



## From the Pastor's Pen -

Time marches on once again this year, as the seasons change and the leaves change color, displaying God's bright and vivid imagination. The air has that colder edge to it now, and it's obvious that fall is here. In fact, suddenly it seems to be late fall, and we've skipped over the transition into fall. Last week it was warmer, more of a late summer temperature. This week a storm blew through our weekend, putting a stop to the Halfsy (half marathon), Sunday strolls on the trails, and neighborhood gatherings. It's fall, ya'll. We know what that means.

I've been thinking a lot about the seasons of life lately. For me, this latest season has led me to "nesting." I've been harvesting and canning and baking and freezing and painting and cleaning and in general getting ready. Ready, I hope, for family gatherings and cozy nights and decorations and all the things I missed and we missed last year.

Seasons change, friends. And we are in a different season this year. This season is full of the familiar traditions of "before" as well as some of the newer events of "now." We are still working out what "will be," as this season gives way to the next season. For now, though, we celebrate fall and harvest in a season of gratitude and thanksgiving.

We invite you to join us:

**Sunday, November 7**, for a communion service of thanksgiving for All [the] Saints that have joined the church triumphant over the past year. This is church-speak for remembering those members of our community who have died. It is a way for us to celebrate and give thanks for their season, their faith, and God's grace and mercy.

**Sunday, November 14**, at 3:30 pm - we'll gather in the parking lot for some fellowship, hot beverages and some pumpkin thanksgiving treats. At 4 pm, we'll turn our attention to our annual congregational meeting to nominate and elect officers, as well as to approve the pastor's terms of call. These are important matters, as they give us time to celebrate the leaders of our community and the gifts they bring to leading in this particular time.

**Sunday, November 21**, we will be led in worship by Eastridge Presbyterian Women, and gather this year's Thank Offering. They will tell you the amazing work those funds do for those who need food, clothes, and shelter. It's also a time for us to celebrate the work of our community, as we hear from a special guest preacher, the Rev. Joy Martinez-Marshall. Joy is a partner in ministry at First Baptist Church of Lincoln and will be participating in a pulpit swap with Thomas. We are thankful we get to know Joy and the community at First Baptist!

Of course, there will be lots of happenings all the way through November, many of which are included in this Newsletter. Regular Bible studies and circles and faith formation and meetings and food distributions and worship. In many ways, it will be a busy November. And, I pray, a November in which we can find ways to give thanks for things big and small.

Also included in this Newsletter is a preview of what we're planning for Advent this year.

As I look through these pages as well as my calendar, I am thankful for the many activities and events it holds. However, I am even more thankful for the many people - family, friends, members of the Eastridge community, and our greater community - bring joy, hope, peace, and love into my life each day. Happy (month of) Thanksgiving!

~ Melodie





## Advent Bible Study

### What My Grandmothers Taught Me:

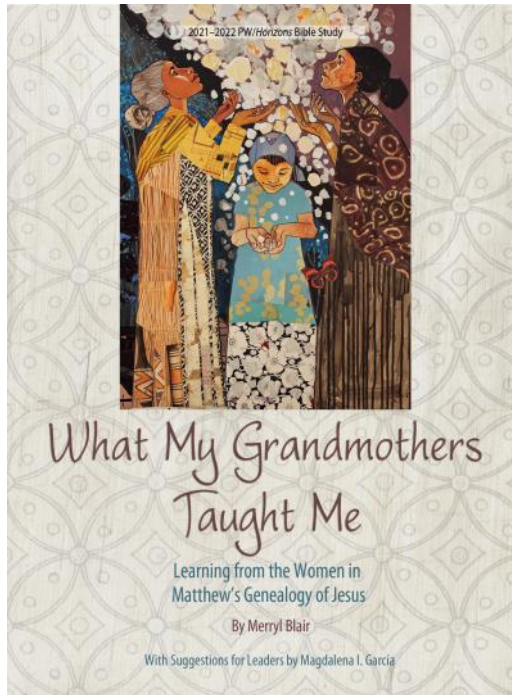
### Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus \*)

When: Starting Monday, November 29, 9-10am, for 4 weeks.

