



MARY PIPHER

New York Times bestselling author of REVIVING OPHELIA

WOMEN ROWING NORTH

NAVIGATING LIFE'S CURRENTS
and FLOURISHING as WE AGE



Thank you to all who made our **Book Signing/Talk with Mary Pipher** on Saturday, January 19 a success! This includes the Eastridge attendees and volunteers. We estimated 450+ in attendance! The event was made possible by the June Lyman Memorial Fund.

Photos shown from the event:



Check out the Welcome Desk for **Dinner for Six** sign-up forms. Fill out and leave in the offering plate or office inbox.



Sign up for **Agging Partners' Diabetes Self-Management Workshop**, here at Eastridge (in



M12) on Tuesdays starting February 5 through March 12 (1:00-3:00 pm). Register by calling Agging Partners at 402-441-7575.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS:

JANUARY 17, 2019

The Session approved the minutes from the Session retreat on January 5, 2019, and the congregational meeting on November 18, 2018.

The Session acknowledged the e-mail vote to grant approval for the Rev. Adam White, pastor of the Lutheran Center (ELCA) at UNL, to officiate at the baptism of Vienna Rose Dummermuth at the 11 a.m. worship service on December 30, 2018.

The Session elected Robin Hadfield

as Clerk of the Session.

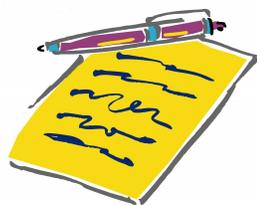
The Session approved the 2019 budget as presented. The budget was revised from the proposed budget discussed in November 2018 to reflect a reduction of \$20,000 from personnel; \$20,000 from the outreach budget; and \$15,000 from per capita. The personnel budget will be reduced by providing no salary increases for the Rev. Jones Poynton and the Rev. Dummermuth; by reducing the Director of Music Ministry to a part-time position effective July 1, 2019; and by eliminating the

maintenance and setup position. Volunteers will be asked to assist with setup, and some maintenance responsibilities will be shifted to the part-time Sunday custodian position.

The Session approved three fundraisers for the Eastridge Pantry: a request for personal hygiene items during Lent; a request for monetary contributions in May; and a request for food items in October.



ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION:



At this year's annual meeting, the session felt it was important to

share some important information about our 2018 end of year giving drive, as well as our 2019 budget.

Concerning our 2018 financials: Our total general income in 2018 was approximately \$524,000 (\$19,000 of that included memorial gifts), bringing our contributions to the general budget to \$505,000. This created a shortfall in income of \$83,000. We have many theories about why this shortfall may have occurred (new

tax laws, changing patterns in giving), but won't know for sure until the end of the year if those theories hold true. What we do know is that we had fantastic giving in December of 2017, and giving so far in 2019 is encouraging. We did take a loan from ourselves of \$60,000 (which means we did underspend our budget), which we will pay back as funds become available.

A successful stewardship campaign: We are also encouraged with the success of our stewardship campaign. While many churches are moving away from these campaigns, we still find the information valuable in helping us plan for the next fiscal year. This year, we are thrilled to have \$42,000 in new pledges, as well as an increase overall in "repeat"

pledges. In the past, our budget number has been new/increase in pledges plus the previous year's giving. Good stewardship of resources, planning for longevity, and fiscal responsibility lead us to recommend a number of \$550,000 for this year's budget.

The 2019 budget: In November, the session passed a provisional budget of \$605,000. At the beginning of the year, the finance committee and personnel committee both met to make some recommendations to session. At the January meeting, the session debated these recommendations, as well as others, and made the following changes to the 2019 budget:

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EASTRIDGE

Presbyterian Church



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Personnel: 1) no increase for pastors, and no increase for staff members; 2) to make a projected $\frac{3}{4}$ time director of music ministry into a $\frac{1}{2}$ time director of music ministry, beginning in July; 3) to eliminate the maintenance and set up position. We do still have a cleaning service that cleans the church, we will be gathering a list of volunteers who are skilled in building repair and able to help with set ups. If funds become available, we would like to move the music position to $\frac{3}{4}$ time. Total change: \$20,000.

Per Capita: Some of us think about this as a “membership fee” to belong to the PC (USA), which is \$45 for our presbytery in 2019. Our total bill continues to hover around \$35,000. These funds go to support ministries in our presbytery, synod, and general assembly, providing for mission, programs, and ministries. We have notified the budget and finance committee that we will be able to pay \$20,000 toward our per capita this year, and urged them to consider lowering per capita in the future. Any monies that were given toward per capita in

2018 were handed on to presbytery. We are asking members to consider giving \$45 above their pledge, if they are able. Total change: \$15,000.

