



Jeremiah 29:11-12 “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.” (NIV)

Dear Erin Folks,

I hope you are all doing well and keeping safe. I cannot believe that this is our fifth month without holding regular worship services on Sunday. At the moment, we do not know when we can resume our 11:00 AM Sanctuary service, but in the meantime, we are working on a few alternatives.

On Sunday, August 9th, we are going to try to hold an outdoor worship service in the parking lot, next to the church entrance. Because it gets so hot after 10:00 AM, we will hold this short 30-minute service at 9:00 AM. If we waited till 11:00 AM, none of us could endure the heat or humidity. Everyone will be asked to bring their own lawn chairs, wear masks, and bring some bottled water. Hand-sanitizing stations will be set up and any folks who attend will be asked to keep their distance from others, as well as refraining from any hugs or handshaking. There will be no singing at the service; the only music used will be pre-recorded for gathering and exiting.

We are trying this outdoor service to fully learn what we need to do before we can get back into the sanctuary for in-person worship. This situation has never happened before, so we are proceeding cautiously in order to fully work out the important details. We cannot do this without some sort of trial run, so these short outdoor services are set up to teach us what we require for opening the sanctuary. It's not an easy task and it requires both a great deal

of patience and support. Our intention is to get back to the 11:00 AM service whenever we can, and to safely do this without compromising anyone's health or well-being.

To those of us who are in the vulnerable health-risk area (which includes the pastor), we are asking for your prayers and encouragement. We want to get this right and we want to do this so we can all gather again to worship God. It may take a long time, especially if the coronavirus rates are still high in our area. However, what we learn from these short services will prove to be of great value to us when we fully return to the 11:00 AM service.

We are still going to pre-record our worship services, so that our folks at home can remain connected to the whole church. We may also try to record the outdoor services as an additional way to worship at home. We are doing the best that we can in the worst of situations. Way back in 2019, we never expected any of this; we are still trying to be God's people and to be led by His Spirit.

If you need to talk to me about this or have some questions, call me on my cellphone: 865.454.3942 or send me an email to pastor@erinpresbyterian.org. I'll be glad to talk to you or reply to your email.

May God bless you and all whom you love.

Pastor John

Connections & Rally Day

CONNECTIONS CLASS FOR AUGUST

Each Sunday, Pastor Stuart teaches a class which usually focuses on a Biblical passage. During August, he will continue to present scripture lessons online via Zoom. This is an amazing way to do live teaching – the pastor presents the program from his church office and connects with class members across the internet using laptop cameras and microphones. The discussions are interesting and the questions raised are always fascinating. If you would like to join the online class, just send an email to John at pastor@erinpresbyterian.org and he'll send you back the link to the class.

Throughout August, the Connections Class will be discussing two topics. The first two weeks will be based on chapters 3 & 4 of the Book of Jonah. The pastor began teaching this in July.

For the rest of August, Pastor Stuart will teach a short 3 -week series on Bridging the Gap. This is the churchwide theme for 2020-2021. The class will look at three Gospel stories involving Samaritans who were excluded by the Jews during Christ's lifetime. The Bible passages will show us how Jesus intentionally bridged the gap between Jews and Samaritans in order to extend God's grace. It promises to be an interesting study, especially when we think about our current situations and the barriers we create.

The August lessons are as follows:

- 8/2 – Jonah 3 – Nineveh or Bust!
- 8/9 – Jonah 4 – All Hot and Bothered
- 8/16 – Bridging the Gap (1) – The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)
- 8/23 – Bridging the Gap (2) – The Thankful Samaritan (Luke 17:11-19)
- 8/30 – Bridging the Gap (3) – The Samaritan Woman (John 4:1-26)

Please note: If we are able to hold an outdoor worship service, the Connections Class will take place online between 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM, beginning on August 9th. The August 2 class will take place at 9:30 AM as usual.

CONTACTING PASTOR STUART

If you have a need, require help or prayer, 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. Feel free to send a text. Send the Pastor an email at: pastor@erinpresbyterian.org or you can message him via Facebook.



RALLY DAY IS AUGUST 16TH

It's August and you know what that means: back to school, and back to Sunday School! We'll kick off the new church year on August 16, but since we won't be meeting inside the building Rally Day is moving online. I know we'll all miss the tasty breakfast in the Fellowship Hall, but that will have to wait given the current circumstances.

