



FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN...

The other day I discovered two birds resting in the corner of our front porch. I ran to get my phone so I could take a picture, thinking they might fly away at any moment. After a few days, however, seeing them fly in and out, I realize they may not have been resting. Now I think they may be nesting. A situation that will soon be solved by the changing weather and my triumphant return to front porch living. Change is in the air, as winter gives way to spring.

It's happening in fits and starts, as the weather starts to warm. Grass is beginning to green, spring flowers are starting to emerge, and we're all ready to be outside again. It's spring! There are signs of new life and a return to life all around us in nature!



I see these same signs in the community of Eastridge Presbyterian Church. This newsletter is full of exciting opportunities and celebrations. Here you are invited to take part in traditions and transitions. There is information about our Holy Week and Easter morning services; Bible studies; Book Club; Eastridge Presbyterian Women; Justice in Action; the Eastridge Community Food Pantry; Eastridge Hospice Singers; The Sunrise Road Podcast; Faith Partners; coffee groups; Children and Youth Ministry; and so much more. I am so very thankful for all

of the many ministries and opportunities that are available in our community.

There's something else in these pages, and it's something I am personally very excited about. It's an invitation to share in sharing our history and dreaming about our future as we work with Leaderwise Consultants, Cindy Halvorson and John Lee. Cindy and John will be with us April 15 & 16, leading our community in conversations that will help us discover where God is leading us.

It's a conversation that began with the session last June, and we've returned to it over the months since that time. Some have shared why they love Eastridge during worship on Sundays (if you would like to share - let the office know!). In December, the session invit-

ed Leaderwise to lead the whole community in the discussion. Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend April 15 and 16. Dreaming about our future is a great way to celebrate 70 years of Eastridge Presbyterian Church!

There is a change in seasons in the air, with signs of life all around. I am looking forward to the opportunity to hear from you - the members of the EPC community - what you are seeing as we move into the future together.

~ Pastor Melodie



Sign up to usher in 2023! The current sign up is updated with dates for this year. Typically, three ushers needed per Sunday.

Check it out here:

<https://bit.ly/epcnewusher>

An update from the Criminal Justice Reform Team:

The Criminal Justice Reform focus group has met with more than ten area organizations to learn about systems that exist in Lincoln and Lancaster County. Individuals representing groups such as the Lancaster County Public Defender's office, the Director of Community Corrections in Lancaster County and the Lincoln Police Department Mental Health and Homelessness Team were asked to provide data on the processes that lead to jail time, deferment options, and assistance for those who are released to lead a successful post incarceration life.



The following problem statement was drafted by the Criminal Justice Focus Team:

"County jails are the front door to mass incarceration. A growing number of people are placed or kept in the Lancaster County Jail for nonviolent offenses because the local system doesn't have sufficient tools, discretion or community-based alternatives to address their needs while maintaining public safety."

Nehemiah (from Micah 6:8) gives us three mandates: JUSTICE, MERCY & FAITHFULNESS. Our

congregation does a great job with mercy ministries and faithfulness.

The Justice in Action initiative is asking us to consider justice issues. The Biblical story of Nehemiah provides a powerful example of how justice addresses the root causes of problems to ensure fair treatment of all people, especially the poor, the widow and the orphan.

So, what does justice look like today? Justice means holding our local leaders accountable for the fair treatment of the most vulnerable people

in our community. Jesus was a social justice warrior! He showed us that each one of us can use our

voice to stand up for those who have been silenced, forgotten, or ignored. When we stand together, we have the power to make change.

Please prayerfully consider standing with over 20 other congregations on May 4th at our first annual Nehemiah Rally to show our local leaders that

we stand for the most vulnerable. Our power is in our numbers, so your presence matters!

Mark your calendars: May 4th 6:30-8:30 @ the Lancaster Event Center To learn more and to get involved contact: sarabevans@windstream.net





Upcoming EPC Book Club picks for the spring 2023 session!

Join us at 7:00 pm on the second Monday of each month from September through June.

We will start to choose our 2023-2024 picks soon. Book Club members, start to gather your ideas for picks for next year!

Selections for the remainder of this current 2022-23 year at left.

