



From the Pastor's Pen...

The cold snap of this last week has reminded us that it is time for the seasons to change. We've been living on borrowed warm weather time, mindful that there would come a day when the degrees felt cooler and we awoke to frost on our lawns, cars, and noses. We look ahead on our calendars and find we've entered the season for gatherings of family and friends, the return of our favorite cold weather foods, and the "last things" before the Christmas holiday season.

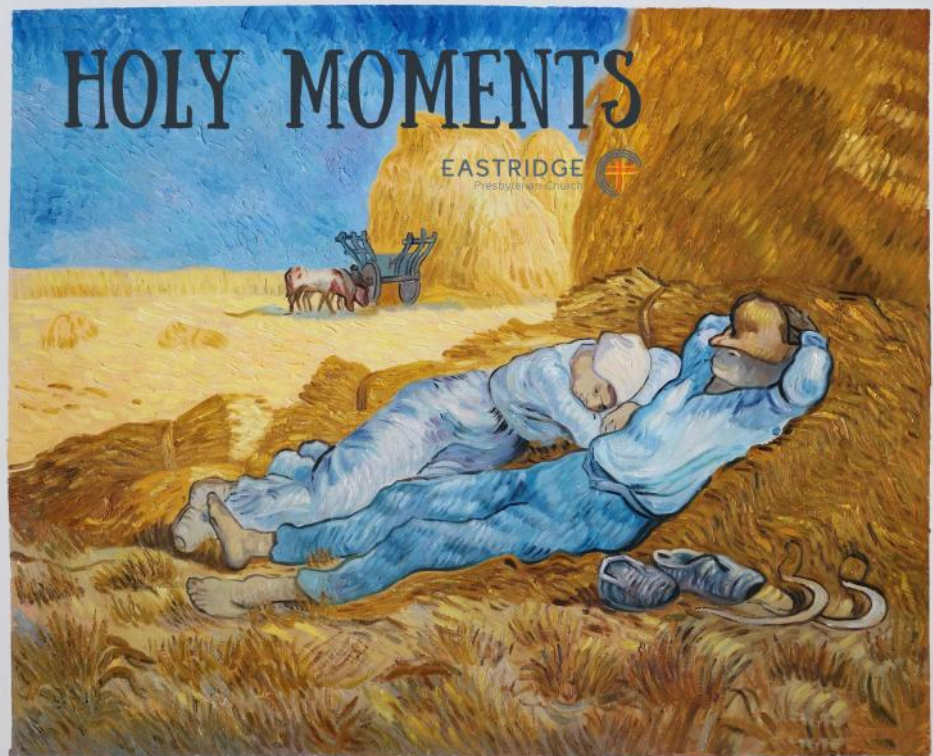
According to the liturgical (church) calendar, November is the last month of the year. We are at the end of the story we tell year in and year out, as the church has done for centuries. We conclude the story every year with "Christ the King" Sunday, a reminder that Christ alone is our Lord, our King, our Savior. The very next Sunday we begin telling the story again, with the yearning and longing for a savior.

This fall we've been considering *Holy Moments: Finding God in the Midst of the Every Day*. We first considered what it means to be created by a God that called us good before we did anything at all; a God who created evening and rest before morning and labor; a God who calls us to be the Body of Christ in the world with each of our own unique gifts, talents, and skills. We then spent time thinking about the moments of our labor and the minutia of our working lives; our caregiving of children; and our generosity. Now we turn our attention to the parts of our lives where there is weeping. Maybe it's the loss of a friend or loved one, or the loss of health, or the change in a relationship because one becomes the caregiver for another. We will seek to find God in the midst of those everyday moments.

Then, by great design and tradition, we will worship and celebrate Christ, who is the Ruler of God's Reign, reminding us that God is in all these moments and greater than all these moments.

Thank you, friends, for sharing your Holy Moments with us this fall, in all their extraordinary ordinariness. Thank you for your vulnerability and willingness to proclaim those divine moments in the midst of this very human experience of life. May God keep you and bless you. Amen.

