



November 5, 2020

Presbytery News

GET REGISTERED FOR NEXT WEEK'S PRESBYTERY MEETING!

Make sure you get registered for the Presbytery meeting on Thursday, November 12th. This will again, be a Stated Assembly by Zoom. The link and other meeting information will be e-mailed to you the week of the meeting.

We will also be having a "Zoom Refresher" & Orientation for New Commissioners at 9:30 am before the meeting on the 12th. **The Stated Meeting starts promptly at 10 am.**

[Register](#)

[Download the Packet](#)

Homestead Presbytery Strategy Team

Q. Hey, I went to the Day of discernment in 2019 and I wonder what ever happened to our ideas?

A. Glad you asked. The Strategy Team has been combing over what you said and to build upon this we will be contacting your church soon to review what was said and listen to new ideas so our team can help the Presbytery move forward.

Strategy Team Members

- Thomas Dummermuth – Eastridge Lincoln, Clergy
- John McPhail – Columbus Federated, Ruling Elder
- Steve Piper – Palmyra, Clergy
- Terri Sherman – First Lincoln, Ruling Elder
- Wendy Wait – Gresham, Ruling Elder
- Charity Potter – Wakefield & Thurston John Huss, Clergy
- Suzie Harder – Lincoln Southern Heights, Ruling Elder



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN UP FOR THIS ADVENT GIFT FOR HOMESTEAD CONGREGATIONS!

"Reboot Your Worship"

The Gift of Revitalization: a 6-week interactive online worship learning experience with Dr. Marcia McFee and the Worship Design Studio- **Free to You!**

We care about resourcing the churches in this area, and we are pleased to offer you the chance to participate in Dr. Marcia McFee's "**Reboot Your Worship**" training at no cost to you starting on September 20th, 2020. Our participation gives you access to 6 weeks of downloadable resources (articles and videos) and 6 live webinars (also recorded for your archives) with Dr. McFee, a renowned worship designer, consultant, and educator (<https://www.worshipdesignstudio.com/>). She will be training churches in five basic ways to improve their worship immediately, no matter the size or style of worship and without a big budget or drastic change. Just as we have an occasional need to reboot our computers, "rebooting" your worship is simply a way to look through fresh eyes and get some fresh skills.

This course is also tailored to approach worship practices during the pandemic and will explore the basics of sensory-rich worship design while emphasizing safety protocols and getting creative for online expressions without burning out. AND Dr. McFee will be getting you ready for your best Advent season ever all along the way! All you need to do is register (at no charge) to receive the emails. You can invite unlimited members of your worship team (or potential worship team members) to receive these communications as well. We encourage you to take advantage of this free offer (usually \$99 per church) made possible through our area's registration.

Register ASAP!

(You will get access to all 6 webinar videos.)

<https://ny163.infusionsoft.com/app/form/homestead-presbytery>

New Worshiping Communities and Church Vitality Team

Sometimes at our church (pre-Covid, that is), following our taking up of our tithes and offerings, we would sing "Give Thanks" together. I am reminded now of those words as we enter into a season of Thanksgiving:

Give THANKS with a grateful heart.

Give THANKS to the Holy One.

Give THANKS because God's given Jesus Christ, God's Son!

And now, let the weak say, "I am strong."

Let the poor say, "I am rich."

Because of what the LORD has done for us.

You and Your congregation's strength and vitality are directly related to this, are they not? I don't know about you, but when I am facing challenges and a need for change, I tend to want to begin with assessing my need or call and whether or not these are being met. Indeed, those are issues that will certainly need to be addressed. However, perhaps they should not be the basis for our assessments.

Start, instead, by first giving THANKS and looking at the work God has wrought through you (because God has done so, in some way). Where has the Spirit dwelt in you? Where has God's grace been amazing?

Entering any situation with a spirit of gratitude starts you on the right path of humility and blessing...and vitality. From there, one may be better prepared to travel the path of "How might we be MORE vital?" From there you may begin the process of lamenting your challenges. From there you may engage in a process of change (if necessary) or refinement.

