



July 22, 2021

Presbytery News

Special Presbytery Notices

**Wait...did I hear...
FREE WORKSHOP!?**

Keep reading to learn more!



LEADERSHIP

An Introduction to Bridgebuilders

Date

August 25, 2021
1:30pm-4:30pm

Leadership

Deborah Rundlett worked with Peter Steinke in the field and as a facilitator and trainer for over 20 years. She is a former Executive Presbyter, LeaderWise consultant and founder of Poets & Prophets, a spiritual community that supports leaders in the workplace. She was privileged to read the first draft of Leadership in Anxious Times, making suggestions for which Pete acknowledges her in the preface.

Cindy Halvorson, coach, facilitator, consultant, pastor and author, describes herself as #EverythingChurch! She is passionate about the health and well-being of clergy and congregational leadership toward the flourishing of their congregations. She is a gifted preacher and presenter, speaking at conferences and



Photo by Cameron Gibson on Unsplash

Is the Bridgebuilder process right for your congregation?

The Bridgebuilder process is a systems-based approach to help congregations build the future, while living it. The process seeks to empower congregations to create health, growth and healing toward a flourishing future.

Organizations grow under pressure, when a change or a crisis reveals new strength from all quarters.

- Max Dupress

The Bridgebuilder process has helped congregations learn how to better manage anxiety through identifying strengths and resources, thereby creating the foundation for a healthy future. This workshop will introduce participants to the process, engaging them in both theory and practice.

For lives of service!



The Why!

The Bridgebuilder process is a way to help congregations:

1. Move beyond anxiety to clarity;
2. Focus on resources rather than deficits;
3. Create a clear and hope-filled future, rather than remaining mired in conflict.

This process was developed by the Rev. Dr. Peter Steinke and incorporates aspects of his earlier model of preventive care, Healthy Congregations.

Often congregations move through the Bridgebuilder process into Healthy Congregations, a series of workshops designed to promote health and vitality.

The Process

Bridgebuilder is a multistep process that typically takes three to six months. The process involves five key steps:

1. **Entry**, an exploratory meeting in which to determine readiness, clarify expectations, outline the process, assign tasks, and form a covenantal understanding of next steps.
2. **Education**, involving a teaching workshop for the whole congregation, as well as an open forum opportunity for people to ask questions and share concerns, in both written and oral form.
3. **Interviews**, the Bridgebuilder consultants conduct fifteen-minute interviews with ten leaders and ten members, as well as staff, in order to collect data.
4. **Action Report**, presented to the whole congregation, provides a synopsis of the major issues, as well as feedback on the top three to five issues.
5. **Action Planning Process**, involves a team from the congregation and leadership to identify action steps in response to the key issues. This feedback is then shared with the congregation through focus groups. A final action report is then presented to the leadership for implementation.

The Shape of the Workshop

The workshop will engage leaders around:

The Why of Congregational Systems Theory

The Bridgebuilder Process: An Overview of the Process through Three Congregations' Stories

For lives of service!

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 above or you can download the flyer by clicking the button below.

DOWNLOAD FLYER HERE

Pastor Retreat

Oct 27-28, 2021

Benedictine Retreat Center, Schuyler NE

**SAVE THE
DATE!**



Homestead Presbytery is offering, as a gift to our pastors, a fully funded 2 day spiritual retreat at the Benedictine Retreat Center (Schuyler NE) on **Wed Oct 27 through Thurs Oct 28**. Focus will be on spiritual awareness, self care, and resilience with ample opportunity for personal meditative time. Additional information will be available soon.

You may also contact Jane Holtzclaw at: pastorjane728@gmail.com or the Presbytery office for further information.

Supporting Faith Formation at Home—A message from the Office of Christian Formation

Church leaders, are you looking for a way to support families and households in faith formation at home?

The PMA has an offer of free resources to support at-home faith formation with younger children! We are using an endowment made possible from generous donors to help you receive a few resources through our partner, Presbyterian Publishing Corporation.

