



FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN...

April began this year with a renewed conversation about exploring. Specifically, exploring space by going to the other side of the moon. While the crew of the Artemis II went farther from earth than any other crew has ever traveled, those of us still held by gravity to the earth lived our normal lives. There were births and deaths, school days and work days, family gatherings and social events, religious observances for high holy days of Passover, Holy Week, and Easter. Thanks to technology not only were we able to see the mission livestreamed with pictures sent to us within minutes, but we were also able to hear the words of the crew as their perspective on Earth and the world changed. Perhaps best summed up by crewmember Christina Koch. In a press conference on Saturday, April 11, she said, "We will explore. We will build. We will build ships. We will visit again. We will construct science outposts. We will drive rovers. We will do radio astronomy. We will found companies. We will bolster industry. We will inspire. But ultimately, we will always choose Earth. We will always choose each other."

In many ways, our Return to the Garden sermon series offers us an opportunity to similarly explore the earth. As we move through the days of creation in Genesis 1, we consider how the world was created and filled, and how it is being re-created in light of the resurrection of Jesus.

Morning has Broken is one of my favorite Easter hymns, particularly for this line, "God's re-creation of the new day." What does re-creation mean? For me, it means to believe that through God, all things are possible. It means to never give up hope. It means relationships can be restored. It means earth can be healed. It means that something good will rise up even from the depths of the tomb.

Our invitation for this month of May is to continue to be explorers. While we are not astronauts exploring space, let us be inspired by the words of those who have gone further than anyone before them - to the other side of the moon. Given the choice, let us always choose Earth. Let us always choose each other. And I would add, in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, may it be so. Amen.

~ Pastor Melodie



Return to
the Garden
Sermon Series



What's Your Story?

This summer, we are invited to explore ABCs of Faith: Simple Stories for Complex Times. In this series, we will be exploring stories from the Bible that tell us about God and God's people. But our faith is also carried through our own stories.

When someone asks, "What's your story?" they're asking about the moments that shaped you: the people, experiences, challenges, and turning points that made you who you are. Scripture is full of such stories—and so are we.

We'd love to hear yours.

Throughout the series, we'll offer prompts connected to the themes we're exploring. You're invited to share a brief reflection on any prompt that resonates with you—especially a moment that changed your mind, your heart, or your life.

Selected stories may be shared (with your permission) in our newsletter, devotionals, or even during worship.

Telling our stories takes courage. Listening to them builds connection. Together, they help us discover how God is still at work among us.

Take a look at the prompts below and see what speaks to you. Then return your story to the church office or email it to office@eastridge.org.

- Tell a story about a time when you didn't have the whole picture and were asked to trust anyway.
- Tell a story about a time you had to be brave or bold.
- Tell a story about a time you knew you were in the wrong but struggled to admit it. How did others show you grace?
- Tell a story about a time you chose to do what you believed was right, even when it might upset others or risk your reputation.
- Tell a story about a moment when you realized you were growing up—whether it felt too fast, too slow, or just right.
- Tell a story about a time you tried to remain neutral, chose a side, or felt pulled in different directions. What helped you discern what to do?
- Tell a story about a time when a child spoke or revealed a truth that others needed to hear.
- Tell a story about a time when others expected you to have it all together—or to know more than you did.





Scenes from Youth Faith Formation: thanks to our groups who served meals!





Finance News

The Finance Committee met to review income, spending, and investments for the first quarter, which ended on March 31.

Income

General Fund Pledges and Gifts	\$ 149,512
Group Fees	\$ 6,835
Designated Gifts	\$ 3,615
Total Income	\$ 169,851

Expenses

General Fund Expenses	\$ 178,215
Designated Expenditures	\$ 21,334*
Total Expenditures	\$ 194,282

FINANCIAL REPORT



*This amount includes \$15,000 planned transfer from investments for mission giving and building costs.

