



As you will notice, we are combining our two separate Presbytery newsletters in to one to be known as **The Homesteader**. Since most of our members are already receiving both and it seems to make the most sense to have one publication for the Presbytery.

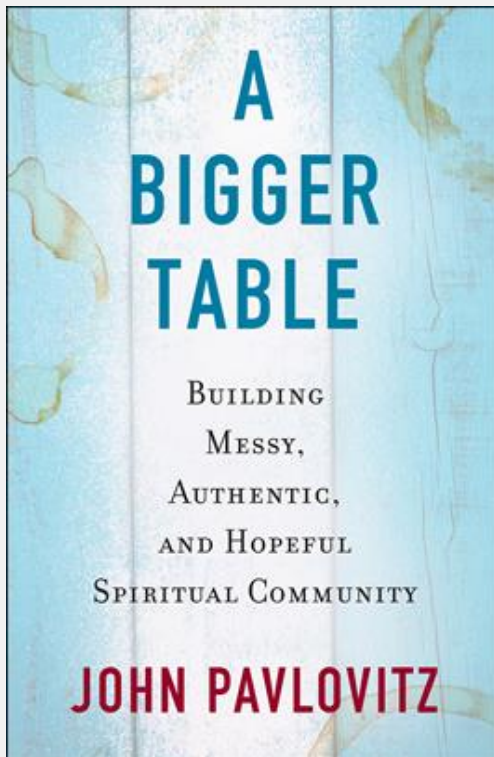


This will be published weekly, on Tuesdays. If you have anything you wish to be shared to the presbytery (i.e. articles from your church newsletters, conferences, training and other events) please e-mail them to Jes at the Presbytery Office by Friday.

hpoffice@homesteadpres.org

July 9, 2019

Get Lost in a Book



No one likes to eat alone; to approach a table filled with people, only to be told that despite the open chairs there isn't room for you. The rejection stings. It leaves a mark. Yet this is exactly what the church has been saying to far too many people for far too long: "You're not welcome here. Find someplace else to sit." This is antithetical to what we see in the life and ministry of Jesus, where diversity is a given and where the inherent value of all people is placed front and center. How can we who claim faith in Christ expand the table and embody the community Jesus envisioned? How can we extend unconditional welcome and acceptance in a world increasingly marked by bigotry, fear, and exclusion?

Flood Update from the Disaster Response Team

Following the instruction of Galatians 6:2, where we are told to “*bear one another’s burdens*”, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance was born nearly 20 years ago. Perhaps like us before mid-March, 2019, you have a general understanding of PDA (as Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is known). Isn’t PDA the “ones who wear blue shirts and build houses after disasters?” This is true – but they are so much more, as we’ve discovered in the last four months after being asked (and agreeing) to be the co-directors of Homestead Presbytery’s Disaster Response Team. When you visit the PDA website you see two key points – they say “Out of chaos...hope.” And “PDA enables congregations and mission partners of the PCUSA to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crises and catastrophic events.”

There are “immediate, short-term response groups” – like The Red Cross and The Salvation Army who are on the ground within hours of a disaster and offer immediate help with rescue, shelter, food and water. They help during the immediate crisis and then move on to the next disaster. **And** there are “long-term recovery groups” – that come in when plans are in place and funding is on the table for long term recovery. PDA is a long-term recovery group.

PDA is a part of **NEVOAD** (Nebraska Volunteers in Active Disaster) and works with many other groups to “bear one another’s burdens” **AND** PDA is highly respected by FEMA – and we have been able to make some strong, working positive connections with people in need and direct cooperation with FEMA and PDA.

Blue shirts and building houses – yes, but so much more. PDA provides initial grants for immediate help in the time of disaster; grants for Presbyterian Church buildings and manses damaged by disaster; and spiritual and emotional help for those giving direct care at the time of disaster. Homestead Presbytery has applied for and been granted monies for these things.

