

New Hymnals

This coming week we will be switching our old hymnals for the new ones. If there is one here with a special dedication that you would like to have, please let us know. Thank you so much! - Erin Staff

About the Hymnal

"Glory to God" was published in 2013, to replace the previous edition of the Presbyterian Hymnal from 1990. (That is the version we have been singing from for over 20 years.) The new edition contains over 800 hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs. Approximately 50% of the hymns come from the 1990 edition, supplemented by selections from older Presbyterian hymnals, other denominational songbooks, and individual authors and composers. You'll find music from six different continents, covering all major historical and contemporary sacred genres. The print format is easier to read, the indexes are more comprehensive and extensive, and we'll be able to replace both the old hymnals and the "Sing the Faith" supplements with a single, beautiful new volume.

The staff and session are excited to bring the new hymnals to Erin, and hope that you find them to be a powerful enrichment to our worship experience.

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Message from the Pastor:

Psalm 9:9-10 "The Lord is a safe place for those under pressure, a stronghold in times of trouble. Those who know your name trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you."



I don't know if it is the times we are living in, but more and more people are experiencing trouble and turmoil in their lives. Some folks have serious family issues, others are worried about their jobs, and still others have money or health problems which threaten to overwhelm them. There doesn't seem to be any solution or even relief to their circumstances, so just getting through each day takes a lot of effort and energy. When they speak to me about it, as their pastor or friend, I see the heartache in their eyes and hear the worry in their voices. Like them, I want to find an ideal fix for their problems, but I also know that healing broken situations takes time, so instant remedies are usually not available.

When I personally experience something similar, I go to the Book of Psalms to find a word of reassurance and wisdom from God. Over the years, I have to come to value the outpouring of burdens, problems, and prayers that King David and others wrote about thousands of years ago. I may live in a different, advanced and marvelous technological age compared to David's Bronze Age simplicity, but the constant human condition of a troubled mind or broken heart is still the same for both of us. We are still just as frail and helpless, pressurized and stressed out as David was, so his solution of complaining, petitioning, questioning, and praying to God is just as valid now as it was way back then.

This month's Bible verses from the ninth Psalm show us what to do when life overwhelms us – we turn to God for safety and protection, love and reassurance. Doing that is not just an act of faith, it's a process of trust which sets us on a path to healing and strength, restoration and renewal. God has never forsaken those who seek Him, especially when we rely on His grace and compassion.

So, whatever you are experiencing, please take time to seek God and allow Him to embrace you in the midst of your circumstances and to lead you to a better place.

May God be with you and all your loved ones.

Pastor John

In this Issue...

Connections Class, Wed. Night Bible Study, PW, BreadBreakers, Souper Bowl of Caring, Pancake Supper, Youth Summit, Gifts of Children Sunday, Journey 7 Performances, March Forth Into Missions, Socks for Souls, Planet Worship and Pioneer Club, Property, Coffee Club, Adult Sunday School Update, Thank You from the Haulsee/Waters Family, Faith Statement from Craig Strand, and New Hymnals!

February 2018

February 3
9:30am Men's Breakfast

February 4
Gifts of Children Sunday
No Planet Worship

February 5
6:30pm Property Meeting

February 6
6pm Staff Meeting
7pm Discipleship Meeting
7pm Fellowship Meeting

February 7
Youth Pancake Supper
(in place of WND)

February 11
New Hymnal Dedication
12:15pm Outreach Mtg.
12:15pm Creative Exp. Mtg.
12:15pm Stewardship Mtg.

February 15
7:00pm Session

February 16
7:30pm Journey 7 Show

February 17
6:30pm BreadBreakers
7:30pm Journey 7 Show

February 18
2:00pm Journey 7 Show

February 20
10:30am Join John, Joy and April for Coffee Club in the Fellowship Hall

February
7:00pm Session

February 23
Youth Summit – Gatlinburg
(23rd - 25th)

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Gifts of Children Sunday
No Planet Worship

February 6
6pm Staff Meeting
7pm Discipleship Meeting
7pm Fellowship Meeting

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Connections Class, PW and BB

On each Sunday in February, Pastor Stuart will be teaching a comparative religion class based on the Five Pillars of Islam during the Sunday School Hour. Each week, he will present a different section of the five fundamental practices of Islam and lead a general discussion about how they compare to our Christian faith practices. As usual, the classes will be held in the Heritage Room (one door down from the church parlor) and begin at 9:45 AM. Everyone is welcome to attend the class. Handouts will be given with information about each class presentation. The classes usually finish around 10:30 AM.

