



FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN...

Recently my whole family was able to go to this year's Pinewood Bowl Community Theatre Production of *Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat*. It's my spouse's favorite musical, and we were all excited to experience it in such a unique venue. We were amazed by the production, including the local talent on stage, in front of stage, and backstage. We continue to be amazed by all that this community has to offer! We were also instantly transported into the dreamlike world of the collaborative team in Andrew Lloyd Weber and Tim Rice. Through their creative imaginings, one of the oldest stories in scripture transcends culture, time, and place to become immediately relevant. It is a story about dreams - the dreams of the patriarch Jacob, his youngest child, Joseph, the leader Potiphar, the butler and baker, and the Pharaoh King.

"Dreams play an important role in the biblical narrative. It is often through dreams that God speaks to God's beloved. Sometimes it is a promise. Sometimes it is a warning. Always it is a reminder that we are not alone; God sees us and is with us. Psalm 126 opens with a word of hope for God's exiled people. Far from home, God's people were all but without hope, wondering if God had forgotten them. But God restored their hope and brought them back home. The only way they could describe their experience was that it was "as if we were dreaming." (From the PC(USA)'s Triennium 2025 materials written by Jon Brown.)

As youth from all over our country gather for the first Triennium in six years, they will hear about these Biblical dreams. It seemed like such a good idea that we jumped at the chance to use the materials offered (through the PC(USA)'s Triennium website) for our community to use.

In keeping with our summer series, *"Faith Like a Child,"* it allows us to hold those simple first lessons we learned in one hand and explore our growing faith in the other.

Faith does grow. As I recently listened to a podcast with Richard Rohr about his book *Tears of Things*, I resonated with what he said about a growing faith. He's writing about prophets, priests, mystics, and people of faith, and says, "The idea that change is possible is inspiring for us as individuals and for hope that our cultures can change and become better, even in scary times." He continues, "Once Christianity begins to be known as a place

where you go to mature, change, grow up, not just repeat the same song, every Sunday. And that was literally true in many churches. We had our twelve favorite songs, like a top ten, and we repeated them."

I see in these stories of dreams - in the story of the disciples receiving the Spirit in Acts 2; Jacob's dream in Genesis 27 and 32; Joseph's dreams and interpreting of dreams in Genesis 37; and the Magi's dream in Matthew 2 - as stories of increased understanding of God and how God is partici-

pating in our lives. I see these as stories that are uncomfortable and risky as we grow in trust of God and each other. I see these as stories of people who are maturing in their faith.

Please join us this August as we explore some of the dreams we find in scripture, and how God is present with us in our dreams. As we enter the last month of summer and help prepare our scholars, teachers, and education staff for the coming year, we'll share our own dreams with each other. Oh, and of course, we'll also have some fun along the way!

*In Christ,
Melodie*





do with love

What's a small act that helped you feel God's presence in your everyday life?

This fall, we are asking for stories about small acts that helped you feel God's presence in your everyday life. Some of these stories may be shared in newsletters, sermons, in worship, or on our podcast, The Sunrise Road. We're calling it our # *do with love moments*, and it will relate directly to our fall series, "Holy Moments: Finding God in the Midst of the Everyday."

To share your story, please email them to the office at office@eastridge.org, or send a video recording to 402-817-9004.

Remember that nothing
is small in the eyes of God.

Do all that you

do with love.

