



# The Homesteader

A Publication of Homestead Presbytery

May 6, 2014

Dear Kris

## [Homesteader Print Version](#)

Please share this with other members of your congregation - You are welcome to use it as a Sunday bulletin insert, forward as an email, print copies OR include all or part of it in your own church newsletter.



### What I Learned at the Summit...*the first ten minutes*

At each of our Church Growth Summits I have learned something - actually several things. One person said if he came away from the Summit with just one idea to try with his church, then the time and money was well worth it. That's the way I look at the many continuing educational events and conferences I've attended over the years. At the Summit, each year, I've learned several!

Here's one I'll share: The first ten minutes.

For ever I've been convinced by the sages in this field that first-time visitors to worship - let's call them guests to our house of worship - make their decision whether to return a second time within the first ten minutes of arriving. A lot of things that go into this decision may be subconscious...is the entrance to parking clear; does the building and grounds look neat and well-kept; are the greeters and people friendly. In general is there a sense of welcoming hospitality? I am still convinced that all of these are important pieces for reaching out to your guests.

Even more important than the sermon, is the sense of friendly welcome the guest feels.

However, the new thing I learned at this year's Summit is that the most important time is not the first ten minutes on arriving! It's the first ten minutes after the benediction! Do any members talk to them? Are they introduced to anyone at the coffee fellowship? Are they made to feel a part of the group?

### All Youth Invited to Summer Missions

**Camp** four work days (5-6 hours ea) and a Sabbath/Free Day at the end of the week. Work sites/projects are lined up with help from the Y's Volunteer Coordinator.

**Where:** Estes Park, CO.  
YMCA Camp of The Rockies

### When:

June 2-8, 2014

[More Info](#)

### Related Links

Mission Yearbook of Prayer  
[View daily online for free](#)

[FriendlyPresbyterianChurches.org](http://FriendlyPresbyterianChurches.org)

[Presbyterian Church \(USA\)](#)

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The single most important thing for guests at your worship is the relationship with others in the church. If guests feel they can make connections with people in the church, they will want to return and become involved. If they are being ignored after the conclusion of the service, they are being told that they are not wanted.

We need to be aware of the message we convey. We need to pay attention to those first ten minutes after the service.



**Responding to Tornadoes** - Severe thunderstorms moved across the Central and Southern United States April 25 through April 28, 2014. Strong winds, large hail and at least 30 tornadoes were reported.

PDA has been in contact with mid councils in the affected areas, and One Great Hour of Sharing funds and funds designated for disaster response in the United States are available for immediate disbursement. You can stand in the **GAP** for disaster survivors and help the church with this response.

**Give.** Share your financial blessings by designating gifts to [DR000015-2014 tornadoes](#). Individuals may give through your local Presbyterian congregation, [online](#), or by mailing a check to: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) P.O. Box 643700  
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

**Act.** Like us on facebook ([PDAcare](#)s) and share updates with your congregation and others.

**Pray.** Please pray for the success of those involved in rescue and early response efforts; and that through the response of the faith community, the people and communities impacted by the tornadoes and those offering assistance will be reminded of the faithful hope that is found in Christ.

Tell us what's going on in the life of your congregation or ministry -  
Church news, event promotion, mission articles and photos are all welcome!  
Please submit articles to Jessica at [hpooffice@homesteadpres.org](mailto:hpooffice@homesteadpres.org)  
or mail to 8300 East Pointe Rd. Lincoln, NE 68506

#### Contact Information

Congregational Resource Coordinator, Kris Peterson  
Homestead Presbytery office, Jessica Kottmeyer

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