**Homestead Presbytery Forum – 4.15.2020**

1. Jeff Pastor HPC prayed
2. Douglas Hileman
3. Kathleen Splitt
4. Tom Osborne
5. Martha Atkins
6. Wendy Wait
7. Dennis Hett
8. Jim Splitt
9. Raymond Meester
10. John J. Duling
11. Owen Derrick
12. Jane Holtzclaw
13. Jeff Hopson
14. Sue Babovec
15. Stephen Earl
16. Heidi Wallace
17. Karen Moritz
18. Zac Wolfe
19. Suzie Harder

Check-in “How are you taking care of yourself, personally?”

Jane Holtzclaw: going for runs

John J Duling; take walks on a bike/walking path; not many are out; have been losing weight since June and still maintaining a loss of about ½ pound a month these last three weeks, as I am trying to be more conscious of my healthy eating. Lectio Divina and Spiritual Direction and working in the kitchen with my wife

Jim Splitt: biking on our Expresso bike

Owen: COVID-19 I feel like I am a little heavier than I was, and I haven’t been feeling very well so I am not being near anyone; It does kind of floor you a bit to think it might be COVID, but had a good night’s sleep last night.

Ray: Staying at home and not going anywhere; has been doing the cardio since heart attack and have continued doing that.

Tom Osborne: staying either at home or office; my wife has claustrophobia so it seems like the walls are coming in on her, so we go for a ride in the car in the country.

Sue: have been on a zoom call hosted by Leaderwise, and asked how are you feeling? Asked for adjectives. So she posed that question to us: How are you feeling internally?

John Duling: mystified, scared, excited

Ray: inpatient

Wendy: Frustrated

Karen: feeling a little stressed by the coursework I am doing. I had no idea how much reading there would be. I don’t know how I would have done it during a usual Lent. But it is weighing on my mind. It isn’t fun history. It is very heavy reading, interesting, but like reading an encyclopedia. Two more weeks of this. I did a fun activity: I did a forum with a writing group I am in.

Wendy Wait: disappointed because they had to cancel a family trip (50 anniversary); then I feel guilty because my disappointment is nothing like that of many other people. We expect that a year from now there will be a vaccine and we can go then.

Sue: I felt a little like that last week, guilty that I am not having to do anything for Easter when I knew that all other pastors were very busy with Easter services.

Sue: If you read Homesteader you will have seen that PDA has created some webinars, some that you can do by yourself. Sue recommends we all watch that one in particular. Please do participate; download it and take that time for yourself.

Speaking for the Disaster Team, we have some PDA people who would join us for another Zoom meeting. What is the desire of the group here today? (many said, yes they would attend such a meeting)

Sue suggests that this might be a Sabbath time for us. It will be in the evening.

What was Easter like for you?

John Duling – zoomed with entire family at once. First time in a long time – when we had the big solar eclipse in 2017?

Jane: I ended up watching several Easter services from around the country, churches that I have connections with. It is one of those rare situations where we are all dealing with a similar issue all around the country. It was a sense of connectedness. That we are all in this together and we are all keeping our eyes on God in a unique way that has never happened. We are all together in this Easter with the same stay-at-home concerns for COVID19, not just in the states, but also th entire world.

Suzie Harder watched the Pope singing Amazing Grace in front of the Cathedral.

Owen Derrick: I had an opportunity to worship and not have to lead it. I was able to enjoy someone else’s ministry. That was a real infrequent benefit that we as professional worship leaders don’t often have the possibility to do.

Owen shared his screen – it is a screen that emulates Zoom as if the disciples are having a Zoom meeting. Thomas is saying, “I won’t believe it’s Him unless He turns on his camera.” Owen will share it with us. This will be a sermon illustration this Sunday.

Jeff: doing well. I’ve called everyone from A – Z. All are okay and getting the support they need. For myself I’m good

Zac: We have the whole family at home. A lot of stuff we were hoping to get help with for the new baby that is coming we cannot get help, so we are trying to do it after the children are in bed. For Easter we put out yard signs celebrating Easter; we did a Maundy Thursday recorded service and an Easter service as well. Just trying to stay connected.

Steve Niles – had to meet with a family who just lost their mother. I still have six hours of Palm Sunday that I don’t recall (had a tia). I worked in the yard and my wife took me to Schuyler, and I don’t remember any of it.

Heidi Wallace: We did Maundy THursday through Easter with four other congregations on line, and we were able to do something in all of the communities served.

Stephen has no voice; There are way too many Zoom meetings. There is a danger in this. I watched several Easter Services on Sunday. It was amazing. Wish we could do a collage of them somehow.

Wendy said we had a good called meeting yesterday and it went well, so I am looking forward to the May meeting. Ray is putting together a tutorial on Zoom. It is encouraging to see what everyone is doing and working on, and I’ve gotten some good ideas. THank you to all.

Ray Meester: I’m trying to think about some tutorials, I am thinking about recording some, but I don’t know a lot about that, so I am not looking forward to that. It is a learning curve.

Sue: Let people know that Zoom can be done by a smartphone, do not need a computer.

Ray: We are going to do a tryout on Zoom a week before the May 21st meeting on May 18th I’ll do a tutorial, and another one 15 minutes before the presbytery meeting begins.

Stephen Earl says to go to youtube and search for the Saturday Night Live show from their homes last Saturday. It is funny.

We would like to invite our commissioners to join us via zoom, and ministers need to check with them ahead of time so they can do zoom.

John Duling: the time for the meeting will be at the regular time, I’m guessing. How long will the meeting be?

Stephen Earl: We are looking to do an abbreviated service and are looking for people who might want to help us put that together. We won’t do an entire hour of educational piece. We know that it is hard to sustain people for an hour online.

Zac will help others – Stephen asked if he would try to put a tutorial about using zoom.

Jim Splitt has a new assignment at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Wayne. He is now the supply pastor for a time up to 40 hours a week through May and after that I am being considered as transitional pastor beyond that point.

Jim Splitt: I was in a rather significant webinar dealing with our response to COVID in how to do crisis response. People all over the country were there. It was an all day webinar. I would share the topic of resilience. Pastors are out there in a way to bring hope and encouragement to families and people who are working on the front lines, as well as taking care of ourselves. Resiliency is the ability to cope; the belief that we can do this. We can make it. We stand on the sidelines giving hope and encouragement to the people out there. We do that out of our own sense of self-esteem. While we might be frustrated, anxious, but we are not on the front line, and we can do some things that can help those who are believe they can get through another hour or whatever. So I would offer an invitation to make that word come alive in everything we do.

John Duling: I love what Jim said that we are the “rah-rah” group, but something hit me that our parents went through a war and depression, and we are in a whole different wilderness from what they experienced. We are the ones who have to stay this together, in a cooperative, collaborative way. I think this is an opportunity. I hope people are not drawing lines in the sand, but seeing the ways that we are working together, locally, nationally and globally.

One software program that Zac is using is HitFilm https://fxhome.com/hitfilm-express It is Fox Studio’s free version of the software they use. Zac is willing to help anyone who wants help.

Jim Splitt offered this resource related to his comments above - https://icisf.org