



From the Pastor's Pen:

I recently began reading "Yes, And: Daily Meditations" sharing the wisdom of Richard Rohr. You may be familiar with him - he is the Executive Director of the Center for Action and Contemplation in New Mexico with a devoted online following. He is also a Franciscan friar who is able to speak about the heart of our faith in Jesus Christ that transcends traditional divides and boundaries. As we continue in this Lenten season of spiritual practices so that we might be fully alive, I found these words of Rohr's particularly insightful, including the title of this meditation:

HOW WE DO THIS MOMENT IS PROBABLY WHO WE ARE

Isn't it strange that a religion that began with a call to change or let go has become a religion so impervious and resistant to change?

We do anything to avoid living right now, where God is fully present!

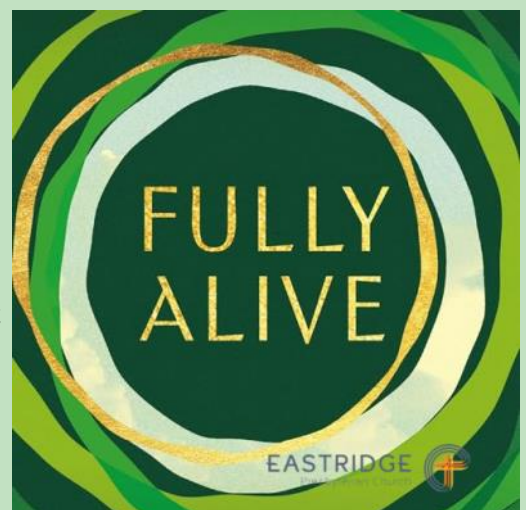
Healthy religion is saying that the real life is both now and later. We have to taste the Real, first of all, now. The constant pattern, however, is that most Christians either move both backward (to religion as nostalgia) or into the distant future (to religion as a carrot on the stick) and consistently avoid where everything really happens and matters—the present moment. Catholics once beautifully called this "the sacrament of the present moment! The full now is always a taste of something really real. It therefore entices us to imagine the eternal and live in an eternal now. We are just practicing for heaven. How we do anything is, finally, how we do everything.

+Adapted from The Art of Letting Go: Living the Wisdom of St. Francis (Recording).

As we've been practicing these spiritual disciplines this season as a group and individually, I've noticed they all sort of have a theme: being present. Whether it's a 'rage room' where we name our anger (righteous or not) and beat pinatas; or a walk through the neighborhood connecting scripture, poetry, and nature; or a time of centering in the sanctuary; gathering to write cards to those we love; tasting the delicious bounty of good food; or learning to love our physical bodies for what they are right now; all of these practices ground us in this present moment.

Yes, and...as people of faith, there is a longing and a yearning in us for "more." We cannot live fully present and content in this moment while there is sadness and brokenness all around us and in us. We see injustices and need to address them because we long for God's justice. We see hurt and respond with compassion and loving-kindness because we long for God's mercy. We see disparity and respond with belovedness because we know God's love for us. We see powers that oppress and act with a vision that embraces diversity, equality, and inclusion.

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From the Pastor's Pen

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Our weekly worship service has included two refrains from songs by a musician both Thomas and I love to listen to. His name is Paul Zach, and his work often includes participation with a group called Porter's Gate. Our kyrie (prayer for mercy) has been, "Good Lord, Good Lord, Good Lord, Deliver Us." Our Assurance of Pardon has been "You are new every morning, you are new every morning; each day a resurrection, waiting to break through, you are new." We'll hear more of these songs in the days to come. Their verses are powerful (and can be found on our playlist on Apple and Spotify). I want to share with you all the opening lines of New Every Morning, especially as we move from our Lenten

practices to Easter promises:

*You are not what you have done
Or what has been done to you
You are something like the rising sun
Can't you see that you are new*

Friends, it is my prayer that each of us finds our way to loving God, ourselves, and others. Yes, just as we are...And as God has created us to be. In Jesus Christ each day is a resurrection, and risen with Christ we are new.

Be blessed, be beloved, be new,

Melodie

Richard Rohr, Yes, And...: Daily Meditations, Franciscan Media, Cincinnati, Ohio, page 149.

