



This fall we are focusing on Matthew 25, our participation in God's story as it relates to this scripture, and our history as a Matthew 25 congregation of PCUSA. We are inspired by scripture, particularly Matthew 25:31-46, and by our summer reading of Everything Good About God is True, by Bruce Reyes-Chow. Chapter Eight of BRC's book has particularly resonated in our conversations:

What does it mean for God's story to be revealed?

The STORIED revealing of God's hope and intentions is intricately woven

In and through our interactions with God—

A delicate conversation between Creator and created. (pg. 78)

The goodness of God tells us that there is a story that will be revealed. But that is different from a belief that "God's plan" means something predetermined, divinely directed, specific, and even coercive. I believe, instead, that God invites humanity to play a part in God's story.

We get to listen for the many ways God speaks to the world, to question that which needs to be challenged, to shift when the Spirit beckons us in a new direction, and to embrace our roles as co-conspirators with beauty and truth and justice and goodness. God's story unfolds in the revealing and realizing of God's plans for the world. (pg. 79)

When we are part of a community, we learn when and how to make our voices known. Are we that voice tenderly whispering in the background or the one boisterous cheering others on? Are we the voice that constantly speaks in solidarity with those who are silenced? Are we part of a chorus of voices shouting and chanting because the concerns of the oppressed are not being taken seriously? Or are we the ones who focus our efforts on listening deeply to others? The Spirit will speak through us in different ways at different times, and the Spirit is made

known to us through the voices of others. (pg.81)

An animating question for this series and accompanying activities is, "Where did we see you?" We acknowledge that many in our community whom we are called to serve experience not only poverty, hunger, imprisonment, loneliness, injustice or infirmity, but also invisibility. We hope to bring into focus our friends and neighbors along with ways we serve now and can serve as God's story is revealed among us.

During this season, we have opportunities to learn and serve in a number of ways. We hope to raise awareness about how Eastridge has anchored our mission activities and giving, as well as to provide opportunities to participate in service to others. Our mission activities in recent years have intentionally been grouped under three main headings: Food and Hunger, Home and Opportunity, and Education and Evangelism. Each month we will focus on one of these areas by way of displays in the Welcome Center and service opportunities.

We also hope to increase awareness of how our physical building has become a significant asset and tool enabling efforts to serve our community through our partnerships with organizations in our area that have found a home here. We hope that as these groups are highlighted in our newsletter we are able to see and hear their participants in a new way.

As we consider the individuals we seek to serve and attempt to see them more authentically, and in the context of Psalm 139, we open ourselves to hearing answers to the question, "What I wish people know about me..." It is our intent to find ways to share insights in many ways over the next three months.

May we all be blessed and challenged by these words of scripture!

Jo Bateman, Chris Boden and Alinda Stelk, Fall Season Conveners



FELLOWSHIPING AMONG THE FAITHS

Join us as we celebrate our unique faith traditions over lunch

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

AT 12:00 PM

AT EASTRIDGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1135 Eastridge Drive

Free luncheon provided by the Faith Coalition of Lancaster County

RSVP is encouraged but not required by September 4

Register at <https://www.lancasterfaith.org/>



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, INTERFAITH DIALOGUE, CELEBRATION

The Faith Coalition of Lancaster County invites you to join us for a special luncheon event where we will come together to celebrate our unique faith traditions.

Date: Wednesday, September 11

Time: 12:00 PM

Location: Eastridge Presbyterian Church, Huxtable Lounge

A complimentary lunch will be provided as we foster connection and understanding of each other's traditions.

RSVP is encouraged but not required by September 4.

Don't miss this opportunity to connect with individuals from diverse faith backgrounds in Lancaster County. Contact the Eastridge church office for more information.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Do you knit, crochet or quilt? The EPC prayer shawl group welcomes those with these skills to join them in helping to make prayer shawls and baby blankets to be given to our members and church friends during times of difficulty and times of joy. For questions about this group or making shawls and blankets, contact Patty Niemann at 402-432-8353 or the church office.

