



*October 8, 2020*

## Presbytery News



**SIGN UP SOON 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 weeks of resources.)

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

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### **New Worshiping/Church Vitality Committee**

#### **A series of articles on the 7 Marks of a Vital Congregation**

##### **Mark 5**

#### **Vital Congregations offer Spirit-Inspired Worship**

*“These people draw near with their mouths and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their worship of me is a human commandment learned by rote.”* Isaiah 29:13

For me this mark is the most difficult. And I do not think I am unlike many of my older Presbyterian sisters and brothers. We have grown comfortable with worship the way it has always been so when first the interim and then the new minister suggested change I was not happy. But when I read the verse from Isaiah I have to think that part of the reason I was comfortable was because worship had become rote and my heart was far away.

Let me be clear there are some aspects of worship that need to remain unchanged but if worship does not draw us into a living relationship with the triune God and if all do not feel welcome then it may be time to think about change.

Worship is an encounter with God that we understand and do not understand. It is an act filled with mystery and awe, but in worship we have the opportunity to express our deepest desires to God and listen for God's voice. In worship, we also experience the call to serve and be in mission.

Ask yourself the following questions and reflect on a recent worship service.

What would you say are the fundamental principles to why you gather for worship? • What would a visitor say about your worship? • How does your congregation practice spirit-inspired worship — allowing space for lament, praise, confession, questions, wrestling contemplation with the Word? • Is worship collaborative in your church? Are people of all ages/backgrounds included? • Does your congregation explain, teach and educate people on the rituals and traditions? • How does your worship challenge, ignite, educate and transform people? • Does worship meet people where they are and allow for active participation? How do people share their stories? • Name times when God's wonder was experienced in worship. • How open is your congregation to change in worship? Do they seek new ways to ritualize the sacredness of worship, or do they hold on sacredly to their rituals and traditions? •

Do all cultures, races, languages, genders, ages, all diversity find a sacred place to worship? Is worship enriched by their unique traditions and styles?

Remember spirit-inspired worship is a gift of God's wonder. Work at making worship a place you and your fellow brothers and sisters can come to encounter the awesome mystery of the God who longs to be known in relationship with us.

Doris Martin, Ruling Elder  
First Presbyterian Church, Beatrice

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## *Nebraska Corona Bible Update* Scriptorium Days October 10th and 17th

*The Nebraska Corona Bible project enters its final stretch!  
Come join us during one of two Scriptorium Days to copy some of the remaining chapters.*

### **Experience the Sacred Work of a Scribe.**

On two Saturdays in October, you can sign up for an hour at a time to copy whatever chapters are still left from our Corona Bible project — and we invite you to do this in a very special environment:

#### **October 10th: St. Matthew's Episcopal Church**

Scriptorium in the Parish Hall and other parts of the building  
10am – 4 pm

#### **October 17th: Eastridge Presbyterian Church**

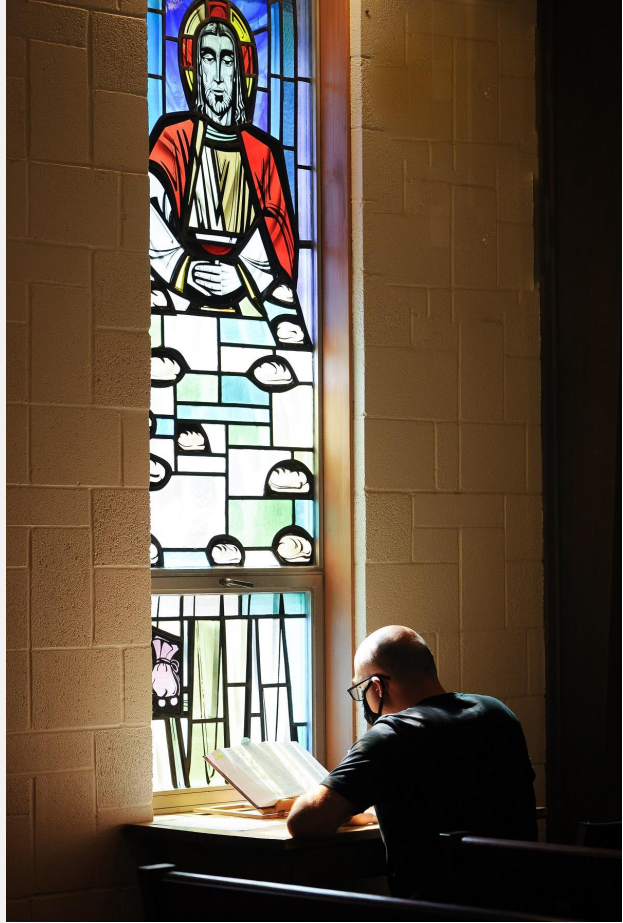
Scriptorium in the Sanctuary, 10am – 4pm  
(Live organ music from 10-11am will be provided by Brent Shaw!)

