



*September 2, 2021*

## Presbytery News

### Special Presbytery Notices

#### ***Words and a prayer from our Interim Executive Presbyter***

As we have witnessed the disasters around the country and the world this week lets us join our hearts in prayer for all of God's people facing chaos in their lives and their communities. Opportunities to respond are listed below.

*God is our refuge God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. (from Psalm 46)*

#### **Prayer in a Time of Disaster**

Holy One, you are our comfort and strength in times of sudden disaster, crisis, or chaos. Surround us now with your grace and peace through storm or earthquake, fire or flood. By your Spirit, lift up those who have fallen, sustain those who work to rescue or rebuild, and fill us with the hope of your new creation; through Jesus Christ, our rock and redeemer.

**How to get involved with helping Afghan refugees resettle in the Lincoln and Omaha areas of Nebraska**

As servants on earth, it is our privilege and duty to extend our concern and compassion to all who are in need. As an organization, Lutheran Family Services stands ready to receive Afghan allies and refugees seeking safety and security in the U.S. Our role is to help them find safety, hope and well-being. That means helping them with a place to live and furnishings, clothes, food, transportation, and meeting all of the daily needs that so many of us take for granted.

## What YOU Can Do TODAY!

- **Monetary Donation**

- Make a cash donation here: <https://www.lfsneb.org/afghanrefugees>

**OR**

- mail a check made out to Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, 124 S. 24th St. Suite 230 Omaha, NE 68102.

- **Volunteer**

- If you are interested in assisting refugees by giving your time and talents, we are looking for individuals and groups who are interested. You may visit our volunteer website at <https://lfsneb.volunteerhub.com/> to fill out a volunteer profile and learn more about the volunteer assignments we offer. If you have more questions, please call Holly Kaffenberger, Director of Volunteer Services, [hkaffenberger@lfsneb.org](mailto:hkaffenberger@lfsneb.org); 402-657-7258.



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

## Hurricane Ida Relief

**OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE**



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is mobilized and already delivering immediate aid to those impacted by Hurricane Ida. The initial assessment of the damage is staggering. The needs of those impacted is changing daily because of lack of access to power, refrigeration, water and housing. This will be a long-term commitment to the people impacted by this catastrophic destruction.

PDA will continue to work with Presbyterian leadership to respond to

Hurricane Ida and remain engaged in the recovery efforts during the hurricane season of 2021, during which several named storms are expected to impact the region. After initial needs are addressed, PDA will remain — providing emotional and spiritual care and Long-Term Recovery to address unmet needs.

We invite you to join in this effort.

The needs for the response will be great. God's people are called on to stand in the "GAP" — Give. Act. Pray.

## **GIVE. ACT. PRAY.**

**GIVE:** Gifts can be made online, by phone at (800) 872-3283 or by check, which can be made payable and mailed to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700. [DR000169](#)

### **ACT:**

- Share our Mobile Cause campaign link ([bit.ly/PDAIda](http://bit.ly/PDAIda))
- Learn how you and your congregation can help families affected by Ida. Stay informed and like us on Facebook ([facebook.com/pdacares](https://facebook.com/pdacares)), download resources at [pda.pcusa.org/pda/resources](http://pda.pcusa.org/pda/resources), and share updates with your congregation.
- Download the bulletin insert to share in your congregation.

### **PRAY:**

God of Compassion,  
With sighs too deep for human words, we come to you again in prayer, lifting up the sorrow, the trouble and the weariness of so many of your peoples. For those whose homes and communities are torn and flooded by the winds of Hurricane Ida, for those who abide in darkness and in oppressive heat, trying to begin the work of rebuilding, especially for those whose resources and access to help are tenuous, hear our prayer.

Oh, God of all things: There is so much. May your Spirit expand our vision, sustain our attention, and deepen our compassion and commitment: For neighbors in Haiti, grieving loss, working to mend bodies and lives, moving rubble, hoping for help, weary and weighed down. For neighbors fleeing fire in western states, violence and fear in Afghanistan, for people everywhere who suffer loss of home, community, livelihood, hope. Help us to be part of your healing, your Wholeness, your hope. In the name of the Christ our justice and our life. Amen.