Sunday, Feb 4th – The Shahada – the Islamic Proclamation of Faith.
 Sunday, Feb 11th – Salat – 5 Daily Prayers
 Sunday, Feb 18th – Zakat – Alms-giving
 Sunday, Feb 25th – Saum – Fasting during Ramadan
 & the Hajj – Pilgrimage to Mecca

The pastor continues his in-depth look at Paul's Letter to the Romans, one chapter at a time. Participants in the class are welcome to share their questions, ideas, and thoughts about the scheduled text. The study takes place in the Heritage Room at 6:45 PM and usually finishes by 7:30 PM. During the four Wednesdays in February, the class will read and discuss chapters 6, 7, 8, and 9. Everyone is welcome to attend the classes.

PW Bible Study will meet on Thursday, Feb. 8, at 10 am in the Parlor. Sonja DuBois will lead Lesson 6, Goodness. This is a change from our usual first Thursday of the month. Remember to bring your suggestions for our Spring Local Mission Project.

BreadBreakers will meet on Saturday, February 17, at 6:30 at the home of Bob McLean. Join us for a relaxed evening of food and fellowship.

February

Gifts of Children	February 11th	February 18th	February 25th
Coffee Host	Coffee Host	Coffee Host	Coffee Host
Dan Gibbs	Anna McKay	Betty Gibbs	Dan Gibbs
Greeters	Greeters	Greeters	Greeters
Aiden Strand	Larry McKay	Gary Pennington	Robbie Levering
Mila Yau	Anna McKay	Kay Pennington	Kelcey Levering
Bell Ringer	Bell Ringer	Bell Ringer	Bell Ringer
Carter McCallum	Aiden Strand	Ella Levering	Rose Armsworth
Guide	Guide	Guide	Guide
-	Eva Lynch	Bob McLean	Anna McKay
Reader	Reader	Reader	Reader
-	Kristi Bailes	Suzanne Levering	Stacie Armsworth
Ushers	Ushers	Ushers	Ushers
Henry Fellers	Kim Pennington	Cathy Van Ostrand	Ron DuBois
Carter McCallum	Dusty Pennington	Jim Montgomery	Sonja DuBois
Aidan Hopkins	Robbie Levering	David Leckie	Tammy Murphy
Maggie & Mollie Gunt.	Suzanne Levering	Sara Leckie	Pat Wallin
Planet Worship	Planet Worship	Planet Worship	Planet Worship
No Planet Worship	Jennifer Gahan	Kristi Bailes	Jane Brannon
Counters	Counters	Counters	Counters
Rickey McCallum	Mike Jones	David Eggers	John House
Mike Jones	Eva Lynch	Craig Strand	Neill Murphy
Communion			
2018			

Please remember: If you need to make a change to your scheduled day, please switch with someone directly. If you cannot find someone to switch with you, let April know and she'll give you a hand. admin@erinpresbyterian.org

BIRTHDAYS

February

2 Ginger Thompson
6 Neill Murphy
10 Eva Lynch
12 Rose Armsworth
13 Dan Gibbs
13 Jodi Yau
14 Bette Brasher
17 David McKay
19 Marc Miller
19 Cecilia Stinnett
20 Anna McKay
27 Mike Cate
28 Robbie Levering
28 Harter Crisp
28 Gaevin Miller



March

1 Kim Jaynes
1 Madeline Griffin
2 Kristi Bailes
3 Kari Matthews
9 Mary Franz
11 XeAnna Burse
11 Steve Foster
13 Eleanor Jaynes
13 Bayard Erskine
14 Mike Massengill
14 Kenleigh Pennington
16 Maggie Gunter
16 Mollie Gunter
19 Ian Bone
19 John Stuart
25 Cynthia House
26 Happy Hilty
28 Dale Webb

Youth News

Souper Bowl of Caring

Erin Youth will be participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring again this year. The Super Bowl is this Sunday, the 4th, so be on the lookout for our youth with soup pots! Funds collected will benefit the Fish Pantry, which our church works with throughout the year to help alleviate hunger in our community.

