



# EASTRIDGE

## Presbyterian Church



*Christ-Centered. Community Strong.*  
2022 Annual Report

**Our mission statement:**

*The God of Scripture  
Calling Individuals  
Into Community through Christ  
Empowered by the Spirit  
To Worship, Learn and Serve.*

**Eastridge Church Staff**

The Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon..... Senior Pastor  
[mjonespointon@eastridge.org](mailto:mjonespointon@eastridge.org)

The Rev. Thomas Dummermuth.....Associate Pastor  
[tdummermuth@eastridge.org](mailto:tdummermuth@eastridge.org)

Kris Adler-Brammer.....Director of Children and Youth Ministries

Donna Gustafson..... Office Manager

Andy Kalnins..... Weekend Custodian

Dr. Brian Lew.....Director of Music Ministries

Will McGuire.....Worship Leader

Brent Shaw.....Organist

Vince Ruhl.....Director of Online Worship

Laura Siemsen.....Administrative Assistant

Brett Meier.....Audio Visual Tech

**Eastridge Presbyterian Church**

**1135 Eastridge Drive**

**Lincoln, Nebraska 68510-5014**

**Phone: (402) 488-7844**

**[www.eastridge.org](http://www.eastridge.org)**

**2022 Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda**  
**January 29, 2023**  
**11:00 am**

**Opening Prayer – The Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon**

**Approval of the Docket**

**Meeting of the Congregation – The Rev. Melodie Jones Pointon, Moderator**

- Minutes of the 2022 Congregational Meetings
- Annual Report
- Necrology Report – The Rev. Thomas Dummermuth
- Motion to suspend the Congregational Meeting

**Meeting of the Corporation – Shirley Flynn, 2022 President of the Corporation**

- Opening Prayer
- Update on Projects Completed in 2022
- Update on Projects Anticipated in 2023
- Questions, Answers, Suggestions, and Recommendations for the Trustees
- Closing Prayer

**Reconvening of the Congregational Meeting**

- Report and Review of 2022 Financial Records—Shirley Flynn-Bell, Treasurer
- Presentation of the 2023 Budget – George Kilpatrick, Finance Chair
- Presentation of Memorials and Endowments funds received.
- Expression of Thanks
- Questions, Answers, Suggestions and Recommendations for the Session

**Motion to Adjourn**

**Senior Pastor**  
**Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon**

**Associate Pastor**  
**Rev. Thomas Dummermuth**



The past few years, we have found it helpful to reflect on the past year's ministry together, and do so again this year. We are both thankful for a continued working relationship with each other that fosters continued collaboration in our ministry in this community of faith. In many ways it was the year we were waiting for as all pandemic restrictions were fully lifted in the spring after another winter of illness and uncertainty (both of us got the dreaded COVID-19 virus in the winter months). As a result, the late spring and summer brought opportunities for larger gatherings and travel. We were glad for happy reunions and services with a full sanctuary! At the same time, we were often frustrated by managing expectations internally and externally. Throughout it all, we continue to be thankful for the leadership and community of Eastridge Presbyterian Church. As we both enter our tenth year of ministry within this community, we are excited for the opportunity to reflect on the past and vision for the future.

#### WORSHIP Highlights

- An established worship service at 9 am, in person only on Sunday mornings, and the technology and tech team that allows us to be flexible when needed
- The addition of an in-person option for a 10:30 am online service
- Ash Wednesday service in person and streamed at noon; and come and go ashes from 6pm-7pm with live music and individual prayer
- Virtual Lenten Pilgrimage with weekly mid-week meditations on Zoom
- Year three of Maundy Thursday worship service on zoom, including sharing from one loaf of bread made available in the Welcome Center or by delivery request
- Good Friday worship service with dramatic reading of Matthew's Gospel by Kris "Bubba" Brammer, Jimmy Cover, Kylie Meter, and Beth Langdon
- Easter services that included a sunrise service "Walking along the Sunrise Road" (led by Thomas Dummermuth); a 9 am service with Chancel Choir, Kirks Ringers, trumpet, and the singing of the Hallelujah Chorus; a 10:30 in person and online service with music led by Will and Madeline McGuire and Jana McGuire
- Baptisms!
- Sermon series:
  - Winter/Spring: Narrative Lectionary (Year 1 - Matthew's Gospel)
  - Early-midsummer: Road Trips in the Bible
  - Mid-late summer: Hymns That Make You Go Hmmmm
  - Fall: Tree Stories
  - Advent: Walking Backwards to Christmas (inspired by Stephen Cottrell's book)
- Hosting Guest Preachers: Rev. Dr. Richard Swanson (Sioux Falls, SD); Rev. Dr. Andrew Kukla (Boise, ID); and Rev. Tobi White (Lincoln, NE)
- Continued creative and exciting Worship Connections on Sunday mornings (Great appreciation for Kris Adler-Brammer, our Director of Children and Youth Ministries)
- Longest Night Service planned for in-person and online, but moved to online only due to weather (huge shout out to Vince Ruhl, Will and Madeline McGuire, and Thomas Dummermuth for adapting on short notice)
- Two online Christmas Eve services at 5 pm and 9 pm, in person and live streamed

