



From the Pastor's Pen...

In case you missed it, it's volleyball season in Nebraska. I'm sort of assuming that if you're reading this, you have some idea of what that may look like. Just in case you're not familiar with our zeal for women's D1 college volleyball, I'll sum how important that is by sharing these two facts:

- 1) They call us the volleyball state, the epicenter of women's volleyball in the United States.
 - 2) Not only did we set a Guinness World Record in 2023 for a record attendance of 92,003 to attend a women's sporting match (previously held by European women's soccer), but our fans continue to travel devotedly to watch matches that result in shattering records every where we go.
- (If I added a 3) I'd say that our women's volleyball team has sold out a D1 college football stadium, played in the Dallas Cowboy's AT&T stadium, in the Las Vegas Golden Knight's T-Mobile Arena, and attempted a game at Wrigley Field that was postponed due to weather and safety concerns.)

So, it's volleyball season in Nebraska. As a friend and I were recently talking about how we're keeping our volleyball schedules in the midst of all our other schedules, we made our way round to ways to support our favorite team. Having moved away from Lincoln quite some time ago, she said, "You have no idea what it means to see a sea of red with Nebraska on the front. Everywhere I go, I'm just so thankful to

be home."

What are the signs of home for you?

Of course, home can mean many different things. This month, we'll be talking about home in two of those ways: home as the place where our relationship with God and with others bind us together as part of the Body of Christ; and, the physical space we share because of that relationship.

In his book, *Becoming Neighbors: The Common Good Made Local*, Amar D. Peterman writes, "God is drawing us to shared spaces where we can love our neighbors radically and unconditionally. The triune God is beckoning us to build communities of belonging

where we are joined together across our differences in a shared pursuit of happiness and flourishing."

There is much to celebrate about this experience of being the

Body of Christ in the world. Being surrounded by and supported by a community that loves you with the grace, love, and forgiveness we receive in Jesus Christ is hopefully the top of the list. As Rabbi Sharon Brous shared with those of us at the Luminosity Conference in March, all the ways our faith connects us happens in a physical space. She then pointed out that the physical space of our faith family - in our case Eastridge Presbyterian Church in Lincoln, Nebraska - is one of the last places of shared ownership. Meaning: if we all belong to the Body of Christ, the church belongs to us.

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EASTRIDGE
Presbyterian Church



What We Hold
in Common



From the Pastor's Pen...

(continued from previous page)

What does this mean for us as a community? This is a place of our faith, where many of us have experienced the joys, sorrows, and everyday-ness of life. We have an emotional attachment to this space. It also means that we are all responsible for the stewardship of this space, through giving financial gifts, sharing responsibility for its upkeep and maintenance, and welcoming all who come into this space. I love that part of our identity and story in this space is to welcome many different groups and activities - from Aging Partners Yoga and Tai Chi to AA and Al-Anon to the Eastridge

Community Food Pantry to Justice in Action to PEO groups to A+ Academy to celebrations of anniversaries, weddings, and birthdays.

I also want to speak this honest truth: it is hard to share something that belongs to all of us. It means learning to let go of things minor and major, sharing ideas that don't make it out of committees, and at times yielding to our own wishes for someone else's. It's hard to share physical space with others.

It's also a great joy. Our stewardship theme is Together for Joy, drawing inspiration from Psalm 98. In this Psalm, we hear words of worship and praise for this life and faith we are living together, and the joy we have because we are together. In her book, *Joyful Anyway*, Kate Bowler includes definitions of joy from many different perspectives: from science and research, from those who are mourning, from children. It may be easier to define joy by what it is not. It is not, Bowler shares in an Instagram post, maintenance. Joy is elusive, but not exclusive. Joy resides where there is happiness, where there is sorrow, where there is pain. I wonder if joy is where we find meaning. Or, if Paul's words of faith, hope,

and love are another definition of joy.

and love are another definition of joy.

One more thought - as our community has expanded over the past six and a half years to include spaces onsite and online, I stand in wonder and awe at the ways we are Together for Joy in all times of our lives.

I look forward to this coming month and its discussions and wonderings as together we consider What We Hold in Common.

