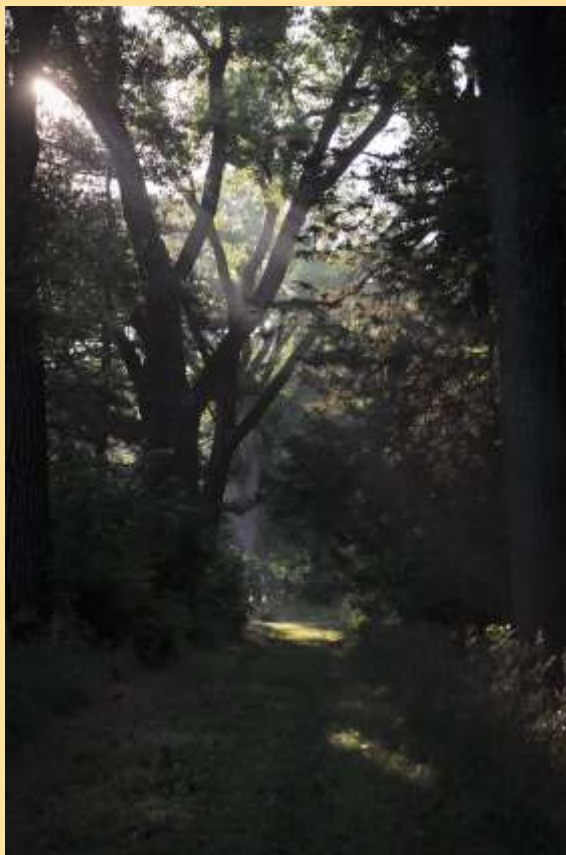




FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN...

There are times in our lives when there is a clear break between “before” and “after.” Graduations, new jobs, moving houses or cities, engagements, marriages, divorces, births, adoptions, diagnoses, deaths; all of these things have a time of preparation, a marking of the actual event, followed by a new set of patterns and habits that create a “new normal.” Most of the time these things are marked by the familiar set of patterns as we cross the threshold between what used to be and what will be. We walk across stages, get a new outfit, take pictures with the keys or of a ring, sign a certificate, crush a glass, jump over a broom, light a unity candle, a judge makes a declaration, a cry is heard, a doctor shares news, there is a last breath. A threshold is crossed.

Deriving from the Latin word “limin” we call these liminal moments. These are moments at the threshold when we know what used to be is behind us and we can't go back, but we also do not fully know what lies ahead. For just a moment, our lives are neither what was or what will be, we are caught between. I like to think of these moments as light and hopeful, full of potential, and opportunity to leave behind habits that were unhealthy and unhelpful. In some cases, they are. But not always. Some of those moments are heavy, and uncertain, full of anxiety and unknowing.



I'm hesitant to talk about change. In ordinary circumstances, change is hard. In these extraordinary circumstances, we have been in a time of change since March 14. In my conversations with many of you there is an acknowledgement of how difficult it is to live in constant change, and a desire to create some “new normals” as we move forward.

Over the next month, I see us moving out of the threshold and into the new normal. Some of us have already made those first steps by returning to sports games (sitting on the sidelines more than six feet apart), tentatively met friends in a park, put on a mask and supported a local business. Any steps we've made will be accelerated in this month ordinarily marked by change, as students choose how to go back to school, and hope for Huskers football in person or on tv. A new schedule and rhythms will be set, and a new normal will emerge.

What I don't want is for us to downplay the difficult, confusing, chaotic, and anxious nature of this. No matter the circumstances, there is an anxiousness and questions: will I enjoy the work I prepared for; will college or the military be as I hoped; will I be a good spouse or parent; will I find another love; will the treatment be the cure; will the grief overwhelm. These are not easy times, and there are no easy answers. (Sorry.)

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Several years ago, a prayer by Thomas Merton was brought to my attention. It begins like this; “My Lord, I do not know where I am going...” For many of us this is a difficult admission, as we have been taught to set a goal and follow the dream. We know that the fastest way between two points is a straight line, so we plot the line and begin moving toward it. However, life experience teaches us that along the way there are ups and downs, starts and stops, and what began as a linear journey ends up as a complicated cyclical roller coaster. Disoriented, we find that this statement the truth about where we are spiritually, emotionally, even physically: “My Lord, I do not know where I am going...”

Over the next month, we will explore a series of sermons that explore people in scripture who are in these liminal, threshold moments. I think about these as “will” stories, where God makes a promise of what “will be,” but there is no clearly defined direction as to how these things “will be.” Some of these people get impatient and try to “help” God’s will; some don’t want the promise and run the other way; some don’t

realize there is a promise at all; some hear the promise but don’t understand.

But always, there is a promise. For me, the promise we are living into is best put in these words I shared with you earlier this year, “God does not intend for us to live this way forever.” I honestly can’t envision what this new normal will look like, even as we begin to take the first steps into it. But I hold onto the promise that God desires us to be in relationship with God and each other. As we step forward, the courage I pray we all find comes at the end of Merton’s prayer, “[May we] trust you always though [we] seem to be lost in the shadow of death. [We] will not fear, for you are ever with [us], and you will never leave [us] to face [our] perils alone.”

