

From the Pastor's Pen...

As the school year ends and the summer begins, I find myself singing, "What the world needs now, is..." kindness? I know, that's not how the song goes. But I do think the world needs kindness. In fact, I believe kindness could change the world. I'm not the only one, though! Have you noticed this? Kindness is a "thing" now. "Let's put the 'I' in kind!"

"Kindness Matters." "Be Kind!"

"Kindness lives here." It's something we teach our children when they are small, during those formative early years, using phrases like,

"If you can't say anything kind, don't say anything at all." And "treat others as you want to be treated."

In his latest book, *"In Defense of Kindness: Why It Matters, How It Changes Our Lives, and How It Can Save the World,"* Bruce Reyes-Chow says this:

"Kindness has power if we not only believe in it but also live it into being." This is the challenge, or (to put it in "church words") the spiritual discipline I invite you to join this June!

Join the #epckindness Campaign!

Beginning Sunday, May 30, we will begin a sermon series on kindness. We'll start by defining it, and then explore some of the "it's all that easy and it's all that hard" parts. We'll talk about why we're kind, kindness and forgiveness, kindness and conflict, and when kindness means walking away.

Beginning Sunday, May 30, our online After Chats

(following the online service) will feature Brent Shaw (talking about the Mr. Rogers "kindness principle"), Bruce Reyes-Chow, and John Leonard Harris (Mr. Encouragement).



Won't you choose kindness?

Beginning Thursday, June 3, our summer study/online devotional will use Reyes-Chow's book, *"In Defense of Kindness."* There are several ways to join this study! You can join us by Zoom, or in a closed private Facebook group. Zoom sessions will be 10 am on Thursdays, but can be found in the closed private Facebook group throughout the week. Sign up in the office if you would like to participate.

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The Deacons are sponsoring another delivery! Look for a gift from the church on your porch in early June, with

different ideas for how to share kindness with others! Get to know the church family in your neighborhood, and share with family, friends, and neighbors you'd like to know better!

The ART (Anti-Racism Team) is sharing ways to be kind every day! Included in this newsletter is a Kindness Calendar, with daily suggestions (these will be posted in our Facebook Community Group as well!).

The ART is also celebrating kindness with lawn signs at the church and around town. Look for these signs, and ways to celebrate the kindness we see in our community!

Every campaign needs t-shirts! The ART will be

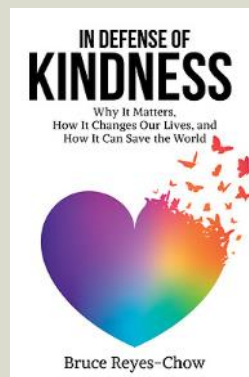
sharing ways to purchase t-shirts with a specially designed #epckindness logo. Any funds raised from the sale of these shirts will be used for a mission we support. Help spread kindness by wearing kindness!

Finally, let's hashtag! When you see acts of kindness, share it! Using #epckindness, you can share a picture, thought, encouragement, or story of kindness making a difference.

Because it does, dear friends. Kindness is Biblical. It's a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22), a quality of love (I Corinthians 13:4); it's part of the character of God (Psalm 36, 69, 17, 31; Isaiah 54:8). Kindness makes a difference in our world.

Won't you choose kindness?

*In a Spirit of Kindness,
Pastor Melodie*



Session Highlights:

The Session acknowledged new member Shellie Ottis, who joined via reaffirmation of faith on May 2, 2021.

Rev. Jones Pointon reported that the pantry building should be habitable by the end of next week. Construction was delayed after a wider door was requested.

The Memorial and Endowment Committee approved funding the alley project to address the water issue using funds from the Roeske Memorial Funds. The Huxtable family has also asked that its donation be used for the meditation garden on the property.

