



## From the Pastor's Pen...

"In 1952, a representative of the national Presbyterian Church studied the city of Lincoln and its Presbyterian churches to determine the interest in forming a new congregation. A new Presbyterian church had not been established in Lincoln for 45 years. The city's population was slightly over 100,000, and Lincoln city planners anticipated the city's population would reach 140,000 by 1975. The Rev. Harold Wilson, General Missionary for the Presbyterian Synod, conducted a survey of 789 homes between November 1952 and February 1953. Rev. Wilson determined there were 352 Protestant adults who were interested in starting a church."

"On Mother's Day, May 10, 1953, six families, totaling 27 individuals, gathered for worship of the Countryside



Community Church at Holmes Elementary School. Five University of Nebraska students also were present and helped with the service."

Almost seventy years ago, this very spot was the edge of town, a field soon turned into a neighborhood. It's a familiar landscape to us still, as Lincoln continues to grow. We've long passed the 140,000 projected in 1975. A quick Google search reveals an estimated population of 2022 is more than double that at 292,000, which is up about 35,000 from when my family moved here ten years ago.

As we vision and dream for the future of Eastridge for the next 70 years, I think we must begin with who we have been. Evangelism and mission are embedded in

our core identity - even as we wonder how to define and practice those words in our community today.

I have been excited and encouraged by the conversations we've been having as part of the Bridgebuilder process with Leaderwise. Again and again those conversations keep turning back to community and belonging. I am thankful for the safe spaces that have allowed some of our hurts, fears, and anxieties to be spoken. I am also thankful for the hopes, joys, and excitements that have been shared as well.

As we continue these conversations in sermons, in our upcoming anniversary celebration, in our studies, and in our fellowship, I keep wondering what our future holds as we live into a community that worships,

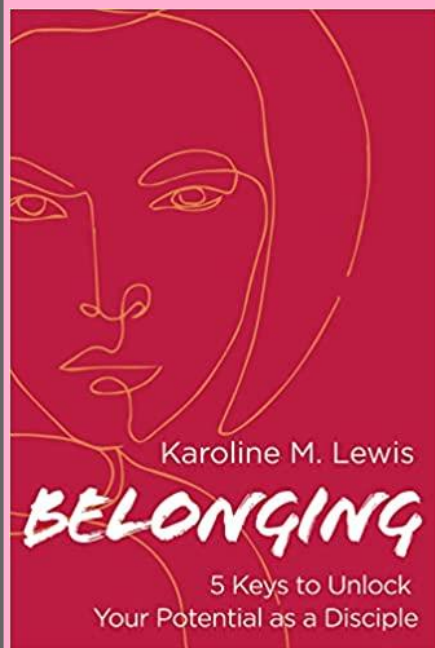
learns, and serves together. As we've explored these questions more generally with our pod-

cast guests, something that keeps coming up for me is a question - if we believe that God is already present in the world, how can we love God and each other in such a way that the good news becomes good news for everyone?

Thank you all, dear friends, for your commitment to loving God and each other in the faith community of Eastridge Presbyterian Church. May God bless our explorations and discoveries.

Please plan to join us this Sunday, May 7, at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall for an anniversary celebration and to hear back from our Leaderwise consultants, John Lee and Cindy Halvorson. We hope to see you there!

~ Melodie



*"Somewhere in the history of our developing belief in and relationship with Jesus, we likely latched on to a story in the Bible in which we could see ourselves. The story helped us make sense of our own experiences of God. We connected with the characters, the scene, the details, the conversation—and with what the story revealed about God. Perhaps without realizing it at the time, the story shaped both our life with Jesus and our knowing of God."*

Lewis, Karoline M.. *Belonging* (p. x). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.

Join Pastors Melodie and Thomas for a summer Bible story exploration! Using Karoline Lewis' book, *Belonging*, as a guide for our study, we'll identify who in the Bible inspires us. Meets Thursday mornings in June at 10 am on Zoom.

Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/belongingbookstudy>



**CHANGES TO WORSHIP SCHEDULE:** Beginning May 28 (Memorial Day Weekend) we will be joining as one worshipping community in person and online at 10 am. Hope to see you!