Blessings, Pastor Melodie

EASTRIDGE
Presbyterian Church

What We Hold
in Common

Eastridge financial update: As in other years, our giving tapers off this time of year. We need approximately \$ 15,000 per week (Sept—Dec) to make our 2026 budget goal. (For comparison, we took in \$ 4,683 in general fund offerings the week of September 20).

Thank you for your gifts to the church!

Third quarter statements will be going out via regular mail soon!





2026-2027 Dates - Mark Your Calendars!

**OCT
20**

**Community Problems Assembly | 6:30pm
Saint Paul United Methodist Church**

**APR
1**

**Solutions Briefing Rally | 6:30pm
Trinity United Methodist Church**

**APR
29**

**Nehemiah Action Assembly | 6:30pm
St. Mark's United Methodist Church**

**JUN
10**

**Justice Ministry Celebration | 6:30pm
Horizons Community Church**



October is Clergy Appreciation Month!

Clergy Appreciation Day is always the second Sunday in October, and all of October is celebrated as Clergy Appreciation Month.

The celebration was established in 1992 with a mission of uplifting and encouraging pastors, missionaries and religious workers.



STEWARDSHIP SEASON: Psalm 98 is a song of thanksgiving and joy for the many ways God's presence has been with God's people, is with God's people today, and will be with God's people. The Psalmist writes, "let the hills sing Together for Joy." We will soon be mailing estimate of giving cards for 2027. Filling out a card helps our Finance Team build a budget that reflects our priorities and values for the upcoming year.

We will collect these cards during the month of October, with a special celebration on October 25.



Sing to God a new song,
for God has done marvelous things.

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy.

+ Psalm 98



COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

It's time to love on our EPC college students. We will be filling care packages for them and sending them off

the end of October. 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/oehtqg6S>) (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 (\$25 per box shipped).

- Individual servings of cookies, oatmeal, crackers,

pop tarts, etc.

- Mac n Cheese (in the envelopes), ramen noodles, instant noodles
- Halloween candy, granola bars/protein bars, gum, crystal light/drink powder packages
- Laundry pods (non-scented), dryer sheets (non-scented)
- Fun pens/stationary/office supplies
- Band-aids, cough drops

We will be filling about 20 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 Thursday, October 22 so we will have everything to pack them up on Sunday, October 25. We will be packing baskets/boxes on the 25th following worship and we would invite you to join us!



CHILDREN & YOUTH IN MISSION

The children and youth programs have found a new way to support Eastridge's Food Pantry and it has been a GREAT fit. The food pantry receives a lot of donations that come in singles and they are a very small serving. This happens with granola/breakfast bars, snacks, chips, etc. This fall we have started repacking these items for the pantry so they will accommodate families with multiple people/children.

Each Tuesday and Wednesday the arrival of our children and youth are staggered so we have time where we are waiting for everyone to arrive so we can start our programming. We are now using this time to do the repackaging. We sit and chat about their day/week while we package food. It's wonderful!

In the month of September, we have packaged thousands of items. Those items include: 1,728 single serving packages of raisins, 468 granola bars, and 1,640 bite sized Rice Krispie treats (and they didn't even sneak one). This is the perfect way for us to work with the pantry and we look forward to being able to support them throughout the school year!





TRUNK OR TREAT – Sunday, October 18

Again this year, the EPC youth group is going to join with the youth and congregation of First Presbyterian Church to offer Trunk or Treat for the neighbors of First Presbyterian Church. In the last few years, this Trunk or Treat has served around 400 children in and around the area attracting many children from McPhee Elementary School. It is a fabulous event for the area!

First, we would love for you to put Sunday, October 18 on your calendar and bring your children/grandchildren. The event is from 4:30pm to 6:00pm. It will be held in the east parking lot



at First Presbyterian (17th & F St.)

Second, would you like to volunteer? We could use MORE trunks. You can decorate the trunk, or the youth group would be happy to help you! Or, would you like to come and help serve hot dogs and popcorn?

Third, we could use donations of candy. Serving 400 children means A LOT of candy! Any size donation of candy would be welcome. Candy donations can be dropped off in the church office.

If you are interested in volunteering in any way, please contact Kris Adler-Brammer at kadlerbrammer@eastridge.org.



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. Since we have joined with First Presbyterian Youth Group, the number of Wednesdays that we will need dinner volunteers has been cut in half. This year, we will only need dinner volunteers for 14 Wednesdays. This covers the entire year!