April 10		<i>The Island of Sea Women</i> by Lisa See	Discussion & refreshments: Susan Taylor
May 8		<i>Two Nights in Lisbon</i> by Chris Pavone	Discussion & refreshments: Judith Keller
June 12		<i>The Alice Network</i> by Kate Quinn	Discussion & refreshments: Kris Brenneis



Spring Flower Order Form: If you wish to provide a spring flower for the church sanctuary for Easter Sunday, please complete this form and mail or bring to the church office by **April 3**. Flowers will be a variety: lilies, tulips, hyacinths, daffodils. **Please let the church decide what to order.** Make all checks payable to Eastridge Church noting on the check that it is for a flower. Please state exactly how you want your contribution printed in the bulletin. Return money with this form.

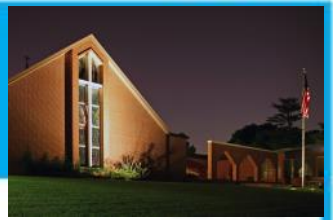
Donated by _____

In memory of _____ OR In honor of _____

No. of flowers _____ (Cost \$13.00 per flower in pot) Total _____

I will pick up my flower after the 10:30 Easter Service. _____

I wish my flower to be taken to a shut-in member. _____



COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES: It's college care package time again! Just after Easter, we would like to get our deliveries made so our college students will have some goodies to help get them through the last few weeks of school. In order to do this, we need help from you! We hope you might be willing to donate some items that we can use to fill the boxes to the brim. Below you can find a list of some of the favorites. Once you have shopped, the items can be dropped off in the church office. If you don't want to go out and shop, you can also purchase online and just have it shipped to the church. A few items have been added to an Amazon shopping list, too. You can access the list with the following link (<https://a.co/e4dn6le>). For any items you have shipped, please send it ATTN: Kris Adler-Brammer. And if you aren't up for shopping, cash donations are also helpful to purchase those last additional items or help cover the cost of postage.



Individual servings of cookies, oatmeal, easy mac n cheese (on amazon list), crackers, etc.

Easter candy, granola bars/protein bars, gum, crystal light powder packages

Laundry pods – unscented (also on amazon wish list), dryer sheets (non-scented)

Highlighters, notecards, post-its (some suggestions on amazon wish list)

Band-aids, cough drops, small hand sanitizer (also on amazon wish list)

We will be filling about 30 care packages so items in multiples are appreciated. If you have any questions about donating, please feel free to talk with Kris Adler-Brammer (kadlerbrammer@eastridge.org).

Join us as Eastridge sponsors two events in collaboration with LeaderWise for church visioning and strategic planning. We will look at our past, our future, our dreams for what Eastridge Presbyterian Church will look like in the years to come! Come to both events, or just one. Sign ups for each below, with more information. We are asking people to sign up simply to ensure that we have enough food! The Eastridge deacons and the LeaderWise planning committee are working on meal details.

Eastridge Presbyterian Church History event Saturday April 15 at 3:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. **Sign up here:** <https://bit.ly/epchistoryevent>

Eastridge Presbyterian Church Learning event Sunday April 16 at 11:00 am (following ONE service of worship that morning) **Sign up here:** <https://bit.ly/epclearningevent>



EASTRIDGE
Presbyterian Church
and
LeaderWise



discerning

dreams

listening to God



EASTRIDGE FOOD PANTRY

UPDATES TO FOOD PANTRY

1. Wednesday distribution will only be for in-person shoppers. There will not be drive thru available on Wednesdays. We have extended the distribution time to be 4:00-7:00 pm. We have split up the volunteer shift into two shorter shifts, 3:45-5:30 and 5:25 - 7:15 pm. We feel this change will allow us to continue to serve shoppers without duplication of shoppers each week.

2. Sunday distribution will only be for drive-thru boxes. There will be no in-person shopping available on Sundays. This will continue to provide clients the convenience of drive thru. Our drive thru numbers have continued to increase each week and it has become overwhelming to try to fill additional boxes while we have shoppers in the pantry. This will allow us to only focus on drive-thru clients during this time. Also, we will only be giving out one box per family, and an adult family member must be present in the car to receive a box. This means no more people requesting additional boxes for families who are not present.

