



July 15, 2021

Presbytery News

Special Presbytery Notices



AN INTRODUCTION TO BRIDGEBUILDERS

Homestead Presbytery is offering a half day workshop on the "Bridgebuilder Process" by Zoom on August 25th, 2021. Led by consultants from Leaderwise, the workshop is available to teaching elders, certified pastors, and lay leaders for free.

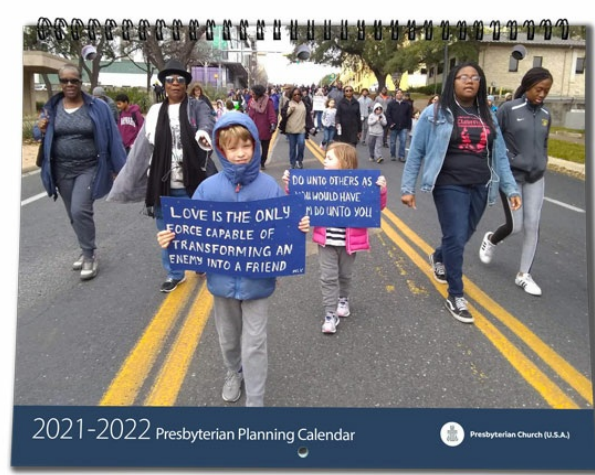
The Bridgebuilder Workshop is made possible by a grant from the Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation to Homestead Presbytery to promote health and vitality among congregations.

Information about the workshop and registration is listed below.

* [Click Here](#) *
to Register!

DOWNLOAD FLYER HERE

**Ordering ENDS on the 22nd for the
2021-2022 Presbyterian Planning Calendar!**



Ordering for the 2021-2022 planning calendars is open until July 22 at 5pm.

Pricing is reflected as follows:

- \$10.00/calendar - MUST pickup at the office
- \$13.00/calendar - Shipped to you

We are strongly encouraging you to pay for your calendars online when you place your order. In order to avoid ordering excess we will not be placing orders for calendars that haven't been paid for in advance.

If you must use a check, your payments must be mailed to the Presbytery Office

840 S. 17th St., Lincoln, NE 68508

NO LATER than July 15th to ensure your order is included in the Presbytery bulk order.

[ORDER HERE](#)

A WILD RIDE: To Mask or Not-to-Mask . . .

To mask or not to mask, to paraphrase Shakespeare, is the question. It used to be easy – we all masked up because it was the rule. Now – the “don’t enter without a mask” signs are down. Even the signs recommending that non-vaccinated people wear a mask are no longer evident.



But --- COVID cases are rising again, including cases of the Delta variant. The front page of the Lincoln paper this morning (Wed 7-14-21) reported “Lincoln COVID-19 cases rise sharply”. Hospital numbers are increasing and so are the numbers on ventilators – and it is the young people this time.

Although the COVID-19 vaccine is extremely effective in protecting people from serious illness, it is also known that people with certain medical conditions may not be fully protected. Young children are not eligible for the vaccine and are therefore vulnerable. Vaccinated people can still be carriers and infect someone else. And – a significant

percentage of individuals have not been vaccinated.

Folks – we aren't out of the woods. To mask or not-to-mask is now in most situations left up to each of us individually. Whether or not you choose to mask in a retail store or in a restaurant – I'll give you that one. Perhaps those vulnerable will choose not to be there. But what about church?

I challenge you to think differently about church. The science is clear. Masking helps. When I'm with a group of people and I wear my mask – it is not for me --- it is to do what I can to protect the vulnerable person in my midst. Jesus makes it clear that we need to look out for the oppressed and the vulnerable:

Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' (Matt 25:40)

It pains me to see churches openly state that those vaccinated don't have to mask in the building – but those who aren't vaccinated or otherwise vulnerable are told to mask. We claim to welcome diversity and we claim to be inclusive. Let's not separate out those who are most vulnerable amongst us. By choosing to mask when gathering for worship we are showing that we care for those around us. Think for a moment. Choose carefully. For myself? – I will continue to mask in worship.

