



December 30, 2021

Presbytery News

Presbytery Holiday Hours



Homestead Presbytery will be
closed on Friday, December 31st

Wishing you all love, joy, and peace in the year ahead.

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.

Update from Stated Clerk Search Committee



The search committee for our next Stated Clerk has been busy. Applications were received, and some interviews held, with others pending. We are currently busy checking references and performing our due diligence, as well as waiting on scheduling an interview. Due to the process taking a bit longer, we will likely not complete our search until sometime in January of 2022. Thank you for your patience!

John Nellessen, Chair

Prayers for Julie Hopp and Family

Please pray for the family of Mark Hopp who passed away suddenly Tuesday morning. Both Mark and Julie Hopp have been long standing and incredibly active members of Homestead Presbytery. Mark's smiling face and infectious laugh at Presbytery events will be greatly missed. Please especially pray for his wife Julie. Here is her message:

*"Grandpa Mark Hopp died today as we were leaving a doctor appointment. He collapsed in the parking lot. He had great care, fast. It was sudden but those who knew his health, knew it was tough. He is whole and has no pain now.
-Julie"*

Visitation

Sunday, January 2nd
1 to 8 pm with the family receiving from 5 to 7 pm.
Marshall Funeral Chapel
1109 First Corso
Nebraska City, NE, 68410

Anyone and everyone are welcome to join us during this time.

Memorial Service

Monday, January 3rd
at 11am with luncheon to follow
First Presbyterian Church
1005 First Corso
Nebraska City, NE, 68410

Family is recommended to gather an hour before, 10am, at the church. You are all welcome but not required to join at that time. We will have plenty of room for family to sit together during the service.



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.

Church Vitality Team Update

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 *February* and will communicate details when they are set. If your church is interested, members of the team will reach out and set-up a time to meet with your church's leadership shortly after the new year.



Spiritual Leaders, We Need You

by [Mark Sundby, PhD, LP](#)

The group of six pastors popped up on the Zoom screen for one of our monthly support group meetings. After about a half hour, one of them shared, “My theology seems inadequate for the pain and grief of the past 20 months.” I reflected, “So, you feel like your theology – your role as a minister – falls short of what is needed.” What I thought was a simple paraphrase of his thoughts brought a forceful response. He quickly and firmly pushed back in disagreement, and the others chimed in, too. For the remainder of the session, they cited the numerous ways that their faith perspective had proven indispensable for the people to whom they minister. In the depths of grief and sadness, they are often able to validate the pain and heartbreak of people’s circumstances while also providing a genuine promise of hope. As we wrapped up our session, several members voiced comments like: “This was so helpful”; “I came in feeling overwhelmed and now feel so much lighter”; and “I’m feeling renewed.”



Although I was initially startled by the forcefulness of people's reactions to my statement, in another way I was heartened. When the efficacy of their role and the importance of a spiritual dimension appeared to be questioned, they responded with certainty about the importance of their work. These clergy, at least for the moment, had a sense of clarity and purpose despite the ambiguity and challenges of our time. In the midst of a seemingly hopeless situation, as people die from Covid and others grieve their deaths, they affirmed their role as both acknowledging the tragedy of the situation while offering a promise of hope based in something larger than the present circumstances – an existential hope grounded in a spiritual dimension.

This incident prompted me to look into the research on the psychology of hope. In comparison to the richness of the spiritual traditions, the results are humbling. While spirituality talks in terms of symbol, metaphor, and story, taking into account the grand sweep of history, the complexity of the human condition in the moment, and a belief in something beyond ourselves, the psychological research on hope primarily focuses on the concepts of self-efficacy and goal setting. For contemporary psychology, the most well-accepted approach to instilling hope is to help a person define an achievable goal, identify a path to attain it, and equip them to achieve it (Hope Theory, Snyder et al., 1996). It's all very good for providing hope in well-delineated situations, such as graduating from school or landing a job – but it pales before the ill-defined contours and enormity of a pandemic. How can one set a goal and chart a path forward in this time of ongoing uncertainty?

The spiritual traditions, on the other hand, can often offer more depth and gravitas. The Christian tradition, for instance, gives a more nuanced conceptualization of hope by holding both the cross and resurrection – hopelessness and hope – together, as simultaneously true for all of us. A familiar saying in Buddhism likewise relates that life is full of both 10,000 sorrows and 10,000 joys. The spiritual traditions consider hopelessness and hope, sorrows and joys, as co-existing, both to be fully accepted as part of life.

Richard Rohr beautifully summarizes the spiritual nature of hope this way, “Hope is the patient and trustful willingness to live without full closure, without resolution, and still be content and even happy because our satisfaction is now at another level, and our Source is beyond ourselves.” At their best, our faith traditions ring true for our experience – validating it – while affirming something more.

Although a psychologist can help an individual with specific concerns in the moment – or even a range of issues over the course of several years – it is the spiritual leader who can consistently provide a larger existential lens for both individuals and a community.

Here's my hope for you as a spiritual leader in 2022: that you become feisty, proud, and a bit defiant about your role as a purveyor of hope! Just like our Zoom call participants, embrace your role without reservation. Your task may feel overwhelming and exhausting at times, because our day-to-day reality is so hard, but you also hold the keys to unlocking hope for many in a way that others – including this psychologist – just

can't.

Homestead Presbytery has a NEW PHONE NUMBER!!

402-413-2143

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



Weekly Prayer Requests

Lyons

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

Homestead Presbytery

840 S. 17th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

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

Friday 9:00am-12:30pm

Office: 402.413.2143

Interim EP: 803.556.3355

Stated Clerk: 402.217.3684



Visit our website