The Reopening Committee reported that, based on guidance from the CDC and the City of Lincoln, masks

will be optional for vaccinated persons in the building. Worship will return to 100 percent occupancy. The Worship and Music Advisory Committee will work with staff to add elements to worship. It is recommended that any food service be catered since there is no volunteer base at the time. In-person worship will be 30 minutes for the next two weeks. In June, worship will return to 9 a.m. in person and 10:30 a.m. online.

Rev. Dr. Jones Pointon reported that the preaching focus in June will be kindness, and volunteers will deliver kindness bags to every member.





















The Session received a report on the Homestead Presbyterian meeting on May 20, 2021.



KINDNESS calendar

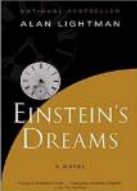


JUNE 2021


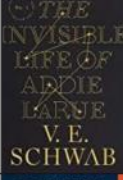
We make many choices every day. Won't you choose KINDNESS?

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Be something bigger than yourself. There is never a bad time to be KIND. Happier, KINDer, together.    	7 Listen to someone else's story without telling one of your own.	8 Recall the last time you apologized to someone. 	9 Before you react immediately to a comment or social media post, stop and ask yourself if it's worth it.	10 Describe the last time you were kind to someone in your family. 	11 To whom do you find it most difficult to be kind? 	12 Be kind to yourself and take an hour off from the internet.
13 Make a list of what matters most to you and why. 	14 Describe a time you have walked away from a situation for your mental well-being.	15 Don't hunk today unless you're in physical danger. 	16 Think about a current conflict you are having with someone that you are avoiding.	17 Before you answer a question, ask yourself if you are assuming the other person knows nothing about it.	18 Offer an apology to someone you have treated poorly or offended. 	19 Think about the last time you shamed a public figure. Commit to end that practice.
20 Send a handwritten note to someone who has been a parent to you.	21 Call someone you have been thinking about. 	22 Think about a time you saw kindness embodied in the context of public protest.	23 Commit to talking to someone to resolve a current conflict.	24 The next time you hear someone shame a person's body, intellect, or politics, speak up.	25 Think about the last "good meeting" you attended. What made it good?	26 Write a kind letter or email to encourage action by a public figure.
27 Review your social media posts for the last week. What portion were kind 	28 Consider a recent event that might not be considered peaceful. Why is this happening?	29 Identify a person or situation you need to walk away from for your well-being. 	30 Review and revise your definition of KINDNESS.	 What if KINDNESS could change the world? KINDNESS is not a journey for the meek and mild. There is never a bad time to choose KINDNESS.      		



Eastridge Presbyterian Book Club picks for next year:
Starting in September 2021, join us the 2nd Monday of
each month at 7pm!

September 13		<i>Einstein's Dreams</i> by Alan Lightman
October 11		<i>The Midnight Library</i> by Matt Haig
November 8		<i>Pickard County Atlas</i> by Chris Harding Thornton
January 10		<i>The Parted Earth</i> by Anjali Enjeti

February 14		<i>Good Apple: Tales of a Southern Evangelical in New York</i> by Elizabeth Passarella
March 14		<i>The Four Winds</i> by Kristin Hannah
April 11		<i>The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue</i> by V.E. Schwab
May 9		<i>This Tender Land</i> by William Kent Krueger
June 13		<i>The Final Revival of Opal & Nev</i> by Dawnie Walton

After Worship Chat schedule:



May 30 - **Brent Shaw** is the organist at Eastridge who also loves Mr. Rogers! Brent will join us and share some of the thoughts and lessons from this famous Presbyterian pastor.

June 6 - **Bruce Reyes-Chow** is an American Teaching Elder of the Presbyterian Church. Reyes-Chow received his BA in Asian American Studies, Sociology and Religion from San Francisco State University in 1990 and received his Masters of Divinity in 1995 from San Francisco Theological Seminary. He served as the Moderator of the 218th General Assembly of the PC



(USA). His recent book, *In Defense of Kindness*, is the basis for our summer study on Zoom and in a closed private Facebook group.



