



FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN...

When I was a little girl - maybe 5 years old - my best friend and I went to the local Ben Franklin store to buy a gift for our mothers. I honestly can't remember what holiday it was - maybe Valentine's Day or Mother's Day. It's also odd to my story that it was my best friend's mom who took us to the store, but this is my memory of that day. I had been given money to buy the gift, and carefully picked out a gift that was just exactly the amount of money I had. Feeling triumphant, I marched to the registers with my gift and my dollars, placing both on the counter as prize trophies. The register went click-click-ring as the cashier rang up the item, and shared the final total.

I didn't have enough money. Not understanding why the total was so much, I remember my friend's mother chuckling as she pulled coins out of her purse. She turned to me lovingly and said, "It's okay, I'll chip in for the sales tax." She was wonderful and kind, and almost like a mother to me. I still felt - shame. Not having enough. Like I did something wrong. And thankful for the generosity of my friend's mother.

That's my earliest memory having to do with money. What's yours? Maybe it's taking pennies to the corner store for the iconic penny candy. Maybe it's receiving your first allowance. Maybe you found \$20 on the street and after fruitlessly trying to find its owner pocketing the find. Maybe you opened a birthday card and the exact number of dollars to match your birthday fell out. Maybe you were at church as the offering plate was passed down the pews and you dropped your 50 cents as it went by.

Over the past several months, we have been sharing stories here at Eastridge. We'll be hearing more about that soon as we kick off our Stewardship Season (watch your mail for your commitment card mid-October!) I can share all sorts of data with you about charitable giving and how giving to the

church fits under the larger umbrella of non-profits. We'll be hearing more about your own money story and how that affects how much you give to those causes and places you are passionate about. Some of us may even find our money narrative changing as we realize our stories move from shame to scarcity to thankfulness, just as mine has through the years. We want to create space for each one of us to explore our own money stories, and how we give.

We'll also be invited to share the money story of this community, and how we think of money here at Eastridge. As we do, we'll find time to consider if this story serves us well as we think about what we are passionate about in this place. What is our money story as a community, and how

does that fit with what we believe about God in Jesus Christ? It has been said that church budgets reveal a community's faith and faithfulness. If we believe that God has created the world and declared it good, and provided for life in abundance, how are we stewarding our gifts?

The writer of Ecclesiastes names the seasons of life and declares

there is a time for all of them, and for every purpose under heaven. Perhaps you find that in this season of life you can give more or need to give less. Perhaps you find yourself using an uncomfortable word of tithe as a goal. Perhaps you find yourself nowhere close to a tithe, but with an offering from the heart, just the same.

I can't remember what I bought to give my mom that day. I remember it was breakable, and I held it so carefully the whole way home. I wrapped it in paper and was so proud to give her something I had picked out and purchased...with the help of someone who pitched in when I didn't have enough.

I look forward to hearing your money stories.

~ Pastor Melodie





COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

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It is time to send care packages to our EPC college students! 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 a shop, you can also purchase online and just have it shipped to the church. If you are looking for ideas, you can use the following link to access our Amazon Wishlist. (<https://a.co/e4dn6le>) 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 (\$17.10 per box shipped).

- Individual servings of cookies, oatmeal, crackers, etc.
- Mac n Cheese (in the packets), ramen noodles
- Halloween candy, granola bars/protein bars, gum, crystal light/drink powder packages
- Laundry pods (non-scented), dryer sheets (non-scented)
- Highlighters, pens
- Band-aids, cough drops, small hand sanitizer

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 contact Kris Adler-Brammer at kadlerbrammer@eastridge.org. Please have all items to the church office by Thursday, October 26th so we will have everything to pack them up on Sunday, October 29th. We will be packing baskets/boxes on the 29th following worship and we would invite you to join us!



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>

Justice in Action listening sessions are under way and you are invited to join one of the conversations!

Each year Justice in Action begins their work by listening to voices in our congregations. Your engagement in these sessions helps us determine what issues are affecting our city and county.

Please join us at one of the following gatherings:

- ◆ Sunday, Oct. 1 at 10:45am in the Huxtable Lounge
- ◆ Sunday, Oct. 15 at 7:00 at Eastmont Towers





Thank you Eastridge friends and members for all you are doing as the body of Christ in our community!

Recently in casual conversations I have heard people in our church family sharing they were...

