

cultivating *compassion*



What does it mean to have a compassionate faith?

Trevor Hudson is a white pastor in South Africa, which has been his context for ministry for more than 35 years. He began his ministry during apartheid, and continues to work toward a post-apartheid South Africa. Along the way, he started leading "compassion pilgrimages" instead of mission trips, and defines the difference this way: "we would come as pilgrims, not as tourists; as learners, not as teachers; as receivers, not as givers; as listeners, not as talkers."¹

As God Created...
A Heart of Faith
A Heart for Self
A Heart that Hurts
A Heart for Others
A Heartfelt Presence

Our goal as a congregation this Lent is to discover "Compassionate caring [that] creatively balances the inward-outward dynamic so characteristic of Jesus' life, saves us from falling prey to the latest fad in the spiritual supermarket, and catapults our lives into a deeper engagement with the brokenness of our world."²

Join us:

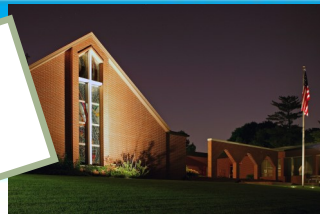
- Ash Wednesday Supper at 6:00 pm & Service at 6:30 pm
- Sundays for Worship at 9:00 am & 10:30 am
- Wednesdays beginning March 11 for Lenten Soup Suppers & Worship at 6:00 pm
- Thursdays at 10:00 am for a study on *Boundless Compassion* by Joyce Rupp
- Follow the Matthew 25 Daily Devotional (subscribe at www.eastridge.org or find a paper copy in the Welcome Center)

¹ Hudson, Trevor. *A Mile in My Shoes: Cultivating Compassion* (p. 18). Upper Room. Kindle Edition.

² Ibid, 24.



Cut this out and put on your
refrigerator or
bulletin board!



Lenten Calendar

February 26: **Ash Wednesday**

Soup/Casserole Supper 6:00 PM

Worship 6:30PM

Lenten Soup/Casserole Meals each
Wednesday during Lent at 6:00 PM;
GiFT meal and activity March 4 and April
1 (meal at 5:30).



Worship each Wednesday during Lent at 6:30 PM

Worship each Sunday during Lent at 9:00 am and 10:30 am

Lenten Studies:

- Monday Night Bible Study Group: *24 Hours that Changed the World* by Adam Hamilton. Beginning Monday, March 2 in Huxtable at 7:00 pm.
- Thursdays at 10:00 am: study on *Boundless Compassion* by Joyce Rupp

March 26: **Bistro Theology** at 7:00 pm at The Piedmont Bistro on Cotner Blvd.

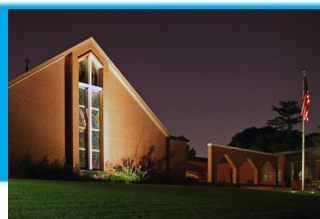
April 5: **Palm Sunday**

April 9: **Maundy Thursday Meal** at 6:00 PM and **Worship** at 7:00 PM

April 10: **Good Friday Worship Service** at 7:00 PM

April 12: **Easter Worship Services:** Sunrise: 6:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM; **Easter Breakfast** following Sunrise service





Join us for our March GiFT as we talk about

Retirement: (Re-) Committing Our Faith

March 4, 5:30-7pm.

In Milton Bradley's Game of Life, the goal of the game is retirement: Once every player has reached the final square, the money is counted — which will determine whether you get to “retire in style” at Millionaire Mansion, or if all you can afford is to become a philosopher at Country Acres.

But in real life, what does it mean to “retire in style”?

Is retirement this land of dreams where we check off one exciting item after the other from our bucket list? Or is it a dreaded phase of life when we painfully become aware of our limitations and loss?

Outside the game, what is the goal in life? And how do we know we have arrived?

These are some of the questions we would like to explore at this month's GiFT during an evening of fun, faith, and fellowship.



Who is GiFT for?

Literally for everyone. Meaning: for youth, singles, couples, moms and dads, college students, teenagers, kids, grandmas and grandpas, empty nesters, newcomers, working people, retired people, people with pets, and for those without. In short: for everyone (did we say that already?).

What are the goals of GiFT?

GiFT reclaims God's intent for faith to be shared in community and across generations. Through an experience of learning together, sharing faith, praying together, serving and celebrating rituals and traditions, GiFT helps connect families and individuals who want to spend more quality time together. GiFT builds relationships between the generations and across the congregation. By sharing our faith stories and learning from each other, we **Grow in Faith Together**.