June 13 - **John Leonard Harris** is Lincoln's own Mr. Encouragement. Mr. Harris is a dynamic keynote and conference speaker, award-winning writer, poet and actor.

Several years ago, Mr. Harris was added to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "Wall of Honor" and the Melvin Jones Mentoring Award for his work over the years with young people in his community. Mr. Harris is also leading a Kindness Campaign, so we invited him to share why and how he believes kindness can change our community and the world.

Join us each week following online worship!



To the community at Eastridge Presbyterian Church:

Dear friends, grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ! I pray that wherever you are, you feel God's presence this day.

No reservations required. I remember seeing this sign on hotel signs on family vacations as a child. After I learned to read, I asked my parents what it means. "They mean to tell them that you're coming, so they can be prepared." When we re-opened the sanctuary for in person worship on March 14, we asked for reservations, so we could be prepared. Oh my, what a difference two months makes.

It is with great hope and joy that I share with you all today, that beginning this week we will no longer be requiring reservations for worship in our sanctuary. This is in large part due to the updated CDC guidelines released May 13, 2021, as well as the Lincoln/Lancaster County press release May 18, 2021.

This isn't the only thing that will be changing in our building. Here are some other updates to our policy:

*Masks will no longer be required in our building. However, we encourage those who are not fully vaccinated, not feeling well, or are more comfortable wearing a mask to please do so.

*In person worship will include a variety of ways to worship that invite the congregation to participate. (Yes! We can sing!) However, we ask for grace for those planning worship as we prepare to re-introduce "old things in new ways."

*If you would like to host a group using

our facilities, we are happy to share the updated guidelines with you. Previously not allowed activities (food, drink, and singing) are now allowed. However, plans for such events should be written and submitted to the building and property re-opening committee for approval of current best practices.

*We are still encouraging groups to meet outside during these nice summer months!

*Our online worship service, after chat, and Bible studies will continue as vital ministries of our community.

Finally, a couple of notes from me, personally. Over the past sixteen months, the EPC community has shown great love - of God, of each other; great grace - in listening to and accepting each other; great patience - as we found new ways to worship, learn, and serve God together. Friends, let's not stop doing these things. Some of us will be ready to shed the mask, sing out loud, and pass the peace with hugs. Others will not yet be ready, will still wear masks, and will not yet sing. Let's love each other with the grace and peace that comes from God.

It is important for us to recognize the leadership that has guided us through this time. The members of the session: Robin Hadfield, Kurt Beck, William Wehrbein, Chris Boden, Greg Tubach, Jen Olsen, Carol Ripley, Carolyn Olsen, Doug McDaniel, Kris Brenneis, George Kilpatrick, Lois Wies, Elizabeth Kohel and Thomas Dummermuth. This group had the wisdom to ask a dedicated group of front line workers from a variety of fields to share their guidance with our congregation. Together, they form the Building

and Property Re-opening Committee: Doug McDaniel (chair), Gina Kohel, Chris Boden, Kris Brenneis, Susan Budler, and Diane Harris. Their service began last June with an anticipated short period of time (one or two months at most!) but has continued for almost a year. They have chosen to lead our community with love and safety as their first concern. A church member recently shared this as part of their thank you, "I have truly felt the love and concern for the congregation as a whole, and that the measures taken were out of love for all of us."

And yet - the pandemic is not yet "over." The work of the Building and Property Re-opening Committee will continue as guidelines continue to change. Two members of my own household are part of the "not yet vaccinated" population and will need to wear masks when appropriate. Variants are spreading in other parts of the world where access to vaccines is not widely available. Many from our own country are choosing to not get vaccinated, for various reasons. My personal plea is to please get vaccinated if you are not already. If you have questions or concerns, please contact your doctor's office. I'm also happy to hear those thoughts and concerns.

If you have any questions or concerns about the information shared in this letter, please feel free to contact me or a member of the Re-opening Committee (listed above).

Peace and grace be with you all!