Mission/Outreach: We have always taken our beginnings as a mission church to heart, and designated a substantial percentage of our income to mission. At one time, we gave nearly half the budget in mission to presbytery, synod, and GA,



worldwide mission partners (mission co-workers), local, national, and international organizations. For the past several years, the mission budget has been 10% of anticipated giving, making it around \$57,000. This reduces our mission giving to 5.1%. As has been the case for the past several years, the outreach commit-

tee will determine how these funds are distributed. Total change: \$20,000.

In summary: We are trying to be fiscally responsible and conservative, meeting the changes that are happening in society. At the same time, we want to recognize that we are a thriving, healthy, growing church. Our statistics are encouraging: 29 new members in 2018, growth of 25%

in our children’s ministry, a strong youth ministry, a vibrant music ministry, and growth in our worship attendance in the last quarter of the year. There is excitement, buzz, and happiness at Eastridge. These changes reflect our desire to be good stewards, which includes providing for stability in our near future, as well as thinking outside of

the box for ways to prepare for the distant future as well.

If you have any questions, please contact Bill Whiston (treasurer), Andrew Loudon (stewardship), George Kilpatrick (finance), Bill Werhbein (outreach), or Doug McDaniel and Kurt Beck (personnel).

~ Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon



Scenes from the Christmas program rehearsal:





SAVE THE DATE!

After conversations with the LEARN commission, it has been decided to offer an intergenerational VBS this summer. It will be held on Wednesday evenings during the month of July beginning with July 10th. We have also discussed joining with some of the other Presbyterian churches around Lincoln. If other churches have interest, we will look at rotating the churches each Wednesday evening. It could be a great opportunity to get to know our Presbyterian neighbors. We are still in the beginning stages so please watch the newsletter and lamp for addition information.



MINISTRY WITH YOUTH

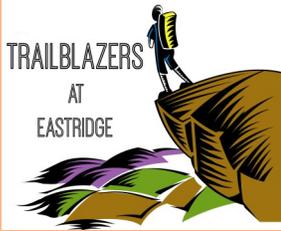
Faith Connection for Youth:

Sunday, February 3rd, the Middle School and High School youth will lead worship at the 9:00am & 11:00am service. Worship will focus on the story of Moses and his insecurities around God calling him to lead God's people. During the services, the youth will share their work with you as they have written the prayers and liturgy along with two of the youth who will share the sermon for the day. Along with the service, we will also host breakfast in between the services in the Welcome Center. We hope you will be able to join us for the service and for food and fellowship!

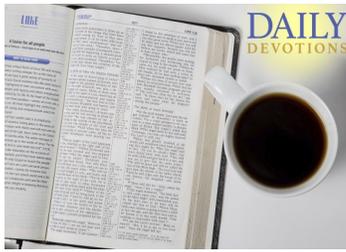
In addition to Youth Sunday on the 3rd, the

youth will collect the Souper Bowl of Caring offering. This offering was developed by a Presbyterian youth group in South Carolina 29 years ago. At that first offering collections, the youth asked the congregation to give a dollar or two to aid in "tackling" hunger for the city's homeless population. 29 years and several thousand churches/organizations later, the Souper Bowl of Caring has collected millions of dollars to help feed those who are hungry. This year, EPC youth will collect money for the Souper Bowl of Caring after the two services on February 3rd. The monies collected will go to the food pantry at EPC in order to help purchase food to serve our clients. We hope you will prayerfully consider giving as the youth work to "tackle" hunger right here in our community.





Trailblazers for February: On Friday, February 15: Games & Soup Supper. We'll meet at 7:00 PM in the Huxtable Lounge for food and games.



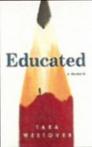
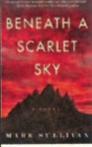
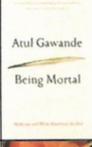
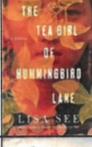
We are always looking for more writers for our online devotion ministry! Please contact the office if you

are interested in writing. To read the devotions, sign up in the office, or go to:

www.eastridgedailydevo.blogspot.com

Eastridge Presbyterian Church Book Club

has released the list of picks for 2019! See below for the selections. We'll meet in the Conference Room each month, with discussion and refreshments. List is also available on the church website.