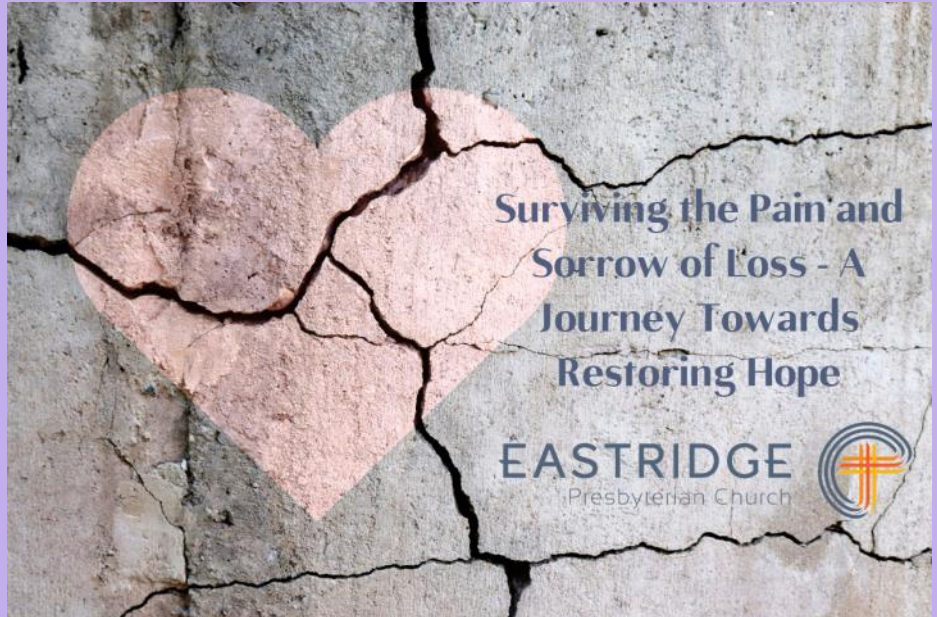




Surviving the Pain and Sorrow of Loss - A Journey Towards Restoring Hope

Personal loss after a death(s) of those who care for leaves many of us with a different identity---” I am a survivor” whether the loss is a traumatic sudden loss, a suicide loss, or a loss of child or adult following a series of medical hardships, leaving survivors searching to help themselves and loved ones to put their shattered lives together. This 90-minute conversation is the beginning of a process of sharing tips, wisdom, and techniques to help one another in these times of crisis, the skills to survive and thrive are similar, yet different.

Families will be invited to participate as small groups, with adults, and youth provided separate opportunities to participate after an initial presentation. Join us **October 9 at 6:00 pm in Huxtable Lounge.**



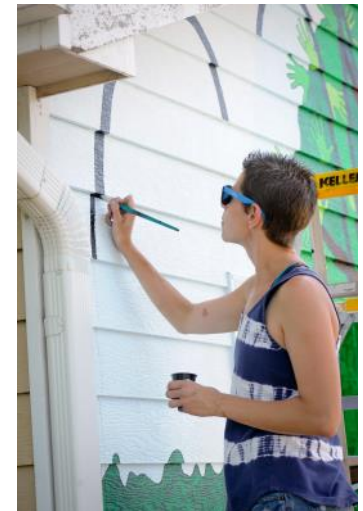
Community Art Installation:

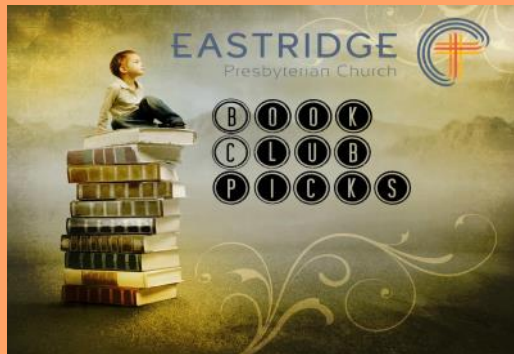
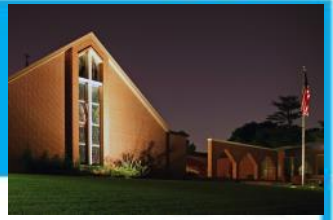
Local artist Ann Williams has worked with our congregation over the summer on a community art project for everyone to enjoy! On this fourth collaboration with Ann, we continue with the image of a tree in a field where the community gathers. Inspired by our history as a mission church on the edge of Lincoln, we return to this place now as the place where we find food for the hungry, rest for the weary, and belonging for all. We see the handiwork of God in our own hands as we search for understanding "Today, I choose to believe..."