These resources are specifically selected to help households with younger children to engage in Scripture and story books that highlight the vision of being a Matthew 25 faith community in the PC(USA). We consider households

to include parents and children, grandparents and children, foster families, and even community outreach households. Think creatively about how you can reach young children and their guardians.

Share these links to the application forms with congregational leaders and encourage them to apply. There are book bundles and google forms in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [Korean](#).

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)

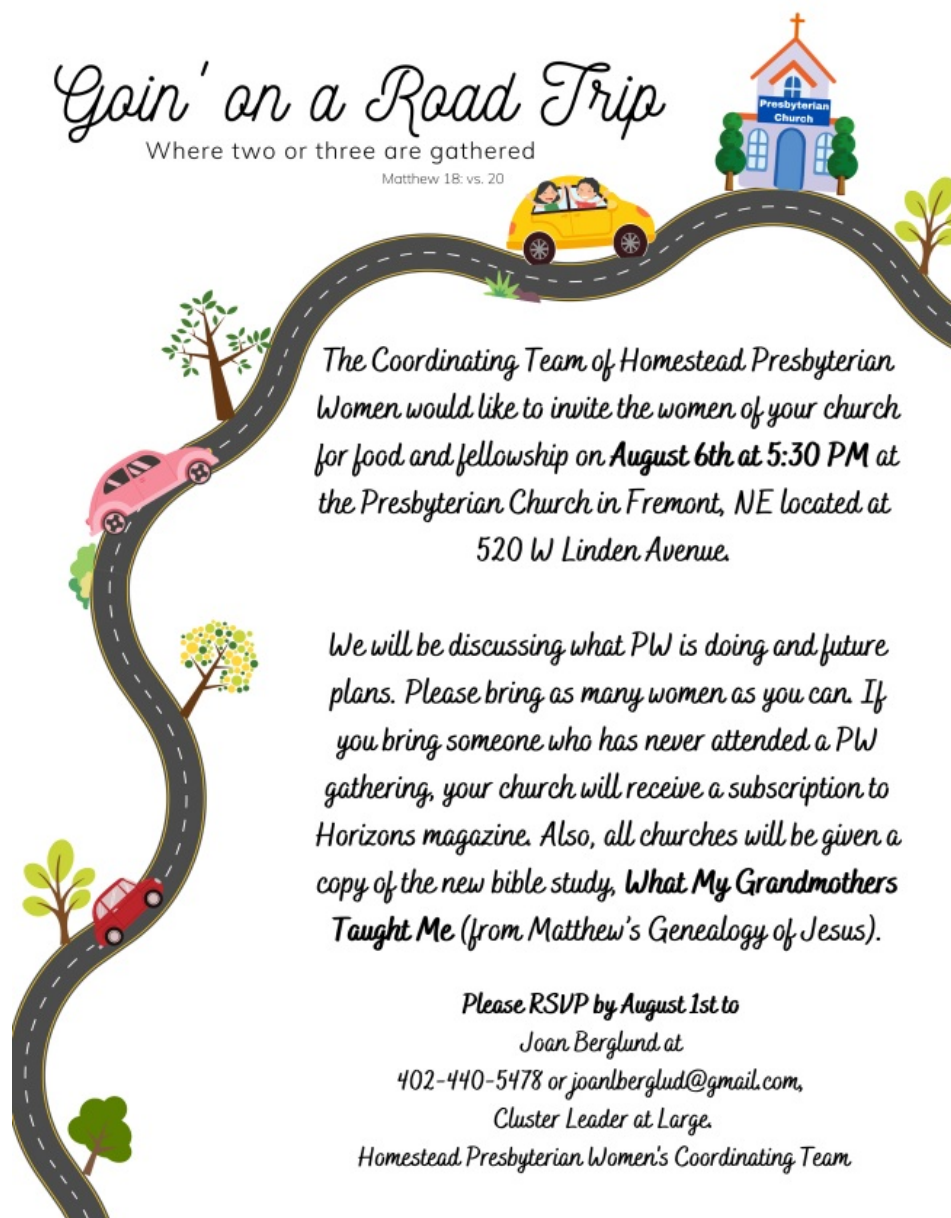
It pains me to see churches openly state that those vaccinated don’t have to mask in the building – but those who aren’t vaccinated or otherwise vulnerable are told to mask. We claim to welcome diversity and we claim to be inclusive. Let’s not separate out those who are most vulnerable amongst us. By 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

