



JUNE 2020



A note from the Pastor...

Dear Friends,

I can't believe it has been nearly three months since we last met together for worship or fellowship. We all miss our faith family dearly and wish that we could be together again soon. What we have come through has not been experienced by our people for over a hundred years and what we have still to face is largely unknown. This is one of those moments in history where faith helps us to adapt, persevere, and overcome. This is when we rely on God and His Word more deeply than we have ever done before.

Our elders have been discussing the situation each week and are now focusing on what needs to happen before we can safely reopen the building. The church has never closed – it has just been relocated to our homes and neighborhoods. Fortunately, we have been able to pre-record and share our church services online each Sunday. Technology is amazing at times and we have gifted people in our congregation who are working hard to participate, produce, and present our worship every week. A special mention needs to be

Deuteronomy 31:8 "The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." (NIV)

made about the great editing and producing work that Joe Jaynes has put into all of this – do you realize that it takes Joe more than 20 hours each week to collect, combine, and generate a 45-minute video that we can all enjoy conveniently at home? That is real devotion.

Reopening won't happen overnight – it will take time to consider and prepare all of the things that need to be done. Be assured that when we do open, it will be done safely and all areas of use will be properly cleaned. We have a great number of committed people, including our Staff and Elders, who will do everything possible to get the building reopened and programs restarted.

In the meantime, please use this month's highlighted Bible verse as a promise from God that no matter what lies ahead of us, He is there, too, ready, willing, and able to lead us through it all.

May God bless you and all your loved ones by keeping you safe and healthy. - Pastor John

Connecting with God and One Another

Summer Series: Ephesians

This summer, Evelyn and I were meant to travel to Greece & Turkey on the second part of my Sabbatical. As we all know, that isn't going to happen anytime soon.

One of the places I was looking forward to visiting is the ancient city of Ephesus. The Apostle Paul spent a great deal of time there, as did the Apostle John & Christ's mother, Mary.

Well, since I can't get to Ephesus, I've decided to bring Ephesus to us this summer! Each Sunday in June through August, I'll be preaching on Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. It's also a good letter to read because it deals with church life at a congregational level. Hopefully, before summer ends, we may be back in the church building, so the lessons we learn from the great Ephesian church may help us get re-established as a worshipping, working, faith community.

Here are the scheduled readings and sermon titles for June:

JUNE 7	Psalm 8:1-9	Ephesians 1:1-10	God Chose Us
JUNE 14	Psalm 100:1-5	Ephesians 1:11-23	Called to Hope
JUNE 21	Psalm 86:1-10	Ephesians 2:1-10	Alive in Christ
JUNE 28	Psalm 13:1-6	Ephesians 2:11-22	Making Peace

Contacting Pastor Stuart

If you have a special need or require help, or if you would like a prayer said or just someone to talk to, you can contact Pastor John at the church office during the day (865-588-5350), or on his cellphone (865-454-3942) at any time. You may also text him on his cellphone, too. Please feel free to send him emails at: pastor@erinpresbyterian.org or you can message him via Facebook.

Stewardship Campaign

Hello Erin Church!

Every year, we have our Stewardship Campaign to emphasize the importance of fiscal health and to encourage members to pledge their support. Pledges are important as we work to develop a budget that helps the Church carry out its mission and the recent vision project.

The theme for the Stewardship Campaign this year is "Keeping Connected." In these uncertain times, "Keeping Connected" to God, the Church, One Another, and to the Community has been increasingly difficult. Despite the challenges, our Church has not only remained stable but it has thrived in staying connected and carrying out its mission. To maintain this strength and momentum, financial stability and planning for the next year is necessary.

Creative Expressions is producing videos that will highlight the importance of our stewardship duties in "Keeping Connected."

Keeping connected to God.

Keeping connected to Church.

Keeping connected to One Another.

Keeping Connected to our Community.

We humbly ask you to listen to these videos and make your pledges so that we can develop a budget that ensures that we remain connected to what is important in these turbulent times.

Please remember that every amount counts, no matter how big or small.

To make your pledge, please return the pledge card that will be mailed out soon or go online to the link:

<https://www.erinpresbyterian.org/give-back/> then click on the "Make A Pledge" tab.

Thank you for your gracious giving, especially through the COVID-19 crisis. And thank you for your future pledges and support.

