

## Portions of Hope: Lessons from the Lead Presbyter

I recently had the opportunity to travel to see our granddaughter - our daughter, and son-in-law, too. I flew from West Virginia International Yeager Airport in Charleston to Boston Logan International Airport in Massachusetts. As many of you know, there is no direct flight, it takes at least two “hops” to get from one to the other. The roundtrip meant that there were four opportunities to hear the flight attendants share the standard, Federal Aviation Administration required safety briefing before takeoff. As I listened for the fourth time, I started thinking about the things in life of which we need to be reminded. Things from childhood like “brush your teeth”, “wash your hands”, “look both ways before crossing the street” and things that help us navigate the world in which we live like “never share personal information with people who call you on the phone” or “eat healthily and exercise”.

What about the life of faith do we need to hear again and again, to be reminded? It seems to me that the Bible is filled with all the things of faith of which we need to be reminded. As I talk to people throughout the Presbytery, support our commissions and committees, visit with churches seeking to be faithful in their mission, and sit with those who having made the decision to close I am reminded of Psalm 46:10. As I answer emails, make and return phone calls, and sort through my “To Do List” I am reminded of Psalm 46:10. This short verse reminds the children of God to *Be still and know that I am God*.

The words of the Psalms give voice to human experience. They are the story of living life as the children of God, in other words – the conversation between God and the people of God. In Psalm 46:10, God reminds us to *Be still and know that I am God*.

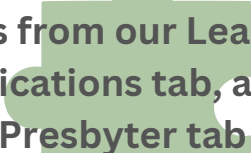
This simple verse calls us to stop and remember God. In the cacophony that is being church, remember that God is God. This simple verse reminds us to stop and listen to what God is saying.

It is easy to focus on all the things of being church in our context – the roofs that need to be replaced, Sunday school teachers found, sermons to write and

preach, or volunteers needed to serve pancakes or deliver meals, and forget that God calls us to the work of the Church.

It is easy for the Presbytery to focus on all the things of being church in our context – implementing the strategic plan, figuring out our new committees, considering grant applications, and writing grant proposals and forget that God calls us to be the body of Christ.

*Be still and know that I am God* reminds us to stop, to turn to God, to listen for God. We are called to remember that God directs our work but to do the work of God means that we listen, create space for hearing God's direction, God's call. As you, as your church and its session, as a Presbytery may we pause, be still, and know God – know what it is that God is calling us to do, all to the glory of God.



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