- Melodie Jones Pointon





HIGHLIGHTS



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS, OCTOBER 2025:

Approve Session Meeting Minutes for September 14, 2025.

Acknowledge that communion was served on Sunday, October 5 at 9:30 a.m.

Motion carried to hold the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 16, for nomination and election of officers and approve the pastors' terms of call.

Chris Boone and Carolyn Brandle will serve as Conveners for the Advent and Winter Seasons.

Rev. Thomas Dummermuth held a new member orientation on Sunday, November 19.

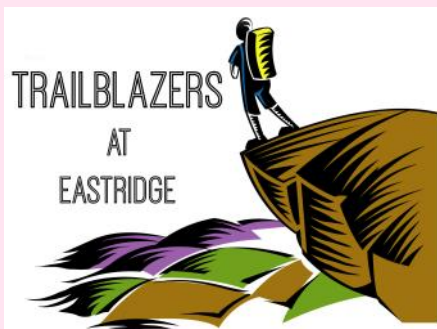
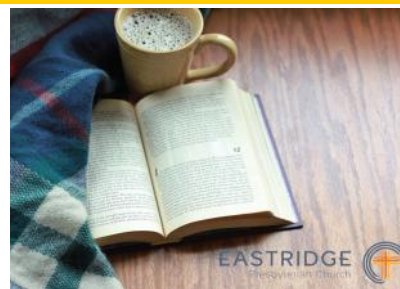
The Homestead Presbytery meeting will be held Thursday, November 20. Susan Budler, Kris Brenneis and Rev. Dr. Jones Pointon will be attending. Eastridge has learned of the Healthy Families Act and how this affects Eastridge and its employees. The current sick leave policy is meeting the needs of the church.

The 2024 Annual Session Minutes Review was held October 11 at Heritage Presbyterian Church. Eastridge minutes were reviewed and approved with zero exceptions by the Homestead Presbytery. A tremendous thanks to Robin Hadfield, Clerk of Session in 2024, and Laura Siemsen, office assistant!

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.

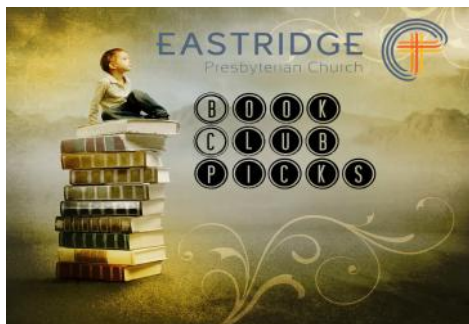


Trailblazers is a group of older adults at Eastridge that provides an opportunity for men and women, singles as well as couples, to participate together in the life of the church—in service and fellowship. We usually meet the third Friday night of the month, September through May.

November 21 @ 7:00 p.m.—Huxtable Lounge

Michael Jha and Kristen Unterseher: A Musical Program

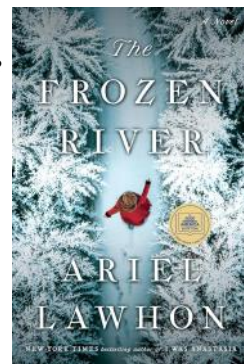
Committee: John & Debbie Hicks, Dave & Julie Gies



The Eastridge Presbyterian Book Club meets again November 10 at 7:00 pm. Our pick for the month is: ***The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon**

The EPC Book Club meets monthly from September—June in M12.

Join us for discussion and refreshments! To view the year's list, head to the Eastridge website, calendar page.





Advent Book Study: “Calling All Angels – An Advent Study of Fearlessness and Strength”

Wednesdays, December 3, 10, and 17 •
6:00–7:00 p.m. • Led by Pastor Thomas

What would you do if you were not afraid?

