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EVENTS & SERVICES

SEND YOUR EMAIL TO
ADMIN@ERINPRESBYTERIAN.ORG
TO BE ADDED TO THE
EVENTS@ERINPRESBYTERIAN.ORG
EMAIL LIST

Hi Folks,
If you haven't been receiving important emails with updates from us, please email April at admin@erinpresbyterian.org so she can add you to the email list.
This is where we send you the Online Sermon and any other special events or important information from the church.



A note from the Pastor...

1 Thessalonians 5:11 "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." (NIV)

Dear Folks,

I once had a friend in Scotland who was a civil engineer. David specialized in building bridges, especially over the many rivers, brooks, and streams in Ayrshire where we both lived and worked. David was meticulous about his drawings for he knew that a mistake in the calculations could end up causing an accident if a bridge collapsed. He was a very honest person, so he also ensured that his customers were given true estimates of what each bridge project entailed.

One Sunday morning in church, I prayed a prayer giving thanks to God for building bridges in our lives and gratefully expressed how He constantly strengthened His connection to us. It was the first time that David ever thought of God being a bridgebuilder like himself. After the service, he told me that the whole prayer gave him goosebumps because he realized that God had given him gifts not just to construct roadworthy bridges, but also to create bridges between himself, the church, and the wider community. For the rest of his life, David did just that.

This month, we begin a new journey of faith by focusing on how we can all become bridgebuilders, not just in our congregation, but to the much-wider

community surrounding our church. In these critical times, we have allowed our fears and worries to divide us spiritually, socially, and politically. We are, however, called to be peacemakers, so as church people we should be willing to bridge the gaps that have become too prevalent in our society. With this in mind, at Erin, we are beginning a new weekly study project called Bridge Builders to enable us to communicate peacefully and effectively without disparaging or demonizing folks with different views. Eventually, we also want to talk about the issue of racism to help us identify what it is, where it came from, and what we as a congregation can do to diminish its sinful spread in our community.

I hope that you will prayerfully support this new way of being church by either joining the online study groups or through receiving the study guides by email for you to read at home. This is a unique opportunity for our congregation to grow spiritually in order to become better bridgebuilders to our neighbors.

Thank you for your continued encouragement and support of our wee church. May God bless you and all whom you love. **- Pastor John**

Visit us at: www.erinpres.org
For all of our upcoming events and opportunities to serve.

TO: «Agnes Kirby»
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Connections Class

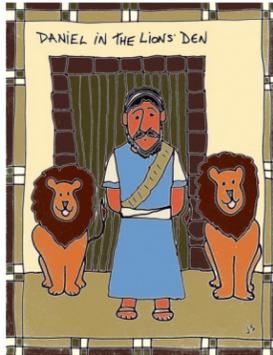
Pastor Stuart will continue to teach the Connections Bible Class on Sunday mornings. For the rest of the year, the class will be reading, studying, and discussing the Book of Daniel. We know about some of Daniel's life and contemporaries from children's Sunday school and VBS, but many of us don't know about the connections between Daniel's prophecies and the Book of Revelation in the New Testament. Also, a lot of what Jesus had to say about the End Times is related to what Daniel prophesied centuries before Christ was born.

The class will read a chapter of Daniel each week and discuss what implications it still has for our lives today. Living in 2020, perhaps this is a good time to visit this mysterious book!

Pastor's class begins at 10:10 AM on Sundays via Zoom. If you would like to know more about joining the class, just send him an email to pastor@erinpresbyterian.org and he'll reply with the Zoom link to the class.

So, will you dare to be a Daniel and join the discussion?

- Sept 06 – Daniel 1
- Sept 13 – Daniel 2
- Sept 20 – Daniel 3
- Sept 27 – Daniel 4



BridgeBuilders



**Are you tired of the angry rhetoric?
Are you confused by the issues now facing our nation?
Do you feel powerless to make any difference?
Do you fear talking will do more harm than good?
BridgeBuilders may offer what you are looking for!**

And YOU are what we are looking for!
Folks of all ages and persuasions who believe that civil—compassionate—conversation is the first step toward mending what is broken.

BridgeBuilders participants will learn how to communicate compassionately and gain a better understanding of the root issues underlying racial, economic, political, and religious differences.

But we need YOU! The training will be online, through the church's Zoom account, each Wednesday evening from 6:30 – 7:30, beginning September 2nd.

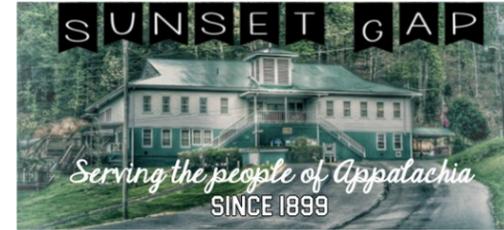
Suggested readings will be sent out a week in advance. If you cannot join live, the recorded version of the session will be available the following day.

