



FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN...

In her book, *Atlas of the Heart*, author, speaker, and psychologist Brene Brown writes about her desire to use a map metaphor for understanding emotions. She reached out to her friend, Dr. Kirk Goldsberry, who happens to be a mapmaker and cartographer. She says, "Kirk told me, "Maps are the most important documents in human history. They give us tools to store and exchange knowledge about space and place." As she digs further into the metaphor of a map to chart our experiences, feelings, and personal growth, she learns that maps are created of layers of information collected by someone. Maps can carry different perspectives using the same information, because of the importance the information provider places on the information gathered.

The technology we carry in our smartphones has largely done away with the need for a



GPS, let alone a large paper atlas or map. I remember as a child, my sister studying our family's atlas, laid open on the living room floor as we planned vacations, learned about new cities, and wondered what the world outside our hometown was like. We charted the places important to us, and still to this day think of those places as our primary point of reference. Over time, those places held memories of sights, sounds, and tastes. I have fond memories of the back road from Salt Lake City to Tremonton because of the fresh produce sold at the roadside. I clearly remember the Italian restaurant in Las Vegas

where we celebrated my 13th birthday, and its place just one block off Las Vegas Boulevard. I can continue on this way, mapping out my life based on experiences, emotions, commitments, and relationships.

This Lent, we will explore the "faith map" of Simon Peter. Peter is a fascinating character in the Bible, the one Jesus renames "Rock" and declares "on this rock I will build my church." Peter is the first Pope. He has a great moment of believing when he walks on water with Jesus, only to doubt and sink below the surface. He denies Christ three times during the scene of the trial and crucifixion, only to

be annoyed when Jesus asks "Do you love me?" three times after the resurrection. In short, we will find out together that the great disciple, apostle, and first leader of the church has a "faith map" that looks improbably like our own.

Once again, there are many ways to participate in our Lenten theme included in these pages. We have

study groups happening throughout the week. For private reflection we have a devotional guide and prayer cards available upon request and daily Facebook and Instagram posts. We'll gather together twice for a meal and a special service, on Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday. This year, on Good Friday, we invite anyone to come and spend time in prayer and reflection with prayer stations available all day and into the evening.

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

Our Wandering Heart theme comes to us once again from the artistic collective A Sanctified Art. Founding Creative Partner, Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman shares her inspiration: "As we engaged with Peter's narrative, I realized that Peter is a heart-on-his-sleeve kind of person too. He follows his heart and does so passionately and with gusto. This doesn't always work out for Peter, but he keeps moving forward, doing his best in following his friend and teacher, Jesus. The result of his wandering gives us a picture of an authentic, imperfect, heart-forward faith journey." As we begin our Lenten season on VaLENTine's Day, we invite you to commit wholeheartedly to exploring your own wandering heart and the faith map of your life.

Brown, Brené. Atlas of the Heart: Mapping Meaningful Connection and the Language of Human Experience (p. xxix). Random House Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

From Sanctified Art Sermon Planning Guide: Wandering Heart, page 2.

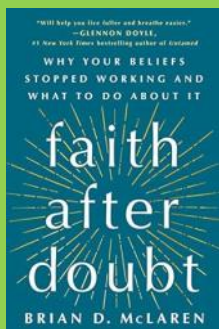
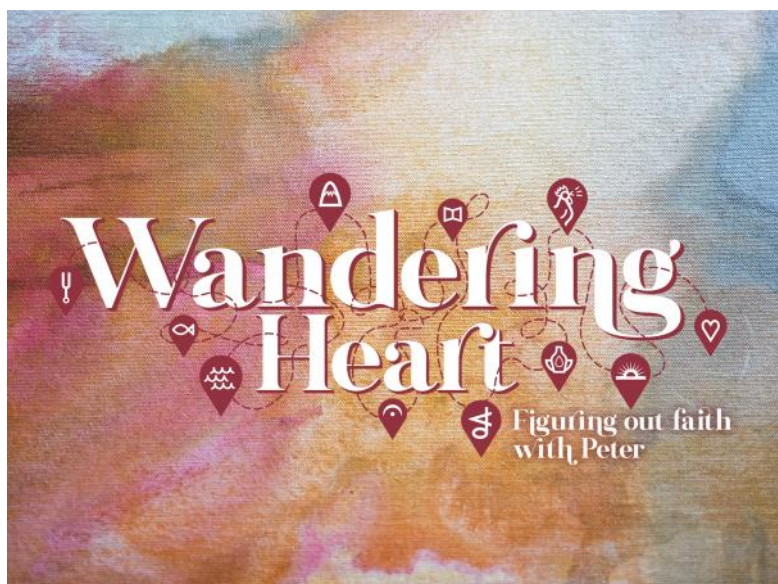
~ Pastor Melodie



WANDERING HEART


Figuring out faith with Peter

This Lent, we are focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. By following Peter's journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out—just like us.