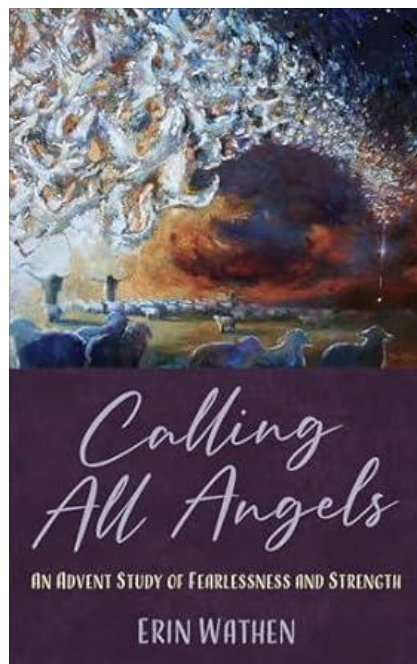
That question lies at the heart of this captivating Advent study on the timeless messages spoken by the angels.

Life can be daunting, filled with uncertainty and worry. It wasn't any different two thousand years ago when Jesus was born. An aged priest is told he will become a father for the first time. A young woman learns she will bear a child outside of marriage. A carpenter is asked to believe the impossible. Shepherds keeping watch at night are startled by a host of angels shining in the sky.

Yet each of these encounters begins with the same refrain: Do not be afraid.

In *Calling All Angels*, pastor and author Erin Wathen invites us to hear these words not merely as comfort, but as a divine calling—to live with courage and faith in the face of fear. Together, we'll explore what might change in our relationships, vocations, and communities if we truly trusted that message.

All are welcome to join this three-week Advent journey. Books will be available at the church (or you may order your own). Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/callingangelsepc>



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
- We can use your clean plastic bags from grocery/retail use.



toilet paper

- Cleaning items i.e. laundry soap, dish soap
- Feminine hygiene products
- Canned fruits, vegetables, tomato products
- Canned meats
- Spaghetti pasta

Items we can use:

- Personal care items i.e. shampoo, conditioner,

Eastridge Food Pantry volunteer sign ups:

- Distribution: <https://bit.ly/FPDistFood>
- Filling boxes: <https://bit.ly/FPFillingBoxes>



YOUTH DINNER

We LOVE having visitors at Youth Group on Wednesday evenings. It's a chance for us to get to know others in the congregation outside of the normal Sunday morning setting. One of the ways to get to know our youth, and be in fellowship with them, is to provide dinner on a Wednesday evening. It can be a group of people providing dinner, a couple of



families getting together, or individuals. We feed

around 8-10 people each week. If you provide dinner, it is most helpful for us if the volunteers can set up, serve dinner, and clean up, and most importantly JOIN US for dinner. It's a great time to hear about what the youth are doing in their life. Often times, you only have to ask one question and they will take it and run! If you would be willing to volunteer, you can sign up with the following link or QR code. Thank you in advance for your support of our youth! <https://bit.ly/youthdinner25-26>



The Gratitude and Generosity of Giving

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

"If our first response to the receipt of gifts is gratitude, then our second is reciprocity: to give a gift in

return." - Robin Wall

Kimmerer, *The Serviceberry*,

pg. 13. **Please consider**

turning in an estimate

of giving cards for 2026

so that our steward-

ship/financial commit-

tee can plan a budget

for next year. We give thanks for the generosity

that keeps our ministries going!



Harvest Table

Following worship on November 23, we'll gather for a Harvest Meal! Bring your favorite fall dish - apple, pumpkin, sweet potato, stuffing, rice - anything you love to eat as the seasons change. We'll be in the Welcome Center. Thank you to EPW for hosting!

Harvest Meal
Sunday, November 23
following worship in the Welcome Center.
Bring a dish to share, if you'd like!

EASTRIDGE
Presbyterian Church



COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

THANK YOU to everyone who gave so generously to fill the boxes and buckets for our college students! They appreciate the goodies more than you know.