3. Shoppers will only be allowed to sign up to shop 2 times per month.

4. We will be changing the Sign-Up Genius monthly sign up to stay the same month to month. Signups will be

available on an ongoing basis by deleting old dates and adding new dates to the established signup page. There will be one signup for filling boxes, and another for distributions. The distributions signup will have notes indicating if it is for drive-thru or in-person shoppers. The in-person shopping dates will have two shifts listed. The boxing sign up will also have two shifts, as we will be filling a larger quantity of boxes in total for Sunday drive-thru. Boxing will only occur on Thursdays due to this change. Each shift will fill the number of boxes shown in the volunteer board. Boxers should only put items in boxes as shown on the sticky notes posted around the pantry or are marked as additional or substitute items for boxes. We are intentional on what items we put into boxes so we can manage our inventory based on the availability of items from the Food Bank.

Here are the new Sign-Up Genius Links that will remain the same month to month going forward after March 15th:

<https://bit.ly/FPDistFood>

<https://bit.ly/FPFillingBoxes>

We hope these changes will make things more manageable for the pantry and make volunteering more appealing to you all. Please feel free to provide us feedback as to how the new changes are going after we have tried it for a couple weeks. The Committee will be meeting again in April to evaluate if the changes are working well or need more adjustments.

Thank you for your commitment to our pantry.



Holy week schedule



palm sunday, april 2

9 am in person led by chancel and childrens choirs
10:30 am online and in person

maundy thursday, april 6

6 pm all ages dinner and worship in huxtable lounge
6:30 all ages service of footwashing
and the lord's supper in welcome center

good friday, april 7

6:30 pm worship experience (childcare available upon request)

easter sunday, april 9

6:30 pm *walking the sunrise road* (meet in church parking lot)
9 am in person service led by chancel choir and kirk ringers
10:30 am online and in person service



seeking:
honest questions
for deeper faith



The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering is an ecumenical endeavor that now involves nine denominations and Church World Service. Founded in 1946 by Episcopal Bishop Henry Knox Sherrill, the goal was to raise one million dollars in one hour for World Relief. In 1949, church leaders from several denominations began working together to promote this effort. Major networks broadcast a show, called “One Great Hour”, on Saturday, March 26. The broadcast, featuring President Truman and popular musicians and actors of the time, closed with the request to make a sacrificial contribution at their own place of worship the next morning. Today in the PCUSA each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Pres-

byterian Hunger Program, assists in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and promotes opportunities for low-income communities to develop solutions of their own challenges through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People. At Eastridge this Special Offering is traditionally received on Palm Sunday.



During Holy Week, be sure to check out the additional posts in our online devotional ministry (taken with permission from **A Sanctified Art**). Good Friday, Maundy Thursday, and Palm Sunday (shared on Monday) have more than one post, staggered throughout the day. A copy of the booklet is available at the Welcome Desk, or by request.



Sign up to serve a meal to the youth!

We are looking for folks who are willing to provide and serve dinner. 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 15. You can use the following link for a list of dates and to sign up.



<https://bit.ly/YGdinner>

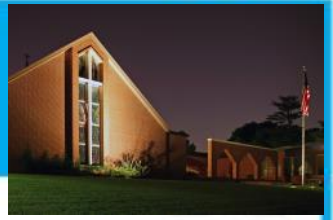
Education:
 What is some thing you've learned that you would tell your younger self?
 Learn Spanish
 Don't worry so much
 Don't sweat the small stuff
 People are more important than things
 You're more capable than you think you are
 Family is important
 You can't control what others think of you
 Step out of your comfort zone
 Stop trying to please others
 - ups & downs of life - get used to it
 - don't overthink things

WRAP® was a great success!

Thank you to all who attended! We had around 22 attendees between the three sessions. Shown in these photos are some of the questions pondered. Eastridge Faith Partners hopes to offer this training once a year!



Things I might do:
 photography
 do something new ✓
 get a good night sleep
 try a new recipe
 invite grandchildren over
 move furniture
 learn something new by reading ✓
 do a jigsaw puzzle
 meet new people / be friendly
 do something nice for someone
 visit other friends / family
 facetime with loved ones ✓
 pray more
 pray for others if feeling disappointed



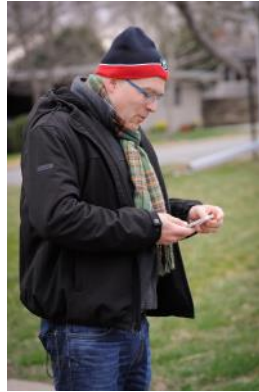
Easter Sunrise, 6:30 am - Walking the Sunrise Road

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. - Matthew 28

There is a lot of walking involved in Matthew's story of this first Easter Day: to the tomb, from the tomb to the disciples, from there to Galilee, from there... into all the world! That's why we thought: is there a more appropriate way to begin our Easter celebration than by walking into the sunrise — on the Sunrise Road? We will meet at 6:30 am under the awning in front of Eastridge Presbyterian church, and then begin walking along Sunrise Road all

the way to Taylor Park. The walk measures a little bit less than 1 mile, so please dress appropriately. We will make stops along the way to hear the gospel reading, and walk in a pace that allows to reflect on prompts. At the picnic shelter at Taylor Park expect a simple Easter breakfast with coffee and donuts. We hope you will join us, as we

long to meet the Risen Son on the Sunrise Road.