#### LEARN Highlights

- Zoom Studies on intriguing and insightful books



- Online interactive chats after worship ("After Chat") with each other and several guests from our community.
- "Holy Friends" - Interfaith learning opportunities which included visits to the An Lạc Buddhist Temple, Saints Simon and Jude Orthodox Church, and the Sabah Bosnian Cultural Center

#### SERVE Highlights

- Participating in the Lefler Food Market and our Food Pantry
- Hosting the Sudan/South Sudan Mission Network Conference, welcoming Rev. Thomas Tut, Moderator of the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church, and friends from around the PC(USA)
- Working with Ben MacConnell, Community Organizer with DART and the formation of the Eastridge Justice Ministry Team and the community wide interfaith organization Justice in Action
- Serving as a host site for many community organizations
- Service to the larger PC(USA) and Homestead Presbytery through various committees, teams, and events - mostly by "showing up differently" as our Presbytery visions and restructures

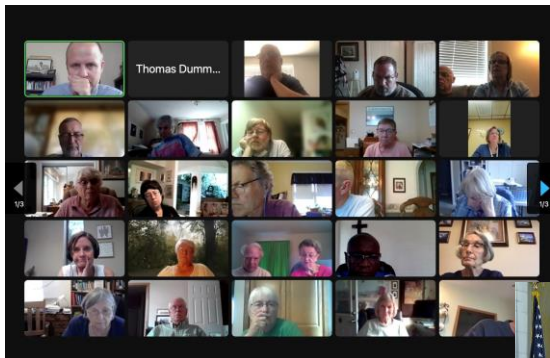
We also have some personal highlights, including the ability for both of us to spend time with our international family members. The Pointons spent 2 ½ weeks visiting Steve's family in Northern Ireland, including a trip to Edinburgh, Scotland. Meanwhile, Thomas was able to take his postponed-two-year sabbatical, spending time reflecting on the origin of his call to ministry. His family was able to join him while he was in Switzerland, and is thankful for the kindness of Kris Brenneis and Hope Shortridge, who traveled with them to help with the kids.

We have no list, but want to leave some record here of some of the struggles of "returning" that resulted in missed connections, unmet expectations, disappointment, frustration, and loneliness. Inherent in this is the realization of the life that has happened over the past two years - the joys and the sorrows - and the unknowing of how to return home by going back. We are left wondering if we, like the wise ones so many years ago, will find ourselves going home by another way.

Whatever way we go, we are thankful that we arrive back together - home, to this faith community. We pray you continue to find your home in this place.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon and Rev. Thomas Dummermuth*



# WORSHIP

## WORSHIP COMMISSION

The Worship Commission is comprised of the senior pastor and elders who are responsible for three general areas of focus—worship and music, growth and hospitality, and fellowship. Several task forces function within these areas of focus. Participation in task forces is welcomed and encouraged!