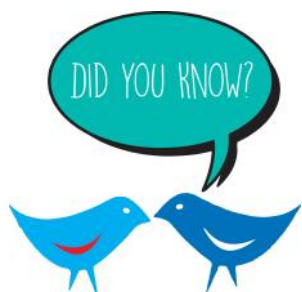
It is a reminder for them that their church family loves and remembers them!



ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION:

Do you have cloth napkins and napkin rings laying around that you no longer use?

If so, our children's ministry program would love to take them off your hands. They don't have to be matching sets. The more random they are, the better! We are going to learn a little bit about hospitality around the table, and we can use them for our snack time on Tuesday afternoons.



Did you know?

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

Check it out!

November Congregational Meeting November 16, immediately following worship

According to our by-laws, the purpose of the meeting is to approve the pastors' terms of call for 2026 and to nominate and elect officers. There are currently two (3) year openings on the trustees; one (1) year opening on the session and two (3) year openings on the session. If you would like to nominate someone (including self nominations) please contact the office, Sara Bevans, Chris Boone, or Pam Schumacher. *Note - Trustee term is from January 1-December 31; session term is from February 1-January 31.



Christmas Eve Services:

4:30 pm - candlelight service led by the children

7:00 pm - candlelight service led by the Chancel Choir and Kirk Ringers





Holy Encounters: Walking the Camino

During my sabbatical this summer, I joined a group of pastors on a two-week pilgrimage along the Camino de Santiago in northern Spain. The Camino is more than a scenic hike—it's an ancient path where body and spirit move together, one step at a time, toward a deeper awareness of God's presence.

We walked from the Basque coast to Santiago de Compostela,



la, following yellow arrows through forests and picturesque villages, climbing steep hills, and greeting fellow pilgrims with the traditional Buen Camino! Along the way I met fellow pilgrims, roadside hosts, and sacred surprises—the “cheeseman” who offered refreshment to all, cairns covered in names of loved ones, and signs that reminded me: “Slow is smooth, smooth is fast.”

There were days of silence, rain, laughter, fatigue, and grace. One afternoon I even lost my pilgrim passport—the credential needed to receive the official certificate in Santiago—and found myself wrestling with disappointment and the need to simply keep walking. (There's a sermon in that!)

Finally arriving in Santiago brought a rush of joy and dissonance: the humble, solitary journey meeting the grandeur of a cathedral built by empire. Yet both—the quiet path and the glorious sanctuary—speak of the human search for God.

In a museum near the cathedral, I saw a simple inscription: *E ultreia!*—“Onward!” That feels like the lasting message of the Camino: wherever we are, this is not a detour, but each of us is always walking the main artery of our life. ~ Thomas Dummermuth



Eastridge Care Connections: Join us for our fall gathering on Sunday, November 9, from 11-12:30 for a time of fellowship and intentional conversation about caring for others in the midst of busy lives. Following the Holy Moments theme, we'll share how just a moment of caring builds deep connections. A light lunch of Le Quartier sandwiches will be served. RSVPs appreciated but not necessary.

Contact the church office if you are interested in this ministry!



The Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women

Each year Presbyterian Women heeds the call of Paul to “supply the needs of the saints” through the PW Thank Offering. This grant making program originated in 1888 with one generous woman, Eliza Clokey of Springfield, Ohio, when she urged everyone to give one dollar over and above their usual contribution to mission. Since then, organizations in the United States and around the world have benefitted from the overflowing of thanksgiving to God shown by Presbyterian women through their offerings.

Eliza called upon women to give a “thank offering to her Lord” and today we continue to answer that call through support of the PW Thank Offering. When we come together to pool our money as Presbyterian Women, we can make a much greater impact than we can on our own.

For more information on the 2025 Thank Offering recipients, go to presbyterianwomen.org/thank.

Eastridge Presbyterian Women will celebrate Thank Offering Sunday on November 23.

