

BIRTHDAYS

Happy August Birthday!



- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 3 Agnes Kirby | 14 Mary Frierson | 24 Lucy Cate |
| 4 McKenzie Stump | 15 Keith Stump | 25 Pam Stevens |
| 6 Kevin Griffin | 16 Garren Miller | 28 Don Gunter |
| 9 Lauren Stuart | 17 Effie Fellers | 30 Lynn Sexton |
| 9 Marcia Mechlin | 20 Ryan Blanchette | 31 Bob Price |
| 10 Owen Matthews | 20 Bud Yard | 31 Lauren Gahan |
| | 21 Kellan Sarles | |

Join us for Worship at 11am Sunday Morning!
 Visit us at: www.erinpresbyterian.org
 For all of our upcoming events and opportunities to serve.

TO:

Erin Presbyterian Church
 200 Lockett Rd.
 Knoxville, TN 37919
 865.588.5350
www.erinpres.org

AUGUST 2019

THE VISION PROJECT

BELONG BECOME BEYOND

A note from Pastor Stuart...

"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength." – Isaiah 40:31

Dear Friends,

I want to thank you all for encouraging and allowing me to take a mini-Sabbatical. I didn't realize how much I needed it until I was in Italy. It was wonderful just to be with Evelyn exploring new places, meeting other folks, and relaxing every day. I knew that the congregation was in good hands – Kellan Sarles is a gifted pastor and exceptional preacher – so this permitted me to actually relax and enjoy the whole experience.

Seeing places that were connected to the Birth of Christianity and walking in museums full of my favorite Renaissance artists renewed my spirit in ways that I never expected. Touring the colorful Italian countryside, quietly lighting candles for my Mom in medieval Roman Catholic chapels, and eating some of the best food I have ever tasted were gifts that stilled my soul and gladdened my heart. I will always be thankful for this beautiful opportunity and look forward to going elsewhere in the future. I also hope to put together a presentation of the places we visited, when the Wednesday Dinners resume in September, and have a special Italian food night.

Being renewed like this has given me the enthusiasm to help our wee church do the same. Our Vision Project is a timely gift that God is allowing us to undertake, embrace, and fulfill. We have been waiting on God to renew our strength, deepen our faith, and widen our love across our congregation and in our community. This is the moment we have been expecting; this is the God-appointed time to begin again.

Through our discipleship commitment and eagerness to serve Christ, we will also go through a rebirth – a renaissance, if you like – for our entire congregation. It's a wonderful blessing from God and we will not waste this great opportunity.

Thanks again for all of your love and support. I pray that God will bless each and every one of you, as well as all of your loved ones. May God guide your plans and grant your heart's desire. May you find peace and contentment in your souls, along with Christ's grace and strength to renew your lives.

- Pastor John

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CONNECTIONS

Connections Class 2019-2020 – A Call to Discipleship

One of the main strategies of our new Vision Project involves encouraging everyone in the congregation to intentionally become disciples of Christ. This is no easy task, especially in a world filled with so many time-consuming distractions. In order to accomplish this task, Pastor Stuart will be preparing discipleship sermons and class studies using the weekly lectionary of the Christian church.

Every Sunday, at the worship service we usually read two lectionary readings (Psalms and Gospel) out of the designated four Bible texts. The other two texts come from passages of the Old Testament prophets and the New Testament epistles. Throughout the 2019-2020 Sunday School year, Pastor Stuart intends to teach discipleship lessons from the Old Testament during his Connections Class.

Some of the class material may be made available online for those who wish to study the passages at home or through the week.

On Wednesday evenings, Pastor Stuart will teach a separate discipleship class based on the New Testament epistles. This means that each week all of the

designated lectionary scriptures will be covered through preaching and teaching. It is hoped that everyone who participates in these courses and attends worship regularly will deepen their knowledge of God and enhance their discipleship commitment to Jesus Christ.

The Sunday classes take place in Pastor Stuart's room in the Education wing from 9:30 AM to 10:25 AM. The Wednesday classes will take place in the Heritage Room next to the parlor from 6:40 PM to 7:20 PM.

Sunday classes in August: Aug 18 – Aug 25, 2019

2 Week series: A Tale of Two Prophets

A look at the life and times of Isaiah (8/18) & Jeremiah (8/25)



RETREAT



Mark your calendars for our 7th annual family retreat at John Knox Center! Our speaker this year will be the Reverend Tricia Dillon Thomas from the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga's Hope House. Hope House is a campus ministry supported by the Presbytery of East Tennessee.