Goin' on a Road Trip

Where two or three are gathered

Matthew 18: vs. 20



The Coordinating Team of Homestead Presbyterian Women would like to invite the women of your church for food and fellowship on **August 6th at 5:30 PM** at the Presbyterian Church in Fremont, NE located at 520 W Linden Avenue.

We will be discussing what PW is doing and future plans. Please bring as many women as you can. If you bring someone who has never attended a PW gathering, your church will receive a subscription to Horizons magazine. Also, all churches will be given a copy of the new bible study, *What My Grandmothers Taught Me* (from Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus).

Please RSVP by August 1st to
Joan Berglund at
402-440-5478 or joanlberglud@gmail.com,
Cluster Leader at Large.
Homestead Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team



**2021 CONFERENCE
CREATION CARE BUFFET:
COME TO THE TABLE**



2021 CONFERENCE CREATION CARE BUFFET: COME TO THE TABLE

SUNDAYS AUGUST 1, 8 & 15
ZOOM SESSIONS

Session 1: 4:30-6pm EDT;
Dinner Break with special presentations
Session 2: 7-9pm EDT

WORKSHOPS

Worship, Climate Change, Youth, Food Waste, Soil
Sisters, Mining Legacies, Spanish, & MORE

MUSIC

Folk, New Hymns, Jazz and SPECIAL APPEARANCE
DAVID LAMOTTE IN LIVE CONCERT!!

BIBLE STUDY

Drs. Douglas Moo, Wheaton College
Dr. Jonathon Moo, Whitworth University

WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Claudio Carvalhaes
Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson
Rev. Dr. Neddy Astudillo

FOLLOW-ON ACTIVISM

INITIATIVES IN CONGREGATIONS, COMMUNITIES AND
GLOBALLY



PEC2021CONF@GMAIL.COM

Before the record-breaking Heat Waves and supersized fires in Western USA and the massive flooding in Europe, PBS-TV NewsHour had a June 23 report: "A leaked UN report warns 'worst is yet to come' on climate change. Here's how you can help." "Caring for God's Creation" was the addition to our Book of Order's "The Ministry of Members" (G-1.0304) that our Presbyteries overwhelmingly approved from the 222nd General Assembly (2016); now is the time we need to help our churches and members live it out.

LEARN MORE
HERE

Free Faith Partners Team Training

THINK AND THINK AGAIN - How many people in your congregation are hurt by the alcohol/drug use of someone close to them? 44%?



REGION V SYSTEMS
Promoting Comprehensive Partnerships in Behavioral Health

Recent surveys of a dozen congregations found that 44% of the people (N=978) were currently concerned about or hurt by the alcohol/drug use of someone close to them. That's right: 44%.

THINK your congregation is different? **THINK AGAIN**. All 12 are in Nebraska; in small town and city; from 5 denominations.

Alcohol/drug and mental health issues do not respect faith. They are equal opportunity destroyers. They also have a deep spiritual impact on whole families. **THINK** there's nothing your congregation can do?

THINK AGAIN. Congregations have formed trained teams of caring people affiliated with Faith Partners Nebraska, a program of Region 5 Prevention Systems. Faith Partners helps people of all faiths use their own unique resources to tackle these issues.

Like to **THINK** about this some more? You can get the survey from Kleintz@region5systems.net.

A free Faith Partners training event is coming up on August 5 & 7. This training will help you develop a system that builds on your congregation's strengths and theology to tackle the spiritual issues of alcohol/drugs and mental health ministry.

For more info contact: ottoburgess@icloud.com.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



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 gmilloy@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](#)



**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

Belden Union

Belden Union Presbyterian Church requests prayers for all of our members in our church family and continue to seek God's blessings at this time of being without a pastor.

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