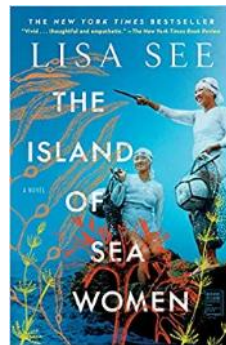


LADIES NIGHT OUT: We will head to Omaha to **Lauritzen Gardens** on Sunday, May 7 at 11:30 am (following second worship service). We'll see the gardens as well as the Washed Ashore exhibit. Meet in the parking lot to carpool, or contact the office if you'd like to meet us there.



EPC Book Club:

Join us on Monday, April 10 at 7:00 pm as we discuss the book *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See.



We meet each month during the school year for discussion and refreshments in M12 at Eastridge! **Book club members, start gathering ideas for next year's picks for our May meeting!**

MUSIC MINISTRY AT EASTRIDGE:

Eastridge is blessed to have such a committed group of members who provide music in worship throughout the year. Like Christmas time, Holy Week is an extra busy time for the music ministry.

When you see someone from the Chancel Choir or Kirk Ringers, please thank them for their commitment to musical leadership. Worship would be so different without their contributions! -Brian Lew





THE GATHERING PLACE: Eastridge Presbyterian Church arranges to provide 4-5 volunteers at The Gathering Place, a local soup kitchen, on the 4th Monday of each month. For more information on what this entails, contact the church office. Thank you to all Eastridge members who volunteer to serve at The Gathering Place. **A sign up for 2023 is here: <https://bit.ly/TheGatheringPlace2023>**

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS: The Session approved the minutes of the Session meeting of February 23, 2023.

The Session acknowledged that communion was served at the 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services on March 5, 2023.

The Session acknowledged that the Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon officiated at the memorial service of Steve Longacre on February 24, 2023, and the funeral service of John VerMaas on March 7, 2023. Both services were held at Eastridge Presbyterian Church.

A motion was carried to schedule one worship service at 10 a.m. on April 16, 2023, to precede the visioning gathering with Leaderwise.

A motion was carried to allow the Eastridge Neighborhood Association to use the parking lot for the neighborhood cleanup on Saturday, May 6. Two roll-offs will be delivered in the morning and picked up at noon. A shredder will be available from noon to 1 p.m., and a truck from Star City Recycling will be available in the morning.

A motion was carried to regretfully accept the resignation of Dr. Brian Lew, Director of Music Ministries, effective May 31, 2023. The Session expressed its thanks to Dr. Lew for his seven years of service.



Information was received from the Synod of Lakes and Prairies about Synod School, scheduled for July 23-28, 2023, at Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Iowa. Brochures are available in the church office.

The Personnel Committee reported that two child care providers have been hired. Additional help is still needed.

The Outreach Committee reported that it is looking at methods to increase the number of volunteers for the pantry. The committee also discussed the possibility of future financial contributions to Justice in Action. Bill reported on the activities related to Justice In Action. Session members were asked to sign up to attend the Nehemiah Rally on May 4, 2023.



Sunday, April 2nd is Palm Sunday. We hope your family will be able to join us for worship. At 9:00am, children of all ages are invited to participate in our Palm parade. We will begin in the narthex and process in during the first hymn. No advance notice is needed. Just show up and join us for a joyful Hallelujah!



March 24, 2023

Dear Friends and Members of Eastridge Presbyterian Church -

At last night's session meeting, the session officially received and accepted the resignation of our director of music ministries, Dr. Brian Lew. Brian has accepted a full-time position with the Omaha Public School District and we are excited for this new chapter in his career.