TWO Opportunities to study *Faith After Doubt: Why Your Beliefs Stopped Working and What to Do About It* by Brian D. McLaren during Lent:

- Monday Night Bible Study led by Doug and Mickey McDaniel (contact the office for more information)
- Thursday morning Zoom study (Feb 15-Apr 4). Contact the church office OR sign up: <https://bit.ly/faithafterdoubtzoom>



WELCOME TO

CALVIN CREST



Join us for a fun-filled week of learning, exploring, and growing your faith!

WWW.CALVINCREST.CAMP

ABOUT US

Let your kiddo spread their wings and soak up some childhood magic! Calvin Crest camp is the ultimate adventure destination, packed with oodles of fun and new thrills to discover.

Parents, fear not! Safety and spiritual development are our top priorities. Your child will make lifelong pals, dive into exciting activities, and explore their faith in the serene beauty of nature.

Don't miss out on the chance to give your child an unforgettable experience at Calvin Crest!



WHY CHOOSE US?

"I'm always amazed how much my grandson has grown both in maturity and spiritually every year at Calvin Crest."

-Beth

With a smorgasbord of options, it's tough to cherry-pick the one that feels just right. But, let's face it, once you've hit upon the perfect fit, it's hard to let go! That's why our campers keep coming back year after year, even becoming all-star counselors themselves. Here, your little (or big) one will feel like they're part of one big Christian community. Get ready for some serious outdoorsy worship in our scenic chapel, or perhaps a small-group Bible study in our cozy Gazebo. Jump into our pool for a refreshing swim and water basketball. Then, get ready to be wowed by our epic games like Goldrush, or let your creativity flow with tile mosaics. And, let's not forget the cherry on top: our scrumptious scones! With all this, there's really no better place to be.

CONTACT US

(402) 628-6455
2870 County Road 13,
Fremont, NE 68025
camp@calvincrest.org

Check out the Calvin Crest brochures at the Welcome Desk (also shown here).

Another way to connect is to become a camp counselor! Check out the flyer on the following page, featuring our own Madison Kohel!

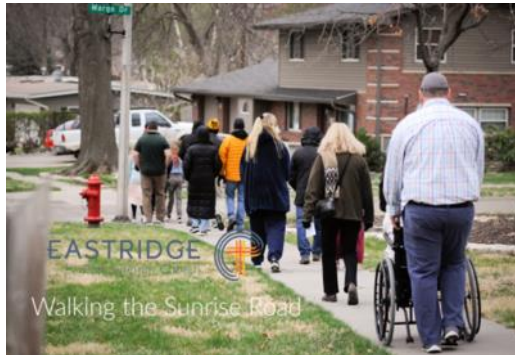
Easter Sunrise, 6:45 am - Walking the Sunrise Road

"Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark..."

Once again this year, we will begin our Easter celebration by walking into the sunrise (hopefully!) on the Sunrise Road.

We will meet at 6:45 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 about 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 we will enjoy some coffee and donuts together.

We hope you will join us, as we long to meet the Rising Son on the Sunrise Road.





The Calvin Crest Experience

The BEST Summer Job Opportunity is working at Calvin Crest as a Camp Counselor or as Support Staff. It is a transforming experience for you and the campers in faith and in life. It is a serious job--with serious fun.



Qualifications

- 18+ Years of Age
- Christian Faith
- Team Player
- Enjoys Working Outdoors



Develop Your Skills

- Communication
- Planning/Organizing
- Resiliency
- Self-Confidence
- Faith Development
- Risk Management
- Independence
- Goal Setting
- Leadership
- Child Development
- Teamwork
- Problem Solving
- Role Modeling
- Program Enrichment
- Decision Making
- Conflict Resolution
- Community Building
- Personal Growth
- Nature Play
- Empowering Others



Available Positions

Counselor

Responsible for constant supervision, growth and development of young people as well as planning, organizing and leading recreation and spiritual growth activities that promote learning, community and fun.