Worship and Music Task Forces	GROW Task Forces	Fellowship Task Forces
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adult choirs (Chancel, Handbell)</li><li>• Large musical works</li><li>• Worship teams</li><li>• Ushers</li><li>• Sanctuary Technology</li><li>• Choir fellowship</li><li>• Children's music</li><li>• Children's worship resources and connections</li><li>• Communion</li><li>• Hospice Singers</li><li>• Worship and Music Advisory Committee</li><li>• Visual displays</li><li>• Wedding coordinators</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sunday morning hospitality/greeters</li><li>• Visitor follow-up</li><li>• New member orientation</li><li>• Neighborhood outreach</li><li>• Online devotions</li><li>• Prayer chain</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wednesday worship</li><li>• Holiday Gatherings</li><li>• Ice cream Social</li><li>• Ladies' Night Out</li><li>• Fourth Friday Women's Coffee</li><li>• Men's Tuesday Morning Coffee</li><li>• Trailblazers</li><li>• Book club</li><li>• Parents of Youth</li><li>• YANA (You Are Not Alone, a group for those who have lost a spouse)</li><li>• Eastridge Faith Partners</li></ul>

# LEARN

The Learn Commission is comprised of the Associate Pastor, Director of Children and Youth Ministries, and 3 elders: 1 each for Children, Youth, and Adult. This Commission is focused on the Christian Education and Faith Formation of all age groups. We welcome participation in our various task force areas.

## Children (K-5th grade) task forces:

- \*Faith Formation  
Tuesday afternoons
- \*Camp Calvin Crest- Summer Camp
- \*Children's Christmas Program



## Youth (6-12th grade) Task Forces:

- \*Faith Formation
- \*Youth Group
- \*Confirmation
- \*Retreats
- \*Mission trips
- \*Fundraising
- \*Youth Sunday
- \*Graduate Recognition








## Adult Task Forces:

- \*Bible Studies (in person and Zoom)
- \*Lent and Advent Studies
- \*Book Club(s)
- \*Men's Breakfast
- \*Retreats
- \*Circles



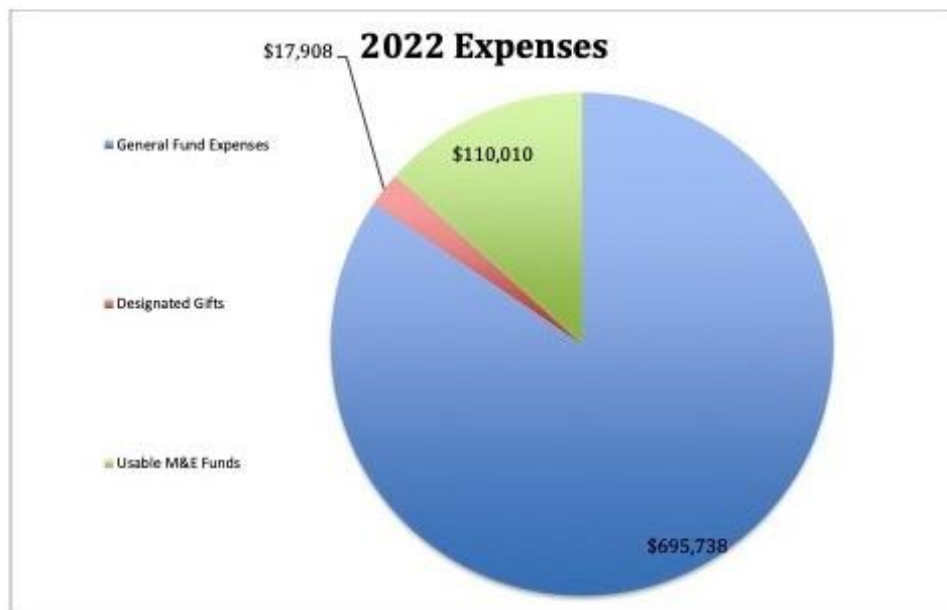
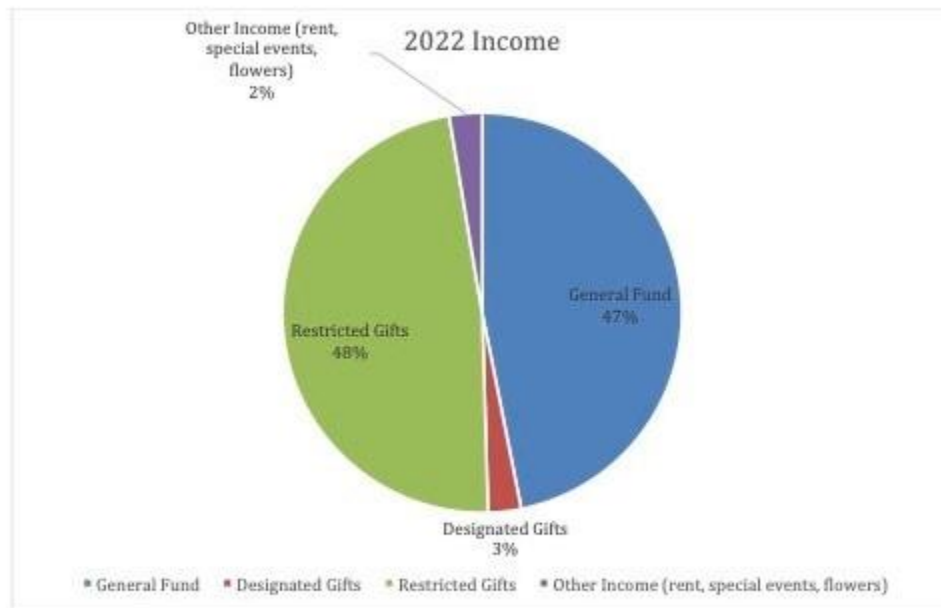
# SERVE