Hallelujah! Let it be so!

Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon, Senior Pastor



Dear Eastridge Presbyterian Church

After the year that we've all had, kids need connection. Connection with others, connection with caring adults, connection with God and connection to nature. Calvin Crest Camp, Conference and Retreat Center can provide all of this for the children and youth in your congregation.

With several significant modifications, Calvin Crest is offering summer camp. Registration is open and space is limited.

We are not sending out brochures this summer. Check out the Calvin Crest website to sign up!

Together, we can help children and youth connect in meaningful ways!

Thank You!

Craig Huffman

Executive Director

P.S. Camp begins in early June so please make use of this material soon!

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION: We have scheduled a new member orientation via zoom. Sign up to find out more about membership at Eastridge! Sunday, June 13th, 11:45-1pm Sign up now for the available session here:

<http://bit.ly/discovereastridge>

At our May orientation, we welcomed Shellie Ottis to membership at Eastridge. Shellie has lived in Lincoln for 24 years after growing up in Fremont, Nebraska. She works at the post office as a rural carrier. Her children are: Dylan, Timothy, Tristan, Astraya, Deric, and stepdaughter Mykayla.



EASTRIDGE SIGNS: We've purchased a few more yard signs and they are available in the welcome center. We also still have some laminated 9" x 12" signs available, as well as a new and exciting option: 3" x 4" clings that can be placed in your car, your home, on your water bottle or coffee cup. They will be available in the welcome center.

Any of these can be shared with friends and family who are not EPC members.





Eastridge music director Brian Lew put together this collage of everyone who has participated in virtual choir during the pandemic. Can you find yourself?



Here's What's Happening!

Work on phase one of the Sunrise Road property project continues to move forward. The work on the pantry building continues, extending the pantry by ten feet, and installing much needed plumbing for good health practices. Now that the weather is warmer, we are hopeful work on the ramp will begin soon, making the food pantry, playground, and community space accessible.

Another phase of the project, (formerly phase three) will be addressed sooner than planned. This phase addressed drainage issues on the north side of the building. Last fall some of our carpet tiles began "popping" up in the downstairs education wing. After researching the cause and possible solutions, the trustees determined that the current drainage solutions are no longer adequate for that portion of the building. Session approved the plans for the project, and agreed that it needs to be addressed soon. Plans call for the alley to be removed (it is not needed for fire codes) along the north side of the building, and for drain tiles to be installed. These tiles will direct water to a pump at the end of the building that will lead water away from the foundation. Originally, it was hoped we could leave drive up access to the alley door to the Huxtable Lounge. The drive up will now come to the end of the building, with a walkway to the alley door. We hope to do some landscaping and beautification where the alley is now, depending on developing a plan and funding.

Finally, the trustees will be coordinating some much needed work to the existing columns on the east and south side of the building. Work will also be done on the existing concrete on the south side of the building in order to address some drainage issues on that side of the building.





OUR EASTRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES:



Maya Boden is the daughter of Mike & Chris Boden. She graduated from Lincoln Southeast High School where she was a part of the cheer team. Maya was also involved with the Peer Mediation program, SHIELD Athletic Leadership Group, and Student Ambassadors. She served the community by serving meals at The Gathering Place. Maya works with the After School Program at McPhee Elementary. Maya is a confirmed member of Eastridge and has been very active in the ministry programs. She attended many summers of camp at Camp Calvin Crest, attends weekly Youth Group gatherings, and summer youth trips. This fall Maya will attend East Carolina University in Greenville, NC where she will major in Elementary Education.

Nyawuol Dak is the daughter of Peter Dak & Nyabuok Thoal. She graduated from Lincoln High School in December of 2020. While at Lincoln High, she was a part of the basketball team. Nyawuol is a confirmed member of Eastridge and has been active in the church. She attended Youth Group and was also part of the delegation that attended the 2018 Presbyterian Youth Triennium. This fall Nyawuol will remain in Lincoln and attend Southeast Community College.



