

Resource Center News

Nellie Howard, Director

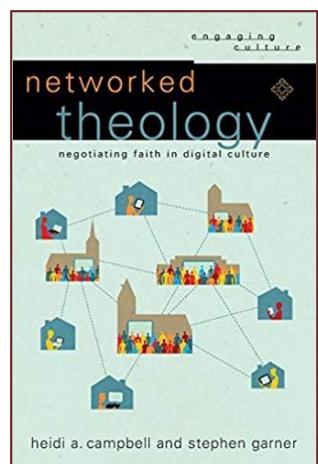
I miss you, I know you are out there as we all have been for the past year and a half. We have been out there in our homes, in our cars, hesitant about mixing with other human beings that are outside our family or “pod”. I applaud our safety. Yes, I, myself am very cautious during this time of Covid 19. No, I don’t want to become ill with Covid and its myriad of symptoms, both short and long-term but more than fear for myself I don’t want to be responsible for carrying the virus to others, known or unknown.



In 2020 the pandemic was new to us. We re-learned what we were taught in school about germs, hygiene, and transmitting disease. Along with scientists we learned about this Covid, how contagious it is, how it affects those it infects and ways we might lower our risk if getting and transmitting it.

2020 was really hard. For those of us that work within our churches and communities we were daily confronted with decisions about how to “carry on”. Do we attend in-person worship? Do we take part in that much-needed hands-on outreach opportunity? How close will we be to each other? What will we need to touch that others are also touching? How conscious of virus transmission will other participants be? These are just the questions that come up for participants so how much harder for the leaders of worship and mission projects.

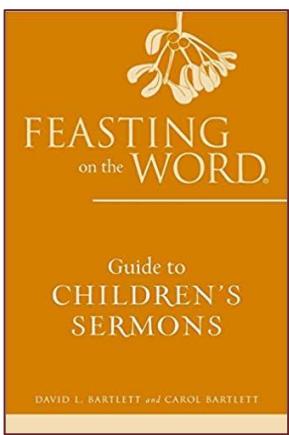
Many of you reading are those leaders. You are the ones trying to decide how to go forward with adult studies, children’s programs, youth activities, congregation and community fellowship events. Many of you have learned (and taught) new skills which have allowed us to carry on with much of our effort to worship God and respond to the Lord’s call to “...go out and make disciples of all nations...”



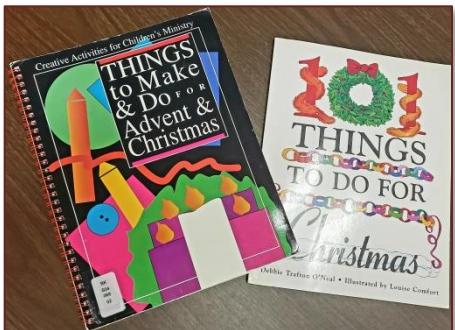
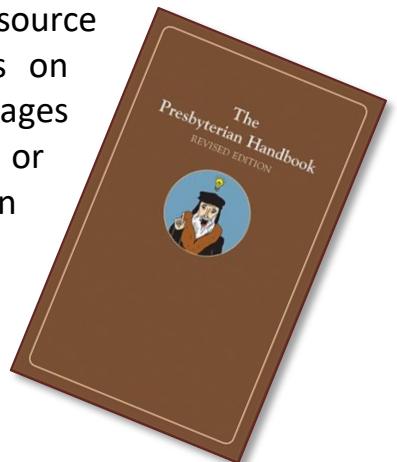
I understand that all this time spent learning new skills includes time on the internet searching “how to share a screen on ZOOM”, or “how to make a virtual classroom with Google docs”, and of course many of us have spent time making our personal emoji, spending much – perhaps too much – time picking out our virtual clothing and hairstyles.



Much of this has been necessary but using my own feelings as a guide I fear that many of us have become complacent in carrying out our mission to work toward reconciliation between God and God’s people or that we may be neglecting our spiritual growth in our Herculean effort to grow our online skills. I expected this in 2020 but as we became more technologically skilled and we learned ways to protect ourselves and our community I expected 2021 to slowly become different. While I know there is a new “normal” and that we mustn’t return to the way things were done in 2019 there still must be room for us to delve deeper into our understanding of our own relationship with God, our understanding of God’s written word and our relationship with God’s people and the rest of God’s creation.



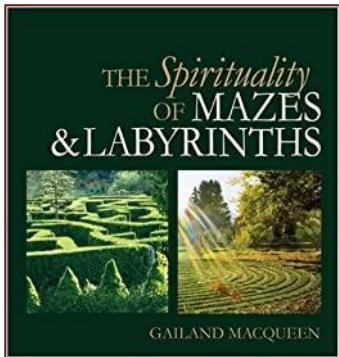
This “delving deeper” takes more resources than what can be found on the internet. Where might you find such resources? Why in the presbytery’s Resource Center, of course! We still have resources on scriptural interpretation, ways to include all ages in worship, how to teach adults or children or youth. We have DVDs for study online or in person. We have books for you to review then order for your congregation. Books that would be useful to prospective new members or those frequent visitors who might want to learn more about the Presbyterian form of doing God’s work.



Your Resource Center has books to enrich your church’s or your family’s Advent and Christmas. You can stay home while you make ornaments or gifts to deliver to community members. Keep your worship

area theologically sound as you “decorate” the sanctuary for Christmas.

Teach your children, youth and adults new ways to pray using the Resource Center’s labyrinth or many books on prayer activities. Read one of our many wonderful children’s books to your child at home, or to a particular closed group online. Or, if you are just tired and need to concentrate on your own relationship with God then check out one of our audio CDs to listen to while riding in your car or while relaxing in the comfort of your recliner.



In 2019 members of our presbytery checked out 387 items from the Resource Center; so far, in 2021 members have checked out 120 items, 41 of those were checked out by staff members.

Come on Back!



What are you waiting for? We are here, waiting for you. I would love to see you on Monday and Tuesday when I am in the office or you may come in to the Resource Center anytime the presbytery office is open, Monday through Thursday, 9:00 to 5:30. If you cannot come in or just don’t yet want to venture our into the public then send me an email or call me and I will help you find something that will be helpful or inspiring as you carry out God’s plan. My contact information is here in this article or you may find it in the Presbytery’s directory found on www.wvpresbytery.org

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