The Serve Commission is comprised of the ruling elders responsible for stewardship, outreach, and nominating, along with the moderator(s) of the Board of Deacons. The task of this commission is to provide leadership for areas of service to the church, our local community and the greater community. Our intent is to live as Christ would have us live, serving as the hands and feet of God. Several task forces function in each area of focus. Each task force is responsible for the work of their group and are accountable to the Serve Commission to report about their work and to request funds, if needed. Many groups are open to anyone interested in that ministry of the church.

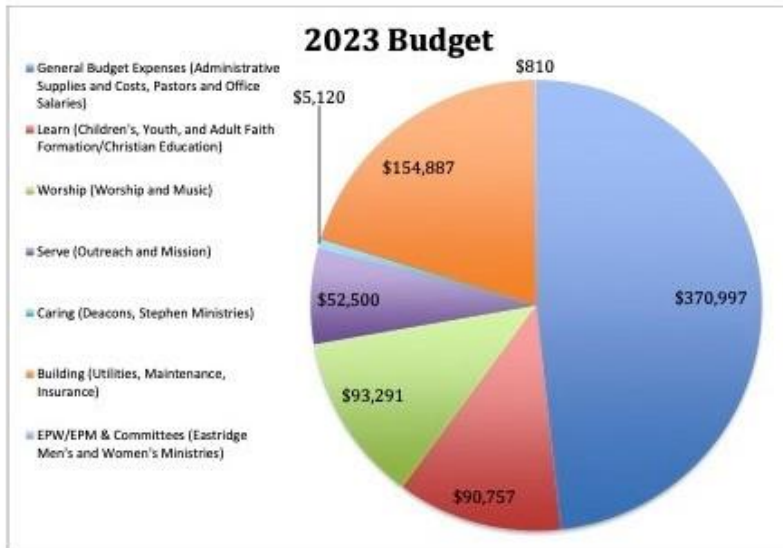
NOMINATING	OUTREACH	DEACONS
<p><b>Nominating Committee Members:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gary Kilian, Chair</li> <li>• Mary Amen</li> <li>• Cheryl Byler</li> <li>• Robin Hadfield</li> <li>• Sandra Hilsabeck-Hastings</li> <li>• Gary Kilian</li> <li>• Seth Crawford</li> <li>• Susan Taylor</li> <li>• Lisa Woito-Petty</li> </ul> <p><b>Incoming Officers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kris Brenneis</li> <li>○ Hope Shortridge</li> <li>○ Carolyn Brandle</li> <li>○ Carolyn Olsen</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Deacons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Berna Stading</li> <li>○ Charlene Neal</li> <li>○ Richard Neal</li> <li>○ Jan Skala</li> <li>○ Tim Hanson</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Trustees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Barry Stelk</li> <li>○ Neil Bateman</li> <li>○ Rob Shortridge</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Memorial and Endowments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bill Woito</li> <li>○ Paul Harmon</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Nominating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cheryl Byler</li> <li>○ Cathy Duling</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>OUTREACH COMMITTEE TASKS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a budget for use of the funds budgeted for Outreach</li> <li>• Approve quarterly dispersals to PCUSA and local missions (direct services)</li> <li>• Approve Emerging Needs requests as necessary</li> <li>• Publicize and receive 4 PCUSA special offerings and Christmas Eve offering.</li> <li>• Communicate with PCUSA missions we support</li> <li>• Monitoring EPC Hunger Ministries</li> </ul> <p><b>OUTREACH TASK FORCES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-Racism Taskforce</li> <li>• Angel Tree</li> <li>• Crop Walk</li> <li>• Eastridge Food Pantry</li> <li>• Eastridge Faith Partners</li> <li>• Sudan/South Sudan Mission Network</li> </ul> <p><u><b>Potential Outreach Task forces</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PCUSA World Mission Partnership</li> <li>• Justice in Action Lancaster County</li> <li>• Neighborhood Partnership and Development</li> <li>• Support for Maker Village</li> <li>• Other Local Agencies</li> </ul> 	<p><b>DEACON MINISTRIES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home Visitation &amp; Communion</li> <li>• Communication with Members</li> <li>• Tending the needs of the sick, the Eastridge Neighborhood, those grieving, new parents and young families</li> <li>• Welcoming members, and visitors</li> <li>• Mentoring new members</li> <li>• Transportation</li> </ul> <p><b>DEACON TASK FORCES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver Holiday Flowers</li> <li>• Advent &amp; Lent postcards</li> <li>• Meals at home</li> <li>• Funeral meals—preparation and serving</li> <li>• Coffee service—prepare, serve and clean-up coffee and food, when provided</li> <li>• Eastridge Caring emails</li> <li>• Prayer Shawls</li> </ul>      