*This is a privately funded project, and donations are still being accepted toward painting the Food Pantry. Any donations above the cost of the art project will go toward other improvements around the outside of the Eastridge Food Pantry building or other equipment for use in the building.



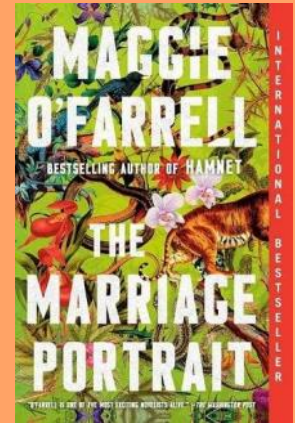
Save the date!
We will dedicate the mural
on Sunday, October 6.
More info to come!





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 September selection is at right, *The Marriage Portrait* by Maggie O'Farrell!

Join us September 9 at 7:00 pm in M12 for discussion and refreshments!



"...be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs from the Spirit. Sing and

make music from your heart to the Lord." - Ephesians 5:18-19

We are always excited to begin another school year and return to having choir rehearsals!

Chancel Choir returns on Wednesday evenings starting after Labor Day and Kirk Ringers to handbell rehearsals on Tuesday evenings starting the 2nd week of Septem-

ber. Thanks to everyone who was such a blessing sharing helping us worship with music this summer!

Upcoming music:

Sept. 1 (Labor Day weekend) - Bill Reichert and Diane Eaton

Sept. 8 - Chancel Choir and Jonah Bennett (string bass)

Sept. 15 - Chancel Choir and Andrew Linden (trumpet)

Sept. 22 - Choir and Will McGuire

Sept. 29 - Kirk Ringers

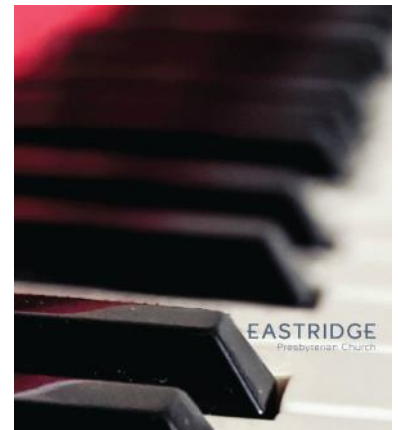
"Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord!" -Psalm 150

Chancel choir will resume rehearsals Wednesday September 4 at 7pm.

Kirk Ringers will resume rehearsals Tuesday September 10 at 6:30pm.

Contact Brent Shaw if interested in ringing, singing, or offering other musical gifts.

Thank you to all our church family and friends who help lead us in worship in so many different ways!





SESSION HIGHLIGHTS AUGUST 18, 2024

The Session approved the minutes of the Session meeting of July 14, 2024.

The Session acknowledged that communion was served at the 9:30 a.m. service on August 4, 2024.

The Session acknowledged that the Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon officiated at the memorial service of Steve Phillips on August 3, 2024, at Eastridge Presbyterian Church.

The Session approved the wedding of Holly Bingham and Isaac Ingwersen at 2 p.m. on October 7, 2024. The wedding will be held in the church and officiated by the Rev. Thomas Dummermuth.

Rev. Dr. Jones Pointon expressed thanks for the time she was allowed for sabbatical.

Rev. Dummermuth reported there will be a Discovering Eastridge class at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday, August 25, 2024. Rev. Dummermuth also invited Session members to two upcoming events: "Fellowship Among the Faithful," an event sponsored by the Faith Coalition, which will be held on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at

Eastridge, and "Surviving the Pain and Sorrow of Loss," sponsored by Faith Partners, on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at 6 p.m.