Rev. Thomas graduated from Columbia Theological Seminary in 2006 and was an associate pastor for youth

and families in Florida before moving to Chattanooga. She became the director of Hope House in 2014 and also serves as temporary pastor for Renaissance Presbyterian Church. Rev. Thomas is married to the Rev. Clay Thomas, pastor at Rivermont Presbyterian Church and they have 4 children.

Before entering the seminary they both spent time in Alaska working with at-risk youth. Rev. Thomas will help us explore this year's theme of Belong, Become, Beyond. If you have any questions please talk with Anna McKay or any member of the Discipleship Committee.

And remember all the fun we're planning to have!
Fishing, Kayaking, Tubing, Volleyball, Nature Hike, Vesper Prayers, Learning, Campfire S'mores, Swimming, Flying Monkey, Challenge Course and Boating!

Registration for the retreat will end on Sunday, August 4th.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

AUGUST 4TH	AUGUST 11TH	AUGUST 18TH	AUGUST 25TH
	COFFEE	COFFEE	COFFEE
	Dan Gibbs	Anna McKay	Betty Gibbs
GREETERS	GREETERS	GREETERS	GREETERS
Gary Pennington Dusty Pennington	Jim and Ginger Thompson	Nicole Waters Patty Britton	YOUTH SUNDAY
BELL RINGER	BELL RINGER	BELL RINGER	BELL RINGER
Maggie Gunter	Aiden Strand	Will McCallum	Mollie Gunter
GUIDE	GUIDE	GUIDE	GUIDE
Anna McKay	Yvette Franklin	Mary V. Paletta	
READER	READER	READER	READER
Stacie Armsworth	Kelly Boyd	Larry McKay	
USHERS	USHERS	USHERS	USHERS
Brooks Eggers Robbie Levering Kelcey Levering Chloe Levering	Jim Montgomery Rob Lynch Larry and Anna McKay	Ron and Sonja DuBois Ian Bone Linda Quinley	YOUTH SUNDAY
PLANET WORSHIP	PLANET WORSHIP	PLANET WORSHIP	PLANET WORSHIP
Kelly Boyd	Jane Brannon	Stacie Armsworth	No Planet Worship
COUNTERS	COUNTERS	COUNTERS	COUNTERS
David Eggers Joe Jaynes	John House Rickey McCallum	Neill Murphy Mike Jones	Craig Strand John House
COMMUNION			
2019			YOUTH SUNDAY
NURSERY			
Kenleigh Pennington			
FLOWERS	FLOWERS	FLOWERS	FLOWERS
	Patty Britton	Sara Leckie	

AUGUST EVENTS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 3 Sunset Gap Workday | 12 Worship Team Meeting 7pm |
| 4 Final Vision Project Presentation 9:30am | 15 Session |
| 6 Staff Mtg 6pm/Fellowship and Discipleship 7pm | 16-17 CHURCH RETREAT |
| 11 RALLY DAY | 20 Coffee Club 10:30am |
| Rally Day Breakfast 9:30am | 25 YOUTH SUNDAY |
| Team Tables and SS Classes 10:15-11am | 28 Sonshine and J7 Parent Meetings 6:30pm |
| Worship Service 11am | |
| Outreach, Creative Expressions, Stewardship Meetings 12:15pm | |

RALLY DAY



Rally Day, our kickoff for the new year of Sunday School, is August 11th and this year it's also the kickoff for *The Vision Project: Belong, Become, Beyond!* We'll begin with breakfast at 9:30am sharp, then at 10:00 children will go to their new classes (nursery is provided for our littlest ones). After that you'll hear about our Vision and the strategies that Session and staff adopted to

help us get there, and you'll learn about our ministry and support teams, including several new ones. We're asking everyone to find a place to serve with a team that fits with their interests, skills, and gifts.

We're very excited about this new direction that will lead to the transformation and growth of Erin Church and look forward to sharing it with all of you.

The leaders of the three adult Sunday school classes will explain their plans for this fall, and you'll also hear about other opportunities for spiritual growth and discipleship. Whether you've been attending Sunday School for years, or haven't been in a while (or ever), we invite all of you to join us in 2019. You'll find a warm and welcoming group of fellow Believers. We offer excellent learning and discussion, and a fun way to spend your Sunday mornings while getting to know other members at Erin.