Support Staff

Support the entire summer experience in a specific area including lifeguards, kitchen staff, maintenance staff and healthcare.



About Calvin Crest

Your time at Calvin Crest will be full of learning, growth, sharing, friendships, working hard and developing yourself and others--all in a positive, Christian, outdoor environment with people who value you and your contribution to the team.



How To Apply

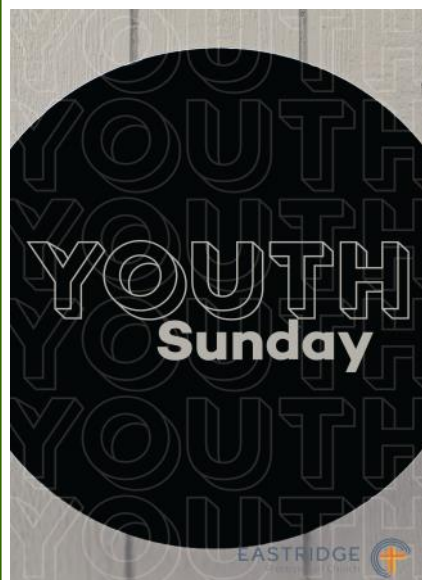
You may apply at www.calvincrestcamp/job. After receiving the application, we will contact you to schedule an interview within 2 business days.

“

When I see 'Camp Counselor' on a resume, it speaks to me of commitment and perseverance, and it always piques my interest in a candidate. Summer at camp is not all swim time and campfires

”

-Dave, retired school administrator



YOUTH SUNDAY:

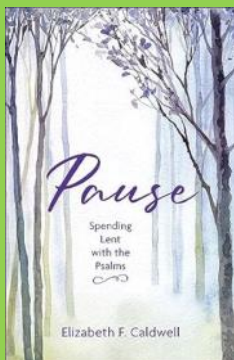
On Sunday, February 11, the Middle School and High School youth will lead us in worship. The service will focus on the theme of ***When Did We See You***. We will look specifically how we are blessed and how we can bless others. During the service, the youth will share their work with you as they have written the prayers and liturgy along with three of the youth who will share the sermon for the day. We hope you will choose to join us for this special service of worship.

Following worship, we hope you will stay and join us for a soup brunch. We will gather around tables to have a bit to eat and share in some fellowship.



In addition to Youth Sunday on the 11th, the youth will collect the **Souper Bowl of Caring** offering. This offering was developed by a Presbyterian youth group in South Carolina 30+ years ago. This year, EPC youth are going to ask you to vote for who you think will win the Super Bowl based on the item that you bring.

If you think the Kansas City Chiefs will win, we would like you to vote for them by bringing shampoo and/or conditioner. If you think the San Francisco 49ers will win, we would like you to vote for them by laundry detergent and/or dish soap. Let's see if EPC can correctly pick the Super Bowl winner as well as stock the pantry with personal hygiene products and cleaning supplies!



The Wednesday morning group will “pause” their current study during Lent and begin ***Pause: Spending Lent with the Psalms*** by Elizabeth F. Caldwell. We will begin February 14 and conclude the study April 3. Contact the church office for more information!



Trailblazers for the month of February:

February 16: Musical entertainment at 7:00 p.m. in Huxtable Lounge by Will & Madeline McGuire (Free will offering for entertainment) Committee: Filbrandt, Thompson, Donna & Jim Gies



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.



From the Green Team: In case you missed it! On January 4, 2024, the Journal Star ran an article with the Headline: "City announces heat pump incentive program for Lincoln Homeowners". The incentive is \$1,000.00 toward the cost of an air-source heat pump. It is \$3,000.00 if you qualify as a low-income homeowner! The City has budgeted \$500,000.00 to be distributed on a first come first serve basis. Funds will be available until August 31, or until they are all expended. And on top of that, homeowners are eligible for an additional \$800.00 incentive through LES!