If you are interested in serving, you can do this in several ways. It can be a group of people providing dinner, a couple of families getting together, or individuals. We feed around 12-14 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 need 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. <https://bit.ly/26-27YGdinner>
Thank you in advance for your support of our youth!



TUESDAY AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

We are off to a great start! We have 15 children who join us each week for play, fellowship, snack, and study. They have a GREAT time at church! They look forward to A LOT of

things while they are here and one of those things is snack. After a long day at school, they are ready for something fuel their energy. Our families bring snack, but we would welcome the congregation's help in filling our cupboard with some goodies. We would love some donations of cookies, crackers, granola bars, FRUIT SNACKS, goldfish, etc. If you are willing to donate a box/bag or two, please drop it off in the church office or give it to Kris on a Sunday morning.



From Values to Action: Engaging in Civic Life with Nancy Petitto, Executive Director of Civic Nebraska

Wednesday, October 14 | 12:00–1:00 PM

Eastridge
Presbyterian
Church + Zoom

What does it mean to be an engaged member of our community—not only at election time, but throughout the year?

Join the Faith
Coalition of

Lancaster County for a conversation with Nancy Petitto, Executive Director of Civic Nebraska, as we explore the many ways our shared values can find expression in civic life.

Civic engagement happens in voting booths, but also in neighborhoods, schools, community organizations, public conversations, acts of service, and the relationships we build with one another. Together, we'll consider what makes for a healthy civic community, what encourages meaningful participation, and how each of us

can take part in shaping the places we share.

As part of this year's FCLC theme, What We Hold in Common, we'll ask: How can the values we hold become practices that strengthen our common life?

WHAT WE HOLD IN COMMON | 2026-27

From Values to Action

ENGAGING IN CIVIC LIFE

A conversation with Nancy Petitto,
Executive Director of **Civic Nebraska**

Nancy Petitto

WEDNESDAY
OCT 14 2026
Noon-1:00 PM

EASTRIDGE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1135 Eastridge Dr, Lincoln

IN PERSON
& ON ZOOM

*Promoting unity, understanding, and mutual support
Among different Faith Traditions in Lancaster County*

In person: Eastridge Presbyterian Church, 1135 Eastridge Drive, Lincoln

Online: Zoom participation is available. Please visit lancasterfaith.org for the zoom link.

When the Days Grow Shorter

EASTRIDGE
Presbyterian Church

**Mental Health
Café:**
Seasonal Affective
Disorder and Seasonal
Mental Health

Thursday,
October 29,
6:30-7:45 pm

When the Days Grow Shorter

Mental Health Café: Seasonal Affective Disorder and Seasonal Mental Health
Thursday, October 29, 6:30-7:45 pm

As the days grow shorter and the light begins to change, many people notice shifts in energy, mood, sleep, and motivation. For some, these seasonal changes can bring more than the “winter blues” and may contribute to Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), a form of depression connected to changes in the seasons.

Join us for our next Mental Health Café as we learn more about SAD and seasonal mental health, explore practical ways to care for ourselves and others, and connect with helpful resources and support.

Hosted by Eastridge Faith Partners.



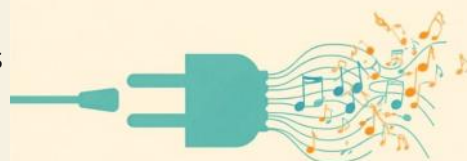


From the Earth Care Team:

Tackle Your Fall Cleaning & Support Southwest Music! Clearing out old tech? Bring your unwanted items to the Southwest Music Department's Electronic Recycling Drive!

When: Saturday, October 10 | 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM **Where:** Southwest High School Parking lot. **What to Bring:** Anything that uses (or once used) electricity! Help us keep electronics out of landfills while supporting SW music students! List of items accepted: <https://trst.in/DzCd5X>

Electronic Drive



Composting

The Bible tells us in Psalm 24:1 *“The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.”*

And in Genesis 2:15, *“The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.”*

One way we can keep the earth and care for God’s creation is through composting. Eastridge now has a compost bin and encourages groups that use the church to utilize the bin for leftover food scraps from their activities. This will be mixed with yard waste such as grass clippings and leaves.