Friends, God sees us, God hears us, God is very present with us, and God will not leave us like this forever. Let us be a people who steps out in the faith of our Lord and Savior who makes beautiful things out of dust, marks an ending with a new beginning, and brings life out of the tomb. May it be so with us in these times, Amen.

The Music Ministry will be returning to modified rehearsals in order to continue to provide meaningful music during worship. New members are always welcomed! If you are interested in joining please contact Brian at blew@eastridge.org The Kirk Ringers will be rehearsing in two smaller groups to physically distance on Tuesday evenings.

Here is a great opportunity for all you singers out there: Chancel Choir is going “virtual” and will be recording music from home. Anyone can join and participate. If you are not already a member of the Chancel Choir and are interested in participating in virtual choir, please contact Brian to learn more.





PAUSE!

JOIN US FOR **POP-UP Devotions!**

Beginning in August, every Wednesday night at 6:30 pm, join us for POP-UP Devotions!

Here's how it works:

Every Wednesday at noon, we will send out an e-mail and post on our Facebook page **where** we will be at 6:30 pm for our weekly **PAUSE!** devotion. This will be somewhere *in the city, outside, likely in a park*. It will be short – no need for a chair or a blanket. Masks are encouraged, physical distancing is required. Join us if you can.

OR – continue to join us on our Facebook page for a livestream of the devotion at 6:30 pm.

*If there is a severe weather warning, we will be livestreaming on Facebook only.

**If the video does not immediately appear, please be patient! We will get it posted as soon as we can.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS: JULY 18, 2020

The Session approved a policy requiring masks inside the church building.

The Session approved a policy requiring masks or face coverings as well as other preventative measures for all employees.

Rev. Dummermuth reported that confirmations and baptisms had been scheduled and will be a part of the worship service on August 2, 2020.

A task force has been established to lead the congregation in the 21-Day Racial Justice Challenge.

The past three months of the COVID-19 pandemic have been hard on many, including churches. Eastridge loses approximately \$ 1300 monthly in offering plate contributions alone (loose offering). We are so thankful for those of you who continue to give! You can give by going to www.eastridge.org and clicking on the SERVE menu, then GIVE TO EASTRIDGE. There is also a Member Weblinks link at the bottom of the page. You can also mail your donation to: 1135 Eastridge Drive, 68510.

Income to date (July 24):	\$ 265,509
Needed for the year:	\$ 314,491
Last year (2019) at this time:	\$ 303,251





Our 2020 Confirmands:

Katelyn Boden, daughter of Scott and Michelle
Bangot Dak, son of Peter and Nyabuok
Nyaluak Dak, daughter of Peter and Nyabuok
Thomas Davis, son of Sharleen
Nyakuar Kuon, daughter of Nyabuoy Chan
Hope Shortridge, daughter of Robby Shortridge and Kris Brenneis
Paul Shortridge, son of Robby Shortridge and Kris Brenneis
Anne Wies, daughter of Jim and Lois

Eastridge Hospice Singers Update:

"We are all just walking each other home."



The music ministry of our Eastridge Hospice Singers has been able to continue during the pandemic even though we have not been able to personally visit those who have requested our presence during their end-of-life journey. Since the beginning of April, Karen Shelton, Dori Bush and myself have been providing virtual singing visits for 6-8 people each week from the comfort of our homes. Using the technology of Skype, FaceTime and Duo, our virtual singing visits are made possible with the assistance of staff members from various residential facilities in and around Lincoln where our friends in hospice live or have lived. Even though providing our visits virtually isn't the most ideal situation, we continue to feel our musical impact is still being fully experienced with blessings being felt on "both sides of the compute screen". For this we are extremely thankful and always humbled. To request and schedule a virtual singing visit for a family member or a friend who are in hospice care, feel free to contact me at epc.hospice.singers@gmail.com or 402-432-8353. You may also contact the church office at 402-488-7844.

Patty Niemann, Coordinator Eastridge Hospice Singers

Bringing the peace and comfort of music to those journeying through hospice care.



Calling all school age children and youth!

Join us on Sunday, August 9th at 7:00pm for a distanced "Back to School

Blessing." We will have a couple of stations set up in the church parking lot for families to move through together. The last station will include a Back to School blessing of back packs and technology. This event will be in conjunction with a Deacon's ice cream social. **For families with children, please watch your email for additional details.**

STILL COMING! We will have access to the sign up at Indian Hills Community Church makeup sessions **during the first week of September** to complete our directory session. Watch for more info!

Lifetouch

We have now **added** Sunday nights (once a month...the fourth Sunday) to our **Gathering Place schedule**. So, if you tried to sign up and it was full, head back to the sign up below!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c054bafac2ca3fc1-serve3>



Worship with us! Join us for LIVE worship every Sunday at 10 am on Youtube and Facebook, or this NEW WAY TO JOIN: call (402) 372-5480. Miss us on Sunday? Worship services are available on Youtube & Facebook, or (402) 372-5480 all week.





Corona Bible Update:

We have received hundreds of contributions to the Nebraska Corona Bible Project! Now we need YOUR HELP to review the submissions, sort them, and put them in the right order.