For information go to: lincoln.ne.gov/HeatPump; LES.com/SEP; or email



Faith Partners: Look for an upcoming event sponsored by Eastridge Faith Partners this spring. For more information on this group, contact the church office.



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 below, or use QR code at right:

<https://bit.ly/youthmeal2324>





First Blood Drive a Success! Eastridge teamed up with the Red Cross for its first ever blood drive on January 2. The goal was to collect 20 units of blood and through wonderful donors we collected 25 units! THANK YOU to all those who took the time to give life saving blood and to those who volunteered during the day!

Our next blood drive will be **Tuesday May 21, 2024 from 12:00 -6:00 pm.** Watch for more information!



Blood Drive
Eastridge Presbyterian Church



FROM OUTREACH: As you may have already read, the legislation that included the expanded child tax credit (see The Lamp January 28) easily passed the House of Representatives. Our Rep. Flood voted for the measure. Now it goes to the Senate.

Another update: The state legislature is considering reversing the Governor's refusal to accept federal funds to provide food for children in low income families during the summer.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS: JANUARY 25, 2024

The Session approved the minutes of the Session meeting of December 17, 2023.

The Session acknowledged that communion was served at the 9:30 a.m. service on January 7, 2024.

The Session removed George Lanz from the member rolls, deceased December 21, 2023, and acknowledged that Rev. Dummermuth officiated at the memorial service at Eastridge Presbyterian Church on December 29, 2023.

The Session removed Alan Reiners from the member rolls, deceased December 29, 2023, and acknowledged that Rev. Dummermuth officiated at the funeral service at Eastridge Presbyterian Church on January 4, 2024.

The Session affirmed the e-mail vote related to worship options for January 14, 2024.

The Session affirmed the e-mail vote setting the date

for ordination and a Session retreat for February 4, 2024.

The Session approved the 2023 Annual Report.

The Session approved the 2024 budget, including a 3 percent increase in salaries and a decrease in per capita.

The Session carried a motion to allow Sandra Hilsabeck Hastings to give away her books in the Welcome Center, according to church policy.

The Session elected Chris Boden as a commissioner to the Homestead Presbytery meeting on February 17, 2024.

The Session elected Robin Hadfield as Clerk of Session for a one-year term and elected Steve Anderson as Church Treasurer for a

one-year term.

The Session expressed thanks to Kurt Beck, Doug McDaniel, and Bill Wehrbein, whose terms on Session end upon the installation of new elders.





We have added an option to provide treats on Sunday mornings!
Click here:

<https://bit.ly/coffee fellowship>

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 **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".

Combined January/February discussion on Monday, February 12: ***Demon Copperhead*** by Barbara Kingsolver and ***Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*** by Jamie Ford.

Looking ahead to March, join us on March 11 for a discussion of ***Just Mercy*** by Bryan Stevenson.



ASH WEDNESDAY Meal & Worship:

This year Lent begins on February 14 (Ash Wednesday). Join us for a potluck meal on

Ash Wednesday at 6:00 pm in Huxtable Lounge, worship in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm.

Check out the rest of this newsletter for more information on Lent, including book/Bible studies.

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.





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. Sign up here:

<https://bit.ly/thegatheringplacecurrent>



EASTRIDGE
FOOD PANTRY

EASTRIDGE FOOD PANTRY:

Links for volunteers for Sunday drive thru and Wednesday distribution plus box prep below:

Distribution: <https://bit.ly/FPDistFood>

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Ecumenical Legislative Briefing Day is scheduled for Saturday, February 10 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Christ United Methodist Church at 4530 A Street. Registration is \$20, which includes lunch (\$25 after February 3). More information and registration are available at www.nelegisbrief.org. Topics include Options for Criminal Justice Reform, Economics of Exclusion, Mental Health, Education, Environment, School Safety, and Housing. Speakers include representatives from Justice in Action, Nebraska State Board of Education, Nebraska Interfaith Power and Light, Nebraskans Against Gun Violence, and the League of Women Voters. Sponsors include Church Women United and the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

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.



Are you interested in becoming a liturgist for worship? For more information, contact the office or Robin Hadfield. Current liturgists, please sign up for 2024!

<https://bit.ly/epcliturgist>



EASTRIDGE
Presbyterian Church



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Lincoln NE 68510

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Like us on
Facebook



February



March