Rev. Dr. Jones Pointon reported that the Green Team has organized storage in the church. A+ Academy is now renting the space previously used as the choir room in the basement. The contract with A+ has been updated to reflect this change. A+ will no longer be using Fellowship Hall on a regular basis.

Rev. Dr. Jones Pointon reported that the Memorial and Endowment Committee and EPW agreed to each contribute half of the cost to

purchase chairs with arms to be used in Fellowship Hall. They will replace the folding chairs.

Rev. Dummermuth and Chris Boone reported on the Homestead Presbyterian meeting, where a report was received from

the commissioners to General Assembly. It was announced that the Rev. Bruce Reyes Chow will be at Lincoln Westminster on November 9 and 10, 2024. The Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation reported that it is encouraging grant applications.

HIGHLIGHTS



Ladies Night Out: this group meets for fun outings, mostly "off campus". This past year we visited Wyuka Cemetery and Capitol View Winery.

Various events are planned throughout the year. For more information contact the office. A Facebook page actively shares information as well.



Did you miss filling out an Eastridge Care Connections card?

There are copies at the Welcome Desk, and at the usher table in the narthex. Fill out and either leave in the offering plate or the office inbox. We are looking forward to connecting our community with this ministry!



GROUPS THAT MEET AT EASTRIDGE:

Eastridge is grateful that several groups continue to find a home in our building. We love this space and continuously strive to make it a place where everyone feels welcome,

loved, and valued. Their presence in our building is an important part of who we want to be in our community!

This fall, we are asking the question, **"What do you wish we knew about you?"** and sharing those answers (words and pictures) in this and upcoming newsletters (and possibly on our Welcome Center screens).

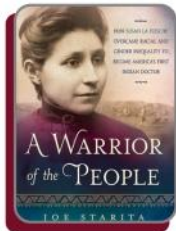
"Searching & Fearless" AA: "We are a weekly open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. Our main priority is to gather in a consistent place at a consistent time so anyone who may be struggling with addiction can easily find us so that we can help them if that's what they want. We are an open group so anyone can come who has a desire to learn about alcoholism or addiction or a desire to stop using alcohol or drugs. If you or a friend or family member may need help with this type of situation, please feel free to stop in at our meeting Mondays from 6:30 to 7:30 pm (follow the signs we setup in the Church), someone in the meeting will be willing to help answer any questions you may have."



THE STORIES STARITA TELLS

WITH AUTHOR JOE STARITA

Please join Conservation Nebraska and Eastridge Presbyterian Church in welcoming Joe Starita, author of *A Warrior of the People: How Susan La Flesche Overcame Racial and Gender Inequality to Become America's First Indian Doctor*. Starita has been deeply interested in Native American history and culture since his youth, which has inspired much of his writing. He has a rich background in writing and journalism and was an associate professor at the University of Nebraska where he taught depth reporting for 20 years.



Fri, Sept 27 | 7-9pm

Eastridge Presbyterian:
1135 Eastridge Dr, Lincoln
in the Huxtable Lounge

Questions?

Email Cian Hassovic at
cbrun@neconserve.org



Please join the Eastridge Trailblazers and Conservation Nebraska for "The Stories Starita Tells" with author Joe Starita. He'll focus on *A Warrior of the People: How Susan La Flesche Overcame Racial and Gender Inequality to Become America's First Indian Doctor*.

Starita has been interested in Native American history and culture since his youth, which has inspired much of his writing. He has a rich background in writing and journalism and was an associate professor at the University of Nebraska where he taught depth reporting for 20 years.

Friday, September 27 at 7:00 pm in Huxtable Lounge, light refreshments served.

A sign up will be available soon...check the weekly lamp and your email for more information.



"Lord, when did we see you hungry, thirsty, a stranger, or in prison?"

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has invited churches to renew their commitments to mission by becoming "Matthew 25" congregations. A Matthew 25 congregation seeks to:

- ◆ Build congregational vitality, by challenging itself to get more joyfully engaged with its community and the world.
- ◆ Dismantle structural racism, by acting to break down practices and thinking that underlie oppression of people of color, and
- ◆ Eradicate systemic poverty, by working to change structures that exploit people who are poor.



our commitment, we will be sharing stories of the impact that our pledge has made: how our congregation has changed, how we've discovered new passions and vitality, how our members have been re-energized as disciples.