Jessica Gondringer is the daughter of Chad & Kendra Gondringer. She graduated from Lincoln East High School. While at Lincoln East, Jessica was a part of the soccer team and concert choirs. Jessica has been involved in the community by coaching a boy's soccer team. This fall Jessica will remain in Lincoln and attend the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. She will major in History.

Brandon Hiller is the son of Bruce and Shelley Hiller. Brandon graduated from Norris High School. While at Norris, Brandon was a SkillsUSA officer and participated in the Norris SkillsUSA Car show. Brandon is a confirmed member of Eastridge Presbyterian Church. He spent several summers at Camp Calvin Crest. This fall Brandon will attend Southeast Community College – Milford Campus. His focus will be in the Electrician Program.





Ana Rankin is the daughter of Lance & Becky Rankin. Ana graduated from Lincoln Southeast High School. Ana has participated in the community by serving meals at The Gathering Place. Ana works with the Afterschool Program at McPhee Elementary school. Ana is a confirmed member of Eastridge is active in the life of the church. She has spent many summers at Camp Calvin Crest, is an active member of the Youth Group, and has been on many summer trips including the Presbyterian Youth Triennium. Ana also served on the session as an Elder and as a leader with the Tuesday Afterschool Program. Ana is also currently on staff at the church as a nursery worker. This fall Ana will attend Southeast Community College majoring in Elementary Education.



Tanner Rankin is the son of Lance & Becky Rankin. Tanner graduated from Lincoln Southeast High School. While at Southeast, Tanner has been a part of the football and track teams. Tanner is a confirmed member of Eastridge and has been active in the church. Tanner is an active member of the Youth Group and has been a part of the summer trips. This fall Tanner will remain in Lincoln and attend the University of Nebraska – Lincoln.

Ella Wies is the daughter of Jim & Lois Wies. Ella graduated from Lincoln High School. While at Lincoln High, Ella was a part of the orchestra. She was also a part of The Career Academy where she took classes focused on engineering. Ella is a confirmed member at Eastridge. She has been active in the life of the church. She was an active part of the Youth Group and attended the Presbyterian Youth Triennium. Ella is also a part of the bell choir. This fall Ella will be taking a gap year. In 2022, she plans to attend the 2+2 Engineering Program at University of Nebraska – Lincoln & Kearney.





The Gathering Place sign up: Prior to COVID in early 2020, we had added a Sunday night to our Eastridge volunteer schedule. The Gathering Place has added it back into the schedule! The sign up reflects this:

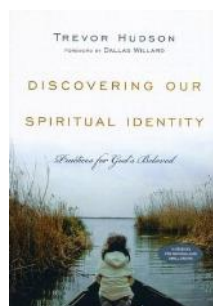
<http://bit.ly/gatheringplacepc>



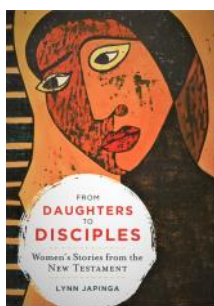
Ladies Night Out: We are planning a trip to Omaha to **Lauritzen Gardens on Sunday, June 6** following online worship. We will leave from the church parking lot

around 11:00 am. For more information, contact the office or view the Ladies Night Out Facebook page.

The **Wednesday morning Bible study** is currently doing *Discovering Our Spiritual Identity* by Trevor Hudson, and



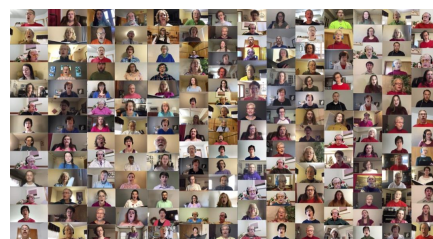
will begin *From Daughters to Disciples* by Lynn Japinga later this summer.



