



October 2020

October

Psalm 103:2-3 "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your mistakes and who heals all your diseases."



Dear People of Erin,

As always, I hope that you and your loved ones are keeping both safe and well. It's hard to think about how long this virus is going to be with us, but hopefully we are getting nearer to a time when we can emerge from our isolation and begin to be together. I dearly miss you all, so I spend time praying for your protection, health, and safety. It's not the same as being in your delightful company, but I humbly ask God to look after you in ways that I presently cannot.

Our elders are working hard on a Phase 2 of the plan to get us back worshipping and being in the church building. There are several serious obstacles to overcome, but our elders are very clever and considerate people, so they will focus on what's needed and decide what can safely happen. I would ask that you would prayerfully support them – this is not something that they thought they would have to deal with as spiritual leaders. They have their own families and health to consider, too, so whatever decisions we make, know that they have been prayerfully considered, fully discussed, and thoughtfully practiced.

As the weather permits, we are still holding short worship services on Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM. This time may change when the clocks go back, but that, too, will be decided by Session. We learn new things each Sunday, so this process is proving to be invaluable as we head toward full inclusion. We understand that there are health

boundaries which many of our folks cannot cross at this time; this is why we are still providing (and will for the foreseeable future) our pre-recorded services. We don't want anyone to feel excluded – all sincere worship, whether at home, in the parking lot, or back in the sanctuary, is pleasing to God.

Some of our folks have had family members who have contracted Covid-19. Thankfully, all of them have recovered and we are grateful to God that no one has developed any serious long-term effects. It does, however, keep us vigilant which is why we are determined to maintain things as safe as we possibly can. We are blessed with highly-committed and devoted people to our congregation; they will always ensure that we do the right thing, at the right time, and in the right way. Your health and safety are just as important to them as their own, so please be assured that we are all taking this coronavirus seriously.

Enjoy the Fall season, no matter where you are. East Tennessee is a beautiful place and the magic of autumn colors is almost upon us. Delight yourself in this area that we are privileged to call home. Give thanks to God for His beauty all around us and abide in His amazing artistry which will soon be displayed.

May God bless you and all your loved ones by keeping you safe and well.

Pastor John

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

TO:





CONNECTIONS CLASS: DARE TO BE A DANIEL

Pastor Stuart will continue to teach his Connections Class on Sunday mornings. Presently, the class is studying and discussing the Book of Daniel. Many of us remember Daniel as a Biblical hero and can tell about his courage in the lion’s den, but did you know that Daniel was a forced immigrant in Babylon who protested about the king’s governmental overreach? There’s a lot more to Daniel than we think. He was also a visionary – a Biblical Nostradamus, if you like – whose prophecies were not only fulfilled centuries ago, but some of them are still waiting to be accomplished by God. During October, we will be studying Daniel chapters 4-7.

So, if you like studying Biblical mysteries, current events, and end time prophecies, then come to the Connections Class which is meeting online via Zoom on Sunday mornings. The class opens at 10:00 AM social gathering; the real study begins at 10:10. Connecting to the class via Zoom is very simple and you will be made very welcome. Pastor Stuart usually sends out the study material on Fridays via email. If you would like to receive the material or be given the secure Zoom link, then contact our Admin April (admin@erinpresbyterian.org) and she’ll add your email to the Connections Class email group.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH – BLESS YOUR PET DAY 🐾

October 4th is traditionally the Feast of St. Francis. Some churches around the world hold special services on that day where pet owners & their cherished pets, using some words from an ancient prayer that is attributed to St. Francis. This year, many of those churches will not be able to hold such services, however, folks can hold their own unique blessing time with their pets at home. All you need is a copy of the prayer and some water to sprinkle your beloved furry, feathered, or scaled friend

Here’s the prayer: *“Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air and animals on the land. You inspired Saint Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters. We ask you to bless this pet. By the power of your love, enable it to live according to your plan. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation. Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! Amen.”*

Sprinkle your pets with a little water as you recite the prayer and then give them a special treat. You can also take a photo of your pet, then email it to April at the church, and we’ll put it on our Facebook page. 😊



**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. Activities include kayaking, fishing, volleyball and, for those brave enough, swimming.



OUTDOOR WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Outdoor Service is going very well! If you attend the service, would you please consider helping one Sunday each month? If you’re available send an email to April, the Admin, and she will get you on the rotation schedule. We’re so happy to see you each Sunday!

