



## FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN...

It's now clearly fall here in Nebraska. The fields are harvested, the leaves are falling, fall sports seasons are coming to an end, and ads are telling us it's time to think about those holiday meals. Maybe for you this means looking forward to the recipes handed down through the generations. Maybe this year you've decided to treat yourself to one of the catered options in town. Maybe you're like me, with a newly diagnosed health condition (I was diagnosed with celiac disease in April) that means your menu has been completely overhauled. Maybe you are experiencing food insecurity and wonder what foods will be on your table. Maybe you will spend your time as part of a changed family because of marriage or divorce, birth or death, diagnosis or distance.

I think in every holiday movie I've ever watched, there's always "that guest." You know who I'm talking about - the relative or friend who brings up the forbidden topics of politics and religion, who has few social graces, and who overstays their welcome. The most popular version is probably Cousin Eddy from Christmas Vacation, with an RV to pull up in front of the house, a menacing dog, and bad jokes. I'm thankful for the exaggerated version of this "guest," especially as we enter a time of gratitude, joy, and togetherness.

Tables are tricky places, though, especially as we gather together in a time of international tensions and global insecurity. I'm not going to run through the whole list, all you have to do is watch the news. There is war, there is violence, there is political divisiveness, and governments

that are not functioning. This year, it will be difficult to keep these topics off the table at our tables. Added in with tensions in our own lives and families, we may wonder how we will make it through the holidays.

This month, we want to invite you to a different kind of table. Inspired by "The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible," we will follow a peace path that invites us to explore peace with others. Using the story of Abigail in 1 Samuel

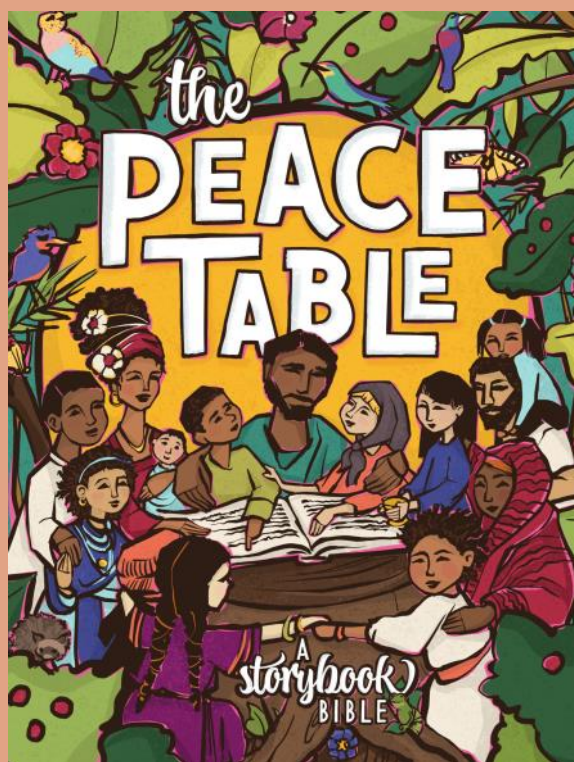
and texts from Isaiah, Luke, and Ephesians, we will explore how to be people of peace in our relationships with each other.

Just over a week ago, we were honored to host Bob and Kristi Rice, PCUSA mission co-workers in Juba, South Sudan. As Bob shared with our congregation on Sunday morning, it is the core of the Gospel of Jesus Christ that we be reconciled with God and reconciled with each other. Each of the texts he shared with us, and that we will hear again this month, give example, wisdom, and encouragement to be at peace with God and with each other. Bob went on to say that fundamental to the Heal-

ing Hearts Transforming Nations ministry in which they participate builds on the foundation of forgiveness we find modeled in scripture. On a massive scale, in a country that finds itself more divided than unified, Bob asked how we can be people of peace and reconciliation.

Friends, our world is unsettled right now with divisions and wars. Times are uncertain and tense all around the world. We wonder how these divisions and tensions will affect us?

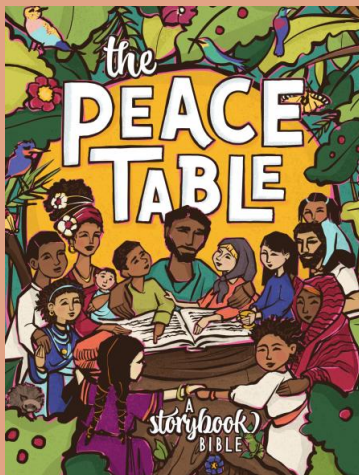
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FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN... *(continued from previous page)*

I would like to humbly offer an invitation to join us for worship, study, and celebration this November as we explore what it means to sit at table with each other. How can we acknowledge the differences and divisions around our own tables of family and friends in ways that offer courageous sharing of truths, seeking forgiveness, and offering grace. Maybe the truth you need to share with others is personal admission of guilt, a



diagnosis, a fear, or a struggle. Maybe you need to share something political, as you humbly offer opinions

and ideas in the hopes that we might continue travelling the road to a "more perfect" society.