Beginning with a spirit of thanks sets us not on the road of despair and defeat, but on hope and possibility. It opens our minds and hearts to the truth that God has not abandoned our work (or we have not abandoned God's work, most likely), but acknowledges that circumstances may have changed and that God wants us to shift in some way that is more effective or spiritually filling.

Additionally, taking time to give thanks for God's presence and blessing might bring you a sense of peace and calm. This is important in making decisions regarding where and how the Lord wants you to be. Remember that the hallmark of the truth of the Spirit is an never-ending, enduring love. As God loves, so should we.

Your New Worshiping Communities/Church Vitality Team offers the Most Holy Creator thanks for you! All of you have been in our thoughts and prayers even before the pandemic. You are doing creative and great things in Christ's name, just please remember: GIVE THANKS!

Spiritual Wellness Journey Workshop

Do you feel like your connection with God is a mile wide and an inch deep? Have you struggled to discover meaningful ways to sustain your spiritual health? In this workshop, participants will gain a better understanding of spiritual wellness. They will assess their own spiritual wellness and identify their God-shaped connection style. They will also create an action plan to position themselves to develop a closer relationship with God and others. Presented by Rev. Dr. Candace Adams, ACC (revadams@hotmail.com). Click [here](#) to download flyer.



WHEN: Friday, November 20, 2020 @10:00 am-2:30 pm (Central Time, with break for lunch)

WHERE: Virtual via Zoom (link will be sent in Welcome Email)

COST: \$75.00/participant

OPSF

Will scholarship a maximum of 12 participants for 1/2 of the registration costs (\$37.50). Please register and send your paid registration receipt to Joyce: opsf@opsf-omaha.org

REGISTER NOW!

A promotional banner for an event. The background is a dark, starry night sky with the silhouette of a church building. On the left is a small inset photo of a man. In the center, white text reads: "Contemplation, Community, and Scripture with Dr. Peter Traben Haas November 13th and 14th via Zoom". At the bottom center is the logo for "Trust for the MEDITATION PROCESS". On the right is a book cover titled "ACTIVE CONTEMPLATIVE CHURCH" by Rev. Mediator Traben & Monastic Priests Holy Congregations Flourish.

We are excited to announce a special event via Zoom with author, pastor, and retreat leader Dr. Peter Traben Haas. This workshop, that will feel like a retreat, explores the dance between contemplation, community, and scripture. Helping communities flourish and helping us discover deeper meaning and integration of scripture. This event is for anyone interested in Christian contemplative prayer, its

practice & possibilities in the Church and community, and the formative dance between contemplation & scripture. An excellent opportunity for pastors, lay and group leaders wanting to introduce contemplative prayer within their church, worship, community, or small groups. Event is participatory and will include a Friday Night Eucharist Compline Service and time throughout the event for Q & A.

Special Early Registration Price for Friends of Contemplate Lincoln Until October 23rd: \$49
Open Registration Until November 12th: \$59

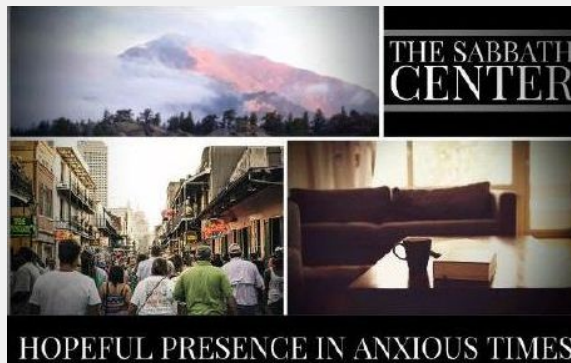
REGISTER NOW!!

Hopeful Presence in Anxious Times

A retreat to refocus, to get centered and engage in some contemplative spiritual practices before Advent.

