



G.R.O.W. A GARDEN

Gather, Reflect, or Wander

We're announcing the next phase in the Sunrise Road Property Project! Last October we celebrated the completion of the addition to the Food Pantry and installation of an accessible ramp. Now we are developing a reflection garden immediately north of the church building. To remediate water runoff into the basement, the driveway was removed, giving us the opportunity to develop a welcoming green space in its place. Plans include installing TREX benches (made from recycled plastic) and a strolling path surrounded by native shrubs and plantings to create a calming natural community space.

Work will begin this Spring! There are many opportunities for members of all ages to contribute. Here's how:

- Collect plastic bags and bring them to the collection boxes in the Welcome Center.
- Divide the blooming and edible perennials in your garden and donate them to the garden; call the church office to add your name to the plant contributor list.
- Fund an item on the Garden Wish List*; this would be the ideal honor for a Mother's Day



or Father's Day gift. Go to the "Serve" tab on the Eastridge.org website menu to designate your gift.

- Make a monetary donation designated to the Garden Project using the Eastridge.org website.
- Volunteer your gardening skills to plant and nurture the Garden; call the church office to add your name to the volunteer list.

G.R.O.W. Garden Wish List

- Ivory Silk tree lilac \$250 (2)
- Taylor juniper \$150 (7)
- Autumn Brilliance \$130 (1)
- Miss Kim lilac \$125 (5)
- Autumn Jazz viburnum \$35 (3)
- Cornelius cherry \$190 (2)
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- Strolling path \$50 per section
- Sprinkler system contribution

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Use optional memo to indicate who the

gift is honoring and/or the specific item you want to contribute



Matthew 25

***Fighting hunger...Addressing systemic racism...
Increasing congregational vitality***

Spring is a time for planting, growing, and building. The birds return to their nests that have been battered by the cold and winds of winter; they hurry to find sticks and lint to rebuild their homes before the eggs are laid. As the ground warms, it becomes welcoming to the seeds and bulbs we plant with visions of colorful gardens. Having lived most of her life in Nebraska's unpredictable weather, my mother always advised, "Don't plant flowers until after Mother's Day."

This belief ensured that plants were always included in her Mother's Day gifts.

As Spring heralds a fresh start, it is a good time to consider building our congregational vitality. After the gray, seemingly unending winter, our congregation has the opportunity to re-direct ourselves to demonstrate our beliefs on a daily basis. The PCUSA Vital Congregations guide says, "What we believe: ...God is calling the Church to transform and transcend cultures and contexts. We must move from



MATTHEW 25

inward institutions to neighborhood relationships and mission."

The Food Pantry is an impactful mission serving our community. Completing the addition in October 2021 helped improve the efficiency of food distribution and the capacity to reach out to more people who are food insecure. The ramp made the Pantry more accessible to visitors. As we expand this outreach into our community, a plan has been developed to enhance the welcoming atmosphere near the Pantry by developing a garden north of the church building. It will provide a place for members of the congregation and the broader community to gather, reflect, or wander among native plantings. Benches made from recycled plastic bags will offer quiet spots to pray, listen, and nurture relationships.

A Matthew 25 Congregation is vital, lively, and full of energy. By building our garden, a place to G.R.O.W.

(gather, reflect, and wander), we reach

out to the neighbors living in cultures and contexts that may be unfamiliar, but bring opportunities to transform and transcend our diversity. For information about how you can help G.R.O.W. the Garden, see other articles in this newsletter.

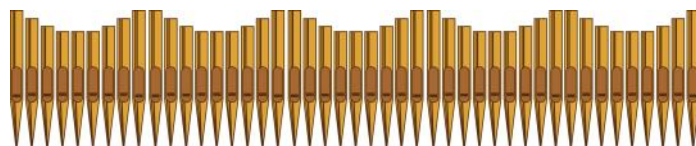
Introduction to the Organ with Brent Shaw and students:

Saturday, May 21 from 3pm to 4pm.