In all of this sharing, may we pray for all the gatherings at tables around the world and in our homes where differences and divisions threaten to divide. May you find peace at the table this thanksgiving season,

~Melodie

Join us for our **SECOND Mental Health Café** on Sunday, November 19 at 10:45 am (following worship)

The holiday season is, for many of us, fraught with difficulty: expectations, pressures of all kinds, depression, disappointment, grief, and more.

Join us for conversations around mental health during the holiday season and how to make it the "okay-est" holiday in a free and 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.

Guests: *McKenzie Jones, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner; Teri Effle, Prevention Specialist, Region V Systems.*

Coffee and treats will be provided. RSVP requested but not required. (sponsored by EPC Faith Partners). Questions? Contact Pastor Thomas, 402-488-1454 or [tdummermuth@eastridge.org](mailto:tdummermuth@eastridge.org)

Mental Health Café  
Sunday, November 19 at 10:45 am  
Huxtable Lounge at  
Eastridge Presbyterian Church

"Getting  
Through the  
Holidays  
in One Piece"



EASTRIDGE  
Presbyterian Church







## Eastridge Presbyterian Women Thank Offering Sunday

this year is November 19.

There will be offering envelopes in the Sunday bulletin. Also, if you wish to donate, send a check to the church or drop in the black inbox outside office door.

Since 1888, Presbyterian women have expressed their deep sense of gratitude for God's blessings in their lives by giving back to people in their communities and around the world.

Through the Thank Offering, we can help fund programs that provide education, relief from disasters, safe housing, cooking instruction, training for justice and advocacy work, and so much more.



## Eastridge Presbyterian Women Sunday -Guest Preacher, Rev. Elizabeth Graverholt:

Beth was raised in rural Kansas where she was active in 4-H and her local church. While attending the University of Nebraska—Lincoln to study Nutrition and Dietetics, she worked as an AmeriCorps member providing fitness and nutrition education to under-resourced areas in Lincoln. Beth became involved in campus ministry during her senior year, where she experienced a call to ministry that led her to start a new ministry center near campus in an abandoned church building, now called Connection Point. From 2016 to 2022 she served as the director of Connection Point running a food pantry, community center, and poverty alleviation programs while also working as the Associate Pastor at Christ United Methodist Church. She graduated in June of 2021 from Iliff School of Theology with a master's in divinity and joined the staff of Justice In Action in December 2022.

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Justice in Action: House meetings are completed and discernment has begun to identify an additional issue to address during 2023-2024. **The Community Problems Assembly will be held on November 6th at Eastridge Church at 6:30pm.**

Please prayerfully consider attending to have your voice and vote counted. Voting on a new issue and new executive board, as well as updates from the current issues will be on the agenda.



**FUND MATCH: For the FOURTH year in a row we have been given a matching gift of \$10,000 through a generous anonymous donor!**

Once again if you were considering what you might be able to give, know that every penny you give is really two pennies; every dollar is two dollars, every hundred dollars is two hundred dollars! Help us make this \$10,000 gift a \$20,000 gift! (Please note "matching" in your gift so we can count every penny!) We are thankful for this generous gift as we enter the season of gratitude, as it encourages giving to the mission and ministry of Eastridge Church.



**Join us Sunday, November 12, as we dedicate the Eastridge Meditation Garden!**

This last phase of the Sunrise Road Property Project has been completed, and we are ready to dedicate the garden! This garden was originally planned to be a space to wander, wonder, and enjoy an unhurried moment. We are pleased that through the generous donations, dedications, and work of this community, the project is complete!

The garden will be dedicated in the 9:30 am service, and all are welcome to enjoy donuts and coffee in the Huxtable Lounge to celebrate! Please also take a wander down the accessible path and wonder at the beauty of creation!





New Members: Eastridge welcomes these three new members!

**Bryan and Ruth Grosscup:** Ruth and Bryan are both retired. She worked as a one-on-one para-educator for LPS. Bryan worked for what is now Assurity Life Insurance Company and after retiring from Assurity he worked at the United Way.

