

COFFEE CLUB

Join Pastor John, Joy and April on the third Tuesday of each month for our Coffee Club in the Fellowship Hall. Joy and April bake or bring some delicious treats and the coffee is top notch!

The next one is on November 13th at 10:30am

Anyone who is free can join us for refreshments and conversation for an hour. Near the end of our time together we'll have a short devotion and take part in communion. Come on over!

To: «Name»
«Address»
«City» «State» «Zip»

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Knoxville, TN 37919
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THE BEACON

1 John 4:18a "There is no fear in love." (NIV)

Dear Friends,

Fear is the exact opposite of faith. It gnaws away at our confidence and causes us to become insecure. It separates us from the love of God and imprisons us in a cage of anxiety which diminishes our capacity to live lovingly. Fear makes us believe in things that do not exist and manipulates our thoughts. Those who use fear to persuade us, have only one thing in mind: to control our lives and keep us captive to their ambitions.

When FDR said that **'the only thing we have to fear is fear itself,'** he was reminding our people of the false security and fake charms that fear seductively offers. At a crucial time in American history, President Roosevelt knew that in order for the nation to survive the Great Depression, the people had to combine their strength and resources, as well as their resolve and determination, in order to overcome those hard and anxious times. Politically, FDR knew that he could present and initiate many new programs and policies to help the economy, but without the resolute spirit of the people and their steadfast support, their greatest enemy – **FEAR** – would not be overcome. In many ways, his call to confront the fear of his day was a perfect seeding ground for the greater unity that would be needed when the United States became involved in World War 2.

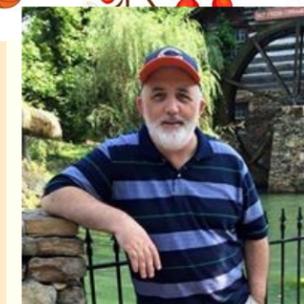
Today, we live in fearful and unstable times. Our people are divided and our nation is splintering in many different ways. People are insecure about the future and are succumbing to their anxieties. The role of the Church is to employ the heavenly gift of faith in order to counter the hellish curse of fear. In the face of hatred and despair, we offer hope and love. To face off darkness and falsehood, we present truth and light. To counter anxiety and alarm, we bring peace and assurance. In other words, **the only thing we have to diminish fear is faith itself.**

At Erin Church, we encourage all sorts of people to come to the table of God's love. We aim to share that love by living out our vision: **Unified in Christ, we actively seek to create harmony in a diverse community through compassion, mutual respect, and love.**

If ever there was a time to fulfill this wonderful vision, that time is now.

May God bless you and all your loved ones.

- Pastor John



November 2018

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COME TO THE TABLE

CONNECTIONS

BIRTHDAYS

November

- 3 Sherry Draper
- 4 Hannah Matthews
- 5 Jackie Griffin
- 8 Julie Miller
- 10 Paul Yau
- 11 Dusty Pennington
- 12 Debra Poole
- 15 Matt Cowen
- 15 Connor Backous
- 16 Nancy Berry
- 17 Sara Leckie
- 17 Rob Cameron
- 18 Connor Quinn
- 25 Bill Brazelton
- 25 Sam Pulsipher
- 30 Harry Franz



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 Ostrand
- 23 Marty Kirby
- 26 Henry Ritchie
- 27 Paula Gunter
- 30 Vince Blanton
- 30 Sarah McKay

OCTOBER CONNECTIONS CLASS

Coming in November: Our Faithful First Ladies

A series about the lives and faith of some of the First Ladies of the United States.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CONVERSATIONS

Every week, Pastor Stuart does some in-depth research on the Biblical passages that will be read and sermonized during worship on Sundays. Not all of the research will appear in the sermon, so the pastor has now set up a Wednesday Night Bible study to teach more about the chosen passages for the upcoming Sunday. If you are wanting to learn more about the Bible – its history, people, places, and context, then this study is an ideal way to accomplish that. The weekly studies start at 6:45PM in the Heritage Room and conclude just before 7:30PM. As always, everyone is welcome to bring their Bibles, notebooks, and coffee, as well as their ideas and questions.