The Stewardship Team

Bridging The Gap

Dear Erin Family,

Does it often seem to you that respectful conversation has become extinct? That our political and social discourse has become more contentious and mean-spirited? If so, you are not wrong. Mean-spirited rhetoric now undermines the foundation of our democracy by infecting the very people and institutions that should protect the public good.

Yet, God's people are still called to love our neighbors as ourselves, to practice charity, and embody the fruit of the spirit. How, then, can we do that?

After prayer and deliberation, the Session has adopted next year's theme: **BRIDGING THE GAP** and, as a first step, invites all members and guests to become **compassionate bridge-builders** through various learning opportunities throughout the year.



Those who step up to the challenge will:

- 1) Gain knowledge about people who are politically, theologically, and economically different;
- 2) Acquire and practice skills for compassionate communication and Christ-like love.

Will you become a bridge-builder?
Watch for more information. Opportunities begin in September! The world and the Kingdom need you!

Coffee Club & Coffee Club+

We have two weekly Coffee Club Zooms for our folks to come together to talk, catch up, pray, and share a devotion. They take place on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 AM and Wednesday evenings at 7:30 PM. If you would like to participate in either or both, just send an email to April or Pastor John and we'll send you the link to the meeting. All are welcome ☺



JUNE EVENTS

SUNDAYS

9am Online Worship Service

9:30am Connections Class

9:30am Living the Faith

10am Hard Sayings Zoom

12pm Weekly Stewardship

TUESDAYS

10:30am Coffee Club Zoom

WEDNESDAYS

7:30pm Coffee Club + Zoom

THURSDAYS

7pm Weekly Session Mtg

FRIDAYS

12pm Staff Zoom Mtg

INDIVIDUAL TEAM MEETINGS

2nd 7pm Discipleship Zoom & 8:30pm Stewardship Zoom

7th 12pm Creative Expressions

8th 6:30pm Property Zoom

14th 12pm Outreach

17th 7pm Visitor Follow-up

21st 12:30pm OH&C Zoom

Sunday School & Birthdays

Summer Sunday School Opportunity!

The Hard-Sayings Sunday school class, led by John House, invites everyone interested in studying and fellowshiping over the summer to join us for *virtual* Sunday School every Sunday morning at 10:00 am. If you would like to join us, please let April know so that we can add you to our contact list and send you a weekly link to our virtual class. We will begin on May 31. Please join us for as many or as few meetings as work for you.

We will be studying the book *The Jesus I Never Knew* by Phillip Yancy, available on line in hard copy or electronic versions. Yancy offers a new and different perspective on the life of Christ and his work, his teachings, his miracles, his death and resurrection - and ultimately, who he was and why he came, painting a dynamic portrait of this central figure of history. The author chronicles his journey of discovery, looking past traditionally perpetuated beliefs about Jesus and reporting facts about him and his teaching as recorded in the gospels.

How does the Jesus of the New Testament compare to the Jesus we think we know so well?

From the manger in Bethlehem to the cross in Jerusalem, Yancey presents a complex character who generates questions as well as answers; a disturbing and exhilarating Jesus who wants to radically transform your life and stretch your faith. *The Jesus I Never Knew* uncovers a Jesus who is brilliant, creative, challenging, fearless, compassionate, unpredictable, and ultimately satisfying. "No one who meets Jesus ever stays the same," says Yancey. "Jesus has rocked my own preconceptions and has made me ask hard questions about why those of us who bear his name don't do a better job of following him."

This book won the Gold Medallion Book Award and ECPA Christian Book of the Year and appeals to a wide Christian audience because of its personal approach to the life of Jesus.



2 Betty Gibbs	15 Ashley Draper
2 Anna Bornhoeft	16 Karen Stump
4 Keegan & Konnor Stump	16 Joy Bornhoeft
5 Gaines Miller	16 Hannah Yau
5 Ella Levering	18 Pat Wallin
8 Molly Miller	20 Tammy Murphy
8 Thomas Boyd	21 John Miller
9 Stacie Armsworth	21 Jack Draper
10 Alex Jaynes	23 Hayden Crisp
11 Jane Brannon	24 Rob Lynch
12 Charles Snodgrass	24 Brooks Eggers