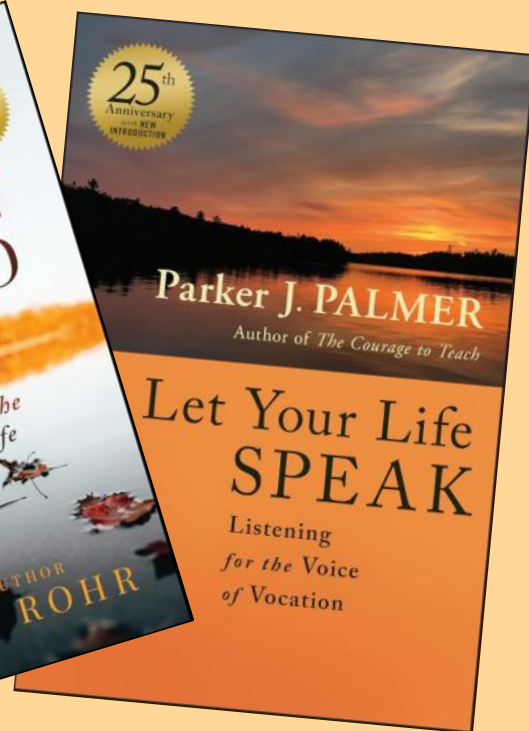
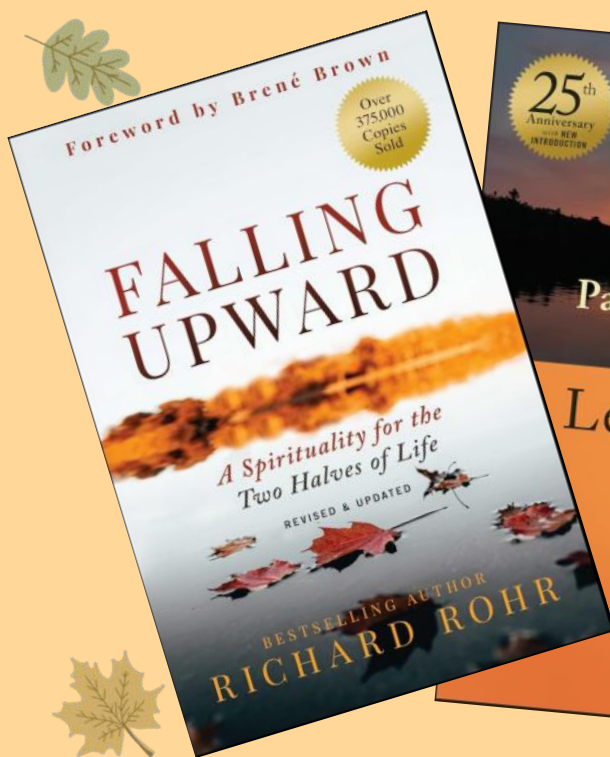
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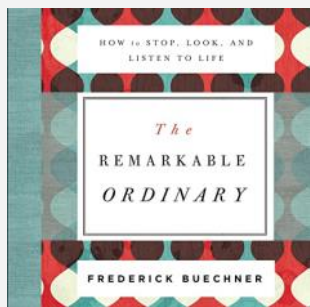


Save the Date: Fall Retreat September 12-13 | Camp Calvin Crest

In a world that rewards achievement and constant motion, what happens when we begin to listen more deeply—to the quiet voice within, to the seasons of our soul, to the wisdom found in falling and rising again?

Join us this fall for a weekend of reflection, rest, and renewal inspired by Richard Rohr's *Falling Upward* and Parker Palmer's *Let Your Life Speak*. **More details and registration coming soon.**





***The Remarkable Ordinary: How to Stop, Look, and Listen to Life* by Frederick Buechner**

Learn to see God's remarkable works in the everyday ordinary of your life.

Your remarkable life is happening right here, right now. You may not be able to see it—your life may seem predictable and your work insignificant until you look at your life as Frederick Buechner does.

Named "the father of today's spiritual memoir movement" by Christianity Today, Frederick Buechner reveals how to stop, look, and listen to your life. He reflects on how both art and faith teach us how to pay attention to the remarkableness right in front of us, to watch for the

greatness in the ordinary, and to use our imaginations to see the greatness in others and love them well.

Pay attention, says Buechner. Listen to the call of a bird or the rush of the wind, to the people who flow in and out of your life. The ordinary points you to the extraordinary God who created and loves all of creation, including you. Pay attention to these things as if your life depends upon it. Because, of course, it does.

As you learn to pay attention to your life and what God is doing in it, you will uncover the plot of your life's story and the sacred opportunity to connect with the Divine in each moment.

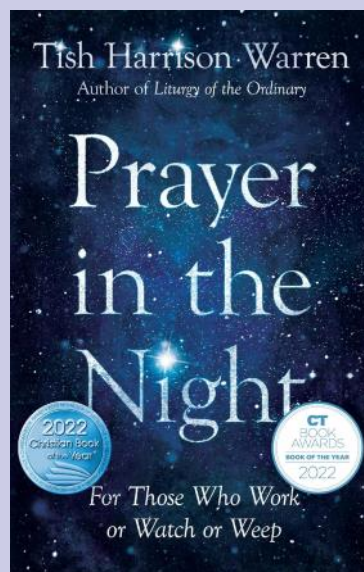
This study will meet Thursdays from 10am - 11am on Zoom, September 4 through November 20. However, there will be some field trips - either on your own or with the group. We will visit an art museum, the International Quilt Museum, a campus, and the Sunken Gardens.