PROPERTY TEAM WORK DAY

BYOBULBS

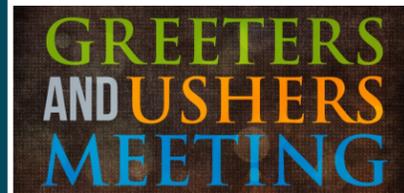
Let's plant more spring bulbs! We'll be doing some small additional clean up tasks but our focus is to plant even more tulip, daffodil, and crocus bulbs all across our campus.

We're asking everyone to bring a bag of bulbs, (BYOB!), work gloves, and planting tools so when spring comes along, Erin will be even more in bloom than this past spring!



All ages and skill levels are welcome! Join us at 9:30am for the Pre-Clean Up Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast compliments of the property team.

CALLING ALL USHERS AND GREETERS



(And those willing to serve!)

Erin ushers and greeters serve in important ways – from making visitors feel welcome, to making the service run smoothly, to making sure the sanctuary is left in an orderly condition.

Many folks hesitate to serve because they don't know the routine. Please join us in the front of the sanctuary

immediately after the service on November 18th for a quick, 30-minute session, we'll provide written guidelines and answer questions so everyone feels comfortable serving as an Erin usher or greeter. Even if you've served for years, please come along to share your thoughts and experiences with newer volunteers.

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 3

FALL BACK TONIGHT!

NOVEMBER 6

- 6pm Staff Meeting
- 7pm Discipleship Mtg
- 7pm Fellowship Mtg

NOVEMBER 8

- 10:30am PW Circle

NOVEMBER 10

- 9:30am Property Team Work Day w/ Breakfast

NOVEMBER 11

- 12:15pm Veteran's Day Reception

NOVEMBER 12

- 6:30pm Property Mtg.

NOVEMBER 13

- 10:30am Coffee Club

NOVEMBER 15

- 6:30pm Session

NOVEMBER 17

- 9:30am FISH Pantry
- 6:30pm BreadBreakers

NOVEMBER 18

- 12:15pm Usher/Greeter Meeting

NOVEMBER 21

- NO WND - Thanksgiving Break

NOVEMBER 22-23

- OFFICE CLOSED

NOVEMBER 25

- 3pm Hanging of the Greens and Chili Dinner

	NOVEMBER 4TH	NOVEMBER 11TH	NOVEMBER 18TH	NOVEMBER 25TH
	Coffee	Coffee	Coffee	Coffee
	Anna McKay	Betty Gibbs	Dan Gibbs	Anna McKay
	Greeters	Greeters	Greeters	Greeters
	Larry McKay	Kristi Bailes	Lynn Sexton	Nicole Waters
	Anna McKay	Pat Wallin	Pat Sexton	Tammy Murphy
	Bell Ringer	Bell Ringer	Bell Ringer	Bell Ringer
	Aiden Strand	Will McCallum	Ella Levering	Ginger Thompson
	Guide	Guide	Guide	Guide
	Betty Gibbs	Ron DuBois	Stacie Armsworth	Joe Tate
	Reader	Reader	Reader	Reader
	David Eggers	Mary V. Paletta	Neill Murphy	Kelly Boyd
	Ushers	Ushers	Ushers	Ushers
	Suzanne Levering	Joe Tate	Jim Montgomery	Rickey McCallum
	Rob Levering	Rob Lynch	Pat Wallin	Erin McCallum
	Brooks Eggers	David Leckie	Ian Bone	Larry McKay
	Chloe Levering	Sara Leckie	Rickey McCallum	Ron DuBois
	Planet Worship	Planet Worship	Planet Worship	Planet Worship
	Kelcey Levering	Joy Bornhoeft	Stacie Armsworth	Jane Brannon
	Counter	Counter	Counter	Counter
	Neill Murphy	David Eggers	Rickey McCallum	Craig Strand
	Keith Stump	Joe Jaynes	Mike Jones	John House
	Communion			
	2018			
	Nursery Volunteer			
	Erin McCallum			
	Flowers	Flowers	Flowers	Flowers
	Gibbs	Dusty Pennington	Let April know if you want this spot!	Eggers

EVENTS

Diverse, yet one in Christ... "For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us." Romans 12: 4-6

On Sunday, Nov. 18, we will be celebrating the **PW Thank Offering** along with many other churches around the world. This year sixteen grant recipients were chosen from 83 applications. More than 40% of the projects funded are health related. Twelve of the projects are serving people in need in the United States and 4 are international. Projects ranging from mobile showers to providing hearing aids to providing reliable transportation for single mother families, PW Thank Offering strives to improve the lives of women and children in need.