We are looking for groups of 1-4 volunteers who would come in one or two hours at a time to sort through the contributions we have received so far.

You can pick your preferred date using the signup below (Note: the times are left blank. Please arrange with fellow participants about their preferred time.) Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/SortBible>

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS



Bistro Theology hits the Road!

For the first time since the pandemic, we will be meeting again in person - socially distanced of course!

For the summer months, we will meet "on the road": in backyards and on patios of friends and members of Eastridge Presbyterian Church. For our July meeting, we'll be meeting in the backyard of Berna Stading. Please bring your mask, your drink of choice with your own cooler and lawn chair.

Join us in for "Bistro Theology on the Road."

July 30th, 7pm – 8:30 pm: at Berna Stading

August 27th, 7pm – 8:30pm: at Andrew and Anne Loudon

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.

It was Karl Barth who said that in the Church of Jesus Christ there can and should be no non-theologians.

What Bistro Theology IS NOT:

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

Come join us for a very special meeting with for Faith, Drinks, Discussions and Questions.

Bistro Theology
FAITH. DRINKS. DISCUSSION. QUESTIONS



Thank you to those of you who contributed to our recent Front Porch Portraits fundraiser! This fundraiser raised over \$ 700 to benefit youth and choral scholars. Not all are pictured below, but there's currently a slideshow in the Welcome Center if you'd like to catch a glimpse of all participants!



Anti-Racism Taskforce (ART):

The EPC Outreach Committee established the Anti-Racism Taskforce (ART) in keeping with our commitment to address structural racism as a Matthew 25 congregation. We recognize that the racial inequity that divides us is a part of our history that we cannot hide from. The purpose of the ART is to help our congregation identify and respond to racial injustice. To ignore inequities is to oppose the will of Christ "to unite all things in him" (Ephesians 1:10).

We recognize that change such as racial equity is a slow process that requires perseverance, but we can strive to emerge from this pandemic together as a united people. Toward that goal, you are encouraged take another step on the journey by:

- 1) Joining the 21-Day Race Equity Challenge by signing up on the church website
- 2) Participating in an online discussion group to explore your attitudes, experiences, and insights gained from Race Equity re-

sources. To learn more, contact Bill Wehrbein or Cynthia Carlson (wmw@nebrwesleyan.edu or crcdh@msn.com)

- 3) Exploring new perspectives by clicking on the Anti-Racism resource links provided in "The Lamp" each Sunday. Choose to read, listen, view, or reflect on a wide-range of resources that have been recommended by members of the Anti-Racism Taskforce.





Chloe Nelson and

Eastridge: Thank you so much for the beautiful blanket you made for Pippa! What a sweet and meaningful gift! We appreciate your kindness and for thinking about us during this time.



Love, Zach and Ashley (Ober) Eicher

ICE CREAM SOCIAL: Join us on August 9 at 7:00 pm for a physically distanced ice cream social. We'll hand out packaged ice cream bars (a variety!) and you'll sit in the parking lot six feet apart from your Eastridge friends.



Join us for worship Sundays at 10 am! You'll find us at www.eastridge.org and our Facebook page!

Communion Sunday is the first Sunday of the month! Bring the bread and juice that you have as you prepare for worship.



- 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

What's Happening at Calvin Crest



Friends, It has been a mostly quiet summer at Calvin Crest. With our summer camps cancelled due to COVID-19, it just wasn't the same. We missed having the energy that surrounds the summer camp experience. We missed the excitement as kids of all ages spent time in community growing in their faith. And we missed the joy of watching summer staff develop their leadership capacity during the summer.

Even though it has been quiet, we've still had the opportunity to host a few small groups and families over the past several weeks. We've even hosted some new groups that were not able to meet at their "normal" location for a variety of reasons.

And through it all, we've seen God work in many small ways. The extra time has allowed the staff to work on projects of varying sizes. Projects including facility improvements, deep cleaning and extra organizing will be noticed by guests. In addition, we are undertaking the project of completing the digitization of all available camp photos. Look for some of those photos to surface soon from various eras of the 60+ history of Calvin Crest.

If you are missing camp and want to see a few short videos around camp, check out our Facebook page for the video series called "10 Videos in 10 Places".


Many people are asking how things are going at camp. They almost always are talking about the finances. It's true that we've lost over \$100,000 in income due to cancellations of groups through the late spring and summer. We've also lost income from cancelling summer camp. AND

the many friends of camp have been generous with gifts of all sizes to help get us through this difficult time. The CARES Act's Payroll Protection Program helped subsidize staff initially. Grants through the Presbyteries, Synod and state programs are in the works as well. And, through the generosity of donors and careful management of funds, we still have some reserves to fall back on.

As we look ahead, things will be a challenge. Some groups will feel the need to cancel and other groups will step in. Challenges will always exist. God is Good All The Time!

In the coming days you will be receiving updates about the revised plan for our Annual Family Fun Day. That will not happen in person at this time, but we are busy working on a fun way to celebrate and support your connection with Calvin Crest. Thank you for your prayers and support.

EASTRIDGE
Presbyterian Church



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Lincoln NE 68510

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