- Meeting with someone who needs support and prayer overcoming alcohol and drug addiction
- Spending time with a young person whose parents don't want to love and forgive them through the Teammates program
- Visiting those in need at local nursing homes and hospitals and prisons
- Supporting mission/ community/faith/service volunteers and workers with prayers and financial support
- Preparing food for a friend who had a death in the family or illness
- Inviting a friend to church



- Donating food and supplies to those in need
- Participating in Meals on Wheels
- Serving food to those who need it at the Gathering Place
- Meeting a new friend at choir, or bells, or Bible study, or a committee, or before or after worship and being a friendly/smiling face

- Praying for those who come to Alcoholics or Narcotics Anonymous at our church
- Working to find ways to support family members with severe depression

Matthew 25:40 - "...whatsoever you have done to the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you did for me."

Thank you for being the body of Christ and living out Jesus' commission to us to "make disciples of all nations" in so many ways!

~ Brent Shaw

EASTRIDGE FOOD PANTRY: Food insecurity remains a serious issue in Lincoln. Accordingly, the Eastridge Pantry has been serving a large number of clients since re-opening after the pandemic. We have consistently served more than 300 households representing over 1200 individuals monthly throughout 2023. We provide in-person shopping experience on Wednesday afternoons and box distributions on Sunday afternoon.

The Eastridge Pantry partners with seven other churches in Lincoln which provide donated food, financial contributions, and some volunteers. Our Pantry Director



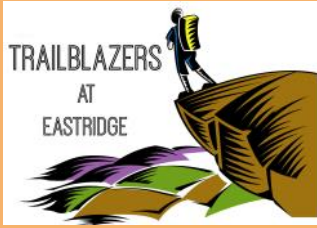
recently resigned, and the Pantry Committee is managing all pantry activities until there is a new Director. The number and availability of volunteers remains a very serious problem, especially considering the increased client load. We continue to struggle to get volunteers without sending out multiple emails each month asking for more help. Please consider volunteering!

Respectfully submitted, *Kris Brenneis and Steve Taylor*

Sign up:

Distributing food: <https://bit.ly/FPDistFood>

Filling boxes: <https://bit.ly/FPFillingBoxes>



Trailblazers for October: October 20 at 7:30 p.m. – Lincoln Community Playhouse, 2500 S. 56th Street

“Over the River and Through the Woods” \$ 20/ticket

Committee: contact Susan Taylor or Nan Nelson for ticket info.

Trailblazers is a group of older adults at Eastridge that provides an opportunity for men and women, singles as well as couples, to participate together in the life of the church—in service and fellowship. We usually meet the third Friday night of the month, September through May. If you are interested, please contact Susan Taylor at 402-488-6477 or 402-617-8414.

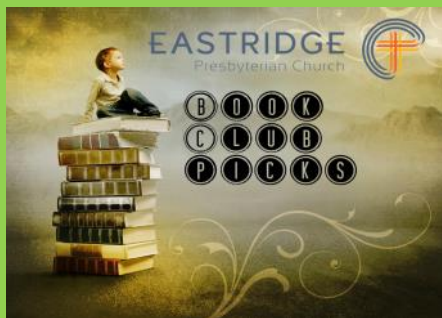
*Over the River
& THROUGH THE* **WOODS**
by Joe Dipietro



Stewardship Sunday is October 29! Please look for more information in your mailbox including a commitment card.

Thank you for your gifts in 2023! Help us reach our end of year giving goal of \$ 525,000. We are currently at \$ 340,000 in general fund giving in 2023.

Look for third quarter statements in your mailbox in October.



The **EPC Book Club** meets the second Monday of each month September through June at 7:00 pm. Locations vary...check the Welcome Center for info when you arrive!

A copy of the list can also be found on the church website, in the “What’s New” pull-down menu, then click on “calendar”.

Our October and November selections are below!

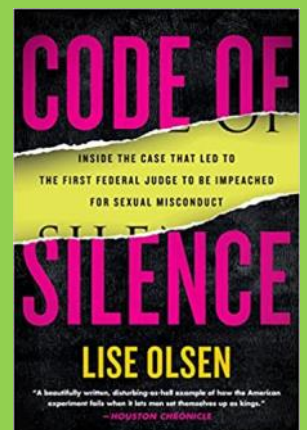
Book selections for the remainder of 2023:

October selection: *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison

November selection: *Code of Silence* by Lise Olsen

Check out the entire list on the Eastridge website, under the menu “What’s New” and by clicking on Calendar. Or, just head here:

[Book-Club-2023-2024-list.pdf \(eastridge.org\)](#)





Lefler Food Market:

We need volunteers again to help with the Lefler Food Market! In 2017 Lefler Middle School started the Lefler Food Market to serve students and families. Eastridge Presbyterian Church provides 3 volunteers each month to help for this once-a-month Food Market from 1:45 pm-3:30 pm. The Market takes place during the school year, September-May.