November 9-11

Highlands Presbyterian Camp &
Retreat Center-Allenspark, CO
\$170 (shared room)
\$270 (private room)
Meals Included



As pastors and church leaders, we are often inundated with requests and demands of our local churches let alone the larger cultural realities of leading amidst a pandemic, social, political and racial unrest and a polarizing presidential election. Phew!! Jesus was no stranger to these individual and societal pressures and realities AND in the midst of them dismissed the crowds, withdrew to deserted places and prayed (Matt. 14:22-23). This is our invitation to you. Amidst this pandemic, a week after our presidential election and a few weeks before the season of Advent we invite you to dismiss the crowds, come to the mountains, pray and BE with God (re)connecting with Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love

REGISTER NOW

**GRANTS & EMERGENCY FUNDS
FROM
NEBRASKA PRESBYTERIAN
FOUNDATION**



Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation

SPRING GRANT CYCLE BEGINS IN DECEMBER

Everyone has been forced to be more creative in their ministries since COVID began, so what opportunities has this pandemic created for your congregation? Does your congregation want to increase their impact in your neighborhood or community but lack the funds to get your big idea started? Are you

facing challenges with an online presence with your current technology? 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. The online application process begins in December and grants will be awarded in April.

KESSLER EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUNDS AVAILABLE

The Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation offers financial assistance for PCUSA pastors, or a surviving spouse, who is 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 our grants or funds, please visit our website at www.nebpresby.org or contact Audrey Richert at arichert@nebpresby.org, or 402-420-9877.

Opportunities to Be Helped and to Help with Challenges Due to the Pandemic

Opportunity #1 --- Pastor Zac Wolfe of Beatrice First Presbyterian Church has announced that their Session will be donating \$500 for use by churches in Homestead Presbytery that have special ministry needs related to the COVID-19 Pandemic. An application for such funds follows and is due (postmarked or emailed) by October 31, 2020. At Beatrice Session's request, the Homestead Presbytery Disaster Response Team will review applications and make decisions regarding distribution of funds. If interested, please complete the application entitled "Application for Funds to Help Cover Pandemic-Related Ministry Expenses."

Opportunity #2 --- Beatrice First Presbyterian Church Session is also presenting a challenge to other churches and individuals in Homestead Presbytery inviting any that are interested and able to donate funds for the same purpose. They will match dollar for dollar up to another \$1000 to help churches with special ministry needs related to the COVID-19 Pandemic. This opportunity to give and have gifts matched will extend through December 31, 2020 or until the \$1,000 is matched. If interested, please complete the form entitled "Donation of Matching Funds to Cover Pandemic-related Ministry Expenses in Homestead Presbytery."

Per Business and Finance Committee of Homestead Presbytery:

That the Business and Finance Committee endorses the matching gift program sponsored by the Beatrice church for churches facing financial struggles in the time of the pandemic (a \$500 gift with matching donation from the Beatrice church up to an additional \$1000) and that the assistance fund be managed and dispersed by the Disaster Response Committee in accordance to guidelines and procedures developed by the Disaster Response Committee.

The funds should be sent to the Presbytery for accounting purposes, with immediate notification upon receipt of a donation being sent to the Pastor and Clerk of Session in addition to the chair of the Disaster Response Committee. Should, at the end of the pandemic, there be funds remaining, then the balance shall be designated for use by the Disaster Response Committee to respond to financial needs in the Presbytery due to disaster.

What an incredible blessing this is for both churches with needs and for churches and individuals who can step up to meet those needs. Thank you, Beatrice First Presbyterian Church, for your

wonderful spirit of generosity!

[Download Application Here!](#)

Weekly Prayer Requests

Hebron

The Hebron Church continues to prosper in spite of the pandemic. We are especially grateful for Rev. Gail Cross and his wife Sylvia who have helped us a lot. Also grateful for John Duling and Jim Fitzgibbon who always have insightful words and blessings to share with us. Our prayer is a prayer of thanksgiving for the Church leaders and Presbytery's pulpit supply people who have been so willing to share their time and wisdom with us.

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