## 2022 Financial Information



## 2023 Budget and Stewardship Information

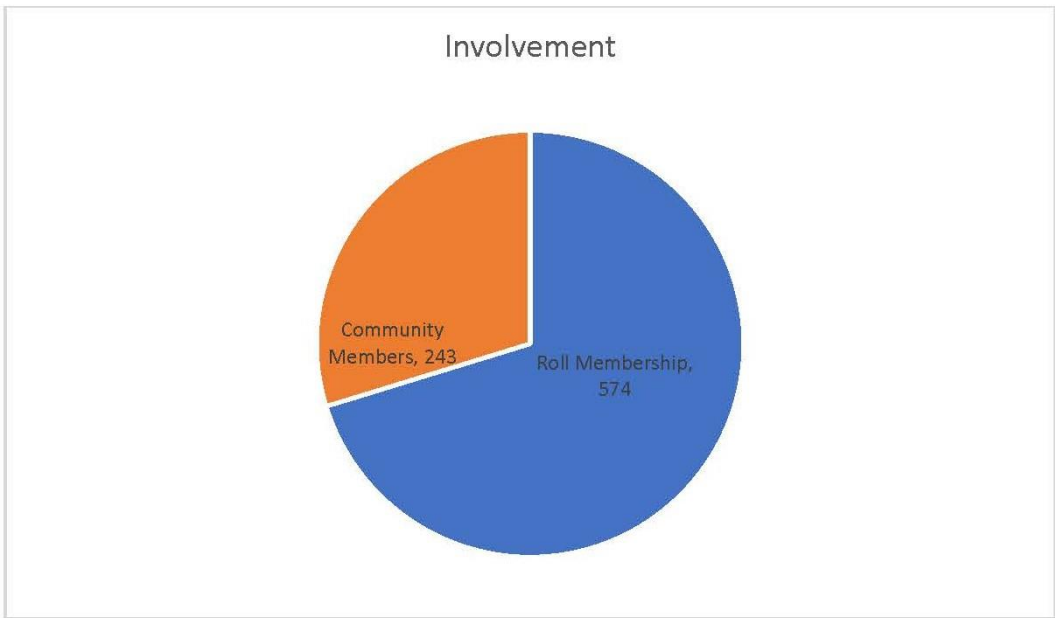
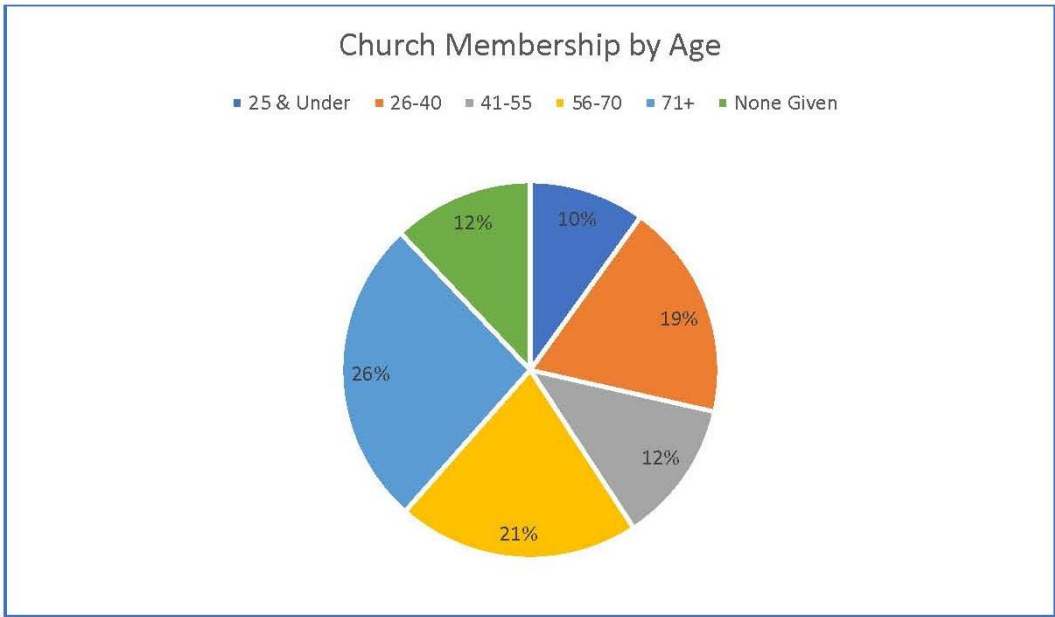