FACES  
OF OUR  
FAITH  
BOLD & UNTOLD STORIES

*"I think we all need a person in the Bible, that character who embodies for us what believing in God looks like and feels like. In them we see aspects of ourselves. It is through them that we are better able to articulate what faith means in our own lives. It is through them that we gain a better sense of who God is calling us to be. In them we also see who God is and key characteristics of God, because God*

*made God's very self known to them. God showed up in their lives, and they responded in ways with which we resonate."* (Lewis, Karoline M.. *Belonging* (p. ix). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.)

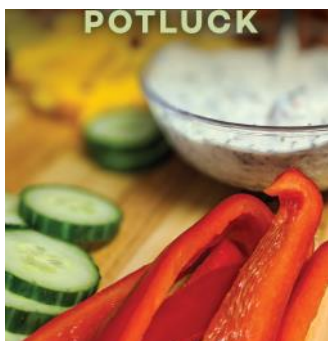
This summer we're exploring those Biblical characters that we inspire us, challenge us, and remind us of us. Who is this person for you? And why? Each week, we'll tell the bold and untold stories of people whose life and faith resonates with ours. E-mail your suggestions and stories to [mjonespointon@eastridge.org](mailto:mjonespointon@eastridge.org) or [tdummermuth@eastridge.org](mailto:tdummermuth@eastridge.org).





## CHILDREN'S CARD MINISTRY

For the last couple of years, a group of our church members have been sending cards to our children monthly. A few weeks ago, our card writers joined us on a Tuesday afternoon to have tea with our elementary aged children. We had a lovely time in fellowship and learning a little more about one another.



## END OF YEAR POTLUCK

On Tuesday, May 16th, please join us for an all-church potluck. We want to celebrate a wonderful education year! We will gather at 5:30pm which is the conclusion of our Tuesday Afterschool Faith Formation program. It is a busy time of year so even if you just have a quick bite to eat, we would love to have you join us. The church will provide the main dish and drinks. The congregation is invited to bring a side, salad, or dessert. We are hoping for a beautiful day so we can gather on the patio.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who contributed to the College Care Packages! We were able to generously fill 32 care packages. These will support our college students as they spend the next couple of weeks closing out their year with final exams. Your support is greatly appreciated! This thank you note was received from the parent of one of our college students. *"We were talking about the care packages last night. The packages are really enjoyed and he shares with his roommates. I appreciate your efforts and those of the*

*church for thinking of these kids. It was really appreciated the first couple of years when they were in the COVID mode and didn't have much of a college experience. Little things meant a lot to them and last night he reflected on that for the first time to us."*







## 39TH ANNUAL INTERFAITH MAYOR'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

CREATING CULTURES OF RESILIENCE AND PEACE  
FOR OUR COMMUNITY AND FOR THE WORLD



SPECIAL GUEST | NOBEL PRIZE LAUREATE  
**JERRY WHITE**

MAY 4TH | 7:30-9:00 AM  
DELRAY 817 | 817 R STREET LINCOLN, NE 68508

PLEASE VISIT [WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM/E/541756406997](http://WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM/E/541756406997) TO REGISTER FOR THE  
BREAKFAST | The fee to attend the event is \$30

### **JERRY WHITE | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED RELIGIONS INITIATIVE**

Is an author, diplomat, and humanitarian activist known for leading high-impact campaigns, three of which led to international treaties: the Landmine Ban Treaty, the Cluster Munitions Ban, and the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In 1984, White lost his lower right leg while hiking in an unmarked minefield in Israel. He worked closely with the late Diana, Princess of Wales, and shares the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. White wrote of his experience helping thousands of war victims build resilience in "Getting Up When Life Knocks You Down." White studied religion at Brown University, theology at Cambridge University, and business at the University of Michigan. He has an honorary degree from Mount Sinai School of Medicine and teaches religion, violence, and strategy as a Professor of Practice at the University of Virginia.