SUNDAY SCHOOL



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES BEGIN IN AUGUST!

Erin will offer three Sunday School classes for adults this fall. On Rally Day, August 11, you'll have a chance to meet the leaders of each class and hear what they plan to study this fall. Meeting with the same group of fellow Christians each week is a great way to learn together and deepen your faith, and we encourage everyone to explore the options and join a class.

The class led by John House has been looking at the changes in the Christian church, especially how church membership and Christianity have both been in decline in our country in recent decades. In spite of having the message and example of Jesus, the church is not thriving.

This fall, they'll look at Rachel Held Evans' book *Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church* in order to get one Millennial's perspective on the church

and where it is in this juncture in history. As always, John says, "the class will use the book to inform our discussions, which could take us anywhere." Rachel Held Evans, who passed away suddenly in May at age 37, was a leading voice for her generation and others who were disillusioned with the church they grew up in, but never gave up on God and sought a new way of engaging with His church. *Searching for Sunday* was a New York Times bestseller in 2015.

Joe and Kim Jaynes will continue the experiment they started last year: a covenant group that meets during the Sunday school hour. A covenant group involves commitment to the group and to its members, who share their spiritual journeys and pray for one another. Participants help each other become more like Christ by exploring God's truth and fleshing it out in discussion, prayer, and action. Study is a big part of the group, but the focus is on building community and relationship-based discipleship. This fall the group will study *Celebration of Discipline: the Path to Spiritual Growth*, by Richard Foster. With engaging stories, scriptures, and practical examples, it explores ways of drawing closer to God that have been followed by Christians throughout history. Join us if you want to develop strong relationships with other Christians, grow in the image of Christ, and understand and follow His will for your life.

CHOIR

THE ERIN CHOIR NEEDS YOU!

Summer vacation is coming to an end, and the choir will be back in action right after Labor Day. Please join us! No formal vocal training is required ... just a willingness to learn and an eagerness to lift your voice in praise. And we welcome all ages, from high school students to senior adults!

We believe that God is worshipped in many ways. Consequently, the Choir performs a wide variety of music, from classical to contemporary. More importantly, we strive to have fun with the music and with each other. In addition to singing, we share joys and concerns and

support one another with prayer and compassion each week. Sounds like fun, doesn't it? Come join us and experience it for yourself. We practice Wednesday nights from 7:30 -8:30pm starting August 28th.



SAVE THE DATE



The new season of BREADBREAKERS will be gearing up in September! If you would like to host a gathering at your home, and get the month of your choice, please contact Diana Brandon at: dmarybrandon49@gmail.com to get your name on the 2019/20 calendar early.



We're going back to Sunset Gap! On Saturday, August 3rd, prepare to join us at another workday for this great cause! We'll meet at Erin Church around 8am and carpool to Sunset Gap to begin our workday at 9am. More details coming soon.

VISION PROJECT LAUNCHES ON RALLY DAY!

On August 11th, you will be given an opportunity to review the Charter for each ministry and support team, speak to a member of that team, and ask questions, as you prayerfully consider where God is calling you to serve. Information on each team, and a signup sheet, will be available on Rally Day and the three weeks following. Erin needs every one of us if we are to successfully transform and renew as an organization. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity!

BELONG Attend weekly worship and prioritize the work of the church.

BECOME Take opportunities to grow your faith and become a more mature disciple in Christ.

BEYOND As you Belong and Become, we believe you will grow in your ability to live your faith, reaching beyond Erin's walls, modeling the life of a mature disciple, and shining the light of Jesus by loving others.

Visit ErinPres.org for event details and other info.

Erin Presbyterian Church @erinpreschurch



Looking for some fellowship and conversation? Maybe you have a question for staff? Come by the Fellowship Hall on **Tuesday the 20th at 10:30** for a few tasty treats, some good conversation, and a delicious cup of coffee. Pastor John, Joy, and April will look forward to seeing you! Signups in the bulletin coming soon.