What does a GiFT event look like?

GiFT takes place on the first Wednesday each month. A GiFT event begins at 5:30 pm with a joint dinner and a time of fellowship in the fellowship hall. At the heart of a GiFT evening is a fun interactive experience that centers around milestones of our lives, and engages all ages. GiFT also offers practical tools to nurture the faith of families and individuals in our daily lives.

Future Milestones:

Apr 1 - In Our End a New Beginning



How far I have to go to find
you in whom I have already
arrived!

—Thomas Merton

GiFT
GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

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The Eastridge Hospice Singers would like to say "thank you" for the support our congregation has given to this special music ministry for those in hospice care. We began our hospice singing journey in October 2018 with 16 singers and throughout the past year have welcomed 9 additional singers to our ministry. Among our 25 hospice trained singers are people from 8 different denominations which makes for a wonderfully diverse and ecumenical mix of faith traditions. Since beginning our hospice singing journey last December, we have had the honor and privilege of providing 75 singing visits to those receiving hospice care in our community. We also have given five programs to community groups where we've been able to share our journey and explain our ministry. We feel blessed and humbled to be invited to be a part of a person's life journey as we endeavor to bring the peace and comfort of music to them while in hospice care.

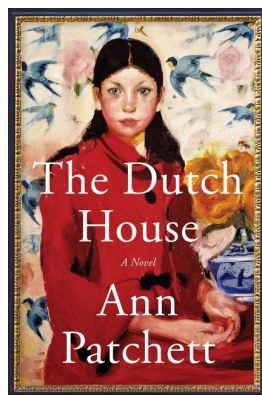
If you wish to find out more about our Eastridge Hospice Singers or to schedule a singing visit for someone in hospice care, contact Patty Niemann at 402-432-8353 or epc.hospice.singers@gmail.com. You can also contact the church office at 402-488-7844.



Devotion ministry: We are always looking for more devotion writers for our online ministry! Contact the office if you are interested.



Annual Spring Clean Up: Our yearly spring clean up (coordinated with Eastridge Neighborhood Association and UNL) will be Saturday, April 4. More info to come!



EPC Book Club: Join us on Monday, March 9 at 7pm to discuss *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett. We meet each month during the school year for discussion and refreshments in the Conference Room at Eastridge!

Congratulations to Jim Budka and John Rouse for being awarded a **"Quilt of Valor"** during the **QOV National Sew Day event** held at EPC on Saturday, Feb 1. Jim served in the Air Force from 1965 to 1970. John served in the Army from 1968 - 1971. Thank you for your service, Jim and John! And "WELCOME HOME!"

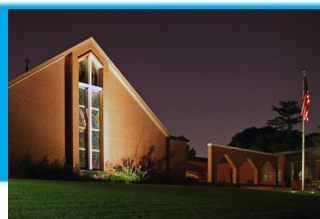


Thank you to all who donated to the **Eastridge Food Pantry** during the challenge for Youth Sunday!



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"When did we see you hungry?"

Bread for the World is lobbying Congress to provide \$50 million to help low-income families purchase food during the summer months for children who are certified to receive free or reduced-price school meals during the school year. Our representative Jeff Fortenberry is the ranking Republican on the House subcommittee that sets funding levels for agriculture programs. His support could be crucial for developing bipartisan support for this legislation.

On March 15 between services the Outreach Committee will have a table set in the Welcome Center with all the materials you need to write to Rep. Fortenberry. You can write your letter there or compose your letter at home. On the following Sunday your letters will be blessed as a part of the morning offering.

Update: Last year many of you wrote to our representatives in Congress supporting the Global Nutrition Resolution. It has passed the Senate, and awaits final action by the House. Representative Fortenberry is one of 153 co-sponsors.

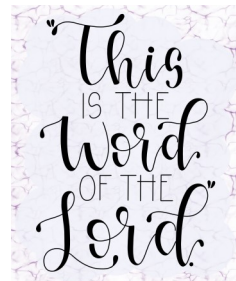


CHURCH DIRECTORY: We recently had a Lifetouch photography event. If you did not purchase photos, your 8 x 10 is in the church office. Please stop in to pick up.