2025
Thank Offering
of Presbyterian Women

*“Behold,
I am doing
a new thing;
now it springs forth,
do you not perceive it?
I will make a way
in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.”*
—Isaiah 43:19 (ESV)™

*Go voy a hacer
algo nuevo*

보라, 내가 새 일을
행하리라

Learn more about
the Thank Offering of
Presbyterian Women by visiting
presbyterianwomen.org/thank.

*The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, ESV®
Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway
Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers

PWR25473



Per Capita/Denominational Giving: For 2025 the assessed Per Capita is \$ 38.54 per member of Eastridge. However, if you are so called, a gift of \$100 will help us cover our denominational funding obligations and assist those who may not be able to contribute towards this obligation.

Ten Thousand Villages Holiday Pop-Up Sale

It's time for our Pop-Up sale! The Youth Group will again host the Ten Thousand Villages Sale in the Welcome Center. The dates of the sale will be Sunday, November 16th following worship and all day on Monday, November 17th. The Youth Group receives 15% of the total sales. These funds will be used to support our summer mission trip.

In addition to this being a great time to start your Christ-

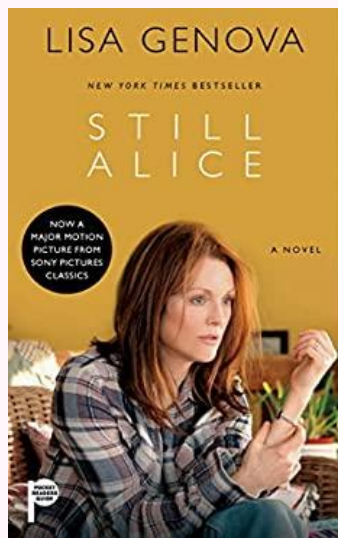
mas shopping, it is also supporting many artisans around the world. Ten Thousand Villages develops partnerships with artisans in under-resourced communities and helps them earn income by bringing their handcrafted products and powerful stories to our global markets.

We hope you will “stop by our sale” and check out all the goodies. As with all of our fund-raising efforts, we appreciate all the support that you provide for the youth of EPC!



EASTRIDGE

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Faith Partners: Eastridge Faith Partners met this week to discuss our recent survey responses, and our first event will be a **book/movie discussion of *Still Alice* by Lisa Genova. We will meet Monday, December 8 at 7:00 pm in M12.** **A synopsis of the novel:** From author and neuroscientist Lisa Genova comes the definitive--and illuminating--novel about Alzheimer's disease. Alice Howland is proud of the life she worked so hard to build. At fifty years old, she's a cognitive psychology professor at Harvard and a world-renowned expert in linguistics with a successful husband and three grown children. When she becomes increasingly disoriented and forgetful, a tragic diagnosis changes her life--and her relationship with her family and the world--forever. As she struggles to cope with Alzheimer's, she learns that her worth is comprised of far more than her ability to remember. **Watch for more information on this event in the weekly lamp and on Facebook!**



Recent Eastridge
events!



What do
you fear?
IN THE TIME OF HEROD, WE
LONG FOR GOD TO BREAK IN



What's a small act that helped you feel God's presence in your everyday life? We asked this question of our Eastridge community this fall, and in addition to the video responses shared during worship, we received these:

- “As I thought about those words in my present situation, many of my friends and family have visited me in my assisted living apartment. They have brought me God’s presence and love.”
- “A couple of weeks ago, an older Kurdish couple stopped by our Eastridge pantry during our Wednesday shopping hours. They had been hoping and trying without success to schedule an appointment to shop. The language barrier had been difficult. Cheryl Ferree was our lead volunteer that evening, and as she always does, she took special care to welcome them. Cheryl's kindness and love is always evident in the work she does for our pantry ministry! She went out of her way to communicate as best she and they could, and was able to schedule a shopping appointment for them. As a result of Cheryl's kind words and loving actions, they arrived to shop yesterday, I had the privilege of being the shopping guide for this delightful couple. With the help of a translator app on my phone, we were able to select some provisions that would be useful to them. They went away with smiles and a few boxes of food, and I went away with a smile and much gratitude for having had a small part in meeting their need. I am so grateful to all of those who contribute time and treasure to this important ministry!”
- “When we come and go from church during the warm-weather months, I often see Gary Kilian working diligently in the church gardens, carefully tending the vegetable plants and the ornamental plants and flowers for the enjoyment of others. And he often brings the harvested vegetables to the pantry for distribution to our hungry neighbors. What a kind and gentle steward of God's resources!”
- “I lead a neighborhood Bible Study which has been going for over 20 years and was led by others before me. We started in Genesis and are now studying Acts as we go through all the Bible. One Friday morning I didn’t think my study was all that good for a chapter in Zechariah. Yet, one of the members was almost in tears as we discussed holy moments. She said when she comes to Bible Study with us she feels Holy Moments. It was so touching. God showed up and blessed her.”
- “Being seen and acknowledged by a stranger. In the words of the Anishanabe: aanii—’I see your light’”
- “My sister and brother-in-law for helping me move last year, offering a place to live and storage until I moved to a new place (and continuing to help me) as I began a new chapter in my life.”

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do with love



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- “A friend invited me to an exercise class many years ago. I met ladies that are dear friends today. I have mentioned this to her, but definitely will again. She and her family are a wonderful Christian family and a great example.”
- “Friends, who are 10 years younger, who come over several times a week to help with whatever they can to make Jim’s and my life easier, particularly in the garden. I, in turn, make food with our good garden produce and share with them.”
- “Do the dishes, take garbage out. Try to stay alive.”
- “My sister whom made a suggestion that I go and become a caregiver in an assisted living facility. It was very rewarding. I love helping people.”
- “Today’s sermon! Having a similar week as mentioned and the sermon made me realize I need to find Him in weeks like this one!”
- “The professor of Intro to Social Work class I took in 1978. It made my decision to become a social worker—the path God put me on, in a helping profession.”

do with love

FUND MATCH: For the **SIXTH** year in a row we have been given a matching gift for our general fund through a generous anonymous donor.



This year the gift is **\$12,000!** Right now we are at **\$ 8,738** toward the match (October 29). We are thankful for this generous gift as we enter the season of gratitude, as it encourages giving to the mission and ministry of Eastridge. Please note “fund match” in the memo line (or in the comment section if giving online). You may also email the office to let us know if an online donation is coming from you toward the fund match.

JUSTICE IN ACTION: Join us for the Annual Community Problems Assembly

Monday, November 3rd at 6:30pm

At St. Paul UMC, 1144 M Street, Lincoln





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 coming soon for 2026!** <https://bit.ly/gatheringplace2025epc>

MUSIC AT EASTRIDGE: Returning jazz trio friends UNL professor Dr. Peter Bouffard and his trio will be back with us in worship the Sunday (Nov. 23) before Thanksgiving to help kick off the holiday season.

He and Brent have collaborated many places over the years, and we are grateful for when Peter can take a break from busy touring and teaching to help lead us in worship again at Eastridge.



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



Christmas Tree Decorating

It's time to start thinking about decorating for Advent and Christmas! This year we would like to invite our families to join us in decorating EPC for Advent. We will gather on Sunday, November 23rd at 3:00pm. We will have ways for all ages to help with the addition of adding a children's tree to the Welcome Center. This will be a tree the children can decorate with all kinds of ornaments. We will conclude our decorating time with pizza and a showing of A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving in the sanctuary.

We hope you will join us for this family event!

Eastridge financial update:

As in other years, our giving tapers off during late summer/early fall. We need approximately \$ 17,034 per week (Nov—Dec) to make our 2025 budget goal. For comparison, we took in \$ 9,963 last week (October 26). Thank you to those who have responded to the fund match!