The Music Ministry has had a challenging yet rewarding year. Although we rarely saw each other, we are thankful that technology was able to bring us together to lead worship. We all yearn for the fall when we can rehearse in-person. If you see a member of the Music Ministry, please thank them for all that they did this year to provide music in worship.

Kirk Ringers: Debbie Merritt, Sandy Walsh-Gores, Christi Moock, Diane Crouch, Ella Wies, Deb Reichert, Alinda Stelk, Isabella Lecher, Nancy Hall, Carly Poskochil, Jen Olsen.

Chancel Choir: John Duling, Cathy Duling, Hope Shortridge, Diane Eaton, Cheryl Byler, Bev Mach, Pam Schumacher, Robin Hadfield, Kris Brenneis, Bill Wehrbein, Kylie Meter, Patty Niemann, Charlie Schroeder, Linda Shearman, Greg Tubach, Holly Bingham, Treyson Rassfeld, Sarah Dyer, Joel Brown, Ed Brenneis, Sandy Brenneis, Krista Sorensen, Sebastian Sorensen.



Benjamin Crelin's Ordination Ceremony

We're delighted to share that Ben has met all requirements for ordination to Gospel ministry. He will be officially or-

dained June 4, 2021 for his work in Cambridge, England. This ceremony completes a six-year preparation process and recognizes a life-long calling to build Christ's Church.

Join us on livestream (contact office for link).

Friday, 4th June 2021 4 p.m. EST Due to Covid restrictions, a small in-person service will be hosted in Beverly, MA, and live-streamed for those not participating in the ceremony.

Beginning June 6, our worship schedule will be as follows:

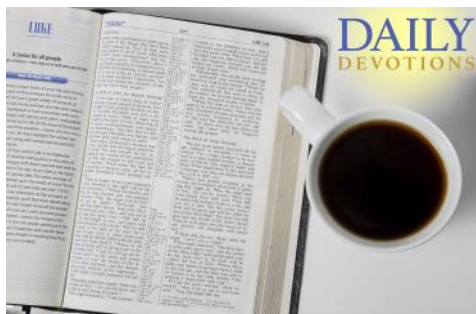
9 am in the sanctuary

10:30 am online, followed by the After Chat

W O R S H I P



We are always looking for new writers for our online **devotion ministry**. If you are interested in writing, even just occasionally, please contact the office for more information. If you'd like to receive a prompt and the link five days a week via email, let the office know as well.



SERMON SERIES: This summer, Pastors Melodie and Thomas will take a look at sermons preached in the past. Is there a sermon from Pastor Melodie or Pastor Thomas that you recall:

- ◇ You struggled to understand?
- ◇ You loved?
- ◇ You wanted to hear more about, because something in it stood out to you?
- ◇ You had never heard the scripture preached in that way before?

We'd like to hear from you! Send an email with a brief description of what you recall, and we will do the rest!

~ Pastor Melodie and Pastor Thomas

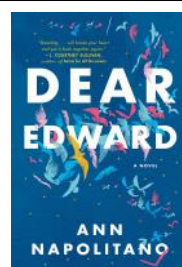
Summer
Sermon Series

Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon.....Senior Pastor
Rev. Thomas Dummermuth.....Associate Pastor
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
Vince Ruhl.....Audio/Visual Technician
Office number.....402-488-7844
Melodie Jones Pointon: mjonespointon@eastridge.org
Thomas Dummermuth: tdummermuth@eastridge.org

MEET THE STAFF

Flowers in Worship: If you are interested in providing flowers for in-person worship in the sanctuary, you may sign up here:

<http://bit.ly/flowersworship>



EPC Book Club: June pick is *Dear Edward* by Ann Napolitano. We will have our list for next year available at the June meeting, June 14 at 7:00 pm! We will meet in Huxtable Lounge or the East Patio.

Join the women of Eastridge for **Fourth Friday Coffee Fellowship**. Currently, we are meeting via Zoom at 8:30 am the fourth Friday of each month. Contact the office for more information!





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