***Prayer in the Night: For Those Who Work or Watch or Weep* by Tish Harrison Warren**

Keep watch, dear Lord,
with those who work,
or watch,
or weep this night,
and give your angels charge
over those who sleep.
Tend the sick, Lord Christ;
give rest to the weary,
bless the dying,
soothe the suffering,
pity the afflicted,
shield the joyous;
and all for your love's sake. Amen.

This book offers a prayerful and frank approach to the difficulties in our ordinary lives at work, at home, and in a world filled with uncertainty.

This study meets Wednesday evenings in September from 6 pm - 7 pm.





AUGUST SERMON SERIES:

Dreams play an important role in the biblical narrative. It is often through dreams that God speaks to God's beloved. Sometimes it is a promise. Sometimes it is a warning. Always it is a reminder that we are not alone; God sees us and is with us. Psalm 126 opens with a word of hope for God's exiled people. Far from home, God's people were all but without hope, wondering if God had forgotten them. But God restored their hope and brought them back home. The only way they could describe their experience was that it was "as if we were dreaming." (From the PC(USA)'s Triennium 2025 materials written by Jon Brown.)

This August, we'll explore the some of the dreams we find in scripture, and how God is speaking to us through dreams. As we enter the last month of summer and help prepare our scholars, teachers, and education staff for the coming year, we'll share our own dreams with each other.



August Sermon Series

EASTRIDGE
Presbyterian Church



Sunday, August 10, at 9:30 am is the blessing of our scholars and backpacks! It's also pajama day at church! OR: wear comfy clothes or your favorite "school" (alma mater) shirt.

Would you like a child's chair?

We have more small wooden children's chairs than we know what to do with! If you would like to take a couple home with you, we would love for them to find homes where they can be used! They have been well loved but are still in sturdy condition. People are welcome to take them for **FREE**. We have had some folks say, "can I at least make a donation." It is not

necessary however we would gladly accept it. Because we have children use all of our spaces in the church, we often have to move small chairs. We would love to replace our small chairs with lighter, stackable ones. We have one new set of them in the Welcome Center and they are already getting used all throughout the week. If you would like a chair or two, there is a stash of them behind the Welcome Desk. Please feel to grab them at any time!



The Alzheimer's Music Project is a program available to support any person who is diagnosed with a cognitive disorder. The program provides individuals with a set of preprogrammed wireless headphones for free to the participant to keep indefinitely. The headphones are prepped with a downloaded playlist of approximately 100 songs curated with bands/music genres associated with the person's stated preferences. The only information required on the application is the person's name, address, birth year, and music preferences. Visit

<https://www.alzheimersmusicproject.org/> for details.



Preparing for Food Shortages: A Call to Action

The Lincoln Food Bank has issued a warning to all partner agencies to begin preparing for upcoming food shortages. With an anticipated \$200 billion cut from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Food Bank expects a significant increase in the number of individuals and families relying on charitable food support.

In response, the Food Bank is proactively working with donors to build up its inventory and develop strategies to address the expected shortfall. These challenges are already visible at the Eastridge Pantry. When placing orders with the Food Bank, we are finding fewer available options, and there is a notable lack of USDA products—items that are typically provided to us at no cost.

The same thing is true for the Hygiene Project. They provide personal care items to us. Because their costs have risen 30%-80% they are compensating by reducing the size of products given to us to travel size.

Hunger and food insecurity are rising. This is clearly reflected in the growing number of people we serve. In June alone, our Pantry supported over 2,400 individuals from 650 families—an increase of more than 400 individuals since earlier this year.

To compound the problem, the cost for partner agencies to purchase food from the Food Bank has surged. Prices for essential items have risen by 30–50%, forcing us to spend significantly more for less food. The Eastridge Pantry Board

has already begun planning for these shortages. We are exploring ways to either expand our food supply or, if necessary, reduce the amount of food distributed per household.