Pancake Dinner

The youth will be hosting a pancake dinner on February 7 at 5:45 in place of the usual Wednesday night dinner. The meal serves as a fundraiser for Erin Youth summer trips. This year our high school group will be participating in Mission At Massanetta and our middle school students will attend the Middle School Montreat Conference. Please plan to attend the dinner and help support our youth. The price for the meal will be \$6 for adults and \$4 for children and will include pancakes, bacon, and eggs. Did I mention Bacon? Yay!

Youth Summit 2018

Youth Summit will be taking place on February 23rd through February 25th at the Glenstone Lodge in Gatlinburg. The retreat is open to 8th -12th graders. The theme of this year's summit is "I Am a Child of God" and the keynote speaker will be Tricia Dillon Thomas.

CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS

Gifts of Children Sunday

The Gifts of Children worship service is Feb 4th. The theme this year is the same as the Sunday school theme "God's work, our hands." The format and structure for the service, involves various age groups who leverage various scriptures, music, theatrical style. With both group and individual performances. The Gifts of Children service is the combined effort of the Youth Ministry, Discipleship and Creative Expressions.

Journey 7 Performances

Journey 7 Advanced Theatre Workshop: The Troupe is preparing for our upcoming performances! Playback Theatre is a form of structured improv where the performers interpret and execute improvisational performances on the spot from audience stories. **Show Dates 2/16 & 2/17 @ 7:30, and matinee 2/18 @ 2pm.**

We look forward to seeing lots of you involved in CEX programs at Erin this year! For more information, please visit www.erinpresbyterian.org or contact the church office, Kevin Griffin, Tammy Murphy, Cynthia House, or any member of the CEX team.

Children's Ministry

PLANET WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

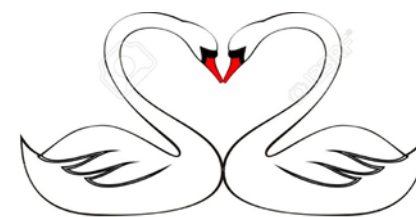
2/4:	Gifts of Children Service No Planet Worship
2/11:	Jennifer Gahan
2/18:	Kristi Bailes
2/25:	Jane Brannon
3/4:	Stacie Armsworth



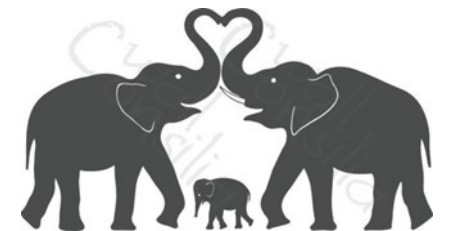
Planet Worship

During the season of Lent, Planet Worship lessons will follow the lectionary New Testament readings. Each week, kids will learn and study the same scripture reading as the adults in worship. Lessons will be illustrated and brought to life through the use of children's picture books and stories that match the day's lesson.

Join us for Gifts of Children Sunday
February 4th, as our children and youth
lead us in worship and teach us about
"God's Work ~ Our Hands."



Pioneer Club Returns
Wednesdays 6:30 - 7:30pm
Family Life Center



It's the season of hearts and love!! So, this month we'll be making animal valentine's to give to family and friends, a special valentine for the birds, and have a Favorite Animals Show and Tell. Kids will be encouraged to share a picture or toy of their favorite animal. Also, kids will learn about some animals that mate for life and those that live in social groups or colonies.



Outreach & Property

OUTREACH

Thank you to all who came out to hear about our Mission Co-Worker, Jan Heckler's, work in Madagascar!



Outreach will be collecting a Love Offering of Socks for Souls in honor of Valentines Day! Bring in new socks to donate to the homeless by Feb. 17. We will have a basket in the narthex.

March Forth into Mission!