February 11		Educated: A Memoir , by Tara Westover
March 11		Beneath a Scarlet Sky , by Mark Sullivan
April 8		Being Mortal , by Atul Gawande
May 13		The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane by Lisa See
June 10		Before We Were Yours , by Lisa Wingate

COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES The care packages that were sent to 25 of our college students were a HUGE hit. EPC received many thanks for this gesture that helped our college students know that we still want to be connected with them. As Valentine's Day approaches, we would like to send them another care package.

Below is a list of items requested. Please feel free to donate any item in any quantity. If you aren't up for shopping but would still like to donate, you can make a cash donation which will help to purchase the items below. Donations will be accepted through Sunday, February 10th.

Individual servings of chips, pretzels, cookies, oatmeal, easy mac n cheese, goldfish, crackers, etc.

Valentine candy

Candy, granola bars/protein bars, microwave popcorn, gum, crystal light powder packages

Laundry pods, dryer sheets (non-scented)

\$5 - \$10 Chick fil a or Starbucks cards

Post-it notes, pens, highlighters, notecards

We will be filling about 25-28 care packages so items in multiples are appreciated. If you have any questions about donating,



HOSPICE SINGERS: During the month of October, 18 people from various Lincoln churches received hospice training and have begun preparing to provide bedside singing to those who have been placed in hospice care. The purpose of this new EPC music ministry mission is to bring comfort and peace, through music, to those who are receiving hospice care. Anyone wishing to have this group sing for a loved one or friend in hospice care should contact Patty Niemann, Eastridge Hospice Singers coordinator (402-432-8353 or pniemann54@gmail.com).



With some changes to personnel at the end of January, the church office is putting together a **list of volunteers** who could: 1) help with large room setups, specifically funeral luncheons. 2) help with general maintenance. Please call the church for more information, if you think you may be able to be on either list!



Bistrò Theology

FAITH. DRINKS. DISCUSSION. QUESTIONS

Bistro Theology is Back!

When: Thursday, February 28, 7-9pm (Note the new weekday)

Where: The Piedmont Bistro by Venue

What Bistro Theology is:

a monthly conversation in Lincoln NE about stuff that matters.

a gathering space for people of all faith and non-faith backgrounds to come together and respectfully dialogue and question over life, spirituality, culture and society.

a celebration of our community and how we can challenge and learn from each other.

“In the Church of Jesus Christ there can and should be no non-theologians.” — Karl Barth

What Bistro Theology is not:

- a slick new evangelism program.
- a Bible study at the bar.
- a church service.
- a debate club.

“Theology begins with wonder and with unanswered questions.” — Avery Cardinal Dulles

Come join us for dinner, or just for drinks, and great conversations about stuff that matters.

You are invited to join us for



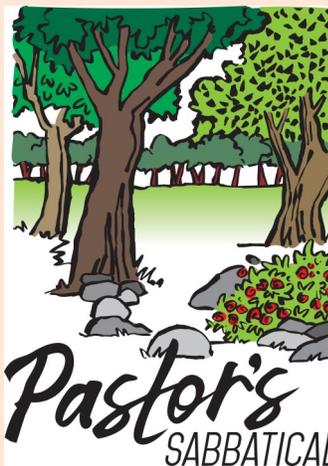
a fund raising concert to benefit the Choral Scholars Fund at Eastridge Presbyterian Church