**Kim Huston:** Kim enjoys planting and caring for flowers and plants, watching Husker sports and estate sale shopping. She works full-time at Rallis and Bonilla Orthodontics in the Finance Department. She formerly worked for the Montgomery County Clerk of Courts Office and East Mills Community School District. She is the mom of an adult son Jacob and an adult daughter Claire. She is also the daughter of Rinehart and Alice Kruse! **Welcome, all!**



All Saints' Day:

Join us Sunday, November 12, for a communion service of thanksgiving for All [the] Saints that have joined the church triumphant over the past year. In-person and online worship is at 9:30 am.



Join us as we celebrate the many accomplishments and missions of **Eastridge Presbyterian Women** (and recognize Thanksgiving!) on Sunday, November 19 following worship. Special fall-inspired treats will be provided during coffee fellowship!

**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** 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.

Trailblazers for November: cleaning pews. Check your yearbook for more information!

**Did you know?** Our church calendar is available to view online at:

[Calendar - Eastridge Presbyterian Church - Lincoln, Nebraska](#). (link in online version).

Or you can choose “What’s New” on the pull-down menus on main page.

DID YOU KNOW?



**Stewardship Sunday** was 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 \$ 395,000 in general fund giving in 2023.

Request a third quarter statement in the office if you did not receive one.

Thank you to those of you who have already turned in your pledge cards! Here are some of the responses we have received from the back-of-the-card prompt, “Why I Love EPC...”

Church family and community.

Caring people, wonderful ministers and staff.

It welcomed me with open arms. It is the center of my friend life through {groups involved with}.

Family atmosphere, fellowship, education.

Personal relationships with God {are} emphasized.

Outreach a priority.

Wonderful people & staff.

Good sermons.



## PER CAPITA:

Per Capita is a term the Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) uses for individual contributions that go to fund the denomination as a whole; a portion of this funding goes to the General Assembly, another portion goes to our Synod, and the balance goes to our Presbytery. **For**

**2023 the assessed Per Capita is \$46.00 per member of Eastridge. However, if you are so called, a gift of \$100 will help us cover our denominational funding obligations and assist those who may not be able to contribute towards this obligation.**



## YOUTH FUNDRAISING

This summer the Youth Group will return to Tokio, ND to work with Bdecan Presbyterian Church for their summer mission trip. Youth mission trips are a wonderful opportunity for our young people to learn about the needs of others. It is a hands-on way for them to live out our Matthew 25 initiative. To help with some of the cost of our trip, we will be hosting a fundraiser November 12th – 14th.

**TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES** – We will be hosting a POP-UP sale for Ten Thousand Villages on November 12th – 14th in the Welcome Center at the church. Church and neighborhood members will be invited to come shop and hopefully start your Christmas shopping. By hosting, the Youth Group will receive 15% of the total sales. The store shared with us that our sale is their biggest POP-UP sale each year and we now give “first pic” for the holiday sales.

The reason we choose to do a Sunday – Tuesday sale is because we have several outside groups that meet in our building throughout the day on Monday and Tuesday. Each time we have done this sale, those groups have supported our sale. To accommodate the groups, we have the sale open during day-time hours. Our youth are in school during some of this and we could use help from members of the congregation that might have a few hours to help us out. If you are willing to staff the sale for a couple hours on Tuesday morning/afternoon, please contact Kris Adler-Brammer in the church office. We can give you specific details about what this would entail.



On **Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**, Eastridge is going to join with First Presbyterian Church (and maybe one other congregation) for an Advent workshop.

We will gather for a few Advent/Christmas crafts, fellowship, and a simple soup supper. All ages are welcome to join us, but the crafts will be child/youth focused. **The workshop will be held at First Presbyterian from 3:00pm to 5:00pm in their fellowship hall.** While registration is not mandatory, it will help us with supplies and food if you will RSVP. You can email Kris Adler-Brammer at [kadlerbrammer@eastridge.org](mailto:kadlerbrammer@eastridge.org) or call the church office.



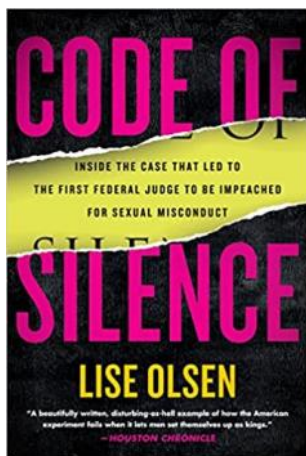


**THANK YOU** to everyone who donated and helped pack our college care packages. We filled 28 boxes/baskets with so many goodies. Each time we send out care packages we get so many thank yous and notes of appreciation from our students. They are so appreciated and know they are loved and remembered by their church community!