Our annual Mission Fair will be held March 4th, 2018, after church in the fellowship hall. We will serve lunch and will put our hands to God's work with a few options for Mission work. We will have a small group to go to Bayard and Kathy Erskine's house to assist them with household projects. We will be collecting items for Volunteer Ministry Center to put together move-in baskets for people who are being placed in housing. We will also have cards to decorate for our children to participate in the Mission Fair as well! Please mark your calendars and come support our church's mission!!



PROPERTY

During these winter months, the main focus of the Property Team has been to make sure that each area of the building is comfortably heated, and that the heating systems are working properly.

In order to assure that we have the thermostats set correctly each week, please notify the church office of any changes in your meeting times. Also, if you are planning on using the church for a personal event, be sure to complete a "Facility Use" request form. and provide the exact time/ and area of the building that will be used.

The Property Team will be planning a work day in the near future in order to change the furnace belts and filters. We will also be looking at dates for our annual Spring Work Day - probably in March. We welcome all to come help beautify our church building and grounds. We are already looking forward to seeing the results of our Fall Work Day, as the beautiful bulbs we planted begin to burst forth with their blooms!

Finally, if you are aware of something in the church that "needs attention", PLEASE make the Property Team aware of it.

REMEMBER: "It takes MANY hands to do God's work!" ~ Harter Crisp

2020 Elder Statement of Faith Craig Strand

Starting at my birth in 1982, my father, Ben Strand Jr., and my mother, Louisa Strand, raised me in the Christian faith through First Baptist Church of Dandridge, TN. I became a member of there and was baptized on December 31, 1991. During my time there, the congregation was led by Dr. Bob McCray. He served as pastor of that church for over forty years, and was not only a friend to me, my family, and countless others throughout the East Tennessee region, but he was also an outstanding example of the Christian faith. At this church, I was active through the youth program and the worship services.

Although the youth group was very powerful in my understanding of the Christian faith, one of the most powerful influences was Dr. Chris Jones, who led the children's services. Most significantly, he had sports events on Sundays where the younger children would participate in a variety of sports where, at the end, he would lead us in an applicable Bible lesson. As I have grown up, both Dr. McCray and Dr. Jones' examples have taught me that each person has a unique role with regard to living as a Christian and serving the Christian faith. I remained a member of First Baptist Church of Dandridge until I joined Erin Church.

My wife is the most important person in ushering me to Erin Presbyterian Church. Before we were married, my wife, Alee Strand, would bring me to Erin with her family. Although the services were somewhat different, I was quite pleased by many aspects of the church. As evidenced by the time I first came, the main tenants of the Christian faith: love and service to others remained pure, here at Erin, through its worship services, its devotion to the youth services, the fellowship of the congregation, and its stewardship toward the communities outside the church. In addition, the sermons led by Rev. John Stuart were not only entertaining, but were delivered in such a way that I could personally relate.

As my relationship with my wife grew into marriage and beyond, my understanding and love grew for Erin Presbyterian. Throughout several matters, this church has provided my wife, my family, and myself unwavering love and devotion. As such, my wife and I have always known that Erin was the proper place for us. With the coming of our first child, Aiden, this was merely increased at an accelerated pace. Throughout his life, Erin Church has treated him as if he was their own family member. The fact that Aiden is able to, and wants to, sit with other members of the congregation (mainly Evelyn Stuart) increases my love for our church. Now as Addison grows older, exposure to this church's love will be bestowed upon her. In addition to the support, I have always been impressed with the ministry programs of Erin Presbyterian, whether it is Joy leading the youth, Dan, Betty, Diane and Pat leading fellowship, or Cynthia leading the creative ministry.

I have always believed that living as a Christian example for family and children is one of the most important guidelines for anyone of the Faith. However, as I have watched everyone's devotion to Erin and their faith, I have thought about how I could contribute to this wonderful church and express my faith. When Mr. Joe Tate and others inquired about whether I would be interested in serving on Session, I was both flattered and interested at the same time. Also, I am not sure that I could say no to Mr. Tate, as to anything he asked. With this position as an Elder, and on Session, I welcome the opportunity to contribute to Erin Presbyterian and the Christian faith.