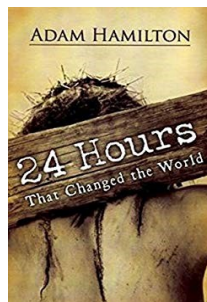


Worship Volunteers Needed: Liturgists

If you normally attend the 9:00 service, don't mind standing in front of the congregation (behind the pulpit!) and leading the congregation in the Call to Worship and other liturgical call and responses, we need a few more volunteers to add to the liturgist list. The liturgist is usually finished with liturgy duties by 9:15 or 9:20 and then you may return to sit with the congregation. It really is very painless, and Robin Hadfield (the volunteer coordinator) would like a few more names to add to her contact list. If you feel like this is a way you could contribute to worship, please contact Robin Hadfield at robinhad@gmail.com.



Thanks to those from Eastridge who have recently volunteered at **Madonna Rehabilitation**, including our wonderful Hospice Singers. Chase Crispin will help lead worship this coming Thursday, March 5 in the chapel at 10:30am. Open to the public. *"Whatsoever you have done unto the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you have done unto me."*



Monday Night Bible Study:

this group meets Monday evenings at 7:00 pm in Huxtable Lounge (during the school year). Starting March 2 for Lent: *24 Hours that Changed the World* by Adam Hamilton.

Talk Heart 2 Heart: Eastridge Faith Partners recommends this site for parents!

www.talkheart2heart.org. There is a Facebook page as well. Check out the display in the Welcome Center this month!

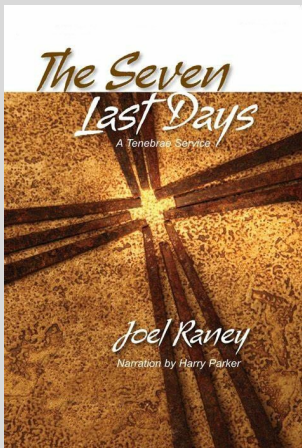


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The Music Ministry is pleased to present ***The Seven Last Days*** by Joel Raney on Friday, April 10 at 7pm as part of our Good Friday service. This Tenebrae service will recap the events of Holy Week through music according to the Gospel of Matthew. We invite you to bring a friend, a family member, a coworker or anyone who can benefit from hear the Good News of Christ.



Lifetouch

CHURCH
DIRECTORIES
AND PORTRAITS

Since a snowstorm cut into our original **Lifetouch photography sessions**, Lifetouch will allow those of you who couldn't make it to your session another chance to be included in the Eastridge directory. More info to come!

Check out the Faith Partners display in the Welcome Center during the month of March. We'd love to have new members: our next meeting is March 19 at 5:30 pm.

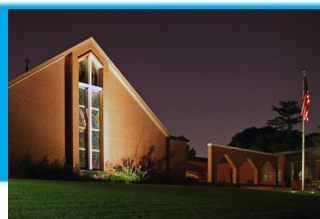
**Faith
PARTNERS**

EASTRIDGE
Presbyterian Church



Scenes from Youth Sunday,
February 2





The Examen Prayer

During the season of Lent and anytime during the year, a daily prayer of reflection that I have used is called The Examen. Its roots are found in Ignatian Spirituality that are part of the Jesuit community and tradition. Yet, as followers of Jesus Christ, anyone can use this simple prayer for review and reflection.

So, what is the Examen? It is a prayer that reviews the day with a thought of what has been a confession – a desolation, as it is called. Simply offered, one can review their day of the things that did not go well. It is allowing God's grace to cleanse and refresh one of those desolations – confessions.

For example,
Lord God, hear my prayer of confession – of the desolation that has limited me and my life this day. I name them to you in the faith that your cleansing grace in Jesus Christ will forgive and refresh me(.....) Forgive and cleanse me by Your gracious merciful Spirit.



The Examen is also a review of the blessings of the day – a consolation. One ends their prayer time with a positive assurance and peace of the blessings that have graced one's day with joy, happiness and love.

For example,
Lord, I thank you for the blessings – the consolations that have inspired, comforted, and affirmed me as Your Child through Jesus Christ. I praise you for these blessings (.....) and so much more in the name of Jesus Christ and by the power of Your blessed Holy Spirit. Amen

I would encourage anyone to find time at the end of their day to let this simple prayer of reflection be a guide. One may write their reflections in a journal. It is a personal statement of ultimate trust in the One Who graces us with His embrace of love, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Yours in faith,
Pastor John Duling, Parish Associate



We welcome Chase Crispin as our Children's Music director. Chase grew up in Blair, NE and graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan University in December 2019 with his Bachelor degree in PK-12 Music Education and minors in Spanish and Organ Performance. He enjoys using music as a tool to connect with others through faith. In addition to his work with children's music at Eastridge, Chase is currently a substitute music teacher for Lincoln Public Schools, teaches private music lessons, and frequently performs in the area on clarinet, bass clarinet and organ.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be received during the season of Lent (Feb 26-Apr 12). OGHS is the single largest way that Presbyterians join together to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world. Each gift helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations through three impactful programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People.





EASTRIDGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

FEBRUARY 20, 2020

The Session approved the minutes of the Session meeting of January 16, 2020, the special Session meetings of January 12, 2020, and February 16, 2020, and the congregational meeting of January 26, 2020.

The Session affirmed that communion was served at the 9 and 10:30 a.m. services on February 2, 2020.

The Session approved the Necrology Report and the Annual Statistical Report for Homestead Presbytery and the Presbyterian Church (USA).

The Session acknowledged that the Rev. Thomas Dummermuth officiated at the memorial service for Doris Jensen on January 24, 2020.

The Session approved the request of the Worship Commission to enter into a service agreement

with Allo for the church's internet and telephone services.

Chase Crispin has been hired to lead the children's music program.

The Worship Commission reported that an opportunity will be available for makeup photos for the pictorial directory since photos were not taken on one scheduled day due to the weather.

Bill Wehrbein reported on the Homestead Presbytery meeting on February 15, 2020. Representatives from the PCUSA General Assembly gave presentations on per capita and mission activities.



Bistro Theology

FAITH. DRINKS. DISCUSSION. QUESTIONS.

When: Thursday, March 26 @ 7 pm

Where: The Piedmont Bistro by Venue

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

Follow us on Facebook for more info:
www.facebook.com/bistrotheology



Make a Joyful Noise! Eastridge has proven time and again how much our congregation values music as one means of worship through both services. One of the ways we achieve this is through our choral scholars. These college students receive a stipend each semester to help round out the beautiful sounds of our choir! This year, the Worship and Music Advisory Committee has a new way to raise funds for continuing the choral scholar program. Every month where there are 5 Sundays, we will do a special time where we can make a Joyful Noise! We ask that you bring any and all spare change to throw in a tin and pass around to make as much noise as possible in support of our Choral Scholar Program! March 29 is the first 5th Sunday of the calendar year- so bring your extra change to make lots of Joyful Noise so we can continue to bring in joyful voices to make music and worship with us!

EASTRIDGE

Presbyterian Church



The family of **Jack Steven** invite you to join them for an open house to celebrate Jack's goth birthday. The celebration will be held Sunday, March 8 from 2:30 to 4:30 in the Welcome Center.



The *Holy Friends* book study continues this month on Monday, March 23 at 6:30 pm at Bryan West.

Trailblazers: The Trailblazers will dine out on March 20, location and time TBA.
Committee: Dean and Marlene Johnson and Berna Stading.



Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon.....Senior Pastor
Rev. Thomas Dummermuth.....Associate Pastor
Rev. Dr. John Duling.....Parish Associate
Kris Adler-Brammer.....Youth and Children's Ministries
Donna Gustafson.....Office Manager
Andy Kalnins.....Night/Weekend Custodian
Dr. Brian Lew.....Director of Music Ministries
Brent Shaw.....Organist
Will McGuire.....Worship Leader
Chase Crispin.....Children's Music
Vince Ruhl.....Audio/Visual Technician
Jennifer Russell.....Nursery
Office number.....402-488-7844
Melodie Jones Pointon: mjonespointon@eastridge.org
Thomas Dummermuth: tdummermuth@eastridge.org

MEET THE STAFF

Spring Flower Order Form: If you wish to provide a spring flower for the church sanctuary for Easter Sunday, please complete this form and mail or bring to the church office by April 3. Flowers will be a variety: lilies, tulips, hyacinths, daffodils. **Please let the church decide what to order.** Make all checks payable to Eastridge Church noting on the check that it is for a flower. Please state exactly how you want your contribution printed in the bulletin. Return money with this form.

Donated by _____

In memory of _____

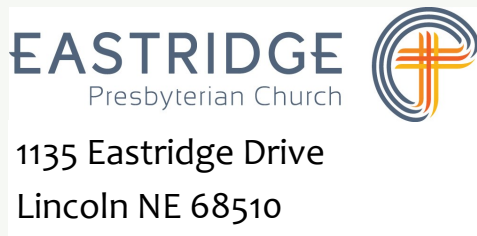
In honor of _____

No. of flowers _____ (Cost \$12.00 per flower in pot) Total _____

I will pick up my flower after the 10:30 Easter Service. _____

I wish my flower to be taken to a shut-in member. _____





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