 **BreadBreakers** will meet at the home of Justin and Joy Bornhoeft on Saturday, Nov. 17, at 6:30 pm. Please join us for an evening of fabulous food, fun, and fellowship. We might even be treated to a new and exciting libation if we're lucky. Signups will be in the bulletin.

ADVENT WORKSHOP

December 2nd
9 am—9:30am
Coffee and Treats
9:30 – 10:30 am
Workshop Rotations

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 Narthex. Then, at 9:30, you will have the opportunity to rotate through several stations including carol sing-along, ornament crafts and Chrismons, and a meditation station. Please *Come to the Table* and join us as we begin a new "church year" and the season of Advent.



PW CIRCLE

PW Circle will meet on Thursday, Nov. 8, at 10 am in the Parlor. Diana Brandon will lead a discussion on Lesson 2: "Receive Strength for the Day from God" based on Isaiah 40:25-31. April Cyr will provide light refreshments.



Save the Date: Mission Fair/Outreach Project – Save the Date – March 2/3, 2019 FISH Pantry



The Peace and Global Witness Special Offering was very successful. Thank you to everyone! Through your generosity we were able to raise \$397.



Morgan Scott Coats for the Cold – we will begin collecting mid November.

 **Helen Ross McNabb Center** The collection for Helen Ross McNabb was a HUGE success, We collected loads and loads of needed items. Thank you to everyone!

GOOD NEWS

A NOTE FROM STEWARDSHIP

Last month I explained how it was that we ended up with a debt of half a million dollars after we completed the renovations to the church. I explained how it was that we have worked to pay that off, and had it down to about \$444,000, but that we had not been bringing in enough money each month to fully cover the payment. I explained that within a year we were going to have a financial crisis if we could not get commitments to cover that \$3000 monthly payment.

The response to my request was immediate and positive. People pledged to give the additional money we needed and we easily made our next payment. We also had some people pledge to bolster the reserve fund, in case we did not meet our monthly payment one month and needed to fall back on our buffer. All this is pretty good news, and I'm pleased to be able to share it with you.

Knowing the people of Erin, none of that surprised me. But then something happened that did surprise me, and I could not wait to share it with you all. We received an anonymous gift that retired the remaining debt. We do not have any debt remaining from our building renovations. That's right. Erin is debt free.

I cried when I got the news, and even now I feel a relief like there has been a weight lifted.

I would like to express appreciation for all of you. For those of you who pledged and paid the initial \$1million. For those of you who faithfully paid to work down the balance. For those of you who pledged to step up your giving to keep Erin fiscally healthy and keep us out of trouble. And those of you who so generously gave to eliminate the debt for good. You have all made a difference. And what a difference.

Before we conducted the capital campaign, before we did the renovations to the church, we had a fund called the Property Fund. There are always things that break, that leak, that need repairs, just like you encounter at home. Those expenses are challenging because they fall outside the budget. That is the case at Erin as well. The Property Fund was what carried us through those challenges.

When we did do the Building Campaign, we merged the funds from the Property Fund with the Building Fund. We have not had a Property Fund since that time. When something did need repair or replaced, like an AC unit, we took the money from what remained of the money we had for the capital campaign. That buffer I told you was nearly diminished.

We cannot do that now, and so we are going to need to reestablish the Property Fund. I'm asking that those of you who have been paying towards retiring the debt prayerfully consider continuing to give what you can, directing it towards the Property Fund. If we can continue to put \$3000 a month into that fund for 6 months, that would give us \$18,000 in a fund to allow us to meet unexpected financial demands related to the property. Cynthia and I are going to continue to pay what we have been for the next 6 months. I hope many of you will do the same.