Where: Online —via Zoom \*\*)

Matthew begins his version of the Christmas story not with emperors and angels nor shepherds, but with a family tree: Among the long list of mostly men, he names five women: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary — for good reason!

*How might Jesus have heard the stories of his grandmothers? What might the young Jesus have felt, as he heard about his family?*



What might the stories of these women have added to his sense of identity, as part of a particular family in a particular time and place? And what can Jesus's grandmothers-of-the-faith teach us? By exploring these stories together, we will have a richer idea of what the good news is.

\*) The study will be guided by the PW Bible study by Merryl Blair by the same name.

Books are available at the Welcome Desk.

\*\*) There are two ways to join: Join us live on Zoom on Monday mornings 9-10 a.m. and/or re-watch the recorded session in our private Facebook Group.

Sign up now: <https://bit.ly/jesusgenealogy>

Questions? Contact Pastor Thomas [tdummermuth@eastridge.org](mailto:tdummermuth@eastridge.org) or 402-488-1454

## Advent Monastery at Home

Nov 25th through Dec 1st

Longing for an Advent retreat - but you can't get away?

Join us for Virtual Advent Monastery: a week of intention and reflection in the midst of your daily activities and regular commitments.

Starting on Thanksgiving, you will receive each morning a text or email with a verse from scripture, a question, and a short exercise which you can do sometime throughout the day.

Every night at 9 pm, we will meet by Zoom for 30 minutes of shared reflection and contemplation.

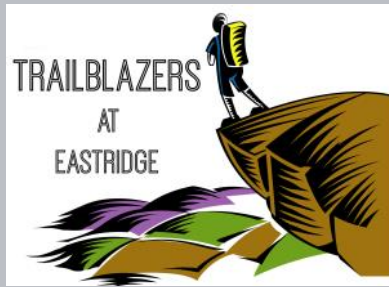
Interested? Contact Pastor Thomas: [tdummermuth@eastridge.org](mailto:tdummermuth@eastridge.org) or text @adventmon to 81010





**Trailblazers for November:** The Trailblazers will meet Friday, November 19 at 7:00 pm to clean pews.

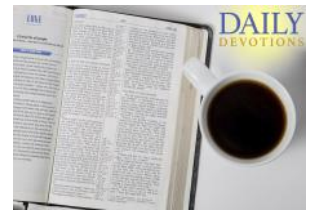
If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Susan Taylor or the office. Trailblazers is a group of mostly retired couples and individuals, meeting monthly during the year (except summer).



Our **congregational meeting** to nominate and elect officers and approve the pastors' terms of call will be held in the Eastridge parking lot at 4:00 pm on November 14. According to our by-laws, a quorum of 5%, or 32 members need to be present. Look for the Nominating report on the page following.



**DEVOTION MINISTRY:** 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. You can read the devotions by clicking on the link on our website: <https://www.eastridgedailydevo.blogspot.com>



**Ushering at Eastridge:** If you were an usher in the past, we would love to have you participate in this ministry again. Please sign up at the link below, or contact the office. You may also contact members of your former usher teams to coordinate.  
**Sign up here:** <http://bit.ly/usherateastridge>



**Coffee hour** has returned to Eastridge on Sunday mornings! The coffee will be started for you, but otherwise the ministry looks the same as it did pre-COVID. Please plan to wear a mask when serving coffee. **Sign up here:** <http://bit.ly/coffeeteastridge>



The **Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women** will be taken at Eastridge on Sunday, November 21. There will be offering envelopes in the Sunday bulletin. Also, if you wish to donate, send a check to the church or drop in the black inbox outside office door. There will be a basket at the Welcome Center entrance to the sanctuary. Since 1888, Presbyterian women have expressed their deep sense of gratitude for God's blessings in their lives by giving back to people in their communities and around the world. Through the Thank Offering, we can help fund programs that provide education, relief from disasters, safe housing, cooking instruction, training for justice and advocacy work, and so much more.