Join us in the sanctuary of Eastridge Presbyterian Church. You are invited to a presentation on how the organ works and how instruments in the Bible and different cultures led up to the modern church and pipe organ with Brent Shaw and some of his students. The

class is for a local music group but all are invited. Brent and his students will share a few selections on the organ as well.

Psalm 150 - Praise the Lord with stringed instruments and organ; let everything that hath breath praise the Lord!





SESSION HIGHLIGHTS: APRIL

The Session approved the minutes of the Session meeting of March 24, 2022.

The Session removed Betty Casper from the member rolls, deceased on March 22, 2022.

The Session removed Lee Hitt from the member rolls, deceased April 7, 2022.

The Session affirmed the e-mail vote approving the baptism of Wyatt Cole Vonderschmidt, son of Nicole and Cole Vonderschmidt, for May 15, 2022, at the 10:30 a.m. service.

The Session affirmed the e-mail vote approving the request for Eastridge to host an event on June 26, 2022, at 3 p.m. marking the release of a new book by Mary Pipher. The book, "A Life in Light: Meditations on Impermanence," will be released on June 28, 2022.

The Session approved motions related to the project to

complete landscaping of the former driveway immediately north of the building. The cost will not exceed \$20,000. The church will enter into an agreement with the City of Lincoln to construct a bioswale with matching funds of \$2,000 from the City. The church will participate in the Trex Recycling Program to obtain benches for the garden area. A fundraising plan was also approved.

The Session approved a sabbatical for the Rev. Thomas Dummermuth for July 18, 2022, to August 28, 2022. (The original sabbatical planned for 2020 was delayed due to COVID.)

Eastridge will host a citywide Bible study on May 17, 2022, at 6 p.m. The study will be on Amos and "Justice in Our City."



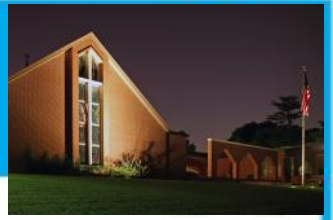
Saturday
May 14, 2022

10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

The Church of the Holy Trinity
located at 6001 'A' Street in Lincoln, NE



On Sunday, May 15 we will celebrate our graduating High School seniors at the 9:00am service. Following the service, we will have a reception in the Welcome Center. We hope you will be able to join us as we recognize this group. If you have a High School senior in your home and have not received information about the recognition, please contact the church office.



Guided Nature Walk: We had 9 individuals join on a windy day (however, we were protected within the park) at Pioneers Park for a 1.5 hour nature walk on Sunday, April 10.



Photos from Walking the Sunrise Road:



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A Life in Light



*Meditations
on Impermanence*

MARY PIPHER

New York Times bestselling author of *WOMEN ROWING NORTH* and *REVIVING OPHELIA*

BLOOMSBURY

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FRANCIE & FINCH
BOOKSHOP



Join us as we welcome bestselling author Mary Pipher to Eastridge Presbyterian Church for a reading from her newest book, *"A Life in Light: Meditations on Impermanence"*.

Books will be available for purchase at the event and Mary will sign them. (We're getting a head start at Eastridge - this book won't be available to the general public until 6/28!) You can also pre-order with Francie & Finch and pick up your copy of *A Life in Light* at the event. This way you can be sure to get a copy. Call 402 781-0459 or order online at <https://bit.ly/marypipherbookorders>

Sunday, June 26 at 3:00 pm

**Eastridge Presbyterian Church, 1135 Eastridge Drive,
Lincoln, Nebraska**

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Save the date
to join us in the
Middle of Everywhere!

in person and on-line

SUDAN/SOUTH SUDAN MISSION NETWORK CONFERENCE 2022

in person
cost
\$95

Lincoln, Nebraska
August 3&4, 2022

online
cost
\$25

**Building Community:
Celebrating the Diaspora
& Educational Development**

Pre-register interest at:

bit.ly/sssmnlnc2022

Accommodation
information to follow

Scholarships available

Or contact the
church office at
402-488-7844





Churches Respond to the Tragedy in Ukraine

“(God) shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.” (Isaiah 2:4)

As the violence in Ukraine continues, the number of people being displaced internally and fleeing to neighboring countries increases by the day. But in the midst of the chaos, there are sibling churches and ecumenical partners who are already providing assistance with basic items for survival. The first priority of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is to provide funding to these partners on the ground. Their response will include both financial and technical assistance as the network of faith communities providing humanitarian assistance grows in the months ahead.