Being a Matthew 25 congregation doesn't require any new programs, committees, or meetings. It isn't a "check list" and there is no competition with other congregations. It validates a number of programs and activities that Eastridge Presbyterian Church is already doing. But it also challenges us to think more deeply about Christ's urgent call for us to be

a church of action, where God's love, justice, and mercy shine forth.

Eastridge Presbyterian Church became a Matthew 25 congregation in December 2019. As we live out

As we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of our distinctive logo, we reflect the many ways it has become an identifying feature for our faith community. The session would like to make t-shirts, sweatshirts, and hats available to the faith community for purchase through Relentless Merch, a local small business. There's a bit of a twist this time, with this on the back of the shirt: "see one another, hear one another, care for one another, and love one another. It's all that easy and it's all that hard."

T-shirts will be available in black, gray, and white; sweatshirts in gray.

More information to come on a link to purchase these items.

<https://bit.ly/epcmerch>



Watch for more info soon on purchasing a t-shirt for an EPC college student!



Children & Youth Faith Formation Important Dates

Just a few more weeks and a new school year will begin! We will kick-off our Faith Formation year in August. We hope you will put these important dates on your calendar!

Wednesday, September 4 – This will be our first youth group gathering of the year. We will meet from 6:00pm to 7:45pm this year. We will kick off our youth group year with a youth/parent evening including a potluck dinner.



Tuesday, September 10 – This will be our first Tuesday of our Afterschool Faith Formation.

This program includes our Kindergartners through 5th graders. We gather after-school and meet until 5:30pm each week.

Sunday, September 15 – Our preschool class will begin. This class is for 3-year-olds through Pre-K. This class will meet on Sunday morning during worship. The children will join the congregation for worship through the Worship Connection. Following the Worship Connection, the preschool children will meet in the back of the sanctuary and then go to class. The class will conclude at the end of worship.



We Need Your



School has begun! This means that programming for children and youth at EPC will be starting soon and we need your help. Feeding our children and youth are an important part of fellowship in all of our programming. Feed them and they will come! We could use your help in providing meals and snacks.

Children – we provide a snack at our Tuesday Afterschool Programming (TAP). We can use snack crackers, cookies, popcorn, chips, fruit snacks, granola bars, etc. A short Amazon list can be found here. You can order from the list or just use it for ideas to purchase at the store.



Youth – Each Wednesday evening, youth group begins with a meal. Providing a meal includes a main dish, side(s), and dessert. The church provides drinks and all the paper products. This year the group will consist of about 12 people. You can provide the meal by yourself or grab a group of people and do it together. We love visitors! If you are willing to provide a meal, the following link can be used to sign up for a meal for the remainder of the 2024 year.





Eastridge Hospice Singers:

This fall, the Eastridge Hospice Singers will begin their 7th year of “bringing the peace and comfort of music to those journeying through hospice care”. With God’s blessing and the dedication of our 21 hospice trained singers, it has been our honor to provide 62 singing visits during the first eight months of 2024. Since our first singing visit in December 2018, over 700 “in person” and virtual visits have been shared with those who request our presence during their end-of-life journeys and while receiving hospice care.

Our own personal hospice singing journeys have been blessed with developing relationships with the individuals for whom we sing. Whether we sing just once for a



person or multiple times, music has a special way of helping ease, and of making more beautiful, the transition from this world to the next. And especially at end-of-life, we find that “When words fail, music speaks”.

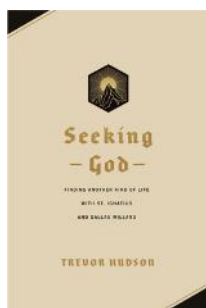
Our unique singing ministry is so appreciative of EPC and the support given to us by staff and members of our congregation. Brochures and business cards for the Eastridge Hospice Singers are located on the Welcome Desk. For more information or the scheduling of a singing visit for a family member or friend receiving hospice care, contact Patty Niemann at epc.hospice.singers@gmail.com or 402-432-8353. We also provide programs for community groups as a way for others to learn more about our ministry.