**Thank Offering** 2021  
OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Happy is the one who listens to me,  
watching daily at my gates,  
waiting beside my doors.  
—Proverbs 8:34\*

Learn more about the  
**Thank Offering**  
of Presbyterian Women  
by visiting  
[www.presbyterianwomen.org/thank](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/thank).

\*New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright © 1988 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Used by permission.



**Nominating Report:** The Nominating Committee will present the following slate of officers at the congregational meeting on November 14, 2021. Our thanks to all those who have agreed to serve and to those who have completed their terms of office.

**Session Class of 2024:** Gary Kilian—Nominating Committee; George Kilpatrick—Finance Committee; Alinda Stelk—Youth Committee; Class of 2022: Elizabeth Kohel—Youth Elder.

**Trustees Class of 2024:** Susan Budler, Nancy Hall, Kevin James

**Deacons Class of 2024:** Seth Crawford, LaDonna Grubbs, Ivy Hansen, Gina Kohel, Shelley Ottis; Hope Shortridge—Youth Deacon.

**Memorial and Endowment Committee Class of 2024:** Deryl Merritt, Darrell Nelson

**Nominating Committee Class of 2023:** Seth Crawford, Sandy Hilsabeck Hastings, Susan Taylor; Class of 2022: Robin Hadfield

**W O R S H I P      *Learn*      S E R V E**



**The Gathering Place sign up:** We have a few spots left in 2021, and look for the 2022 sign up coming soon! Eastridge serves the fourth Sunday and Monday evenings at The Gathering Place, a local soup kitchen. We are currently providing two volunteers per evening, and arrival time is 4:25 pm. Contact the office for more information! If you sign up to serve, you must also fill out the form from Community Action Partnership (located as a link on the signup).

Please read the instructions on the sign up before serving.

<http://bit.ly/gatheringplacepc>



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

<http://bit.ly/flowersworship>

Please note in the comment section if you would like a special message in the bulletin.



**Check out the Eastridge Presbyterian Community** page on Facebook to connect with other Eastridge folks! For more information, contact the church office, or send a message via Facebook messenger to the Eastridge Presbyterian Church main Facebook page.



## FUNDRAISING: YOUTH



This summer the Youth Group will head to Indianapolis, IN for the Presbyterian Youth Triennium. It is a four-day event filled with worship, study, small groups/interest groups, and recreation. This is a new location for this event in order to provide air-conditioned housing. (Indiana in July can be VERY HOT!) This change increases the cost of registration. In order to help offset some of the registration costs, the youth will be hosting a couple of fundraisers over the next couple of months.



ten  
thousand  
villages.

TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES – We will be hosting a POP-UP sale for Ten Thousand Villages on November 14th – 16th in the Welcome Center at church. This will be much like the sale we did two years ago. Church and neighborhood members will be invited to come shop and hopefully start your Christmas shopping. This year Ten Thousand Village will also provide us with a second shopping option by giving us a coupon code. If you are not yet comfortable shopping with a crowd, you can purchase items online and use an

EPC specific coupon code. When that is used, we will get credit for the sale. By hosting, the Youth Group will receive 15% of the total sales. The store shared with us that last time we hosted it was the biggest POP-UP sale to date. We are hoping we can top that again this year.



“YOU’VE BEEN ELFED” – The second fundraiser that the Youth Group is hosting is a grouping of Christmas Elf yard signs. Church members and friends will have the opportunity to “rent” the group of signs to place in neighbor or friends front yard for 24 hours. The rental fee is \$25 for one set of signs for one 24-hour period. The youth group will do that drop off and pick up. We will have two sets of signs, and each will have a place where you can put yourself in the sign in order to take pictures. This is a perfect thing for families with young children. You could “rent” one for yourself, your grandchildren or that favorite neighbor who has small children. The first day the signs will be available is Friday, November 26th and the last day they are available is Friday, December 24th. In the next few weeks, youth group members will be available on Sunday morning to take your reservation. You will also be able to contact Kris in in the church office to sched-

ule a reservation.