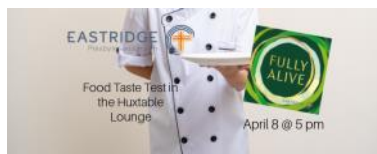
LENT AT EASTRIDGE

- ◆ Lenten Spiritual Practices posted daily on Facebook, Instagram, and the online devotion site. Printed copies available at the Welcome Desk.

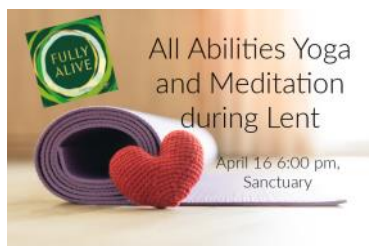
- ◆ Tuesday, April 1, 5 pm - Make a card or write a letter to someone you love (Welcome Center)



- ◆ Tuesday, April 8, 5 pm - Join us for a food taste test (Huxtable)



- ◆ Wednesday, April 16, 6 pm - All abilities yoga and meditation (Sanctuary)



Join us at Eastridge during Holy Week!

- ◆ Sunday, April 13, 9:30 am - Palm Sunday Worship (sanctuary)
- ◆ Wednesday, April 16, 6 pm-7 pm - All abilities yoga and meditation (sanctuary)
- ◆ Thursday, April 17, 6 pm - Maundy Thursday dinner followed by service at 6:45 pm (welcome center)
- ◆ Friday, April 18, 12 pm - Good Friday worship
- ◆ Easter Sunday, April 20, 6:30 am - Sunrise Service (weather permitting, east patio)
- ◆ Easter Sunday, April 20, 9:30 am - worship with traditions old and new (sanctuary)





Spring Flower Order Form: If you wish to provide a spring flower for the church sanctuary for Easter Sunday, please complete this form and mail or bring to the church office by April 11. Flowers will be a variety: lilies, tulips, hyacinths, daffodils. Please let the church decide what to order. Make all checks payable to Eastridge Church noting on the check that it is for a flower. Please state exactly how you want your contribution printed in the bulletin. Return money with this form.

Donated by _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

No. of flowers _____ (Cost \$14.00 per flower in pot) Total _____

I will pick up my flower after the last Easter Service. _____

I wish my flower to be taken to a shut-in member. _____



Check out the Eastridge Lent & Easter Playlist, curated by pastors Melodie and Thomas.

Spotify:

<https://tinyurl.com/EPCLentSpotify>



Apple Music:

<https://tinyurl.com/ECPLentApple>



Care Connections Spring Gathering is April 10!



If you are part of our community that is committed to caring for each other in intentional ways, we'd love to see you at our April 10 Spring Gathering! We'll meet at 6 pm for dinner and fellowship, and also some conversations about the ways we care for each other in this community. We'll be done by 8 pm, in time to get home before it gets too dark!



HIGHLIGHTS



Session Highlights March 2025:

Acknowledge that communion was served at 9:30 am on March 2, 2025.

Chris Boden reported the F Street Community offers shower facilities and could use gently used or new bath and/or beach towels. Anyone wishing to

donate may drop them off at the office.

Rev. Melodie Jones Pointon presented the Summer Sermon Series, "Faith Like A Child," with the Session discussing many options available with this series. Carol Ripley and Greg Tubach volunteered as conveners for the summer.

The Board of Trustees is working with the Green Team to remove the canned lighting in the Welcome Center and replace with flat LED panels. Work will also begin with fixing the HVAC return system this summer.

FAITH COALITION MEETING FOR APRIL:

Join the Faith Coalition of Lancaster County for an insightful discussion on the role of faith in the diverse landscape of higher education. Our featured speaker, Rev. Eduardo Bousson, serves as the Director of Schools, Colleges, and Universities for the Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church. In this capacity, he supports chaplains across 105 United Methodist-affiliated colleges and 450 campus ministries nationwide. Previously, Rev. Bousson dedicated ten years as the University Minister at Nebraska Wesleyan University and is an ordained United Methodist pastor. In this session, Rev. Bousson will share his experiences and perspectives on how faith communities can engage with and support the spiritual and ethical development of students within the diverse environment of higher education.

