

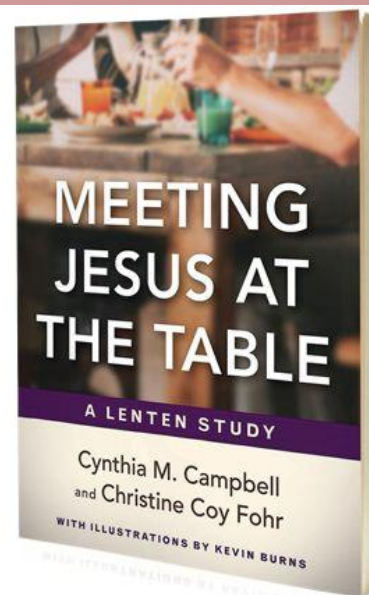


The Gospels are full of stories of Jesus sharing meals with disciples, friends, even tax collectors and Pharisees. Whether multiplying bread to feed a whole crowd, relaxing with his inner circle, or telling curious elites stories about even greater banquets, Jesus imparts wisdom as he shares the wine and grants forgiveness as he distributes the fish.

**Join one of three offerings of this book study during Lent:**

- Thursday mornings at 10:00 am via Zoom
- Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am (beginning February 25)
- Monday evenings at 6:30 pm

**Watch for more information!**



## Meeting Jesus at the Table

### Ash Wednesday:

Join us around the table between 8 am and 8 pm for a short service of ashes and contemplation. Ashes will be available all day, with music for contemplation in our sanctuary.

Can't make it to the church on Ash Wednesday? Packets of "ashes and prayers" will be at the Welcome Desk beginning Sunday, February 15.





## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS JANUARY 2026:

- Approve Session Meeting Minutes for December 14, 2025.
- Acknowledge that communion was served on Sunday, January 4 at 9:30 a.m.
- A motion was carried to hold a celebration of the Annual Meeting on January 25 in the Huxtable Lounge.
- Steve Anderson reported exciting news. Contributions for 2025 were within \$200 of meeting the budget.
- A big thank you to Kris Brenneis for serving on Session the past six years.
- Homestead Presbytery elected Kris Adler-Bremmer to attend the PCUSA 2026 General Assembly, June 22 - July 2, in Milwaukee, WI.
- The Office of Stewardship and Fund Development reported a contribution of \$303.31 from Eastridge for Peace and Global Witness Offering in November 2025.
- The Lenten Sermon Series is based on "Meeting Jesus at the Table: A Lenten Study" by Cynthia Campbell. The Easter Sermon Series will be based on "The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural Word" by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Chris Boden, Renae Oestmann, and Susan Budler will serve as conveners for Lent and Easter Seasons. They shared plans, which were approved by the session.

## Staying Sane in Strange Times: A Mental Health Café

In a season that feels unusually anxious, loud, and overwhelming, many people are asking the same question: How do we stay grounded when everything around us feels unsettled?

The Mental Health Café is a relaxed, shame-free gathering—modeled after the Death Café movement—that creates space for honest conversation about mental health over light refreshments and connection. Because everyone has mental health, and many of us are carrying more than usual right now.

This third Mental Health Café at Eastridge focuses on stress, anxiety, and emotional regulation in “strange times.” Together, we’ll name shared experiences, nor-

malize what many are feeling, and explore practical, everyday strategies for staying grounded—while holding both the real urgency of our moment and our hu-

man need for rest, regulation, and resilience.

Our guests for the evening are: McKenzie Jones, Board-Certified Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, Genesis Psychiatric Group; and Teri Effle, Prevention Specialist, Region 5 Systems.

Whether you’re feeling worn down, worried, or simply curious, you’re welcome—just as you are.



**Tuesday, February 24 | 6:30 - 8:00 pm in Huxtable Lounge**

Light refreshments provided. RSVP encouraged, but not required. Watch for an online sign-up soon.





# EASTRIDGE

Presbyterian Church



**Thank you notes** received from The Gathering Place and Lefler Middle School. Our Eastridge Outreach Committee supports many local entities. Read more about what they did in 2025 in the annual report, available soon!

• Our Friends at Eastridge Presbyterian Church – You are the best! Thank you for your gift to Community Action's Gathering Place, which will be matched \$1 for \$1. You're helping to serve meals to over 150 neighbors every night. Thank you for ensuring no one in Lincoln ever has to go hungry. we couldn't do this without you!

**You helped raise over \$363,600.00!**

Wow! Big things are ahead in 2026 – I'd love to keep you connected. Please share your email so we can stay in touch!