Sunday School classes have continued to meet via Zoom all summer, and we hope everyone will join a class this Fall if you're not involved already. On Rally Day Sunday we'll share a video explaining the new Discipleship offerings – not all are on Sunday mornings, if you're just not a morning person or have other obligations at that time. We want everyone to join in becoming Christ's disciples here at Erin, and learning and discussing what that means is an important step. We'll have something for all ages, from toddlers to seniors and everyone in between. Some groups will meet on Zoom for now, but will meet in person when it's safe to do so. But we will continue to offer online-only opportunities to share, pray, and study together since we understand that not everyone will be able to meet in person for a while. Watch for details in your email and on the Erin Facebook page; it may be different, but we're excited about the Discipleship opportunities for Fall!

Bridging The Gap & Retreat



To the church seeking
to become
BridgeBuilders...

From Kellan, in the style of the great missionary, Paul.

To the Church of God that is in Bearden, to those who are made holy by Christ Jesus and called to be the saints: Grace and peace to you. Together with my family, I give thanks always for you because of the Christ-inspired love you have shared with us since we came among you three years ago. I pray that God will strengthen us together, equip us with every spiritual gift, so that we may be wholly united in our love and devotion to God's work.

I rejoice that you continue your mission to **Belong** to the Bearden church and its many ministries, and I eagerly embrace this year's intention to **Become** mature disciples. To that end, I—with the help of several other faithful Christians—am praying and working on a program of study that will equip God's saints at Bearden to listen, speak, and love others whose backgrounds, skin color, political/social and economic alliances may have rendered them estranged to you. For just as the body is one and has many members, so God created humankind as one manifestation of His glory, though each human is unique.

Now, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed: **The work will be difficult, for we are called to be imitators of Christ, to listen, help, heal and love all people – to love the leper, the tax collector, the rich man, the Samaritan, the Syrophenician woman, the eunuch, the guard, and the sinners on their crosses.**

I beg you to lead a life worthy of that calling - to embrace a new life in which you lay aside racial stereotypes, political allegiance, and religious orthodoxy in order to become an agent of love and healing in this place and time. The harvest is potentially great, but the workers are few!

Therefore, my friends, continue the work of becoming imitators of God and living in love as Christ loved us, and may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you always!

Blessings, Kellan



CHURCH RETREAT AT JOHN KNOX CENTER Come one, come all! Now October 2nd and 3rd.

In light of the Covid-19 pandemic and its escalating effects in our area, the Discipleship team has decided to postpone our annual church retreat from August to the weekend of October 2-3. This marks the eighth year for this event in memory Jenny Boyd's parents, Claude and Pat Houbler. And this year will be different: adult sessions will now be held in the open-air pavilion where we have our cookout dinner instead of the smaller lodge where we usually meet, which will allow for the recommended physical distancing. The virus also spreads less effectively outdoors, and moving the date to October means the weather should be at least a little cooler.

We'll send out a schedule, details, and registration information soon, but please add this new date to your family's schedule. You won't want to miss the chance to learn about Bridging the Gap, our emphasis for the year, and spend a few hours fishing, boating, or just hanging out with your Erin family. Kids' activities include a challenge course, the ever-popular Flying Squirrel, and a high ropes course, plus the ever-popular campfire with s'mores on Friday night – yum! We hope to see you all there!

Questions? Contact Kim Jaynes or Anna McKay.

Community & Events

SENIORS OFF TO COLLEGE

Harter Crisp - Pellissippi State
Lauren Gahan - UT Knoxville
Chloe Levering - UT Knoxville
Colton Pennington - UT Knoxville
Keegan Stump - Davidson College
Konnor Stump - Valparaiso University

MONTREAT ONLINE

The summer conferences at Montreat were all cancelled due to the Covid -19 pandemic, but that didn't stop our Youth from getting a little taste of Montreat at Home. The conference went virtual this year, and we had 6 youth participate from the comfort of their own homes. The online conference offered many of the usual offerings, including keynote messages and scripture reflections, as well as stories from other youth who are living out their faith. Each evening, our group had a Zoom meeting and discussed the day's scripture and the videos we had watched. Then, we played a few games, and checked in with each other. We certainly missed being at Montreat together in person, but the online experience was a comfort in these unusual times.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School Resumes August 16 via Zoom - look for links in your email.

Youth Group will resume September 13th - look for more information in the September newsletter!