2023 Budget	
Budget Approved 1/26/23	\$768,363
Anticipated Income & Transfers	\$768,363
Over/(Under)	\$ 0

## 2023 Projected Income Sources



\* fundraiser and special gift projections unknown at this time, as plans for special events are discussed and finalized.



**Distribution of Active Members**

25 and Under	56	Ages 56-70	115
Ages 26-40	104	Over 71	150
Ages 41-55	69	None Given	78
Presbytery members	4		

### Eastridge Session 2023

**Kurt Beck**

(Personnel Committee)

**William Wehrbein**

(Serve Commission)

**Lois Wies**

(Personnel Committee)

**Doug McDaniel**

(Stewardship)

**Gary Kilian**

(Nominating Committee)

**Robin Hadfield**

(Clerk)

**Chris Boden**

(Learn Commission/Children's Faith Formation)

**George Kilpatrick**

(Finance Committee)

**Alinda Stelk**

(Learn Commission/Youth Faith Formation)

**Kris Brenneis**

(Worship Commission/Worship)

**Carolyn Olsen**

(Learn Commission/Adult Education)

**Carolyn Brandle**

(Worship Commission/GROW)

**Hope Shortridge**

(Youth)

**\*Melodie Jones Pointon**

(Moderator, Senior Pastor)

**Thomas Dummermuth**

(Associate Pastor)

### Eastridge Deacons 2023

**Mary Amen**

**Seth Crawford**

**Donna Gies**

**Jim Gies**

**LaDonna Grubbs**

**\*Ivy Hanson**

**\*Tim Hanson**

**Judith Keller**

**Gina Kohel**

**Shellie Ottis**

**Becky Shupe**

**Berna Stading**

**Richard Neal**

**Charlene Neal**

**Jan Skala**

**Wahadi Allen**

**Bill Short**

### Eastridge Trustees 2023

**\*Susan Budler**

**\*Shirley Flynn-Bell**

**Nancy Hall**

**Ray Schapmann**

**Lisa Woito-Petty**

**Neil Bateman**

**Barry Stelk**

**Robbie Shortridge**

\*Denotes Moderator and/or  
Co-Moderators

### Memorial and Endowment 2023

**Beth Birnstihl**

**Bill Woito**

**Paul Harmon**

**Deryl Merritt**

**Darrell Nelson**

**Leo Schumacher**