How You Can Help:

- Check our list of needed items and donate what you can
- Make a financial contribution designated specifically for the Pantry
- Volunteer your time to help distribute food or assist shoppers
- Share your excess garden produce with us
- Pray for pantry and our clients

While many of us have never personally experienced food insecurity, we are called to respond to those in need. As a Matthew 25 congregation, we are committed to addressing systemic poverty. One way we can live out this mission is by supporting our Pantry during this critical time

Items we can use:

- Personal care items i.e. shampoo, conditioner, toilet paper
- Cleaning items i.e. laundry soap, dish soap
- Feminine hygiene products
- Canned fruits, vegetables, tomato products
- Canned meats
- Spaghetti pasta





Session Highlights:

July

Acknowledge that communion was served on Sunday, July 6 at 9:30 a.m.

Acknowledge that Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon officiated at the memorial service for Betty Beam on 06-28-25 at Wyuka Funeral Home.

Acknowledge Jean Dunbar and Randy Franks will serve as Fall Conveners.

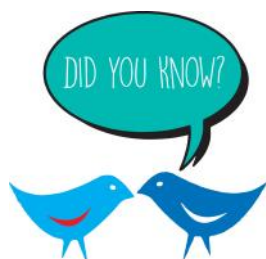
Acknowledge Ministry of Engagement and Support letter recognizing Eastridge Presbyterian Church's

donation of \$1,000 for Disaster Relief (Hurricane and Typhoon).

Fall Retreat scheduled September 12-13 at Camp Calvin Crest for a weekend of reflection, rest, and renewal inspired by Richard Rohr's Falling Upward and Parker Palmer's Let Your Life Speak.

Acknowledge Mia Olsen was commissioned July 20 to attend Triennium in Louisville, Kentucky.

Board of Trustees addressed conservation of outside water usage, dishwasher (repaired and operating), and air conditioning. The trustees voted to replace the 32-year-old air conditioning unit that services the north side of the main building.



Did you know?

The bulletin board in the hallway outside the women's restroom has volunteer opportunities and other community information.

Check it out!

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) is offering a Family Support Group program that meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 5:30 pm at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1200 S 40th Street in the basement activities center (enter the main doors on south side of the church).



NAMI Lincoln Family Support Group
Co-facilitators:
Teresa Harms Coder
Brent Toalson
teresa.namilincoln@gmail.com



About NAMI

NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. NAMI Lincoln is an affiliate of NAMI Nebraska. NAMI Lincoln and dedicated volunteer members and leaders work tirelessly to raise awareness and provide essential education, advocacy and support group programs for people in our community living with mental illness and their loved ones.

Fourth Friday Women's Coffee Fellowship:

Join the ladies in Huxtable on August 22 at 8:30 am for our monthly coffee fellowship!

Let the office know if you would like to be included in an email reminder.





Youth & Children's Ministry



On Tuesday, July 8, the youth, in partnership with the youth from First Presbyterian, had their third in-town mission day for the summer. We partici-

ipated in three projects – one which we will invite you to participate in on Sunday, August 3. We began our time at Eastridge by helping with a mission project that First Presbyterian supports. They are partners with *Clinic With A Heart*. First brought over 24 backpacks and supplies and we spent time stuffing these backpacks. They were transported to the clinic and given out at their Back to School Clinic. Lots of smiles were seen when they got to pick out their new backpack!

Next we prepared denim for our “shoe cutting party” that will be held at Eastridge on Sunday, August 10. This is part of a mission project that we are partnering with *Sole Hope* to provide needed shoes in Uganda. Please see below and the following page



for additional information on *Sole Hope* and ways that you can partner with our youth to provide shoes.

Lastly, we worked with the *Nebraska Diaper Bank* which is housed at *Center for*

People. This is an amazing mission that works to provide diapers for those in need. Our task was to package diapers in bundles of 30 that are then made available to families through many partner agencies in Lincoln. During an hour and a half session, the groups present packaged 13,110 diapers which will directly impact 219 babies.