Jessie

[jhedrick@communityactionnetwork.org](mailto:jhedrick@communityactionnetwork.org)  
OR call 402 875-9338

Jessie

Thank you so much for your generosity! Love for our community! We have so blessed to partner with you!  
Jubilee Sutter  
Principal

We at Lefler, would like to thank you for your continued support of our students and Families! Your support and generosity allows us to ensure the kids we serve to be successful here and feel supported at home. - Thank you! Taylor Williams

Thanks! - Kylie Shannon

We appreciate ya! - Johnnie Shurek

You all are AMAZING! - Amy Hiler

**WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE HOUSED?**  
A CONVERSATION ON HOMELESSNESS AND FAITH

**PASTOR TOM BARBER**  
CEO  
People City Mission

**REV. JUAN CARLOS HUERTAS**  
Minister of Proclamation and Practice of Justice  
First-Plymouth Church

**FEB 11TH | 12 PM - 1 PM**

AT EASTRIDGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
1135 Eastridge Drive

fclc

## Shelter and Belonging: What Does It Take to Be Housed?

Join us for our February gathering of the Faith Coalition of Lancaster County for a conversation on housing, homelessness, and hope. We'll be joined by Pastor Tom Barber of People's City Mission and Rev. Juan Carlos Huertas of First-Plymouth Church, who will share insights from their work and witness in the community.

**Wednesday, February 11 12:00–1:00 PM**

**Eastridge Presbyterian Church | 1135 Eastridge Dr, Lincoln**

**Bring a brown bag lunch. Zoom option available – see [lanasterfaith.org](https://lanasterfaith.org) for link**

Part of our ongoing series on Shelter and Belonging. All are welcome.



## MINISTRY WITH YOUTH

Faith Connection for Youth: During the month of February, the EPC youth will be participating in worship in different ways. You will see them interpreting scripture, sharing music, ushering, greeting, sharing a meal, etc. We hope that you will join us to share in worship together. In addition to these things, the youth will also be hosting the Souper Bowl of Caring offering on February 8th. This is an offering that started decades ago to help feed those who are food insecure.

This year the recipient of the **Souper Bowl of Caring offering** will go to the Eastridge Food Pantry. We would like to ask folks to bring shampoo/conditioner or feminine products. The most needed feminine product is maxi pads and any size is welcome.

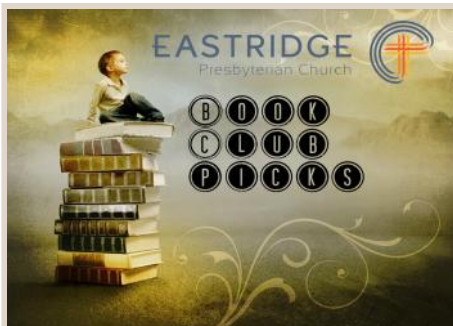
We want YOU to help us predict the Super Bowl winner again this year! **If you are a Seattle Seahawks fan and want to give them a vote or two, please bring feminine products (maxi-pads preferred) and if you are a New England Patriots fan, we invite you to bring shampoo and conditioner.** And, in the spirit of Souper Bowl Sunday, we invite you to wear your gear from your favorite team!



Then, following worship, we invite you to stay and join the youth for a soup lunch and some fellowship in the Welcome Center. The youth will provide everything – we just need you!

## YOUTH MEALS

This year we have formally joined with the youth group at First Presbyterian Church. It has been a WONDERFUL partnership, and the youth are enjoying it. As part of this partnership, we alternate our meeting location each month. During the month of January, we have been meeting at First Pres and they have provided dinner. As we move to February, we will be meeting at Eastridge and will need some folks who are willing to provide dinner. If you would be willing to feed and have some fellowship with us, please sign up using the following link. We are fun, great group and it will be a great time. **The link to sign up is: <https://bit.ly/youthdinner25-26>.** Thank you in advance for supporting our young people.



The Eastridge Presbyterian Book Club meets again February 9. Our February pick is ***Lady Tan's Circle of Women* by Lisa See**. 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.







## 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/epcgatheringplace26>



**EASTRIDGE**  
FOOD PANTRY

**Eastridge Food  
Pantry  
volunteer  
sign ups:**

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](mailto:mjonespointon@eastridge.org)

Thomas Dummermuth: [tdummermuth@eastridge.org](mailto:tdummermuth@eastridge.org)

## MEET THE STAFF



## Eastridge Celebrates!

Join us for our Annual Meeting celebrating what Eastridge did in 2025 (and what we will do in 2026)! This meeting is rescheduled to February 22 following worship, in Huxtable Lounge. Our annual report will be available prior to February 22. Light refreshments will be served that morning!



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.

**Join us on February 20 at 7:00 pm: Fellowship & Sharing/**

**Discussion in Huxtable Lounge. Topic: Vacations Good or Bad: bring your stories!**



1135 Eastridge Drive  
Lincoln NE 68510