FELLOWSHIP

Thanks to all who have contributed items during July for the CAC's Food Drive for vulnerable elderly in our community. Fellowship will continue collecting the requested items below during the month of August:

Pop-top tuna, pop-top canned soups, pop-top canned fruit and veggies, breakfast bars, crackers, instant oatmeal, peanut butter, carnation instant breakfast, dried milk.

A red box is inside the front door for depositing your donated food. If the church door is locked, leave bagged items at the front door and leave a message at 850-0517 for pick up. Thank you!

AUGUST EVENTS

SUNDAYS

9am Outdoor Worship Service
10:30am Connections Class
10:30am Living the Faith
10am Hard Sayings Zoom

INDIVIDUAL TEAM MEETINGS

3rd 6:30pm Creative Expressions Zoom
4th 7pm Discipleship Zoom
5th 6:30pm Youth Group Zoom
9th 12pm Outreach Zoom
16th RALLY DAY, 2pm Visitor Follow-up
19th 6:30pm Youth Group Zoom
23rd 1pm Planet Worship Begins
Every Wednesday 7:30pm Coffee Club



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

MARKETING

The Marketing Team needs help managing Erin's social media accounts! If you're familiar with using Facebook, Instagram, and/or Twitter, and would like to join the Marketing Team, please contact Kelsey Sarles kelsey.sarles@gmail.com. If you're a student, ask about internship opportunities on the Marketing Team for class credit.

Family Ministries



Virtual Vacation Bible School



VBS At Home Kits



VBS was a real adventure this year as we braved the world of technology and had VBS at home & online!

Nine kids, from 6 families, participated in our Virtual VBS during the second week of July. Each family received a **VBS at Home Kit** full of daily snack ideas and craft kits, bible story cards with playdough mats and activity pages, bible memory verse games, a VBS music CD, field guides, and SonRise National Park t-shirts. Each day, kids logged into an **on-line Zoom Meeting** to hear the daily bible story, learn the day's bible memory verse, watch music videos, show our favorite stuffed animals, and share lots of laughs. We had a great time "connecting" with each other and learned that Jesus gives us:

**TRUE PEACE, TRUE RICHES,
TRUE POWER, and TRUE LOVE!**



Resumes On-line August 23rd

Children, 4 years old - 5th grade, are invited to join us for Sunday School on Zoom beginning August 23rd. Zoom sessions will last 30-40 minutes and will include an opening prayer, bible scripture reading, and discussion. Zoom meeting details and coloring/activity pages will be emailed weekly for each lesson. August lessons will focus on the new theme: **Bridging the Gap** - through scripture readings and children's stories.



Financials

Erin Presbyterian Church
Balance Sheet
As of July 28, 2020

	<u>Jul 28, 20</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
HF Primary Checking	22,168.56
HF Savings	197,864.03
SunTrust Checking	102.11
SunTrust Debit Card Account	100.24
Total Checking/Savings	<u>220,234.94</u>
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	156.62
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>156.62</u>
Total Current Assets	220,391.56
Fixed Assets	
Building Improvements	46,547.00
Computer Equipment	2,420.97
Furniture and Fixtures	35,699.89
General Equipment	9,764.55
Accumulated Depreciation	-64,255.45
Total Fixed Assets	<u>30,176.96</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>250,568.52</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable	-104.89
Total Accounts Payable	<u>-104.89</u>
Other Current Liabilities	
Payroll Liabilities	466.42
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>466.42</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>361.53</u>
Total Liabilities	361.53
Equity	
Restricted Funds	250.00
Retained Earnings	178,542.38
Unrestricted Funds	47,164.25
Net Income	24,250.36
Total Equity	<u>250,206.99</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>250,568.52</u></u>

Financials

Erin Presbyterian Church

Profit & Loss

July 1 - 28, 2020

	<u>Jul 1 - 28, 20</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Discipleship Income	600.00
Offerings	34,514.00
Property Income	<u>800.00</u>
Total Income	<u>35,914.00</u>
Gross Profit	35,914.00
Expense	
IT Team	426.82
Administration Team	426.42
Outreach Team	950.00
Pastoral Ministry	2,718.66
Payroll Expenses	3.50
Property Team	4,461.25
Stewardship Team	<u>2,706.99</u>
Total Expense	<u>11,693.64</u>
Net Ordinary Income	24,220.36
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
Property Fund Income	<u>30.00</u>
Total Other Income	<u>30.00</u>
Net Other Income	<u>30.00</u>
Net Income	<u><u>24,250.36</u></u>