**The EPC Book Club** meets the second Monday of each month September through June at 7:00 pm in M12. 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".

November selection:  
*Code of Silence* by Lise Olsen (daughter of members Duane and Carolyn).



**Green Team is working at Eastridge:** The Trustees have established a working group from among the congregation to study our energy usage at the church. The group will recommend projects to improve our energy efficiency. The goal is to reduce energy consumption, save money, and do our part to combat climate change. Members interested in joining the Green Team should contact the church office.







## Upcoming music for November:

Nov 5 - Chancel choir

Nov 12 - Kirk Ringers (piano/organ/bells) and Will McGuire

Nov 19 - Beka Bevans (cello); Kristen Unterseher (violin); Ashley Unterseher (piano); Chancel Choir

Nov 26 - Vilynn Decker (Trumpet)  
(photo at right from September music)



## Annual Meeting: Sunday, November 29 following worship.

The Annual Meeting to nominate and elect officers, and to approve Pastor's Terms of Call will be held on Sunday, November 29, following worship.

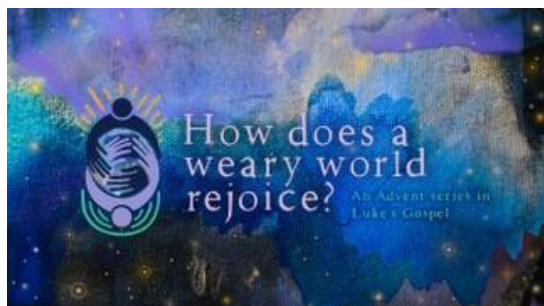


**Angel Tree at Eastridge ~ Holiday Giving 2023:** The Angel Tree with angels/ornaments for gift giving will be set up in the Welcome Center on November 17. Most of the angels will have a wish/request for gift cards for Clinton Elementary and Aging Partners. We will have a few angels with wishes for Women at Fresh Start and games for Clinton families. Some will be ornaments for Presbyterian Giving for World Mission. There will be instructions on the ornaments. Add a pair of gloves or mittens on the tree for adults and children! Thank you for bringing joy to others. If questions, contact Susan Taylor at 402-617-8414.



**Eastridge Presbyterian Women Cookie Sale** is December 10! This is an annual fundraiser for the mission projects chosen by EPW.

Join us that Sunday following worship to purchase cookies for holiday entertaining!



## Advent Sneak Peek!

Advent at Eastridge begins November 29 at 6 pm with a potluck Wednesday Night Supper & Study in the Huxtable Lounge.



**We have added 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!



## 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

**OCTOBER 26**

The Session approved the minutes of the Session meeting of September 28, 2023, and of the Special Session meeting of September 24, 2023.

The Session acknowledged that communion was served at the 9:30 a.m. service on October 1, 2023.

The Session acknowledged that Bryan and Ruth Grosscup and Kim Huston joined Eastridge on September 24, 2023, all by transfer of membership.

The Session removed Carol Budka from the member rolls, deceased October 17, 2023, and acknowledged that the Rev. Dr. Jones Pointon officiated at the memorial service on October 23, 2023.

The Session approved a motion to participate in the multi-church Service for the Weary on December 17, 2023, at 4 p.m. at the Antelope Park Auld Pavilion. Eastridge will provide streaming and sound services.

The Session approved a motion to schedule Christmas Eve worship services as follows: a) 9:30 a.m. worship led by the McGuire Family, including a short meditation and singing of Christmas carols; b) 5 p.m. worship led by the Chil-

dren's Ministry, including a play and traditional hymns; c) 9 p.m. candlelight worship with Chancel Choir, Kirk Ringers, and additional musicians. All services will be livestreamed.

The Session approved a motion to allow the Eastridge Presbyterian Women to sell cookies in the Welcome Center from 10:30 to 11:30 on December 10, 2023.

The Session approved a motion to move the congregational meeting to

November 26, 2023, following the worship service. The meeting is called to nominate and elect elders and trustees and to approve the pastors' terms of call.

The Session approved a motion to adopt the recommendations of the Task Force on Restructuring Church Boards. The proposal will be presented as a first reading at the November congregational meeting with a vote taken at the January congregational meeting.

The Sunrise Property Committee reported that a dedication of the garden is planned for November 12, 2023, after worship.

Eastridge is hosting the next meeting of Homestead Presbytery on November 16, 2023.





## REMINDER! Ten Thousand Villages Holiday Pop-Up Sale

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. (see article on page 8 for more info)

### 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!



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](mailto:mjonespointon@eastridge.org)  
 Thomas Dummermuth: [tdummermuth@eastridge.org](mailto: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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