Lincoln. This message below is from Pastor Leanne. Please

do not call or text her during this time, as she has so many other things to juggle right now. She will update on her Facebook as she is able.

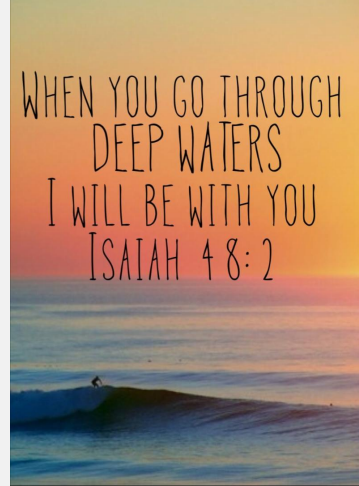
"Friends, Mike can use the prayers, love, and all the positive energy you can spare.

Sometime last night, Mike had a pretty major stroke. He is being admitted to the ICU as soon as there is a bed available. That may be a while, as there are no beds available as the ICU is pretty full with mostly unvaccinated covid patients. (Please get vaccinated, we need the icu beds for things like this).

I do not know what things look like at this time, as his condition can evolve over the next 24 hours.

I will update y'all when I know more.

Peace and Grace,
Pastor Leanne"



Church Vitality Initiative Kicks Off in 2022!

The Church Vitality Team has been receiving training and preparing for the Vital Congregations Initiative to kick-off in 2022. We hope you and your church will join us! If your church desires to take part in this 2 year discernment and action process or would like more information, please contact Zac Wolfe at pastorzacwolfe@gmail.com.



The Church Vitality Team plans to have an online kick-off event in January and will communicate details when they are set.

Blue Christmas

A Service of Remembrance
& Hope

For those who find rejoicing hard work.

As the calendar turns to December, the constant refrain on radio and television as well as in stores and churches, is about the happiness of the Christmas Season - about getting together with family and friends and being happy! The holidays can be difficult for us all any year – but especially in 2021 they are seemingly overwhelming for many. Let's face it – we are living in a stressful and challenging time as we try to learn how to live with the reality of COVID-19 and the limitations that horrible virus has placed on each of us. That reality, plus a recent (or anticipated) death of a loved one; the loss of a job; war and rumors of war; or a plethora of other life events make it difficult for many people to feel “in the mood” for celebration and joyous moments this year. Advent (the days of December leading up to Christmas) and the “good news of great joy for all people” fall on unhearing ears for many. Indeed, for many people, this is a time when losses feel especially acute.

With this in mind, there is a gathering for any and all (joyous or overwhelmed) at Southern Heights Presbyterian Church (5750 South 40th – the southeast corner of Old Cheney and 40th Street in Lincoln) on Tuesday, December 21st at 7pm. Called “Blue Christmas” (and held on the night with the longest amount of darkness in the northern hemisphere) YOU (whether this is your regular place of worship – or even if you have no regular place for worship) are invited to a service of HOPE. This will be a candlelight service of readings, music, quiet reflection and well-being.

For more information, please call 402-421-3704 or email questions to office@southernheights.org



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Support PDA's response to the disastrous December 2021 Tornadoes



God saw the great needs of the world and offered a perfect gift.

As night fell on December 10, a horrific line of powerful tornadoes ripped across several states, ending the lives of more than 100 people and wreaking devastation across many communities by the time morning had broken. One of these tornadoes was on the ground for a terrifying and unprecedented 250 miles, more than 200 of those miles in Kentucky alone, where the town of Mayfield saw the catastrophic destruction of much of the downtown area, including the Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist churches.

It is the season of Advent — a time of watchful expectation that begins with a warning of impending judgment, the end of days, and continues with a prayerful journeying toward the birth of the Christ Child at Christmas, an ordinary babe dependent on the love and care of others for his survival.

In the wake of these terrible and catastrophic storms, it is the role of ordinary people of faith like us to shine as light in this bleakest of winters. We are called to be the hands and feet of God as we reach out to shelter, feed, care for and help rebuild the lives of those who have lost loved ones, homes, work and a sense of safety as a result of the tornadoes. We are invited to stand with them — and to stand together — bearing witness by our gifts and prayers that God is indeed incarnate among us, no matter what.

The needs for the response will be great. God's people are once again called on to stand in the "GAP" — Give. Act. Pray.

GIVE. ACT. PRAY.

GIVE: Gifts can be made online at pcusa.org/DT21, by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by check using the below reply device. You can also text PDA to 41444 to donate.

ACT:

- [Download](#) and use the bulletin insert.
- [Gift of the Heart Kits](#) are a hands-on way to help others this Advent season.
- To register your interest in future rebuilding efforts, email PDA.CallCenter@pcusa.org. You will be notified when volunteer opportunities are available.

Stay informed and like us on Facebook (facebook.com/PDAcares), download resources at pda.pcusa.org/pda/resources and share updates with your congregation.

PRAY: As we awake to news of devastation and death from another natural disaster, we pray.

For those experiencing loss, confusion, and despair, may they feel comfort only your Holy Spirit can bring.

For the community leaders and emergency personnel, we pray for wisdom and strength as they work to restore and repair their communities.

May we heed your call, oh God, to be co-creators with you in the caring of creation, our communities, and your beloved children in their time of need.

May the hope, peace and love of the Christ child comfort and keep us all.

- Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett, President and Executive Director, Presbyterian Mission Agency



Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation

WHAT HAS GOD CALLED YOU TO DO?

Does your congregation want to increase their impact in your community but lack the funds to get your 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 and mission. The online application process begins in December and grants will be awarded in April. To learn more about our grant process, you can visit our website at www.nebpresby.org or contact Audrey Richert at arichert@nebpresby.org or 402-420-9877.

KESSLER EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUNDS AVAILABLE

The Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation offers financial assistance for PCUSA pastors who are experiencing an urgent financial crisis. Applicants must be an active or retired installed or commissioned pastor who has, or is currently serving, a Nebraska congregation and currently residing in Nebraska. For more information on the Kessler Fund, please visit our website at www.nebpresby.org or contact Audrey Richert at arichert@nebpresby.org or 402-420-9877.

Homestead Presbytery has a NEW PHONE NUMBER!!

402-413-2143

Make sure to write down the new number for
Homestead Presbytery!



Weekly Prayer Requests

Lincoln Southern Heights

Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Lincoln Southern Heights congregation. May they continue to grow as a caring and nurturing Christian community, as well as individuals, focusing on prayer, Bible study and worship.

Monday-Thursday 9:00am-4:00pm
Friday 9:00am-12:30pm



[Visit our website](#)