ENROLL NOW:
www.erinpresbyterian.org/bridgebuilders/

Outreach

Sunset Gap

Outreach would like to collect used/sellable or new items for Sunset Gap. Sunset Gap is having monthly sales to gain income during the pandemic as their summer programs have been cancelled. The items can be dropped off in the narthex on the pew by the large windows.



Immediate Sunset Gap Office and Food Pantry Needs:

- 1. Miscellaneous Items:** disposable gloves for food handling, hand soap, sanitizer for hands and Clorox Wipes.
- 2. Plastic Storage bags:** 1/2-gallon, Gallon, Quart, and sandwich to divide up bulk boxes of items they receive.
- 3. Trash bags:** 13-gallon, 30 gallon, 33 gallons & 55 gal.
- 4. Staple food Items:** Sugar, Flour, Oil, Corn Meal, Oats, Rice, Peanut Butter, pasta and pasta sauce, canned meats.
- 5. Other items needed:** canned fruits and vegetables, canned cream soups.
- 5. Office Needs:** Scotch Tape, wide packing tape, permanent markers, laminating sheets, sheet protectors, dry erase markers, Stamps, letter Envelopes (No. 10 size), copy paper - white and colored.

From Reverend Mamisoa

Dear David,
Hope you and yours, as well as the whole family of Erin PC, are well.
I just completed my 2nd year of study at Columbia and have another year to look forward to starting this fall. I am grateful for all the support of many friends at Erin PC who are walking along with me in this journey. This Fall, I will start to work on my final project, do some literature review and complete some courses. Hopefully, by next year 2021 in Spring, I will be able to start writing my final paper.
Stay safe!
Peace and Love,
Mamisoa

Fellowship & CAC

In late Spring, Knoxville's Community Action Committee requested donations of specific foods for home-bound seniors. We asked Erin members to respond and YOU DID! A sincere "thank you" to everyone who dropped off items. We collected over **90 pounds** of a variety of requested foods. Your donations will be delivered this week to the CAC.

Youth Group

Youth Group will resume on September 13th. The 1st meeting will be high school and middle school together on Zoom from 5:00 - 6:00pm.



Retreat

Church Retreat – October 2-3

Please come along to our 8th annual family retreat at the John Knox Center. Our schedule will be somewhat abbreviated this year but it will be just as informative and just as much fun! The main difference is that we will only have one morning session and we will not be staying for dinner. And in order to come together safely all our activities will take place outside at the pavilion.

As usual, two cabins will be available Friday for families wanting to spend the night, enjoy a campfire, eat some s'mores and gaze at the stars. On Saturday at 9:30 am coffee and light snacks will be available at the pavilion. From 10 am until noon our very own Kellan Sarles will lead a discussion on this year's theme of "Bridging the Gap". Children and youth can spend time at the nature center and the flying monkey. Lunch will be served on the pavilion and then everyone is free to enjoy the waterfront from 1 - 3 pm.

Activities include kayaking, fishing, volleyball and, for those brave enough, swimming. There will be a Vespers service at 3:30 pm at the pavilion.
Registration is required by September 18th, online only. Register at this link:

<https://www.erinpresbyterian.org/2020-church-retreat/>

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

SUNDAYS

- 9am Online Service Posted
- 9am Outdoor Worship Service**
- 10:10am Connections Zoom
- 10:30am Living in Faith Zoom
- 10am Hard Sayings Zoom
- 10:45am HS SS Zoom
- 11am MS SS Zoom
- 11:30 Children's SS Zoom

WEDNESDAYS

- 6:30pm BridgeBuilders
- 7:30pm Coffee Club

THURSDAYS

- 7pm Weekly Session Mtg

FRIDAYS

- 12pm Staff Zoom Mtg

INDIVIDUAL TEAM MEETINGS

- 1** 7pm Fellowship & Discipleship/
- 8:15am Stewardship Zooms
- 6** 12:30am Creative Expressions Zoom
- 13** 12pm Outreach Zoom
- 14** 7pm Worship Team Zoom
- 20 12:30pm OH&C/ 2pm Vis. Follow-up

BIRTHDAYS

- 2** Janette Scott
- 6** Joe Jaynes
- 7** Donald Quinley
- 7** Lydia Foster
- 9** Andy Sarles
- 16** Madeline Stinnett
- 20** Allyson Streckfuss
- 20** Buster Quinn
- 21** Larry McKay
- 26** Apryl Quinn
- 27** Kay Pennington
- 29** James Hudson
- 29** Nicole Waters



Creative Expressions

Creative Expressions Programs Resume in September!

Unprecedented times call for creativity and flexibility! That is just what we have tried to do with our CEX programs for this fall! Though we are unable to resume our instrumental groups, we are moving forward with our drama troupes in modified forms until such time as we are able to resume more normal activities. We are excited about the possibilities and experimenting with new ways of learning!