The bin works by using naturally occurring bacteria, fungi, and worms to break down the waste. The adequate oxygen is available for the process. Also, if there is not adequate moisture (rain) it requires watering. After a few months to a year you end up with dark, crumbly and nutrient-dense material that can be returned to the garden or flower beds. It enriches the soil, reducing the need for chemicals in the landscape. It also reduces waste, keeping it out of

the landfill.

Not all organic material should be composted. Do not add meat, fish, bones, cheese and dairy products, fats, oils and grease. These make the compost bin run too

hot, killing off the vital bacteria, fungi and worms. They also attract unwanted guests like dogs and rodents. Compostable food serveware and bags should be sent to commercial compost facilities that operate at higher temperatures to break these down. Also pet waste and cat litter should not be added.

What can be added are things like fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee groups and filters, tea bags, leaves and twigs, and

shredded brown or white paper.

So next time you attend an event or use the church for a party or gathering, throw that extra radish or pickle that falls off the table into the compost bin and not the trash. Remember that the earth is the Lord’s and we are meant to steward it.

~ from the Eastridge Earth Care Committee





We need volunteers to help with the **Lefler Food Market!**

In 2017 Lefler Middle School started the Lefler Food Market to serve students and families in need. Eastridge Presbyterian Church provides 3 volunteers each month to help for this once a month Food Market, on the first Wednesday of the month. The Market takes place during the school year, September-May. **We have a Sign-up Genius link if you are interested in volunteering: <https://bit.ly/epclefler2627>**



Upcoming Music calendar:

October 4 - Guest Jazz Combo

October 11 - Chancel Choir

October 18 - Guest Bugeaters Barbershop quartet and Bill Reichert

October 25 - Kirk Ringers and Chancel Choir

(Looking ahead to November! Nov. 22 - Pop up orchestra)

Pop-up orchestra:

Any musical instrument of any level welcome! (Rain sticks, windchimes, and other percussion available with little or without any experience.) Rehearse Sunday, November 15 after the church service (about 10:45am) then play the prelude on Sunday, November 22 which is the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Talk to Brent at organman77@gmail.com or 919-609-5362 to get sheet music before hand or a part that fits your ability of any musical instrument.

Elevator Committee and Earth Care Team News:

The Session and Trustees will have a joint meeting this month to hear the reports and consider the recommendations of the **Elevator Committee and Earth Care Team**. We know our elevator needs modernization and have set up a fund for that purpose. A report of the joint meeting will be available in the November newsletter.



New Member Orientation:

Interested in membership at Eastridge? Come on October 4 following worship (10:45 am) to find out more! We will meet in Huxtable Lounge that morning.

Sign up: <https://tinyurl.com/discoverEPC>





A Thank You: Eastridge church family, we were blessed by your love and support during this difficult time. Our son, Mark Rouse, lost his battle with Glioblastoma (brain cancer) on August 9. Your kindness, prayers, and cards have brought us comfort. We give thanks for our caring church family at Eastridge.

Love, Richard and Charlene Neal

THANKS

Session Highlights: September 13

- Approved the Session meeting Minutes for August 16, 2026.
- Acknowledged Communion was served on Sunday, September 6 at 9:30 a.m.
- Acknowledged Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon officiated at the memorial service for Richard (Dick) Longacre on September 11, 2025 at Eastmont Towers.
- Planning for the Advent and Winter Seasons has begun with Cathy Schapmann and Greg Tubach serving as conveners.
- A New Member Orientation is scheduled for October 4 following worship.
- The next Session meeting will be held on October 11 with the Board of Trustees in attendance. A report will be heard from the Earth Care Team and Elevator Committee.

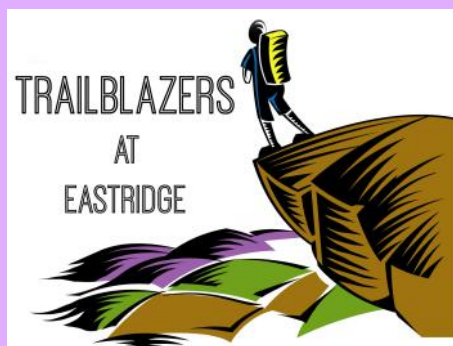
HIGHLIGHTS



Trailblazers gathered for their monthly meeting September 18 and were excited to hear a presentation on Pre-Historic Nebraska by Jeremy McMullin from UNL State Museum. Prior to the presentation, the group enjoyed yummy fruit pizzas and other treats.