### **MAYOR LEIRION GAYLOR BAIRD, 52ND MAYOR OF LINCOLN**

Gaylor Baird grew up in Portland, Oregon; her parents were public school teachers. She completed a Bachelor of Arts in history from Yale College in 1993. She earned a Master of Science in comparative social policy from University of Oxford in 1997. Baird began her career as a management consultant, working also as a city budget and policy analyst. She was the director of an after-school and summer program in San Francisco. Upon moving to Lincoln, Nebraska, she was appointed to the Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Commission and helped develop its 2040 Comprehensive Plan. She was elected to the Lincoln City Council as a city-wide representative in May 2013 and was, at the time, its only female member. She won reelection in 2017. She won the election for mayor on May 7, 2019.



## Mental Health Café June 21, 6:30 PM

Approximately 1 in 5 people in the US experience some form of mental illness in a given year. There is a pressing need for identifying ways to help people cope with overwhelming stress. And yet, the stigma attached to discussing mental health is strong.

We want to change that.

Join us for our first Mental Health Café: an opportunity for a conversations around mental health and related topics in a free an open atmosphere.

Everyone is invited: whether you bring your own personal experience or you are concerned about a loved one or you simply want to listen.

Coffee and treats will be provided. No registration required. (sponsored by EPC Faith Partners).

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



Join us for a special worship service on **Mother's Day, May 14**, as we celebrate the **70th Anniversary** of Eastridge Presbyterian Church! During 9 am in person service, we will take a special picture of our gathered family of faith. At the 10:30 am service, we will spend some time in person and online responding to the question, ***where has the community of Eastridge Presbyterian Church uncovered God's love in your life?***



In May, you can participate in Mental Health America's "Light Up Green," campaign. You can get involved by adding green lights to your home or business, posting a yard sign, sharing a social media post, or all three! When friends ask you about your green light or yard sign, you can tell them. "We want to end the stigma and shame that stop so many from getting support for their mental health." More info on light bulbs here at Eastridge to come this week. (sponsored by EPC Faith Partners)





Dear friends,

As I sit and write this letter it is difficult to accurately describe what I am feeling. Seven years of memories and relationships were made with this faith community. In August 2016, I entered as a stranger as the Adult Choirs Director and you welcomed me as a sibling in Christ. What I thought would be three years of ministry blossomed into seven years by accepting the offer as the Director of Music Ministries in 2019.

Our time together has been abundant. I have had the privilege assisting you in preparing weddings, celebrating baptisms, and grieving the loss of loved ones. In my own time of need, you helped me through the passing of a parental unit and graciously allowed me to be with her while she transitioned to join the church triumphant. Our conversations during coffee hour, rehearsals, meetings, or bumping into each other in town have allowed me to better know your family and understand this community that you have all built over the last 70 years. The memories we have created will last me a lifetime.

I am especially grateful to have been the director of the various music ensembles at Eastridge, especially the Kirk Ringers and Chancel Choir. This group of talented and dedicated musicians have allowed me to increase their musicianship and introduce new music in worship. In return, they have taught me to become a better musician, conductor, and Christian. I have no doubt that the music ministry will continue to thrive under new leadership. As this sacred chapter of my life closes, I am fortunate to continue to serve the PC (USA) by serving on the Board of Directors for the Presbyterian Association of Musicians.

Over the next month I sincerely wish to connect with each and every one of you. My last Sunday in worship will be May 21st and last day in the office is May 31st. Please find me on Sundays so we can connect or meet during the week.

May the peace of Christ be with you all,

*Dr. Brian Lew*

*Director of Music Ministries*



With gratitude for his seven years of service to God through the music ministry of Eastridge Presbyterian Church, the session has accepted the resignation of **Dr. Brian Lew**. Brian came to us as he began his Doctor of Music Performance (Trombone) at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. He has served with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. The Music and Worship Committee and the Session would like to encourage the congregation to shower Brian with love, appreciation, and stories during his last weeks with us. Sunday, May 14, we will have a celebration reception between services, as well as a basket to collect cards and notes. His last Sunday in worship with us will be May 21.



## LeaderWise

Counseling and Consulting for Lives of Service

Thank you to everyone who recently participated in the **Leaderwise Interview, History and Visioning Events!** As we told the story of Eastridge, and what

Eastridge means to each one of us, we felt the spirit moving amongst us! The next step in the process is to gather together and hear the report from John and Cindy on Sunday, May 7, at 5:30 pm. We'll begin with a **platinum anniversary celebration pot luck dinner**, and then hear the report together. We hope you will join us to celebrate how God has used Eastridge over the years and what the future holds as we plan for the next 70 years!



