

Calendar

DECEMBER 2018

- December 1st:** 9am Prep for Advent Workshop
- December 2nd:** 9:30am Carols and Refreshments in the Fellowship Hall
10am Advent Workshop stations with something for adults and kids.
5pm-6:30pm Joint Youth Group/Christmas Party (final youth group of the year)
- December 4th:** 5:30pm Staff Meeting/Christmas Party, 7pm Discipleship and Fellowship Meetings
- December 8th:** 9:30am Men’s Breakfast
- December 9th:** 5pm An Appalachian Christmas, 6pm Christmas Potluck
- December 13th:** 10am PW Meeting and Christmas Tea
- December 16th:** 6pm Caroling, Cookies and Cocoa
- December 19th:** No WND
- December 24th:** Office closed at 11:30am, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6:30pm
- December 25th and 26th:** Office closed for Christmas with our families, Wed. No WND
- January 1st:** New Years Day - Office Closed



Psalm 89:15
“Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, Lord.” (NIV)

Dear Friends,
As we count down the days till Christmas, we have many opportunities to experience this wonderful season of salvation and light. Eons ago, our primitive ancestors struggled to get through the harshness of winter and the long dark hours depressed their spirits. They were fearful of things never being the same again and were worried that the Sun was being slowly swallowed by some sort of terrible monster beyond the horizon. It must have been an anxious season for everyone which probably explains why most religious festivals at this time of year focus on the blessings of light and the anticipated rebirth of Spring.

As Christians, we celebrate our Lord as the Light of the World and the Savior of our souls. We look forward to the time when Christ will return among us to rid the Earth of war and wickedness by restoring God’s favor and kingdom across the planet. We don’t know when this will take place, so we prepare our homes and churches with beautiful trees, bright lights, and decorative nativities to welcome God into our family places and worship spaces. We surround ourselves with these Christmassy things because we all want to share the peace and blessings that Christ brings to our world, our families, our friends, and our neighbors.

Every Sunday in December and on Christmas Eve, we will focus on the Coming and Birth of Christ. It’s a great time of year for all of us to feel assured that God is in control and that the future is full of the brightness of His goodness, grace, and love. It’s also a wonderful time to invite our loved ones, friends, and neighbors to come and worship at Erin. Most folks that we know and care about are just waiting to be invited – all we have to do is to cheerfully ask them if they would like to do so.

Whatever you are going through or however you choose to acknowledge and celebrate this wonderful season of hope, peace, joy, and love, may God bless you and all your loved ones with the merriness of Christmas and the full happiness of these holy days.

- Pastor John

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Connections

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DECEMBER

 - 1 Heather Ritchie
 - 10 Susan Miller
 - 12 Jim Brannon
 - 14 Lynne Jones
 - 15 Lori Hudson
 - 16 Sean Gahan
 - 17 Jenny Boyd
 - 19 David Eggers
 - 20 Matthew Miller
 - 20 April Cyr
 - 21 Farrah Linkous
 - 22 Cathy Van Ost.
 - 23 Marty Kirby
 - 25 CHRISTMAS
 - 26 Henry Ritchie
 - 27 Paula Gunter
 - 30 Vince Blanton
 - 30 Sarah McKay

JANUARY

 - 1 Christa Mueller
 - 3 Joe Tate
 - 4 Jim Montgomery
 - 4 Suzanne Levering
 - 6 Mary Nelle Cate
 - 6 Tracy Foster
 - 6 Chloe Webb
 - 10 Mia Quinn
 - 10 Kelly Boyd
 - 11 Alea Strand
 - 12 Kelli Canan
 - 14 Paul Armsworth
 - 19 Tara Link
 - 19 LouL Tate
 - 21 Al Wallin
 - 21 Evelyn Stuart
 - 28 Mike Jackson
 - 30 Lora Yard
 - 30 Andy Jaynes
 - 31 Hallie Fellers

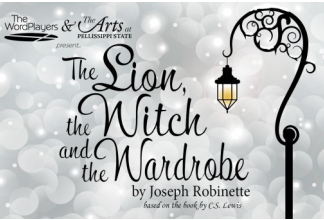
Connections Class – December

Pastor Stuart will continue teaching on Sunday mornings before worship throughout December. He will present a short Advent Bible series based scriptural passages which significantly mention the properties of light. The subjects covered each week are as follows:

Dec 02	Intergenerational Advent Workshop in Fellowship Hall
Dec 09	Isaiah 9: A Great Light
Dec 16	Psalms 27: The Lord is My Light
Dec 23	Matthew 5: The Light of the World
(Dec 30)	No class

In January, the pastor will present a 4-week synopsis series on the Four Gospels.