## **Support PDA's response to our neighbors in Haiti & Tennessee**



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

**OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE**



### **Haiti Disaster:**

The scale of the disaster facing Haiti after the Aug. 14 earthquake is becoming clearer. The quake and its aftershocks have left almost 1,500 people dead, thousands more injured and an unknown number of people are still missing. At least 13,000 homes were destroyed, and roads, bridges and communication systems have been severely damaged. This catastrophe comes on top of Haiti's ongoing struggles with endemic hunger and poverty, COVID-19 and continuing civil unrest, and as Tropical Storm Grace bears down on the region.

### **Tennessee Flooding:**

Heavy rain caused catastrophic flooding and flash flooding across Tennessee beginning August 21. At least 17 fatalities have been confirmed. PDA is responding to this disaster and is processing an initial assistance grant to meet emergency needs. We will continue support through the long-term recovery phase.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is providing emergency relief and short-term recovery in the impacted areas through our established local partners and in collaboration with ACT Alliance and its members. The PC(USA), through PDA and together with regional World Mission colleagues, will remain active throughout the entire recovery process, accompanying our partners in the area as they determine long-term program needs and providing financial support for rebuilding and resilience.



### **GIVE. ACT. PRAY.**

**GIVE:** Gifts can be made online, by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by check, which can be mailed to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

#### **ACT:**

- Download and use the bulletin insert.
- Share our Mobile Cause campaign link with your members.
- Learn how you and your congregation can help families who have lost everything in the devastation. Stay informed and like us on

Facebook, download resources and share updates with your congregation.

**PRAY:** As this earthquake continues to cause destruction and loss of life, please pray with us that the communities affected by this event and those offering assistance will be strengthened, have their needs met and be reminded of the hope found in God.

[Give to Haiti](#)

[Give to Tennessee](#)

## Protecting Afghan Refugees at Risk

The situation in Afghanistan is rapidly deteriorating. As the Taliban regains control following the U.S. withdrawal, families are in urgent and immediate danger.



Attacks from the Taliban on Afghan nationals who supported the U.S. mission have increased. The U.S. government promised to protect them and is now working to bring them to safety by granting priority access to the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program and providing Special Immigrant Visas — a visa category created and allocated by Congress to ensure that no U.S. ally would be left in danger.

Since 2009 CWS has resettled more than 7,000 Afghan SIV recipients and their families to safety in the United States. There are currently 18,000 Afghan SIV applicants who are in desperate need of immediate resettlement to the United States along with their families. Countless other Afghan refugees are also in desperate need of safety, including human rights defenders, NGO workers and people who will be persecuted under the Taliban.

CWS resettlement offices and affiliates welcome these Afghan families when they arrive in the United States, providing housing, employment and other social services so that they can thrive in their new communities. We are in urgent need of housing and other support to host families, and have issued an [emergency appeal](#).

[Give to Afghanistan](#)

**Thank you for your contributions at Saturday's Presbytery Meeting.**

**\$205** was collected for Calvin Crest Camp and Conference Center

**\$60** was collected for the Haiti Earthquake Relief

Opportunities to continue to help those who are hurting and struggling in Haiti, Tennessee, and arriving Afghan Refugees through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Church World Service are listed above.

# *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.

**Details:**

**Location:** Benedictine Retreat Center Schuyler Ne  
1128 Road 1 Anx  
Schuyler, Ne 58661

**Date:** Wed. Oct. 27 – Thurs. Oct. 28, 2021

**Time:** Wed. 1:00pm through Thurs. 4:00pm

**Facilitator:** Rev. Cindy Halvorson, MDiv, DMin

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



**Ever Dreamed of Being a Church Finance Administrator?  
Here's your chance!**

First Presbyterian Church in Lincoln is seeking a new Finance Administrator. The Finance Administrator is responsible for the overall financial life of the church and First Presbyterian Church (FPC) Foundation in

terms of record-keeping, accounting, payables, payroll, reporting, and working with directly with other staff responsible for receiving and recording deposits. This is a part time job, 20 hours per week, with a flexible schedule.