If you are interested in volunteering for this worthwhile project or would like more information about volunteering, please contact Susan Budler at sbudler1@unl.edu. Volunteers who want to help at the Lefler Food Market will need to fill out a volunteer application. Please contact the office or Susan Budler if you can help! Please check out the sign up: <https://bit.ly/LeflerFoodMarket>



PEACE and GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING:

This year's Peace and Global Witness Offering celebrates the 40th anniversary of the PC(USA)'s Commitment to Peacemaking. By participating in this special offering our congregation declares that working for peace is an essential mission priority, invites members to work for peace in their own lives, households, communities, and the world, and challenges each of us to pass on peacemaking ministries to future generations.

Eastridge Presbyterian Church will receive this offering during worship on October 22. One-fourth of the offering will be retained by EPC and used to support PCUSA mission coworkers Bob and Kristi Rice in their work addressing trauma due to warfare and civil upheaval in South Sudan. (The Rices will be worshipping with us on October 22.)



Eastridge Presbyterian Women Gathering in October: Wednesday, October 18 at 1:00 pm, Huxtable Lounge

Topic: **Bridge to Better Living**

Speaker: Kaye Jesske

Hostess & Devotions: Priscilla/Sarah Circle





We are adding an option to provide treats on Sunday mornings! Click here:

<https://bit.ly/coffeeateastridge>

If you're signed up to serve coffee and would like to bring treats, please add your name to that portion of the sign up. Those of you who prefer not to sign up for coffee but would like to share treats for fellowship, please head to the sign up above. Store bought cookies, homemade goodies, whatever you want to share!



Faith Connection for Youth:

Youth programming is on Wednesdays from 6:00pm to 7:30pm.

For this school year, our time together will include dinner, recreation, fellowship, and study. Sign up to serve a meal to the youth!



Sign up is here:

<https://bit.ly/youthmeal2324>

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

AUGUST 24, 2023

The Session approved the minutes of the Session meeting of July 27, 2023.

The Session acknowledged that communion was served at the 10 a.m. service on August 6, 2023.

The Session removed from the member rolls Jane DeKalb, who passed away on August 21, 2023.

The Session approved the baptisms of Jack Kriz and Jamie Kriz, children of Adam and Allison Kriz, on September 10, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.

The Session approved a motion to host the Homestead Presbytery meeting on November 16, 2023.

The Pantry Committee reported that the Food Bank is now providing bakery items and produce. Target on

56th and Nebraska Parkway donates 600-1,500 pounds of food per week. A partnership has been initiated with the Lincoln Hygiene Network, which collects personal hygiene products from other organizations and donates them to the pantry.

The Personnel Committee reported that Kristin Unterseher has been hired as the choir accompanist.

At the Homestead Presbytery meeting on August 12, 2023, there was a worship service and celebration of the transfer of Calvin Crest Camp and Conference Center to the Calvin Crest Board.



Faith Partners: Eastridge Faith Partners' mission statement: The Eastridge Presbyterian Church Faith Partners offers alcohol, drug, and other addictions awareness, prevention, education, referral assistance and recovery support to the people served by this congregation in a safe, non-judgmental environment. Contact the office if you'd like to be a part of this committee!





Ten Thousand Villages Holiday Pop-Up Sale

Now that it is October, it's time to start thinking about Advent and Christmas. This means Christmas shopping! The Youth Group will be hosting the Ten Thousand Villages Pop-Up Sale in the Welcome Center again this year.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 12th – Tuesday, November 14th.

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 October 27!

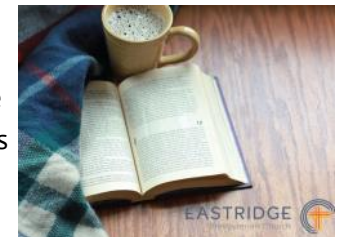


- Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon.....Senior Pastor
- Rev. Thomas Dummermuth.....Associate Pastor
- Kris Adler-Brammer..... Youth and Children's Ministries
- Donna Gustafson.....Office Manager
- Andy Kalnins.....Night/Weekend Custodian
- Brent Shaw..... Organist & Adult Choir Director
- Will McGuire.....Worship Leader
- Vince Ruhl.....Director of Online Ministries
- Brett Meier.....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

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.




YANA:



You Are Not Alone, a group for those who have lost a spouse, meets the first Tuesday of each month for a meal and fellowship. Contact the office or Berna Stading for more information.

EASTRIDGE
Presbyterian Church



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