As we look toward 2022, we would like to start a card ministry with our children and youth. During the pandemic, one of the ways we remained in contact with the children and youth was through the mail. We received a lot of positive feedback about this, and children LOVED getting mail. It's something they don't get very much of in this digital age. Several of them would anxiously wait to go to the mailbox to see what the church was sending them this week. One of our families reported that their preschooler would often ask, "Did Mrs. Kris send me anything today." Due to this response, we would like to continue reaching out to our children by sending cards. They would be sent for holidays, special days of the season, and birthdays. The church will provide the cards and the postage. We just need volunteers who would be willing to do the writing and sending. Each volunteer would get about 10-12 children and/or youth with whom they would correspond. If you are willing to volunteer to part of this card ministry, please contact Kris Adler-Brammer at [kadlerbrammer@eastridge.org](mailto:kadlerbrammer@eastridge.org) or call the church office.

EASTRIDGE  
Presbyterian Church



## Order your 2022 Calendar

to support the Choral Scholar fund at  
Eastridge!

8 x 12 full color calendar featuring the birds found in our beautiful state of Nebraska (most right here in Lincoln)!

Perfect to give as a gift as well.

**Calendars are \$ 30, payable to West Door Studios.**

If you'd like to pay via Venmo, account information below (please make sure you are using the Venmo name below, not anything associated with the church or Donna's email at church)

If you are outside Lincoln, please include address information either in Venmo, or via message.

*The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. Song of Solomon 2:12*

*Beside them the birds of the heavens dwell; they sing among the branches. Psalm 104:12*



Photos by Donna Gustafson



West Door Studios Donna  
Gustafson Photography  
[@WestDoorStudios-DonnaGustafson](https://www.instagram.com/WestDoorStudios-DonnaGustafson)

This fall the **Worship & Music Committee will be selling 2022 calendars** as a means to fundraise for our Choral Scholar Program. The calendars will feature local professional nature photography by Eastridge's own Donna Gustafson of West Door Studios. Calendars are \$30 and can be purchased from the church website or church office. The Choral Scholars are an integral part of not only the Chancel Choir but of our congregation, leading us in congregational hymn singing and recording musical pieces for our online services.

Calendars make an excellent holiday present and support not only the Choral Scholars Program but is welcomed advertising for a local business! There is a sign up at the Welcome Desk.



You may donate to the **Elementary Faith Connection** snack time! For children, we can use individually wrapped snacks - snack crackers, gold fish, fruit snacks, cookies, cereal, etc. These items can be dropped off at the church or you can make a donation and we will do the shopping. Grocery store gift cards are also an option so we can add some fresh fruits and vegetables.

Sign up to serve a meal to the youth! We are looking for folks who are willing to provide and serve dinner. To accommodate our safety needs at this time, we will have dinner on the east patio serving out of the Huxtable Lounge. You might be interested in serving individually or you might get a group together to provide dinner. At this time, we will be serving around 25. You can use the following link for a list of dates available and to sign up. <https://bit.ly/EPCyouthmeal>



## Session Highlights

### October

The Session approved the minutes of the Session meeting of September 16, 2021, and the special Session meeting of October 13, 2021.

The Session acknowledged that the Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon and the Rev. Thomas Dummermuth officiated at the baptisms of Emma and Gavin Hunt, children of Andrew and Jenna, on September 26, 2021, at the 9 a.m. service.

The Session removed from the member rolls Margie Jensen, deceased September 28, 2021, and Betty Joann Loudon, deceased Oc-

tober 15, 2021.

The Session acknowledged receipt into membership of Ronneen Holden, by letter of transfer on October 13, 2021.

The Session acknowledged that the Rev. Thomas Dummermuth officiated at the funeral of Margie Jensen on October 6, 2021, at Wyuka Funeral Home.

The Session approved a motion to schedule the Thank Offering service sponsored by the Eastridge Presbyterian Women for November 21, 2021.

The Session approved a motion from the Outreach Committee for

Eastridge to participate as a Faith to Forest congregation.

The Session approved a motion from the Worship and Music Advisory Committee to sell calendars created by Donna Gustafson as a fundraiser for the Choral Scholars Fund.