For more info: <https://fpclincoln.org/job-openings/>



## PC(USA) Job Opportunities

Job Opportunities in English

Job Opportunities in Korean

Job Opportunities in Spanish

### Fall Conference at Calvin Crest Conference Center, Fremont, NE

Best Laid Plans

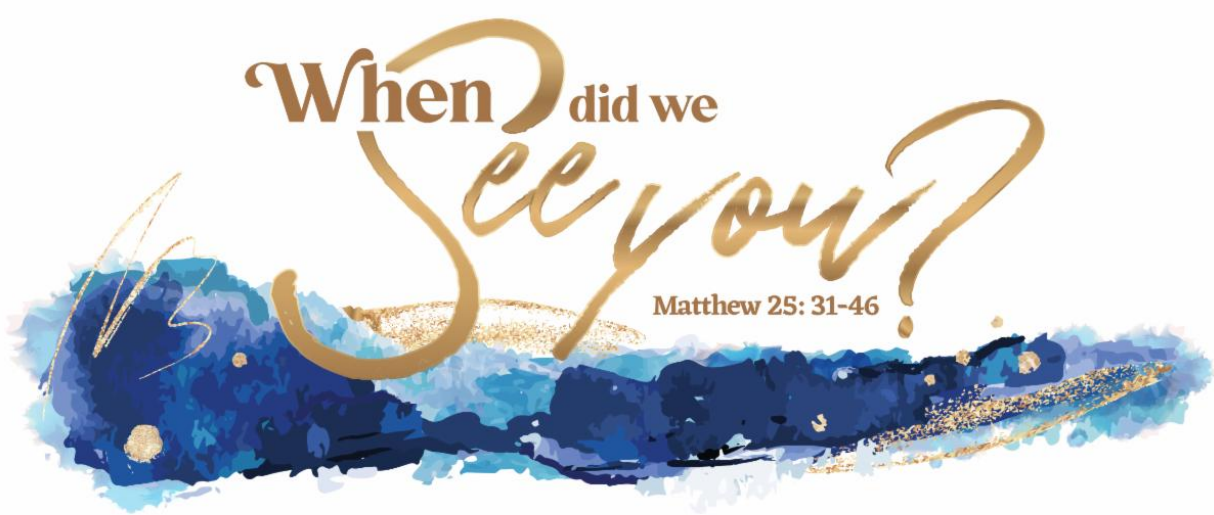
Proverbs 19:21

September 20 –22, 2021



The In-Person Great Plains Small Church Connection Conference has been **CANCELLED**. Information on a Virtual Option will be available soon.

Homestead is looking for a Registrar and Leaders for next year's Youth Triennium!



## PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNIUM 2022

July 24-27 • Indianapolis, IN

Homestead Presbytery is looking for Youth Triennium Leaders and a Registrar for next year's Triennium! If you are interested or know someone who would be a great fit in the role, please contact the Presbytery office at [hpoffice@homesteadpres.org](mailto:hpoffice@homesteadpres.org) or 402-413-2143

### Homestead Presbytery has a NEW PHONE NUMBER!!

**402-413-2143**

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



## *Weekly Prayer Requests*

### *Fairbury*

The Fairbury Presbyterian Church is blessed with a caring church family. We are currently without a pastor and have had wonderful pulpit supply each Sunday. We would ask for your prayers as we begin to search for our spiritual leader. In August our deacons hosted the annual Teacher/Staff Appreciation Lunch for the Fairbury Public Schools, serving 130. As fall approaches we thank God for our team ministries and the support they give to our church family and community. We have teachers in place for our Preschool - Adult classes. In October the deacons will be hosting the annual Harvest



Festival. A big community event. Our Worship Team is working on upgrading our technology so we are more visible to our church family and beyond. We give thanks to Sue Babovec and Leanne Masters for their leadership and guidance as we continue to serve in ministry.  
God is Great!

---

## 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