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.



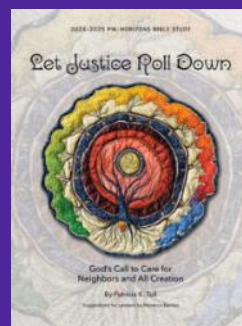
Bible/Book Study for Adults:

The Wednesday morning Bible study (continuously meeting for 9 years!) have started the study **Bible Stories for Grown-ups**. This study meets on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am and is led by Donna Gustafson.

Our next selection will be **Seeking God by Trevor Hudson**.

Eastridge Presbyterian Women: EPW starts a new year in September. Bible studies (in four Circle groups) meet the first Wednesday of each month and we gather as a group on the third Wednesday four times a year. If you are interested in joining one of the Circles, please contact Pat Grieser at 402-488-8678, or email office@eastridge.org.

Our book this year is “*Let Justice Roll Down*” by Patricia K. Tull.





We need Volunteers to help with the Lefler Food Market!

In 2017 Lefler Middle School started the Lefler Food Market to serve students and families in need. Eastridge Presbyterian Church provides 3 volunteers each month to help for this once a month Food Market, on the first Wednesday of the month. The Market takes place during the school year, September-May.

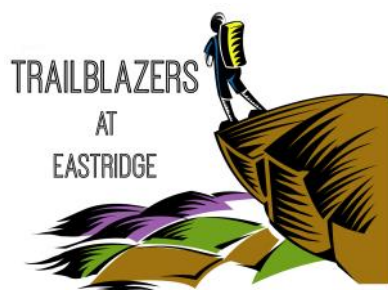


We have a Sign-up Genius link if you are interested in volunteering.

Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/lefler2425>

If you 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 Level II volunteer application. Go to <https://wapp.lps.org/gold/volunteer/volunteer.cfm>, the application only takes a few minutes to fill out.



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 Sandra Hilsabeck at 402-770-4289.

Our first meeting is open to the community. Join us for a talk by author Joe Starita on Friday, Sept. 27 at 7 pm. He'll share about his book, ***A Warrior of the People: How Susan La Flesche Overcame Racial and Gender Inequality to Become America's First Indian Doctor.***



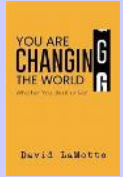
Faith Partners: Eastridge Faith Partners' mission statement: The Eastridge Presbyterian Church Faith Partners offers alcohol, drug, and other addictions awareness, prevention, education, referral assistance and recovery support to the people served by this congregation in a safe, non-judgmental environment.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





Fall Book Study via Zoom: join us starting Thursday, September 5 at 10:00 am to discuss the book *You Are Changing the World Whether You Like it or Not* by David LaMotte. Led by Pastors Melodie & Thomas.

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



Today, I Choose to Believe...

It's hard to believe the summer season is ending! This summer we have been bold in asking our faith community to think about what we believe as individuals who are members of a faith community. Here are a few things to watch for in the coming days and weeks:



- *Our worship service this Sunday, September 1, will weave together scriptures, questions, and music from the series
- *Thomas and Melodie's summer sermons will be available on the Eastridge Presbyterian Youtube Channel this week-

end and coming to podcast platforms in the near future.

*Join us Sunday, October 6 following worship as we dedicate the Food Pantry Mural and unveil a visual Faith Montage that will be displayed in our building. Of course, there will be food!

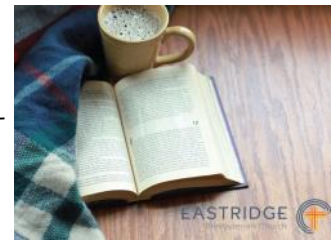
*Our community's faith montage will be available on our website in October.

There's still time to contribute to our faith montage! Send your faith montage to office@eastridge.org by September 15 so they can be included!