The Session approved a motion to schedule the congregational meeting for Sunday, November 14, 2021, at 4 p.m. The meeting may be held in the parking lot or in the Sanctuary depending on the status of COVID requirements and weather.

The Session approved the wedding of Sara Petersen and Joseph Ross for October 15, 2022.



**UPDATE: WOW!** Thank you for your response to our recent fund match challenge. We currently have \$ 23, 256 applied to our fund match...twice the \$ 10,000 originally

designated! Some of the funds given to the match were above and beyond pledged giving! We are thankful for all funds received, and those who were able to give.



## AFTER CHATS FOR NOVEMBER:



**November 7 - Joel M. LeMon** - The Rev. Dr. Joel M. LeMon, who has been a member of Candler's faculty since 2007, views music as a tool for engaging with Scripture. His classes combine that artistic passion with an expertise in Old Testament interpretation and ancient Near Eastern history to teach students how to interpret Scripture carefully and faithfully. LeMon's research focuses on the Psalms, Hebrew and Ugaritic poetry, and ancient Near Eastern history, literature and art. He is currently working on a book that focuses on violence in the Psalms and ancient Near Eastern iconography.

**November 14 - Marilyn Moore** - Marilyn Moore, retired associate superintendent of Lincoln Public Schools and past president of the Bryan College of Health Sciences. Moore has spent more than 40 years in education as a teacher and administrator. Moore has served on many community boards, including as president of the Lincoln Food Bank, president of the Lied Center Advisory Board and member of the Chancellor's Alumni Advisory Committee.



**November 21: Reverend Joy Martinez-Marshall**—Rev. Joy is from The Colony, Texas. As a young woman she felt the call to be in ministry. She pursued that call as she attended Baylor University in Waco, Texas where she received her Bachelor of Arts in Religion. During her undergraduate degree she served in various ministries including working with high school students, leading youth mission trips, and ministry to children in Guatemala. She earned her Master of Divinity from George W. Truett Theological Seminary in Waco. Most recently she served as the Student Life Minister in a Waco congregation. Joy is an ordained American Baptist Pastor. She has a kind husband named Austin. They enjoy watching stand-up comedy, trying restaurants where Guy Fieri has eaten, and cheering on Liverpool FC.



**Join us Sunday, November 7, for a communion service of thanksgiving for All [the] Saints** that have joined the church triumphant over the past year. In-person worship is at 9:00 am, and online worship is at 10:30 am.





## Summer/Fall 2021 EPC Projects

The Eastridge Presbyterian Church Trustees would like to give you an update on the projects that were done over this past summer and early fall. Most of the projects are completed, and a few others should be done soon.

The North Foundation project which hopefully solved our water issues on the north side of the building is nearing completion;



there is some final grading needed for the area and we are planning to put a cover crop of wheat and straw netting down for the winter. This will allow time for the Sunrise Property Committee to plan the landscape for this area.

On the southwest corner of the East Patio, we were having water issues in the basement. It was decided to remove



one of the brick frame planters and to pour new concrete sloping away from the building. While we were working on the patio, we decided to purchase outdoor tables and umbrellas, as we hope more people will utilize this area for outdoor meetings and gatherings.

The contractor is finishing up the South Foundation repair where we have had water issues in the basement.

So far all these repair projects, dealing with the water issues in the building, have been working and we have not had any water in the basement since their completions.

Over the last few years the North Narthex doors have

been deteriorating, since both the north and south doors and frames were 50+ years old it was decided to replace both sets at the same time and have them match.



New sign inserts were installed recently in the 56th Street sign. They are individual panels with the church, day care, and pantry graphics. The lights were switched to LED for better efficiency. The sign was painted to match the trim color of the church.



Over the last few months one of our current Trustees, Rex Radcliff, has been scraping and painting the trim and railings all around the church. Rex has been doing a great job working on this project and when completed the trim should be all one color, and match (we affectionately call the paint color Eastridge Brown).

The contractor will be working soon on repointing and installing new caps on the columns on the east and south side of the church. We hope this work will keep the columns from deteriorating so they can be enjoyed for many more years.

The Trustees would like to thank the congregation for their patience and support during this time. We also appreciate Session and M&E Committees' support to help find and approve the funding for these projects.