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presented by

“Two Pea’nists in a Pod”  
Diane Worrell Eaton and Patty Niemann  
along with  
present and past Choral Scholars

~~~~~  
Sunday, February 10, 2019 at 4:00 pm
Eastridge Presbyterian Church
1135 Eastridge Drive
Lincoln, Nebraska

Freewill offering will be taken

Pastor Melodie will be on sabbatical from Monday, January 21, 2019 through Sunday, March 3, 2019. While you may see Pastor Melodie around town, she will not be in the office during this time. Her regular duties will be appropriately delegated temporarily to Associate Pastor Thomas

Dummermuth; Treasurer, Bill Whiston; and personnel elders Doug McDaniel and Kurt Beck. For pastoral care and other immediate concerns, please contact Pastor Thomas Dummermuth or Pastor John Duling.



Angel- Mitten Tree 2018: Thank you for your generosity and love in providing a happy Christmas to 135 “wishes” on the tree. Clinton Elementary, Cedars, Aging Partners, Fresh Start, Presbyterian Mission, Lefler Middle School, and several families were recipients. (See thank-you notes below)

The mittens were distributed to schools and agencies in early January. ~ Susan Taylor

Thank you so much for your generous donation of leggings and sweatpants for our students. We've already had students choose some and they are so appreciative! Thank you for your kindness in thinking of our students! ~Lefler Middle School Counselors~



January 7, 2019

Dear Susan & Eastridge Presbyterian Members,

Your congregation has been a great support to our clients again this year. To put it in the words of one of them, “I had Christmas this year because of the gift card I received”. He was so happy when he left us that message. Your gifts really make a difference for older people who are often living below the poverty guideline which was \$1012 a month in 2018. As you can see, it is hard to buy anything extra when you live on that amount or less.

And it is not only the financial boost, it is also the warm feeling people get when they know someone cares about them. It is a personal outreach to someone who we have identified as isolated and possibly frail. And to top it off, you also sent other gifts that were not designated to a specific individual. We shared those with our Senior Center participants and that was great, too. And I understand we're getting some more mittens. You are very generous and thoughtful and we really appreciate it. A special thank you to Susan Taylor who seems to do magic in making this all come together.

Bless all of you for your gifts and well wishes.

Sincerely,

Joyce Kubicek
Joyce Kubicek
Aging Program Coordinator



Mayor's Interfaith Breakfast on April 12

Online reservations are now available at lancasterfaith.org for the 35th annual Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast on April 12. A former police officer and inner-city educator from Milwaukee will speak at the event.

Pardeep Singh Kaleka is with The Forgiveness Project and is co-founder of “Serve2Unite.” Kaleka will share his personal journey to forgiveness after the death of his father in the Sikh Temple shooting near Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 2012.

The event is co-hosted by Lincoln Mayor Chris Beutler and the Faith Coalition of Lancaster County at Lincoln Station Great Hall, Seventh and P streets. Doors open at 7 a.m., and the program begins at 7:30 a.m. The program also will feature music from the Great Plains Chamber Winds and readings and prayers from a variety of the faith communities in the area.

Kaleka's work specializes in holistic trauma-informed treatment for survivors and perpetrators of assault, abuse and acts of violence. He is the founder of Serve2Unite, which has received the Guru Nanak Award and been recognized by the Parliament of World Religions for its work to build safe, inclusive communities. More information is available at Serve2Unite.org. Kaleka is also the author of “The Gifts of Our Wounds” and is a licensed therapist with D&S Healing Center in Milwaukee.

Individual tickets are \$30, and sponsorships of 10 seats are available for \$300. In the spirit of the event, groups attending together are encouraged to mingle their seating with other groups.

For more information on the Prayer Breakfast, contact Stephen Griffith, Faith Coalition of Lancaster County, 402-730-8927





GiFT

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

February GiFT: The Spirituality of the Twelve Steps Program

"I did not come for the healthy, but for those who need a doctor." - Jesus in Luke 5:31-32

Please join us on February 10 as we welcome Rev. Otto B. Schultz as our guest preacher.

Otto Schultz is a ELCA Pastor (Ret.) who is also a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LADC). Otto has been working in the substance abuse field since 1975. He has served as a pastor, treatment chaplain, alcohol/drug counselor, prevention educator and program developer, and has led hundreds of workshops on substance abuse

issues for church professionals, business leaders and other professionals. He has also coached hundreds of families in interventions.

He has been blessed with personal recovery from alcohol dependence for over 40 years – one day at a time. A member of Our Saviour's Lutheran in Lincoln, he has two children, Leighun Brabec of Lincoln and Matthew Stahl of Caro City, MI. He holds dearly the belief that there will be racquetball in heaven.

Otto will be preaching both at the 9 and 11 am services, and join us in a time of conversation between the services, as we explore together what the church and the recovery community can learn from each other.



New Ministry Being Considered

Eastridge is considering a new ministry in the area of alcohol/drug issues. Many people in our community are impacted by alcohol and drug problems daily. If you feel that our congregation has a role to play in supporting

recovery or in preventing problems, then you are a candidate for

New Ministry

this ministry. If you've found help

in the Twelve Step program or other spiritual disciplines for problems like alcohol, drugs, overeating, or other forms of dependence, you're also a candidate for this ministry.

If you want to learn more, please contact Pastor Thomas tdummermuth@eastridge.org

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