Sonshine Company Children's Musical Theatre Workshop (1st – 6th grade)

Sonshine Company will begin the fall with online workshops starting with a parent's meeting on September 2nd from 6:15 to 7:30 via Zoom. Materials about Sonshine and this year's schedule will be emailed to parent prior to the meeting to review. Regular member workshops will begin September 9th and are scheduled for our normal time slot of 6:15 to 7:30 every Wednesday evening except holidays. Our staff will be working with members virtually until such time as we are able to resume in-person workshops. Our current plan is to continue virtually until the end of the year and then to begin in-person rehearsals in January in preparation for our musical production in April, *A Place in Space*.

If your child has not tried Sonshine Company before, perhaps the online workshop format will provide him or her with an opportunity to get acquainted with theatre arts. Who knows, he or she may find a new passion!

Sonshine 2020 – 21 Staff

Kelly Boyd, Rachel Little, Cynthia House, Cathy Van Ostrand, Kenleigh Pennington, Mary Virginia Paletta

Journey7 Drama Workshop for Youth (7th – 12th grade)

Journey7, our advanced drama skills workshop for youth, will hold in-person workshops but with a new format this year! We are offering two workshops each week so that each group is no larger than 8 members. This will enable Matt Lyscus, our instructor, to provide more individualized instruction and will facilitate in-person meetings with social distancing and masks in place. J7 workshops will be held in the Fellowship Hall at Erin. The season begins with parent and member meetings on September 2nd from 6:15 to 7:30 and September 5th from 11 – 12:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Materials about J7 and this year's schedule will be handed out at these meetings.

J7 workshops are educational and fun! If you are a youth between 7th and 12th grades and haven't given J7 a try, we

encourage you to do so. You might be surprised at how much you enjoy it!

J7 2020 – 21 Staff

Matt Lyscus, Tammy Murphy, Cynthia House, CEX Team Members

Why Is Creative Expressions Important to Your Child?

I would like to share a quote with you from Julie Cohen Theobald, president of the Educational Theatre Foundation.

"I think there's a perception that the arts are secondary to core subjects like reading and math. But what the research would suggest is that by participating in theatre, students learn creativity, communication, collaboration, and critical thinking."

You can add participating in music, dance, visual arts and other art forms to this quote because the research suggest that the performing and visual art are essential to a well-rounded education, facilitating learning in other subjects and developing critical 21st century life skills. Did you know that the performing arts help develop self-confidence, imagination, empathy and tolerance, cooperation and collaboration, concentration, communication and language skills, problem solving and critical thinking skills, discipline, memory, social awareness, trust, and aesthetic appreciation? They also relieve stress and provide an outlet for self-exploration and emotional expression and management. Amazing isn't it!

But why have arts programs at church? Isn't that the job of schools or private studios? God is the original creative genius. We have only to look at His immense and wondrous creation and the gifts and abilities He placed in us to understand the extent of His creativity. His creation makes Him evident to us. And Jesus, second only in creativity to God, was the greatest storyteller who ever lived, drawing crowds with His words and presence and changing the world in three years.

The arts were created by and belong to God and He has used them since the beginning of time to make himself evident to us and to sustain and advance His mission in the world. We are made in the image of this creative God. Where more appropriate than in His church to teach these truths to our children and to encourage their creativity by providing creative instruction, outlets and support.

Cynthia House

A Thank-you from CEX

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all the members and friends of Erin Church who are sharing their creativity to develop and enhance our online worship services and helping us experience God in new and more personal and creative ways.

Children's Ministry



Join Us
On-line
on Zoom
at 11:30 am



Pre-Teen
Retreat
Rescheduled
for Spring
2021

This month, we begin our lessons from the PCUSA curriculum ***Growing in Grace and Gratitude***. Fall lessons will focus on the foundational stories from the Old Testament. We will continue to explore this year's theme, Bridging the Gap, as we read the Old Testament stories through a new lens. Each week, we will ask the questions:

- Who was the bridge builder in this story?
- What was "broken" or needed rebuilding?
- How can you be a bridge builder this week?

The Presbytery of East Tennessee Pre-Teen Retreat for 4th and 5th Graders has been rescheduled for the Spring. We understand that our Pre-teens look forward to this overnight retreat each fall at the John Knox Center. But, due to current Covid 19 metrics, the planning team decided to postpone the retreat until the Spring. No date has been set yet, but look for updates and information after the new year.



On-Line Resources for Children

sermons4kids.com : Short, object lessons for kids based on Old and New Testament readings. Weekly featured lessons follow the revised common lectionary. You also can search by subject and lectionary year. Lots of additional activities such as coloring pages, word searches, crossword puzzles, games, and craft ideas.

storypath.upsem.edu : Published by Union Presbyterian Seminary, this site pairs scripture readings with a children's storybook. With detailed comments about the theme of the book and how it relates to the scripture reading. Featured posts follow the revised common lectionary and narrative lectionary readings. Also, you can search by scripture index and theme index.

flamecreativekids.blogspot.com : Creative hands-on ideas and activities for foundational bible stories. Ideas include creative storytelling, prayer stations, reflective coloring pages, playdoh mats, Easter and Advent activities.