Like our own homes that continually need upkeep done on them, our hope is that by doing this much needed work EPC will continue to be a safe and beautiful place for our members and visitors to work, meet, and gather.





## Per Capita



**Per Capita:** The official definition reads “Per capita is an opportunity for all communicant members of the Presbyterian church

through the governing bodies to participate equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission; and of performing ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions that identify a Reformed Church, while at the same time strengthening the sense of community among all Presbyterians”. But it really just means giving to the church! When each individual doesn’t pay their per capita, it is up to the church to cover it, which takes funds away from other ministries. This year it is \$ 45.10, due by year’s end.

**Giving Sunday** was October 31. Pledge cards are available at the Welcome Desk, and were included in last month’s (October) mailing. You may leave your pledge card in the offering plate or office inbox. We are continuing to keep watch over this year's budget. ..our spending is on or below budget, and it's the time of year our giving increases to cover those expenses. Thank you for all your gifts - including gifts given above and beyond pledges, and towards our fund match.


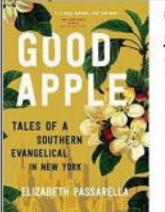

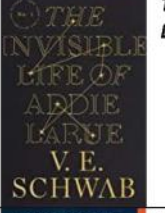
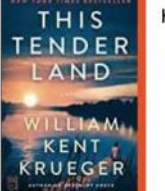
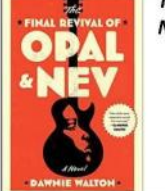


I WILL FULFILL TO YOU MY PROMISE AND BRING YOU BACK TO THIS PLACE. FOR SURELY I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU, SAYS GOD, PLANS FOR YOUR WELFARE AND NOT FOR HARM, TO GIVE YOU A FUTURE WITH HOPE.

+ JEREMIAH 29:10-II

## Eastridge Presbyterian Book Club:

Below is the list for 2022. Join us at 7:00 pm on the second Monday of each month in the conference room, or the east patio when weather permits. Entire year’s list is on the church website.

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 &amp; Nev</i> by Dawnie Walton



## You are invited to our **Advent/Christmas celebration events!**

On Sunday, December 5th, we will have Christmas Caroling and a reading of the Polar Express in the church parking lot. Bring yourselves, kids, and grandkids! Time will be announced in a few weeks, but will occur in the mid-afternoon. The annual Christmas Cantata will take place at 9am worship on Sunday, December 12th. This year we be gathering food items for our Food Pantry as they prepare for a busy holiday season.



## Angel Tree at Eastridge: Holiday Giving 2021

Because we are still dealing with the coronavirus, we will have a modified Eastridge Holiday Giving Event. We will have an Angel Tree in the Welcome Center with angels by November 21st. Most of the angels will have a request for a gift card for Clinton Elementary students or clients of Aging Partners. We will have a few angels with requests for women at Fresh Start and some from the Presbyterian Giving catalog for World Missions. There will be instructions on the angels. Thank you for your participation!  
~ Susan Taylor



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](mailto:mjonespointon@eastridge.org)  
 Thomas Dummermuth: [tdummermuth@eastridge.org](mailto:tdummermuth@eastridge.org)

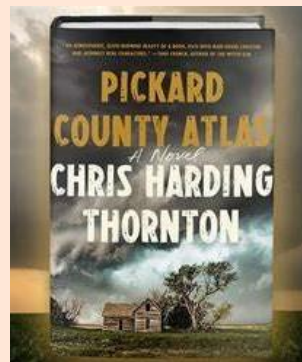
# MEET THE STAFF

## Join us November 14 for Thanksgiving-inspired treats!



Just prior to our Congregational Meeting at 4:00 pm, we will gather in the parking lot at 3:30 to enjoy cider, coffee, and some fall inspired bars!

## EPC Book Club:



For November, we will read *Pickard County Atlas* by Chris Harding Thornton. Join us at 7pm on November 8 in the conference room for discussion and light refreshments. Entire list is on the Eastridge website.

**EASTRIDGE**  
Presbyterian Church



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