Pastor Stuart is Father Christmas!



The pastor will be playing the role of Father Christmas in the Word Players production of *‘The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe’* this December. The play will be presented at Pellissippi College’s Theater (Clayton Performing Arts center) for school groups and others. Public performances take place on Friday, 14th December at 7:30 PM, and two matinees on

Saturday, 15th December and Sunday, 16th December at 2:30PM.

Tickets: Adults: \$15, Students (13+): \$12, Child (12 & under): \$8

Groups of 10 or more: \$2 off each ticket price.

Available online (www.pstcc.edu/arts/theatre), by calling 865-539-7529, or can be obtained at the door.

Year End Gifts

At this time of year, some of our church folks may be thinking about making special gifts to charities as a way to bless others with their giving. In the past, our wee church has received such wonderful contributions, enabling us to begin the New Year on a good financial footing. We appreciate the thoughtfulness and kindness of church family and friends who do this, and we encourage others to prayerfully consider giving a year-end gift to our church. Gifts can either be placed in the offering plates on Sunday mornings or mailed to the church by December 31. You may also make a secure special donation online via this link: www.erinpresbyterian.org/give-back/

May God bless you for all that you give and do for our church. 😊

There will be No Sunday School classes on December 30th as many folks are travelling and out of town for the extended holiday. Also, this is an opportunity to give our devoted teachers a well deserved break. The regular Sunday School schedule will resume in January.

December

DECEMBER 2ND	DECEMBER 9TH	DECEMBER 16TH	DECEMBER 23RD	DECEMBER 30TH
Coffee	Coffee	Coffee	Coffee	Coffee
Betty Gibbs	Dan Gibbs	Anna McKay	Betty Gibbs	Dan Gibbs
Greeters	Greeters	Greeters	Greeters	Greeters
Kristi Bailes	Kevin and Jackie	Larry and Anna	Nicole Waters	Linda Quinley
Ian Bone	Griffin	McKay	Tammy Murphy	Patty Britton
Bell Ringer	Bell Ringer	Bell Ringer	Bell Ringer	Bell Ringer
Aiden Strand	Isabella Armsworth	Rose Armsworth	Kenleigh P.	Ella Levering
Guide	Guide	Guide	Guide	Guide
Diana Brandon	Erin McCallum	Lynn Sexton	Ashley Draper	Anna McKay
Reader	Reader	Reader	Reader	Reader
Bob McLean	Stacie Armsworth	Pat Sexton	Evelyn Stuart	John House
Ushers	Ushers	Ushers	Ushers	Ushers
Sonja DuBois	Jim Montgomery	Patty Britton	Rickey McCallum	Gary Pennington
Ron DuBois	Pat Wallin	Chloe Levering	Ian Bone	Kay Pennington
Cathy Van Ostrand	David Leckie	Brooks Eggers	Jim Montgomery	Kim Pennington
Tammy Murphy	Sara Leckie	Robbie Levering	Linda Quinley	Dusty Pennington
Planet Worship	Planet Worship	Planet Worship	Planet Worship	Planet Worship
Joy Bornhoeft	Jennifer Gahan	Farrah Linkous	Erin McCallum	Kelly Boyd
Counter	Counter	Counter	Counter	Counter
Neill Murphy	Rickey McCallum	David Eggers	Craig Strand	Neill Murphy
Keith Stump	Mike Jones	Joe Jaynes	John House	Mike Jones
Communion				
2019				
Nursery Volunteer				
Nicola Bone				
Flowers	Flowers	Flowers	Flowers	Flowers
Griffin	Sarles	Jenny Boyd	McKay	Let April know if you want this spot

Outreach

OUTREACH & DISCIPLESHIP



Thank you so much for all the support with Angel Tree! The children will be so happy to receive their gifts!