Individual writing desks will be spread out to ensure proper physical distancing. Participation is limited to 10 writers per hour.

Reserve your spot here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040b49a8ae23a3f58-scriptorium>



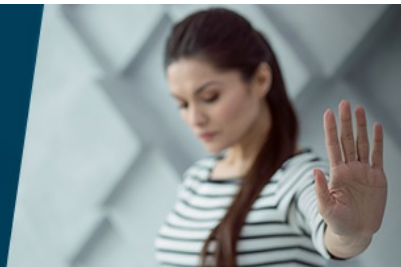


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## FREE Webinar!

### Confronting Harassment in the Church

ChurchLaw&Tax



Oct 21, 2020 11:00 AM

In this free, one-hour webinar, attorney Theresa Sidebotham—an advisor-at-large for Church Law & Tax—will join Church Law & Tax Content Editor Matthew Branaugh to discuss how church leaders confront harassment. The webinar will define the problem, touch upon prevention and training measures, and explain the ways leaders can foster the type of healthy culture that honors Christ.

NOTE: This webinar has a capacity of 1,000. If you are not able to view it live, no problem. We will send you a link to the recording. You **MUST** register to receive the link. By registering, you agree to receive emails related to this webinar, dates for upcoming webinars, and more from Church Law & Tax. You may opt-out of these emails at any time

**REGISTER NOW!**

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# Hopeful Presence in Anxious Times

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

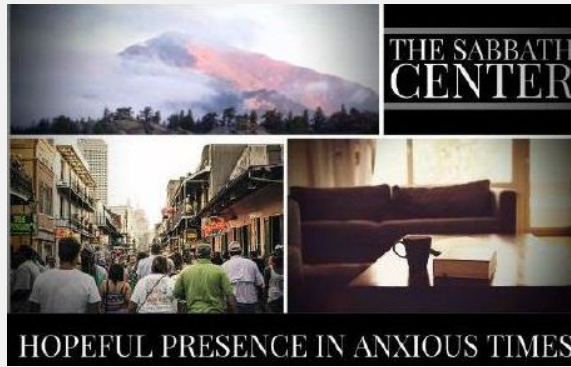
**November 9-11**

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](http://www.nebpresby.org) or contact Audrey Richert at [arichert@nebpresby.org](mailto: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!](#)

## The Art of Transitional Leadership: 2020 Virtual Training

Learning Ministry Skills for Today's and Tomorrow's Church Pastors, Staff, COMs and Congregational Leaders

October 12-15, 2020  
Online

Whether it is a change in leadership or a changing community, leading a congregation through change is both challenging and rewarding. It takes knowledge, skill, resilience and spiritual strength to navigate the waters of change in a way that leaders and congregations thrive. This training is for individuals who are considering ministry in temporary settings (as an interim, transitional or designated pastor) or are experiencing ministry in these transitional times. It satisfies Week 1 requirements for those who wish to be Interim Pastors.



[Register Now](#)

[Event Flyer](#)

## Weekly Prayer Requests

### *Falls City*

Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Falls City 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: 402.474.0612  
Interim EP: 803.556.3355  
Stated Clerk: 402.217.3684