There were 28 in attendance (members plus guests). If anyone is interested in attending the meetings, please let one of the chairperson know so we can add you to the reminder call list. We meet September through May and meetings begin at 6:00 pm. Contact chairpersons: Sandy & Bryce (402-770-4289) or Betty & Bill (402-414-0264). You may also contact the church office.

For October: Michael Jha and Kristen Unterseher with A Musical Program: Name That Tune! 6:00 p.m.—Huxtable Lounge



Join the weekly walking group!

We meet at 8:15 am on Wednesdays and will announce that week's location in an email one or two days prior. If it's raining, we'll meet at 9:00 am in the Food Court at Gateway Mall.

For more information, contact the church office.



EPC Book Club:

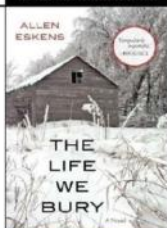
Get ready for another exciting year of reading! Here is the list for EPC Book Club 2026-2027. Due to Christmas and its inherent busy-ness, we do not meet in December. For more information, contact the office.

For October, ***The Long March Home*** by Marcus Brotherton and Tosca Lee. Join us on Monday, October 12 at 7:00 pm in M12 for discussion and refreshments!

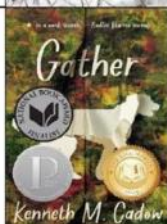
October 12



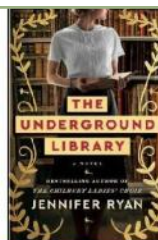
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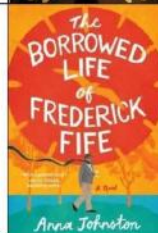
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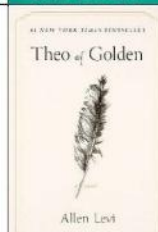
February 8



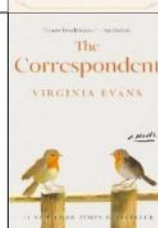
March 8



April 12



May 10



June 14



BELONGING: This fall we have made some changes in the sanctuary to provide a space that fits our children k-5. In place of the two pews that formerly were used for the Worship Connection, we have provided chairs that fit children and allow their feet to touch the ground. There is also tabletop space that will allow them to fully engage in the worship experience appropriate for their age. In this space, we will provide them with creative ways to participate in worship. We hope you will welcome these changes for our children in worship!





THE GATHERING PLACE:
Eastridge Presbyterian Church
arranges to provide 4-5 volun-
teers 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
volunteer
sign ups:**

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

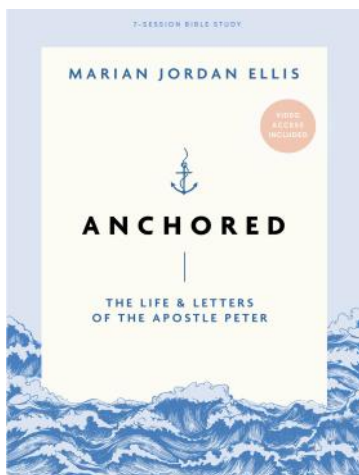
Filling boxes: <https://bit.ly/FPFillingBoxes>

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 Siensen.....Administrative Assistant
Office number.....402-488-7844
Melodie Jones Pointon: mjonespointon@eastridge.org
Thomas Dummermuth: tdummermuth@eastridge.org

MEET THE STAFF

Fourth Friday Women's Coffee: On the fourth Friday of each month, join this (mostly)
retired group of ladies that meet in Huxtable Lounge here at Eastridge for coffee at
8:30 am. Join us October 23!

Men's Tuesday Morning Group: Join us at Le Quartier at Edgewood every Tuesday at
8:00 am for discussion and coffee.



NEW BIBLE STUDY:

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study group will start ***Anchored: The Life & Letters of the Apostle Peter*** by Marian Jordan Ellis on October 14.

This group meets each Wednesday at 10:30 am and is led by Donna Gustafson.
Contact the office for more information.

EASTRIDGE
Presbyterian Church



1135 Eastridge Drive
Lincoln NE 68510