Please join me in giving God thanks. Thanks for so richly blessing us. Thanks for having enabled all that we set out to do to improve this church building, for our use now and for the use of generations to come. Thanks for calling all who gave of their time and resources to complete the task you set before us. Thanks that we are able to look at the task and call it complete. Thanks that the future of Erin looks strong.

And again, thanks to all of you as well.

- John House

YOUTH

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHALLENGE

On September 30th, the discipleship team celebrated those that completed the 2018 Sunday School attendance challenge with an ice cream sundae party. The challenge was issued on Rally Day, requesting people to attend Sunday School at least 5 out of the first 7 Sundays following kick off. Discipleship is pleased to announce that we had 44 people complete the challenge, 31 adults and 13 children. That's a lot of ice cream!



SPAGHETTI DINNER Thank you to everyone that helped support our youth trips by attending the spaghetti dinner. With your help we were able to raise \$377.97 that will go towards the Summer 2019 Montreat trips for both Middle and High School youth. Shout out to Kelcey and Rob Levering for being our parent leaders and to Mr. Dan Gibbs for assisting us with grocery shopping and meal prep.

MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT

Our middle school youth attended the annual Middle School Fall Retreat at Camp John Knox September 28-30. It was a beautiful weekend, and we had 6 young people attend. They participated worshiped by the lake and joined in small groups. They were also able to enjoy the camp on Saturday, visiting the nature center, swinging on the Flying Squirrel, and participating in a little archery competition.



COLLEGE LUNCH

I would love to catch up with all of our college students! Please make plans to join me for lunch during your Thanksgiving break on November 24th. We'll meet at Calhoun's at 11:30 on Bearden Hill for a bite to eat and some fellowship together. It will be a great time to catch up with each other, and renew your spirit before finals season! If you are interested in joining me, you can call or text me at 865-696-5851.

By Sunday, Nov. 4th

Won't you help out by stopping at your local dollar store to pick up some of these items to donate for those in need?

There are a few families here at Erin who have brothers, sisters, children and dear friends who were displaced by the recent hurricanes.

Thank you so much for your help!



A Supply Drive for the Victims of Hurricane Florence

Throughout the month of October, students within the Presbytery of East Tennessee will be collecting the following supplies to deliver to Remote Area Medical for the victims of Hurricane Florence.

- Baby Formula
- Baby Diapers and Wipes
- Bleach
- Mops, Brooms, Sponges
- Cleaning Items (Lysol liquid or mopping)
- Feminine Hygiene Items
- Adult Hygiene Items
- Toiletry Items (shampoo, soap, conditioner, deodorant, etc.)

STUDENTS WILL JOIN TOGETHER TO WORSHIP AND DELIVER SUPPLIES

SUNDAY, NOV. 4TH FROM 2:00-4:00 PM
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SWEETWATER
601 CHURCH ST, SWEETWATER, TN 37874

For More information contact Carrie Niceley at (865) 981-8180

A collaboration of the Presbytery of East TN, Remote Area Medical, and M.A.S.T.-Maryville Adventures in Studying Theology at Maryville College.



CHILDREN

Planet Worship Volunteers

Nov. 4	Kelcey Levering
Nov. 11	Joy Bornhoeft
Nov. 18	Stacie Armsworth
Nov. 25	Jane Brannon
Dec. 2	Joy Bornhoeft
Dec. 9	Jennifer Gahan



THANKFUL GIVING

This month in Planet Worship, kids will learn about thankful giving and sacrifice through the story of the Widow's mite.

From now, through the end of the year, we will collect a weekly offering in Planet Worship.

Children are encouraged to bring spare change or small bills as their offering, which we will donate to a mission project at Christmas. For

one of our lessons, kids will learn about several different mission opportunities and will get to vote on the project.

Pioneer Club
Wednesdays, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Family Life Center



This month in Pioneer Club, our young travelers will visit exotic Thailand. We will learn about the beautiful geography of this country, unique culture, and delicious cuisine. We will arrive just in time for the annual Floating Lantern festivals celebrating the full moon on November 23rd. At the Loi Krathong Festival, candles are floated downriver on baskets made of banana leaves and wood containing flowers and incense. In the northern town of Chiang Mai, the full moon is celebrated with the release of thousands of paper lanterns into the air.