Blue shirts and building houses – yes, but so much more. PDA actively works to help establish Long Term Recovery Groups by their presence (in this case with us at meetings). And with funding (from grants applied for to use within the presbytery.) We have been a part of establishing four such groups within Homestead Presbytery – **Dodge** County (Fremont and North Bend); [\(READ ENTIRE ARTICLE HERE\)](#)

Pertinent Presbytery News



Presbytery
ASSEMBLY

Order your 2019-2020
Presbyterian Planning
Calendars!

Sign up for August 16-17 Joint Presbytery Assembly with Missouri River Valley Presbytery at Calvin Crest Camp!

Rooms are going FAST! If you are planning on staying at camp you need to register ASAP!! Currently we only have 3 triple occupancy rooms and 1 double occupancy room left in Proett, and only 1 triple occupancy remaining in Eppley.

NOTE: If you are in need of childcare make sure you sign up EARLY. The Presbytery needs adequate notice to be able to arrange appropriate childcare providers.

REGISTER

Calendars ship in August this year, with the calendar starting in September. As you are filling out your order form you will see TWO different price points.

\$9.50/calendar - must pick up orders in Lincoln at the Presbytery Office.

\$11.00/calendar - orders will be shipped directly to the address you provide.



ORDER CALENDARS

Opportunities to Learn and Grow



**September 13-14th
Calvin Crest Camp**

Friday:

5:00pm - Light dinner and "Get to know you"

Saturday:

8:30am - Coffee, fruit, and pastries

9:00am - Devotions and Guest Speakers

Guest speakers include the Churchwide Moderator, Jenny Lee and Rev. Danelle McKinney Crawford, who is the Native American Representative to Churchwide.



INITIAL TRAUMA HEALING EQUIPPING SESSION

Bible-based Trauma Healing

August 1-3

(must be present at ALL sessions)

**Eastridge Presbyterian Church,
Lincoln**

The proven model of the Trauma Healing Institute uses applied Scripture and mental health principles to address spiritual and emotional wounds caused by trauma of war, violence, natural disasters, and abuse. The book [Healing the Wounds of Trauma: How the Church Can Help](#) has

The cost of rooming at the camp will be paid for by Homestead Presbyterian Women. The only cost is our usual registration of \$10. Roommates will be assigned and the rooms sleep 3. Both Jenny Lee and Danelle will be with us on Friday night.

****More information will be coming mid-July.**

been translated and taught in over 100 countries with more than 194 language groups in Africa, Asia, the Pacific and the Americas.

This session is open to laypeople and clergy, including mental health professionals, social justice advocates, NGO workers, and others. Necessary qualifications:

- Able to communicate in English.
- Have sufficient status to teach others in a community.
- Able to attend the entire session.
- At least 18 years old.
- Committed to help trauma survivors.
- Able to give at least 2 weeks per year to trauma healing.

REGISTER NOW

New Synod Event: 'Art of Transitional Leadership'

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies is planning a new event this fall -- "The Art of Transitional Leadership" -- that will provide ministry skills training for today and tomorrow's church pastors, staff, committees on ministry and congregational leaders. It is set to take place Monday through Friday, September 16-20 at Christ the Kind Retreat Center in Buffalo, Minnesota.



**Synod of Lakes and Prairies
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**



Through the years, the Foundation has provided over a million dollars to support many educational events, workshops and/or seminars which cover a wide range of topics and serve anywhere from 10 to more than 200 people. Teaching Elders, Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs) and Lay Leaders all greatly benefit from LifeLong Learning events that



CLP/CRE Program

The overall goal of the Christian Leadership Program of UDTs is to strengthen the church through quality theological education for lay persons. While the courses offered are particularly designed for lay pastor candidates, they will serve the needs of all lay persons who are contributing their gifts to the ministry of their local church. Church officers, Christian education leaders and

are located within their Presbytery or state.

[Program Guidelines](#)

[Application](#)

teachers, and persons who wish to deepen their understanding of the Christian faith will discover a rich opportunity through this program.

[More Info / Apply Now](#)

Weekly Prayer Requests

Wakefield Presbyterian Church

Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Wakefield congregations. May they continue to grow as a caring and nurturing 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