**Church Clean Up: Saturday, May 6.** Time: 8:30-1:00 \*you can help whenever you can during this time

The Eastridge Neighborhood Association will be having their annual spring clean-up 9 am-noon. Located in our Parking Lot:  
\*Two roll-offs if you want to bring items to dispose of from home. No leaves or grass clippings \*Household Recycling (cardboard, cans, glass and plastic) \*Shredder (Noon-1pm)

At the church, we will rake leaves and cutback perennials around the church and some other general clean-up. We will spread mulch around the perennial beds and tree rings. Weather permitting we may do some painting of outdoor picnic tables. Please bring your own rakes and gardening tools.



**Eastridge Presbyterian Women GATHERING:** Wednesday, May 17 at 1:00 pm in Huxtable for Program

Topic: **Exploring Nature Through Photography Part 3, Speaker: Donna Gustafson**

Also: Reading Awards, Birthday Offering Dedication.  
Hostesses and Devotions: Miriam Circle



## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE RECOGNITION:

On Sunday, May 21, 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.

**Thank you** to Carolyn Olsen and their family for the donation of their piano sheet music library for students in need in our community. Music Teacher Association teachers offer discount or free lessons to children in our community and Carolyn's wonderful piano books will go to help many children who can't afford then. Speak to Brent Shaw for more information.

**Thank You!**



**Want to share a bit of news or a photo with your Eastridge family?** Drop your bulletin board submission off in the church office (or the office in-

box) and we will add to the newsworthy/buzz-worthy board outside the library! We are hoping to put a spotlight on the "littles" in our midst, so if you have some news to share about a child or grandchild, please pass it along so we can share!



Social justice is the notion that everyone deserves equal economic, political, and social opportunities regardless of race, gender, or religion. In its simplest form, it means to set things right. Jesus set a perfect example for us to follow as he cared for the outcast and reached out with compassion to help the venerable, overlooked and silenced members of society. He physically and spiritually pursued justice for those in need.

Scripture tells us that we, as Christ's followers, are

called to do justice. It may not always be easy and it may come with discomfort as we seek to make right the injustices that we know exist in our community today. Working towards a more just and compassionate world requires us to take action.

Please join us in taking action at the first annual NEHEMIAH RALLY. As followers of Christ's directive and example, we can tell our elected officials that justice matters to us and we stand united with our brothers and sisters in other faith communities in Lancaster County to bring justice to those in need.

## NEHEMIAH RALLY

### LANCASTER EVENT CENTER

**MAY 4th 6:30-8:30pm**

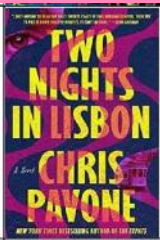
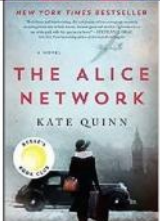
Contact [sarabevans@windstream.net](mailto:sarabevans@windstream.net) to get registered or to learn more.



# EASTRIDGE

Presbyterian Church






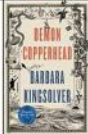

May 8		<i>Two Nights in Lisbon</i> by Chris Pavone	Discussion & refreshments: Judith Keller
June 12		<i>The Alice Network</i> by Kate Quinn	Discussion & refreshments: Kris Brenneis

**Upcoming EPC Book Club picks for the spring 2023 session at left.**

Join us at 7:00 pm on the second Monday of each month from September through June. Below are the picks for 2023-2024 (final month adjustments to come).

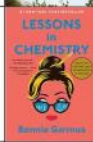
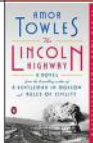
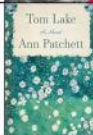
## EASTRIDGE Presbyterian Church

**Book Club 2023-2024**

September 11		<i>Bittersweet</i> by Susan Cain	Discussion & refreshments:
October 9		<i>The Bluest Eye</i> by Toni Morrison	Discussion & refreshment
November 13		<i>Code of Silence</i> by Lise Olsen	Discussion & refreshment
January 8		<i>Demon Copperhead</i> by Barbara Kingsolver	Discussion & refreshment
February 12		<i>Hotel on the Corner of Bitter &amp; Sweet</i> by Jamie Ford	Discussion & refreshments:

**Join us in 2023-2024 to read and discuss these books!**

## EASTRIDGE Presbyterian Church

March 11		<i>Just Mercy</i> by Bryan Stevenson	Discussion & refreshments:
April 8		<i>Lessons in Chemistry</i> by Bonnie Garmus	Discussion & refreshments:
May 13		<i>The Lincoln Highway</i> by Amor Towles	Discussion & refreshments:
June 10		<i>Tom Lake</i> by Ann Patchett	Discussion & refreshments:



## Scenes from Holy Week







**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>**

## HIGHLIGHTS



### SESSION HIGHLIGHTS: APRIL 27, 2023

The Session approved the minutes of the Session meeting of March 23, 2023.

The Session acknowledged that communion was served at the 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services on March 5, 2023, and at 6:30 p.m. on Maundy Thursday.

A motion was carried to move to one worship service at 10 a.m. beginning May 28, 2023.

Eastridge will receive a Community Benefactor Award from the Girl Scouts Spirit of Nebraska on June 4, 2023.

An ad hoc committee was formed to review the logistics and structure of the Outreach Committee and the Food Pantry.

The LeaderWise staff will provide a report on the BridgeBuilder process at a potluck dinner at 5:30 p.m. on May 7, 2023.

The potluck dinner will also be a celebration of the church's 70th anniversary. On May 14, 2023, we will also celebrate the anniversary during worship.

A committee will be formed in June to determine the

staffing needs for the music program.

Dr. Brian Lew will be recognized for his seven years of service as Director of Music Ministries on May 14, 2023. His last Sunday is May 21, 2023.

The Memorials and Endowments Committee reported that the church has received the final contribution of \$203,000 from the Kathy Kuehn estate. This results in a total contribution of \$703,000.

The Outreach Committee reported that it has addressed the reduction in the mission budget by eliminating funding for The Gathering Place (\$1,500), Tabitha Meals on Wheels (\$1,000), the Lefler Mobile Pantry (\$4,000), and Habitat for Humanity (\$600), and reducing support for the missions of the General Assembly, Synod of Lakes and Prairies, and Homestead Presbytery by \$5,000 (30 percent).

The committee also noted that it sent \$1,500 from the outreach budget to the Justice in Action organization, of which Eastridge is a charter member. The committee also requested \$3,000 from Memorials and Endowments funds for Justice in Action. Next year, Eastridge will be asked to contribute \$5,000 to the organization.

Plans for the Meditation Garden are proceeding.

Bill Wehrbein was elected as a commissioner to attend the Homestead Presbytery meeting on May 18, 2023, at First Presbyterian Church, Beatrice, Nebraska.



## Season Two

### The World on Your Doorstep: Evangelism and Mission Today

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.



#### **Rev. Barbara Stankowski, Co-Worker with Servants to Asia's Urban Poor, Manila, Philippines.**

Is there a difference between evangelism and mission? Our working definition of evangelism in 2023 is sharing what God is doing in our lives through our local worshipping community.



What will be our working definition of mission? Join our conversation with Rev. Barbara Stankowski, a Swiss pastor living in an urban poor community in the Philippines, as she reflects on five years of finding God in the unexpected.







## Trailblazers for May:

### Plant Courtyard Flowers

### Day and time TBA

Committee: Doug and Rosalie Claussen

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.



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 Siensen.....Administrative Assistant  
 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

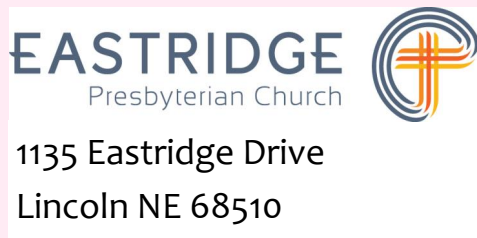
## LADIES NIGHT OUT:

We will head to Omaha to **Lauritzen Gardens** on Sunday, June 11 at 11:30 am (following second worship service). Meet in the parking lot to carpool, or contact the office if you'd like to meet us there. For more info, check out the LNO Facebook page.



## 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 May 26!



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