~ Lois Wies & Carol Ripley, Summer Session Conveners

Devotion Ministry:

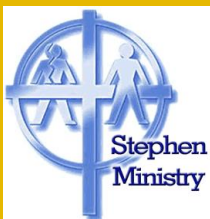
We are always looking for new writers for our online devotion ministry. If you are interested in writing, even just occasionally, please contact the office for more information. If you'd like to receive a prompt and the link five days a week via email, let the office know as well.



Coffee Groups:

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 September 27!

Men's Tuesday Morning Group: Join us at The Mill on Prescott/48th street (near Union College) every Tuesday at 8:30 am for discussion and coffee.



Stephen Ministers:

The Eastridge Stephen Ministry team continues to have the opportunity to put their training, skill, and knowledge to tremendous need in caring for the hurting of our church and community. Contact the office or Shirley Flynn if you are interested in Stephen Ministry!



The Green Team is tasked with identifying and coordinating projects to improve our energy efficiency, reducing energy consumption, saving money, and doing our part to combat climate change. The team has been focused on installing LED lights and are happy to announce phase 1 of the project is complete! Future phases include updating additional lights as they require replacement, and installing motion detector switches in select places.

Next, the team is working to replace the gas stove with an electric unit that will meet the needs of all users. The team's newest member, Nancy Hall, had graciously agreed to lead the project pending approval from the trustees.

The Green Team continues to add more projects, both large and small, to their ideas list, and are always glad to welcome additional members. If you are interested in joining, please contact the church office.



...do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8)

Justice in Action is entering its third year as an interfaith justice organization with more than twenty faith communities working to change systems that keep all individuals from living the good life in Lancaster County.

WE NEED YOU!

Our power to make change comes from our numbers. Each of us can make a difference by showing up each May to show our elected officials that we want more fair and just systems for our neighbors in Lancaster County. This starts with our small group conversations which will take place this fall. Please prayerfully consider attending one of these meetings that is the first step in the process of working towards a more just society.

To learn more about the current work of Justice in Action, or to get involved, go to the "Issue Campaigns" at www.justice-in-action.org or contact Sara Bevans at sara-bevans62@gmail.com



Join us for a 6-week video study for **WOMEN: Now and Not Yet** by Ruth Chou Simons. Bestselling author and artist Ruth Chou Simons has a powerful message for you when you're restless in your current season of life and just waiting—waiting to get beyond the pain, waiting for God to show up, waiting to get to tomorrow—she reminds you that it's okay to not like the right now we've been given, but we don't have to like it to lean in.

We'll meet Sunday mornings at 10:45 am (following worship) in Huxtable Lounge.

Led by Shirlette Hershiser. Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/NANYStudy>



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>

- 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



EASTRIDGE FOOD PANTRY: URGENT need for volunteers!

Links for volunteers for Sunday drive thru and

Wednesday distribution plus box prep below:

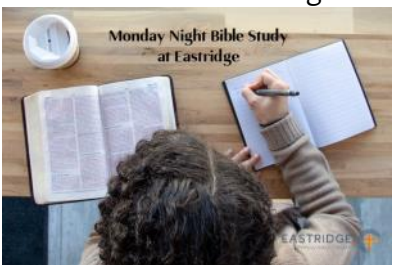
Distribution: <https://bit.ly/FPDistFood>

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

MEET THE STAFF

Monday Night Bible Study:

Bill Woito will lead a series on Revelation starting Monday, September 9 at 6:30 pm in Huxtable Lounge. For more information, contact the church office at office@eastridge.org



Income information (general fund):

Year-to-date (Aug.25) \$ 297,664

Last year at this time: \$ 319,655

Please remember the church in your giving!




Blood Drive
Eastridge Presbyterian Church

Eastridge is sponsoring a Blood Drive! **Thursday, September 12**

12:00 PM - 6:00 PM in Huxtable Lounge

In only 30 minutes you can help save a life! Schedule a Blood, Platelet or Plasma Donation | American Red Cross (redcrossblood.org)

EASTRIDGE
Presbyterian Church



1135 Eastridge Drive
Lincoln NE 68510