It's hard to believe that summer is coming to a close. As we prepare for a new school year, we will have our annual Back-to-School Sunday on Sunday, August 10. In addition to celebrating the beginning of a new year, we will bless backpacks, present Bibles to our 3rd Graders, and have a few activities following worship. One of those will be to stay for children's themed lunch! In addition to lunch, we will have a few activities for all ages. The youth will be hosting a “shoe cutting party” which is part of the mission of *Sole Hope*.

We hope you will stay and see why we asked for your old jeans. Mark your calendars and join us on Sunday, August 10.



SOLE HOPE



On Sunday, August 10, we invite you to join us for a **“Shoe Cutting Party.”** We are working with a mission organization Sole Hope and we invite you to read a little bit about their mission:

Shoes are among the most overlooked items in our daily life, but for millions of people, it could change theirs. Parasites, called jiggers, infect the feet of many and challenge the ability to walk, run, and simply live. By burrowing into the skin and latching onto blood vessels, they swell to 2,000 times their original size. How can we fix this?

Sole Hope is an organization that fights this growing problem. This organization works to heal those affected by providing them with medical care and then education to alter the common belief that jiggers are a “curse.” Once the rehabilitation process has been completed, close-toed

shoes are given to the participants to prevent future infection and protect their feet. These shoes are made from recycled tire rubber and old denim jeans, very common, everyday items that would otherwise be thrown away. Eastridge is working with Sole Hope to make shoes. We can help in two ways: 1) Join us for the “shoe cutting party” on August 10th where we will cut out the shoe pieces from the denim that YOU donated. 2) Donate! It costs \$35 to sponsor a pair of shoes. A portion of that \$35 also supports the medical care that is given to people.

Donations of any amount are welcome and encouraged and will greatly impact the lives of many. If you wish to donate, turn in said donation to the office. Then, on August 10, join us to start cutting! Attendance will be appreciated immensely and we, the authors of this informative paragraph, thank you in advance.

~Written by Youth Group member Phoebe Pointon

What is a Land Acknowledgment?

We can trace the beginnings of Land Acknowledgment from Australia through Canada to the United States. Its original intention was to "give honor to the Aboriginal peoples and as a way to increase the rights of these Indigenous peoples." It is most often a statement recognizing that a building or event is on land originally inhabited by Native Americans.

Why would EPC consider a Land Acknowledgment?

The 223rd General Assembly (held in 2018), urged many church bodies to consider this as a step in dismantling racism and addressing the denomination's historic harms against Indigenous people. Following her sabbatical last year where she researched her genealogy and her family's journey west along to Mormon Trail, Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon (Senior Pastor and Moderator of the Session) asked the Session to consider establishing a committee to explore the desire for a Land Acknowledgment at EPC.

Who will be on the committee? We are currently asking members if they would like to serve in this way. The committee will include diversity of voices, including Native American heritage. If you would like to nominate someone, please contact the office or email mjonespointon@eastridge.org.





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:

<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

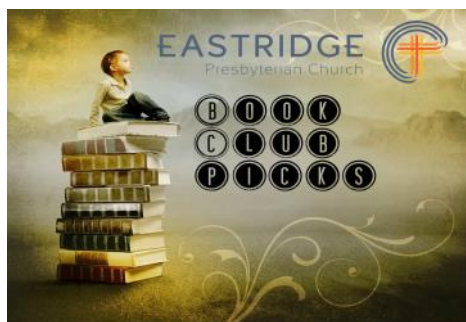
Thomas Dummermuth: tdummermuth@eastridge.org

MEET THE STAFF



LADIES NIGHT OUT EVENT:

We are planning a trip to Ashland to visit the Glacial Till Tasting Room on August 16. There are several little shops along the main street in Ashland (actually Silver Street) and, if interested, we could leave an hour for a bit of shopping. If you'd like to carpool from the church parking lot we'll plan to meet here at Eastridge at 2:00 pm. Otherwise, if you plan to drive on your own or with friends, we will meet at 4:00 pm at Glacial Till.




The Eastridge Presbyterian Book Club starts again in September. Our first meeting of the year is Monday, September 8 at 7:00 pm.

Join us in M12 to discuss ***Becoming Madame Secretary*** by **Stephanie Dray**. Check out the church website on the calendar page for a list of this year's picks.



EASTRIDGE
Presbyterian Church



1135 Eastridge Drive
Lincoln NE 68510