Thank you for the donations to the Morgan Scott Project's Coats for the Cold. They will be thrilled to receive the gift of warmth this winter!



The Christmas Joy Offering will be received at the Christmas Eve Candlelight service on Dec. 24th. There will be collection boxes available at the Advent Workshop on Dec. 2nd.



A NEW LETTER FROM OUR SPONSORED CHILD

Dear Sponsor,

I am sending you cordial greetings and I pray to our Lord Jesus Christ to pour blessings on your family. At the Child Development Center (CDC) I learned to pray for my family and for my country's peace.

"I want to tell you that I have accepted Jesus as my only Savior and this makes me happy."

At the CDC they are teaching me God's Word. I attend church on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Thank you for the trip that we will have, as well as for the toothbrush and toothpaste, and the shoes that I received at the CDC.

I would like to know if you have children and if you go to other nice places. How is the place where you live?

I ask you to pray for my family and for my father so that he will do well in his job.

I ask you to pray for me to do well in my studies.

I want to tell you that I am making an effort to get ahead in my studies.

This month we will commemorate our country's Independence Day and we will have many activities in school. I will participate in folkloric dance and I will wear a nice outfit. I will wear new shoes on that day.

I say goodbye with lots of love and I hope that you are well when you receive this letter.

Leonora Elizabeth Gaspar Manuel



Fellowship

FELLOWSHIP & PW



Men's Breakfast

The men of Erin Church are invited to come to our monthly Men's Breakfast on December 8th at 9:30am. We meet in the Fellowship Hall for a delicious breakfast and time together. Signups will be in the bulletin.

PW Bible Study

We will meet at 10 am on Thursday, Dec. 13, in the Parlor. Sonja DuBois will lead the discussion on Lesson 3, Seek and Live in God's Wisdom...scripture passages are James 1:1-5, 17 and 3:13-17. Suzanne Levering will provide light refreshments.

PW Christmas Luncheon

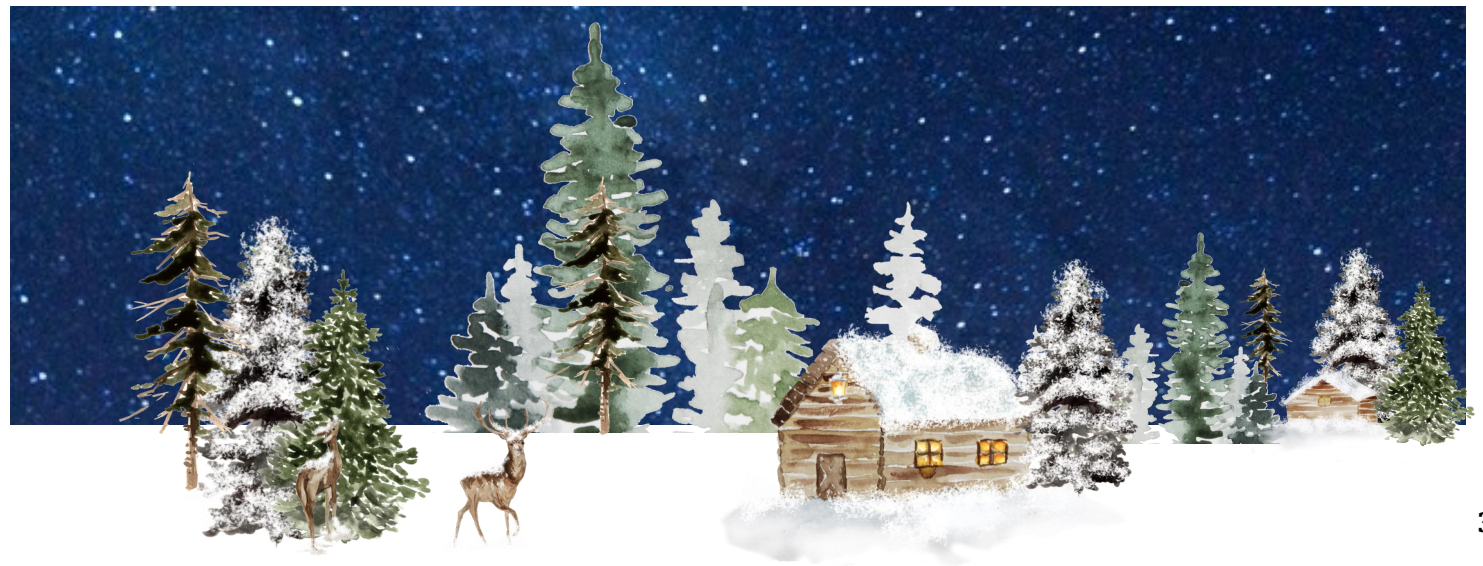
We will also be going to the Apple Cake Tea Room after our study to celebrate the season with our annual Christmas luncheon. Please let Betty Gibbs know by Sunday, Dec. 2, if you are planning to attend so that reservations can be made.