GIVE: To support PDA’s emergency relief for those fleeing Ukraine, write a check to Eastridge Presbyterian Church, with “Ukraine” in the memo line.

ACT: Urge the U.S. government to support aid for refugees and civilians suffering in Ukraine, and call for a diplomatic solution to the conflict.

PRAY: May we all, even as we breathe in lament, breathe out mercy, hope and peace.

Choral Concert and Fundraiser for Ukraine: Monday, March 28 at 7:30 p.m. at Nebraska Wesleyan University's Rogers Center for Fine Arts. Free and open to the public.

NWU's Jazz Choir and University Choir will be joined on the O'Donnell Auditorium stage by children from the Nebraska Children's Choir and cast members of Wesleyan's upcoming spring opera. The eclectic program will include jazz standards; hymns and anthems from diverse faith traditions; choral arrangements by Sweet Honey in the Rock; Jake Runestad's choral masterwork "A Silence Haunts Me"; opera arias; and African American spirituals. We will invite those attending to join us in communal song at the concert as well. At times like these, we all need to sing.

Donations collected at the event will go to supporting humanitarian aid in Ukraine through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)-- a nonprofit 501(c) 3 organization that responds to numerous disasters each year.

(shared via EPC Outreach Committee)



ACOLYTES:

Over the next few months, we will be working on adding some of our worship elements back into our services. One of those elements is our acolytes at the 9:00am service. If you have a child in the 2nd grade or above, and they would like to participate, contact Kris Adler-Brammer at kadlerbrammer@eastridge.org. We will schedule a training/refresher course to help them prepare and then get a schedule put together.



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RETHINKING JUSTICE:

a citywide scripture study for
Lincoln/Lancaster area
faith communities
preparing to
to answer
the call
to do
justice

**Tuesday
May 17
6 - 8 pm
Eastridge
Presbyterian**

RSVP required - follow link below



Or contact the
church office at
402-488-7844

<https://bit.ly/rethinkingjusticeepc>



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the **College Care Packages!** We were able to generously fill 28 care packages. These will support our college students and they spend the next couple of weeks closing out their year with final exams. Your support is greatly appreciated!



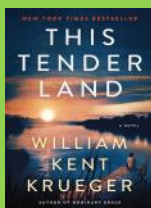
We need **Food Pantry volunteers!** Please check out the sign up below. Thank you!



For filling: <https://bit.ly/FPMayFill>
For distribution: <https://bit.ly/FPMayDist>

Ushers and Coffee sign ups are here:

<https://bit.ly/coffeeateastridge>
<https://bit.ly/usherateastridge>



EPC Book Club: Join us at 7:00 pm on the second Monday of each month in the conference room or Huxtable Lounge. For May: *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger.



How to Handle Covid Fatigue?

Just Learn To WRAP®

Everyone today has Covid Fatigue: Everyone. Even if no one in their family has had

Covid... even if they didn't lose a job ... even if they can ignore its divisive politics ... They have Covid Fatigue. It has downgraded everyone's mental wellness. Everyone. The data show it and our personal experience says it's true. Nearly 1 in 5 adults received some form of mental health therapy in 2020.

What can we do? People of faith are called to care for others and for ourselves. We're not mental health therapists. And yet... we can make a difference.

We can learn to WRAP. Wellness Recovery Action Planning is a powerful set of tools to help us care for others and ourselves. It is an evidence-based practice. An 8-hour seminar is not a magic solution, but it can be a major positive step. Participants in WRAP training create a personalized system of wellness tools and action plans. It helps people use sound mental health and spiritual principles

to achieve a self-directed wellness vision that manages life's daily challenges. People use these tools for a lifetime.