Brian has served God and this community faithfully for the past seven years, joining our staff while he also worked toward his Doctor of Music Arts at UNL. After he graduated from UNL, he began working three-quarter-time as our director of music ministries. During this time, he provided steady leadership for our music ministries as we transitioned through organists, music coordinators, and children's choir directors. In addition, during the pandemic, his service went above and beyond as he learned new technologies, bringing together an online choir, coordinating music and musicians for recordings, and at times pivoting at the last minute so that we would always have music for worship. While Brian's musical gifts have blessed us, it is his passion and insight for leading worship and especially his love for the people of the church that will be his legacy.

We will soon be sharing news about our plans to celebrate Brian's ministry. In the meantime, please keep him and our congregation in your prayers.

The personnel committee will be working with the music advisory committee as we uncover what God has planned for our music ministries. As always, we trust God's providence is with us as we look to our future.

May God Bless You All -



Melodie Jones Pointon
Senior Pastor



Kurt Beck
Personnel Chair



Kris Brenneis
Worship Chair



Season Two of the Sunrise Road Podcast releases April 20 with weekly episodes!

The World on Your Doorstep: Evangelism and Mission Today

It was Mother's Day in 1953 when a small group of people gathered in the field on the corner of Eastridge Drive and the Sunrise Road in Lincoln, Nebraska. The Strauss Brother's new housing development brought new families into the community at a rapid pace. The young new pastor of what was Countryside Community Church went door to door as families moved into their homes. A new school, a community pool, and welcoming religious communities meant lots of opportunities for involvement. And so the families came - East Campus professors, schoolteachers and administrators, craftsman, and professionals. Rev. Tom Huxtable had no problems welcoming these families, as his outgoing and easygoing personality often led to an invitation to dinner from the family and a promise to come to church the next Sunday. Often, before Huxtable left the table, he also had scheduled gatherings and recruited church leadership. Very quickly, what became Eastridge Presbyterian Church was a vibrant church community at the center of the neighborhood.

Evangelism used to happen on our doorsteps with a smile, a handshake, and an invitation. Mission meant building a new church on the edge of town and sending money and supplies to support the work of missionaries around the world. In these conversations, we'll explore what evangelism and mission are today, with a world on our doorsteps. Beginning with one sentence definitions by our guests, we'll work toward a understanding of how we share our faith today, and why we share it.

Guests:



Rev. Dr. Matthew Mardis-Lecroy, Senior Pastor of College Hill Presbyterian Church in Easton, PA. A self-proclaimed Bible nerd, Matt is one of Melodie's oldest friends. They met the first day of seminary more than 20 years ago, and have been talking theology, Bible, and ministry ever since.

Rev. Liz Kocher, Transitional Campus Pastor at the UNL Lutheran Center

Rev. Eduardo Bousson, University Minister at Nebraska Wesleyan University



For many, sharing what you think and believe with friends is as much a part of the university experience as the education received in classrooms. Liz and Eduardo share insights as to what questions are being asked and how students are finding (or not finding) answers to those questions.



Rev. Dr. Christian Walti, Pastor of Friedenskirche Bern/Switzerland. What to do when your church is way up on a hill and in the midst of a neighborhood that is rapidly becoming more multi-ethnic, multi-religious, and economically diverse? You have to come down from that hill. In this episode, Christian shares of his passion for instigating neighborliness within urban anonymity and finding new ways of showing up as church, and what any of this has to do with a restaurant where no purchase is necessary.





Trailblazers for April:

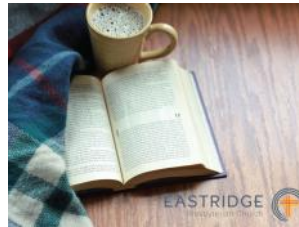
On April 21, join us to Dine Out!

Time and Place TBA

If you are interested in learning more about this group, contact the church office.



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.



Eastridge Presbyterian Women GATHERING

Wednesday, April 19 at 1:00 pm in Huxtable Lounge

Speaker: Charlene Neal

Topic: The Making and Costuming of Dolls

Hostesses and Devotions: Esther Circle



Fourth Friday Women's Coffee:

On the fourth Friday of each month, join this (mostly) retired group of ladies that meet in Huxtable Lounge here at Eastridge for coffee at 8:30 am. Join us April 28!

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

A Sanctified Art for Lent:

Check out our online devotion ministry for daily (Monday-Friday) devotions, plus daily (seven days a week through Lent) Facebook posts from *A Sanctified Art*, our Lent resource for 2023.



seeking:
honest questions
for deeper faith

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