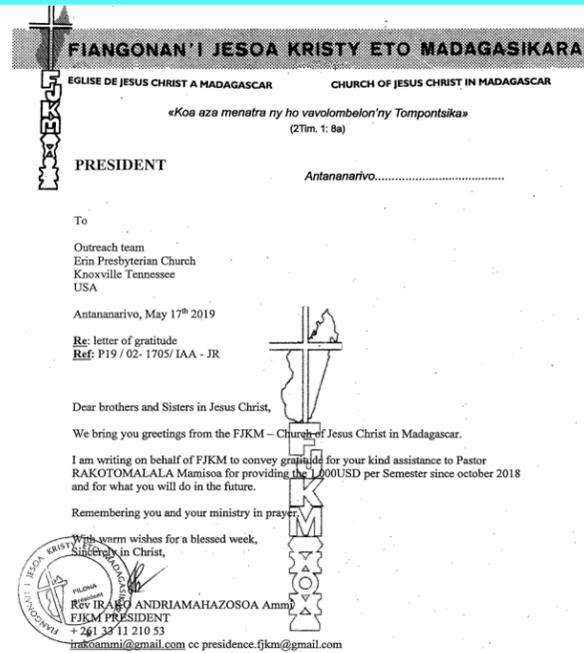
PW Circle meetings will resume in September! Our Bible Study for this year is the Horizon's Study: **Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments by Eugenia Anne Gamble.** What would it mean to consider the Ten Commandments not as a harsh list of what not to do, but instead, as a "love letter" from a loving God? **Study books are \$10.** Please e-mail Joy (cec@erinpresbyterian.org) by August 4th to confirm that you would like a book. They need to be ordered on-line and she plans to place just one order. **We're inviting you, new members/visitors, and we hope to see you there!**

OUTREACH



Thank You to all who have contributed to the collection of household items for The Volunteer Ministry Center! This was a very successful collection!

In the next column we have a letter from the **President of the National Church in Madagascar** where Pastor Mamisoa belongs.



MONTREAT & TRIENNIUM

MIDDLE SCHOOL MONTREAT

We had two young ladies attend the Middle School Montreat conference July 17th-21st at Maryville College. Kathryn Bornhoeft and Kenleigh Pennington participated in keynote, small group, worship, and rec activities during the conference. This year's theme was "For Such a Time as This" and youth focused on the idea that they were born in this place and time for a purpose that is all part of God's plan.



YOUTH TRIENNIUM

Lauren Gahan represented our church at the Presbyterian Youth Triennium. She traveled with 10 other youth from 7 other churches in our Presbytery to the conference at Purdue University July 16th-20th. Be sure to ask Lauren about her experience!



UPCOMING DATES

Sunday School resumes August 11th
 Youth Sunday August 25th
 Youth Group resumes September 8th

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

PLANET WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

- August 4 Kelly Boyd
- August 11 Jane Brannon
- August 18 Stacie Armsworth
- August 25 No Planet Worship
- September 1 Farrah Linkous



WE HAD A WILD WEEK AT VBS

Twenty-three kids (ages 4 years through 5th grade) and 8 Youth Helpers attended VBS in July, led by 16 adult volunteers. We sang and danced in the African savanna, chilled out in the Arctic with Jesus, and got crafty in the Jungle. Along the way, we encountered *Jesus in the Temple – at the River – on the Water – and at the Tomb*. We grew in faith, made new friends, and had lots of fun!

OUR MISSION PROJECT WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

Throughout the week, the kids collected 3 large boxes of school supplies for Sunset Gap:

- 42 packs of Glue Sticks
- 52 boxes of Crayons and 50 packs of Pencils

THANK YOU to everyone who donated school supplies and to all the volunteers for giving of their time and talents to make this year's VBS a wonderfully fun and loving experience for all!



5TH ANNUAL PRETEEN RETREAT

Attention Preteens: make plans now to attend the Pre-Teen Retreat at John Knox Center! This overnight retreat (Saturday morning through Sunday morning) is a fun opportunity to meet kids from other Presbyterian churches in East Tennessee. You'll eat together, sleep in cabins, attend keynote sessions and worship, experience the ropes course, waterfront sports, crafts, and games. Please contact Joy Bornhoeft if you have a preteen interested in attending. cec@erinpresbyterian.org



The cost per child is \$50 (all-inclusive) but Erin church will pay half of the registration fee per child. **So, the cost for Erin families is only \$25! A great deal for an amazing faith experience!** Registration Deadline is August 18th.



This new school year, we have several 5th Graders who graduate from Planet Worship and will be attending worship full-time in the Sanctuary.

Congratulations to:

- Henry Fellers and Elizabeth Franklin
- Carter McCallum and Mia Quinn

Please take a moment to welcome these young people to worship. We look forward to watching them grow through this next stage of their faith journey.