2025/2026 Comparison:

	2026	2025
Total YTD income	\$ 169,851	\$ 180,553
Total YTD Expenditures	\$ 194,282	\$ 193,835

Of note:

The finance committee reviewed the invested funds, and is pleased that all funds show modest gains after the 1st quarter. We will continue to watch these on a quarterly basis.

Eastridge Community Food Pantry Fund:

The Eastridge Community Food Pantry saw an increase in giving in 2025, due to the generosity of its donors, designated memorial funds, and an increase in giving in response to the SNAP crisis in October of 2025. When combined with assets that had accrued from previous years giving, the fund reached the threshold for investment. A new investment fund has been created for use by the Food Pantry Committee, and policies for its use established following the church's approved procedures. While the pantry currently has low expenses for food, there are still occasional expenses and needs. This fund is easily accessible and available for those needs, following approved procedures already in place.

LOAVES & FISHES
Community Around Meals

KAREN LAMB
Owner
LuLu's on N

May 13
12 PM | WED

AT EASTRIDGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1135 Eastridge Drive

fcl
Faith Coalition of Lancaster County

The Faith Coalition of Lancaster County May meeting will be Wednesday, May 13 at 12:00 pm in Huxtable Lounge.

Join us!



Some recent events, including **Palm Sunday** and activities during our current **"Return to the Garden"** sermon series



Peanut Butter and Serviceberry Jelly bars



Kirk Ringer News:

What a blessing our church family is! We had noticed for a while some of our handbells were needing work done, with some falling apart while playing. A beautiful couple anonymously offered to donate the cost of needed repairs. In what is certainly the Holy Spirit's timing, this happened to be the same day we learned of the traveling handbell repair shop would be coming to our area! We are overwhelmed and grateful for all those in our congregation who make so much possible. The handbell renovation and repairs will happen in April! We are grateful to continue to make a joyful noise to the Lord many more years. -Kirk Ringers, *the Eastridge handbell choir*

Heartfelt Thanks



42nd Annual Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast

Join us on Thursday, May 7th, 2026 from 7:30am to 9:00am at Venue 5 Twenty-Two, 1525 Yankee Hill Road in Lincoln. Doors open for breakfast at 7:30am. Program begins at 8:00am.

Please sign up at the welcome desk (coming soon), or get your ticket here: <https://www.lancasterfaith.org/mipb>

Lincoln Mayor, Leirion Gaylor Baird, will be the honorary chair for the event. Join us for a morning of wisdom, sacred readings, and music from the wide variety of faith communities that call Lincoln, Nebraska home.

Our Keynote speaker will be the Nebraska State Poet Jewel Rodgers, a celebrated performer and the author of *Wax Over Water*. Ms. Rodgers will carry this year's theme "Who is My Neighbor", inviting guests to consider how we identify neighbors and treat them with dignity.

Let's come together to celebrate unity through community.
See you there!



THANKS

THANK YOU to everyone who donated and helped pack our college care packages. We filled 20 boxes/baskets with so many goodies. Each time we send out care packages we get so many thank yous and notes of appreciation from our students. They are so appreciated and each student knows they are loved and remembered by their church community!

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE RECOGNITION

On Sunday, May 17th, we will celebrate our graduating High School seniors at the 9:30am service. Following the service, we will have a reception in the Welcome Center. We hope you will be able to join us as we recognize this group.





Fourth Friday Women's Coffee Fellowship:

Join the ladies in Huxtable Lounge on May 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 that week as well.

HIGHLIGHTS



Session Highlights

- Approve Session Meeting Minutes for March 8, 2026.
- Acknowledge that communion was served on Maundy Thursday on April 2, 2026; Youth Faith Formation on April 1, 2026; and Sunday, April 5 at 6:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.
- Approve 2025 Necrology Report to the Presbytery (the necrology report lists those deceased members who have served as elders in the church).
- Motion was carried to approve a food truck near Eastridge property for an Eastridge Neighborhood event on April 25.
- Session continues to review comments from the Celebrate Eastridge Annual Meeting. Overall comments were positive with the main feedback being it was difficult to hear small group discussions in the Huxtable Lounge. Members of the session appreciated the opportunity to not only share information with their small groups, but also to hear from their small groups. After discussing the meeting, they concluded that it was an efficient and personal way to hold the annual meeting.
- The next Homestead Presbytery meeting will be held on May 21 in Panama.
- The Nehemiah Action meeting will be held on Thursday, April 30 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Mark's Methodist Church.
- Correspondence received from PCUSA acknowledging Eastridge mission support (\$750) and the Christmas Joy Offering (\$732).