Pastor Jane Holtzclaw, MD



Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation
Opening Doors to Brighter Futures

DEADLINE IS AUGUST 15th!!

Do you need financial support for the upcoming 2022 educational events, workshops and/or seminars benefiting Teaching Elders, Commissioned Pastors (CPs) and Lay Leaders?

Lifelong Learning Event Grant consideration is given for those serving in the 13-state primary service region of the foundation. If you are a Synod, Presbytery or Church within the OPSF service region, consider applying today.





Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation

Opening Doors to Brighter Futures



Has the shutdown, pandemic and trying to "return to normal" left you drained? Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation invites you to a time of renewal, prayer, skill sharing and fellowship with other women in ministry.

This event is open to all Women Clergy and Christian Educators!

The Revs. Kathy Noble and Suzanne Gorhau will lead workshops on giving voice to the stress of the pandemic, sabbath and sabbath styles of rest, God care (not self-care) and prayer forms. The Rev. Sara Tonje will lead experiential worship services. Time will also be available for story sharing, enjoying nature, naps and a night of creativity.

Registration is now open.

Click the REGISTRATION button today for early bird prices.

Rooms are available at Camp Calvin Crest and Holiday Inn Express on first come basis.

Registration deadline August 31, 2021

You can learn more about Suzanne and Kathy at <https://comeawaymybeloved.org/> and Sara at <http://www.underwoodchurch.com/staff/>.

REGISTRATION



Synod *of*
Lakes & Prairies

RACIAL ETHNIC STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Racial Ethnic Student Scholarship Fund is an educational assistance

program designed to encourage racial ethnic students in their preparation for academic success in higher education. Students must have a permanent residence within the Synod of Lakes and Prairies and be active members in a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregation. The synod is committed to partner with students and schools for greater access to lifelong leadership skills and affordable education. Application awards are based on personal achievement, financial need and recommendation from a teacher and pastor.

Applications are due on September 30 each year.

Submit completed applications, along with an official transcript and financial aid statement, to gmlloy@lakesandprairies.org or mail to: Committee on Racial Ethnic Ministry Synod of Lakes and Prairies 2115 Cliff Drive, Eagan, MN 55122-3327.

[Download Application Here](#)



Womens' Gatherings: Listen & Resource

"...as she listened, the Lord opened her heart..." (Acts 16:14)

"Listen as Wisdom calls out! Hear as understanding raises her voice!" (Proverbs 8)

These sessions seek to gather PC(USA) women of color serving in leadership to provide them with the sacred space that honors their voices and their experiences as they share how COVID-19 has impacted their lives and ministries. We will gather in a virtual circle where everyone has a seat from where they can teach and lead one another through storytelling and by honoring their memories, emotions, struggles, and victories.

The offices of Women's Leadership Development and Leadership Development for Leaders of Color of Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries are hosting 3 "Listening Circles."

[July 15th 7:00 PM -9:35 PM Eastern](#)

[August 18th 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM Eastern](#)

[September 14th 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM Eastern](#)

We have chosen a few different time options intentionally keeping in mind our west coast sisters and will aim to gather for a total of 90 minutes.

Register in advance for these meetings by clicking the time and date link above.



**Click image to see calendar in separate window

Homestead Presbytery has a NEW PHONE NUMBER!!

402-413-2143

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



Weekly Prayer Requests

Beatrice

We appreciate your prayers as we continue in this time of transition. We are preparing for the kick-off of many of our ministries in the fall and the safe return of these ministries to in-person. We have been led by the Spirit to begin different ministries over the last year that aim to serve the hungry and financially needy in our community, as well as explore how else we can serve our committee through the lens of being a Matthew 25 church. All

of this has led us to a time of great opportunity for growth in leadership in our church and greater engagement with our community. As we live into the opportunities presented to us to be the hands and feet of Jesus, we are grateful for your prayers.

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