Monday, April 9 | 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM at Eastridge Presbyterian Church, Huxtable Lounge
In-Person or Online. Bring your own brown bag lunch if attending in person. Zoom access available via website www.lancasterfaith.org

We hope you'll join us for this important conversation!

FAITH, DIVERSITY, AND HIGHER EDUCATION

EDUARDO BOUSSON
Director of Schools, Colleges, and Universities, UMC Education

April 9
12 PM | WED

AT EASTRIDGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1135 Eastridge Drive

fclc
FAITH COALITION OF LANCASTER COUNTY

Eastridge Presbyterian Women April events:

Circle Meetings: Wednesday, April 2 at 1:00 pm in M12

COORDINATING TEAM MEETING: Wednesday, April 16 at 12:15 pm – Room M12

EPW GATHERING: Wednesday, April 16 at 1:00 pm in Huxtable for Program

Topic: **Nebraska Attorney General's Office: Protect the Good Life (info on fraud)**

Hostesses and Devotions: Ruth Circle





MAYOR'S INTERFAITH PRAYER BREAKFAST



Just Love

FEATURING: Reverend Dr. Jacqui Lewis

Thursday, May 1, 2025

7:30am - 9:00am

at The Marriott Cornhusker Hotel
Lancaster Ballroom

RESERVE YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

**41st ANNUAL MAYOR'S INTERFAITH
PRAYER BREAKFAST**

"Just Love"

Thursday, May 1, 2025 / Doors Open at 7:30am
The Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel - Lancaster Room

Register online at www.eventbrite.com/1255190280919 or below:

Yes, I/we wish to purchase _____ Ticket(s) at \$30.00 per person
I/we would like to make an extra contribution to help
sponsor the program _____
Total Enclosed \$ _____

Name(s): _____
Address: _____
Zip Code: _____ Email: _____

Make checks payable to: FCLC - "Interfaith Prayer Breakfast" on the memo line
Deadline for Reservations is Wednesday, April 23

Mail your reservation(s) with your check to:
Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast
c/o First Christian Church
430 S. 16th St., Lincoln, NE 68508



Scan the QR Code to reserve your tickets

Don't miss the **41st Annual Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast!** It's Thursday, May 1, 2025 from 7:30am to 9:00am at The Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel. Doors open for breakfast at 7:30am, with the program starting at 8:00am. Speaker is Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis.

For more information and to register, click on the QR code shown.



Denominational giving: In the past we've thought of our giving to our PC (USA) connections as per capita. We'd like to ask what you can give toward funding our denominational structures that connect and support our congregation. For more information, check out the letter sent out via email.



Spiritual Practices during Lent in March (photos) plus upcoming events in April:



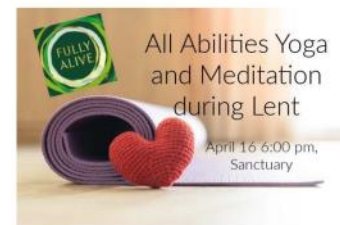
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created concert
the lutheran center - unl
april 04 | 6:00pm | 555 n 16th st

Announcing the Lutheran Center (UNL)'s 2025 Created Concert Artist, **FLAMY GRANT!** is a shame-slaying, hip-swaying, singing-songwriting drag queen from western North Carolina. Her 2022 debut record, *Bible Belt Baby*, reached the #1 spot on the iTunes Christian Chart (the first drag performer to achieve this feat)... She has been featured in *Rolling Stone*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *People*, and more, and her music has over 1.2 million streams on digital platforms. A powerhouse vocalist and intrepid songwriter who blends country, folk, gospel, and roots music, Flamy delivers a theatrical, therapeutic, and wholly original storytelling experience, all shared through the evocative art of drag.



COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

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/bWV3MwR>) 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

Individual sized peanut butter (they are small cups)

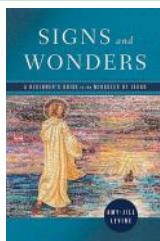
Candy, granola bars/protein bars, gum, crystal light/drink powder packages

Laundry pods (non-scented – for two reasons. One, they are better for skin sensitivity issues. Two, scented pods will “scent” everything else in the box for the packages we mail), dryer sheets (non-scented)

Highlighters, pens

Band-aids, cough drops, small hand sanitizer

We will be filling about 25 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 Wednesday, April 2 so we will have everything to pack them up on Sunday, April 6. We will be packing baskets/boxes on the 6th following worship and we would invite you to join us!



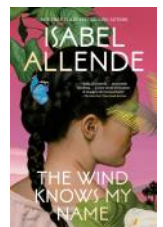
Coming Soon! “**Signs and Wonders**” - as series of sermons on the miracles of Jesus. Beginning Sunday, April 27-June 1

Signs and Wonders study: Join Pastors Melodie and Thomas for a Zoom Bible Study Thursdays at 10 am April 24-June 5. Using Amy-Jill Levine's book, **Signs and Wonders: A Beginner's Guide to the Miracles of Jesus**, we'll explore Jesus' miracles as recorded in the gospels.

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”. The selection at right, **The Wind Knows My Name** by Isabel Allende, is our April pick.

Join us April 14!





SHOW UP FOR JUSTICE!

3rd ANNUAL NEHEMIAH ASSEMBLY

JUSTICE, MERCY & FAITHFULNESS -Micah 6:8

Have you ever wondered how you can make a difference? Justice in Action has an easy way to stand up for justice in our community. Stand with other people of faith to show local officials that we want justice for members of our community.

When: May 1st (Thursday) @ 6:30-8:00

Where: St. Mark's United Methodist Church

Please say yes when a member of the Eastridge Justice in Action network invites you to attend or contact a member of the network to learn more or register to attend. EPC Justice in Action Network Members: Sarah Herrera, Jean Schulze, Bill Wehrbein or Sara Bevans



Join the **Eastridge Presbyterian Green Team Facebook** page for information on what the group is doing here at Eastridge plus general information on climate and how to be a better steward of the earth. Contact the church office for an invitation to the group!

Not on Facebook? Contact the office for a monthly flyer on the Facebook group activity.



Looking for something to "take up" during Lent? Purchase a copy of the **Nebraska Corona Bible** in flash drive format and enjoy daily readings on your computer! Brochures are at the Welcome Desk, or inquire in the office. The office has several copies available, no waiting for your order! Great to give as a gift as well. Many of the submissions include artwork (photos shown of actual pages).



Fourth Friday Women's Coffee Fellowship:

Join the ladies in Huxtable on April 25 at 8:30 am for our monthly coffee fellowship! Let the office know if you would like to be included in an email reminder.





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. **Updated sign up:**

<https://bit.ly/gatheringplace2025epc>



EASTRIDGE
FOOD PANTRY

EASTRIDGE FOOD PANTRY:

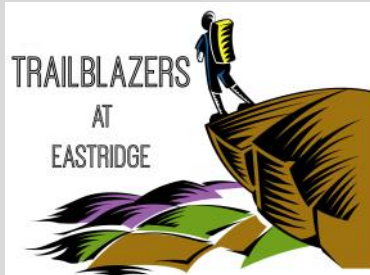
Links for volunteers for Sunday drive thru and Wednesday distribution plus box prep below:

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

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

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



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.

Trailblazers for April 18: **Dine Out – Olive Garden.** Meet at 6:00 pm at the Olive Garden on O Street.

Three Reasons Why Giving to One Great Hour of Sharing Makes a Difference

People’s Lives Are Changed: You help real people in the U.S. and around the globe recover from disasters, fight systemic poverty and hunger, and develop the skills they need to transform their communities in ways only they know how.

We Are Called to be Repairers of the Breach: Isaiah 58 says, “If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted ... you shall be called repairers of the

breach, the restorer of streets to live in.”

We can do so much more together than individually:

Each of us can make an impact in a small way, but when we join together, through One Great Hour of Sharing, we can do so much more. It is the single largest way Presbyterians come together to make a difference in the world.



EASTRIDGE
Presbyterian Church



1135 Eastridge Drive
Lincoln NE 68510



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Facebook