Region 5 Prevention Systems and Faith Partners Nebraska are sponsoring two FREE 8-hour training experiences in WRAP:

**When: Fridays, May 6 and 20, 12:30-4:30
or Saturday, May 7, 8:30-5:00**

Where: Eastridge Presbyterian Church, 1135 Eastridge Drive.

Contact:

Teri Effle treffle@region5systems.net 402-429-9959
Otto Schultz Starfish@inebraska.com 402-770-1974.

To register click on the link or snap the QR Code or email starfish@inebraska.com

2 Friday afternoons: <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=pw7qdxzab&oeidk=a07ej1iwheadcab7050f9>

Saturday All Day: <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=pw7qdxzab&oeidk=a07ej1iwhead5efd4e5>



Faith Partners at Eastridge:

Current and former deacons are invited to attend an informative session on Faith Partners on Thursday, May 12 (6:00 pm) prior to/during our regular monthly deacon meeting. For more information, contact the church office.



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Update on giving: It is the end of the first quarter, and here is a comparison to where we were a year ago:

2022: \$ 158,332 (Apr 25)

2021: \$ 180,906 (Apr 25)

To give online: <https://bit.ly/eastridgegiving>. Thank you for your gifts so far this year! Please help us head into the summer months with strong finances. Every gift matters!

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

Trailblazers for May: two events! We will plant courtyard flowers, day and time TBA.

We will also attend Lincoln Community Playhouse's production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" on May 20 (more info to come).



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- Strolling path \$50 per section
- Sprinkler system contribution

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- Enter the amount of your donation
- Pull down and select "Garden Fund"
- Use optional memo to indicate who the gift is honoring and/or the specific item you want to contribute

Read more about this project on page one of this newsletter.

G.R.O.W.

Gather, Reflect, or Wander
A GARDEN

Wish List

You can donate a specific planting for the Eastridge Presbyterian Church Garden:

- ◆ Ivory Silk tree lilac \$250
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Eastridge Presbyterian Women GATHERING

May 18, 2022; 1:00 pm in Huxtable for Program

Topic: TBA

Reading Awards

Birthday Offering Dedication

Hostesses and Devotions:

Priscilla/Sarah



It's hard to believe but Community Action's Gathering Place is officially 40 years old this year. The Gathering Place opened its doors as a soup kitchen in 1982 and hasn't looked back since. In that time, hundreds of thousands of meals have been served to our community, but that couldn't have happened without YOU. Our volunteers make smooth meal service possible, and that's why we're kicking off the Gathering Place's anniversary with an open house celebrating our volunteers! Join us April 30 for a one-of-a-kind Gathering Place event.

Gathering Place Volunteer Open

House: Saturday, April 30 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. (Arrive at any time) 1448 E St. Lincoln, NE

Join Gathering Place staff and fellow volunteers for an anniversary celebration featuring a light brunch, tour, and fun conversation about the past, present, and future of the Gathering Place. A limited quantity of anniversary-edition Gathering Place coffee mugs will be available for those who attend. See you there!



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
 Laura Siemsen.....Administrative Assistant
 Office number.....402-488-7844
 Melodie Jones Pointon: mjonespointon@eastridge.org
 Thomas Dummermuth: tdummermuth@eastridge.org

MEET THE STAFF



The Gathering Place in 2022: The Gathering Place sign up for 2022 is available online! Please read the instructions on the sign up before serving.

<https://bit.ly/thegatheringplace2022>

Ladies Night Out is planning a visit to Lauritzen Gardens in Omaha during the Wonders Under Glass exhibit (also to view their spring gardens). We will plan to leave from the church parking lot at 12:00 pm on Sunday, May 1. Watch the Facebook page and weekly Lamp for more information!



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Lincoln NE 68510

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MAY