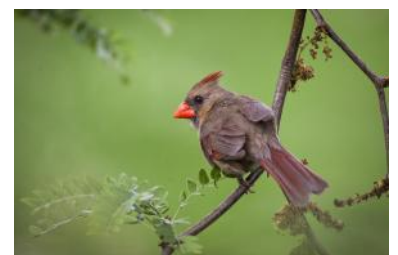


Devotion Ministry:

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 a daily (Mon-Fri) email prompt, contact the office 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. **Join us on May 8 (NOTE NEW DATE) for a talk on Birding by Donna Gustafson 7:00 p.m.** in Huxtable Lounge.





Eastridge Presbyterian Women May events: Circle Meetings Wednesday, May 6.

COORDINATING TEAM MEETING Wednesday, May 20 at 12:15 am – Room M-12.

EPW GATHERING: May 20 at 1:00 pm in Huxtable. Program: Exploring Nature Through Photography Part 6, Donna Gustafson

Also at the May meeting following program: Reading Awards, Birthday Offering Dedication

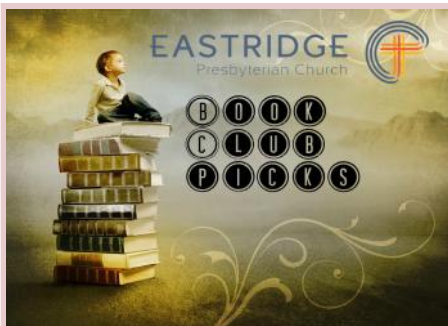


When you light your home or business green, display a yard sign, or share on social media, you help to raise awareness, reduce stigma, & encourage others to seek support for mental health.

We encourage you to share pictures of your lights and signs on social media (*avoid addresses, please*) & use **#GreenLightProjectNE** to inspire others to join us!

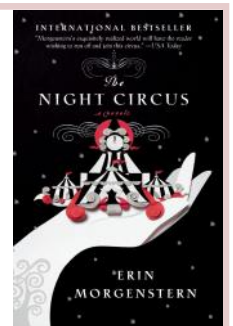
Please join our effort to be environmentally responsible by saving your sign & light bulb for future May campaigns.

Thank you for your incredible support!



The Eastridge Presbyterian Book Club meets again May 11 at 7:00 pm. Our pick for the month is: ***The Night Circus*** by Erin Morgenstern. The EPC Book Club meets monthly from September—June in M12.

Join us for discussion and refreshments!
Check out the entire year's list online, 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>

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

**Eastridge Food
Pantry
volunteer
sign ups:**

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

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

MEET THE STAFF



GARDEN VISIT: We’ll visit Prairie Pines May 16.
This trip will coincide with a garden blessing ceremony with a group of Otoe-Missouria in Lincoln from Oklahoma at approximately 1:30 that day. We will head out earlier to walk the trails. Watch this bulletin and your email for more information!



TERRARIUMS: We will be closing our series with a **terrarium workshop on Pentecost day.** Watch the lamp and your email inbox for more information on this event.

Walking Church continues! What is Walking Church? Walking church is a time to gather together and worship while we walk! We’ll meet Wednesdays at 8 am for a 30 minute walk in the parking lot on South Street just west of 33rd. We’ll explore the trail in both directions, as we worship the God of all creation! *Note - if the weather is predicted to be prohibitive, we’ll post on Facebook and send out an email notification of cancellation.



EASTRIDGE
Presbyterian Church



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Lincoln NE 68510



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