BreadBreakers

We'll take the month of December off, but will be back in full force for January at the Gibbs' home. Look for further details in the January newsletter.

WINTER WEATHER POLICY

If we experience inclement weather, please check to see if Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church is closed. If they are closed, we will be, as well. You may also find information at the Erin Presbyterian Church Facebook page and local news websites.



Christmas Fun

ADVENT WORKSHOP

ADVENT WORKSHOP Sunday, December 2nd

9am to 9:30 am: Refreshments and Christmas Carols

9:45 to 10:30 am: Advent Workshop begins in the Fellowship Hall.

The Discipleship Team is hosting the annual Advent Workshop on December 2nd, in lieu of regular Sunday School. All are invited, including adults, youth, and kids!! Join us for coffee and treats at 9 am in the Fellowship Hall. Then, at 9:30, you will have the opportunity to rotate through several stations including carol sing-along, a meditation station, making Chrismons and an Advent wreath.



CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

The Christmas Potluck will be on Sunday, December 9th at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall, directly after our Appalachian Christmas program. Please sign up and let us know what you'd like to bring, then drop off your food item before the Christmas program.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

We look forward to seeing you on Christmas Eve for our **6:30pm Candlelight Service**.

We'll sing all of our favorite Christmas Hymns together and enjoy Scripture Readings in between.

It will be a beautiful service as we celebrate our Lord's birthday.



Children's Ministry

Planet Worship Volunteers

Dec. 2	Joy Bornhoeft
Dec. 9	Jennifer Gahan
Dec. 16	Farrah Linkous
Dec. 23	Erin McCallum
Dec. 30	Kelly Boyd
Jan. 6	Kim Pennington

PLANET WORSHIP OFFERING

Last month in Planet Worship, the children learned about three different mission projects of **World Vision**.

The kids chose to donate their offering to help **"A Child in Waiting."** World Vision helps children in poverty through their Sponsorship program. This program provides clean water, food, clothes, access to school, and much more.

But, many needy children are on a waiting list to be sponsored.

The Planet Worship offering will help provide the basic necessities for a child – while they wait for those wonderful words: *You have a sponsor!*

Please remember to continue to bring in an offering each week to Planet Worship.

ADVENT in PLANET WORSHIP

This month, Advent lessons will follow the lectionary readings to match the scriptures read by the adults in worship. Lessons will include several worship elements, such as the lighting of the advent candles and litany, offering, responsive scripture readings, prayer, and a closing hymn.

So, join us each Sunday as we prepare our hearts and minds for Jesus' coming.



Christmas Around the World

**in Pioneer Club
Wednesday 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Family Life Center**

This month, we will travel the world to learn how Christmas is celebrated in other countries. We will explore local cultures, experience new Christmas traditions, sample festive foods, and make homemade ornaments to decorate our own *Around the World*

Christmas tree. We'll conclude our travels with an International Christmas party on December 12th.

There will be no Pioneer Club over the Winter Break holiday as all International travel is suspended during that time. Pioneer Club will resume on January 9th as we set out for another exciting country!

Feliz Navidad ~ Joyeux Noël ~ Frohe Weihnachten ~ Buon Natale ~ Merry Christmas