OCTOBER EVENTS

SUNDAYS

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

WEDNESDAYS

- 6pm Journey 7
- 6:25pm Sunshine Workshop Zoom
- 6:30pm BridgeBuilders Zoom

THURSDAYS

7pm Weekly Session Mtg

FRIDAYS

12pm Staff Zoom Mtg

SATURDAYS

10:30am Journey 7

INDIVIDUAL TEAM MEETINGS

- 4th** 12:30am Creative Expressions Zoom
- 5th** 6pm Property Zoom
- 6th** 7pm Fellowship & Discipleship
- 11th** 12pm Outreach Zoom
- 12th** 7pm Worship Team Zoom
- 18th** 12:30pm OH&C/ 2pm Vis. Follow-up
- 19th** 7pm MIT Zoom

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 11** Jim Hilty
- 14** Linda Quinley
- 16** Isabella Armsworth
- 17** Robin Cuany
- 17** Carter McCallum
- 19** Sonja DuBois
- 20** Kelsey Sarles
- 21** Rickey McCallum
- 24** Randy Boyd
- 29** Michelle Waters

October

SUNDAY ONLINE SERVICE VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

	OCTOBER 4TH	OCTOBER 11TH	OCTOBER 18TH	OCTOBER 25TH
Guide	Andy & Kelsey Sarles	Sherry & Ashley Draper	Suzanne & Kelcey Levering	John & Cynthia House
Reader	Don & Linda Quinley	Diana Brandon Ian Bone	Robbie & Ella Levering	Randy & Kellan Sarles
Children’s Sermon	John Stuart	Joy Bornhoeft	Kelly Boyd	Mary Virginia Paletta
Birthdays	Pat Wallin	Lisa Parker	Diana Brandon	Sherry Draper

SUNDAY OUTDOOR SERVICE VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

	OCTOBER 4TH	OCTOBER 11TH	OCTOBER 18TH	OCTOBER 25TH
Morning Set Up	Rickey McCallum	Anna McKay	Justin Bornhoeft	David & Brooks Eggers
Greeters	Erin McCallum	Duane & Lisa Parker	Kellan Sarles	Suzanne Levering
Ushers	David & Brooks Eggers	Suzanne Levering	Cynthia House	Rickey & Erin McCallum
Guide/Reader	Kellan Sarles	John & Evelyn Stuart	Joy Bornhoeft	John & Evelyn Stuart
Clean Up	All who are able	All who are able	All who are able	All who are able

Outreach contd...

NEXT OUTREACH MEETING

Our next Outreach Team Meeting will be via Zoom on Sunday, October 11, 2020 at noon. Please contact Erin McCallum via email epm414@yahoo.com or text (931-206-1448) if you would like to be added to our team or attend a meeting. We would love to have you, and have your input on how to support our local, national, and global missions.



HOLIDAY STORE CANCELLED

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, VMC has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Holiday Store. Considering the challenges individuals, businesses, and the faith community, are facing in light of the pandemic, as well as the mandates in place to curb the spread of the virus, VMC has cancelled all in-person events for 2020 including the Holiday Store. It is our hope to have the Holiday Store in 2021 and we will keep all informed as we come closer to that time. Thank you for your generosity in past years and we look forward to partnering with you again in 2021!

KRISTI BAILES BENCH DEDICATION CEREMONY



LETTER FROM PASTOR MAMISOA

To Erin Church,
I joined Kellan Sarles' class last Wednesday and enjoyed seeing some familiar faces. Kellan is great and the curriculum she uses is really what we all need in this strange time.

I got confirmation from the Columbia finance department regarding Erin's fund support as I start this new school year. Please convey my gratitude and appreciation to the Outreach Team as well as the whole congregation of Erin Presbyterian Church. Also, I would like to share exciting news today during Columbia Theological Seminary's "Virtual Convocation Fall 2020".

Florrie Wilkes Sanders Prize - Best paper showing sound theological scholarship and relevance to the needs of Christian people in the contemporary world. Paper relating theology to the education, professions, and avocations of lay people.



Family Ministry



Children's Sunday School on Zoom Every Sunday at 11:30 am

Join us every week for Sunday School on Zoom! We get to "see" each other, catch up on what is happening in our lives and at school, pray together, and learn together.

This month, we continue our lessons from the Old Testament. Be on the lookout for your October Sunday School Kit in the mail. This kit includes a Bible Story card and activity pages for each lesson in October. We'll use these pages for fun, interactive lessons during our Zoom meetings.

A reminder email, with the Zoom link and details, is sent out every Friday to parents. Children's Worship Bulletins also are sent by email each Friday for use during the On-line Worship Service and printed copies are available at the Outdoor Service.



Saturday, October 24th at 7:30 pm
Messiah Lutheran Parking Lot
Free Admission

Erin Church families of children, middle and high school youth are invited to an Outdoor Movie Night! Watch Disney's *Zootopia* under the stars on a perfect fall night!

You can watch the movie from your car or bring folding chairs and blankets to camp out in the parking lot. Participants are asked to remain in their family groups and families will be spread out at least 6 ft from each other. The movie will begin at 7:30 pm but families can begin arriving at 7 pm to pick your spot. Email Joy Bornhoeft at cec@erinpresbyterian.org to register your family today!

**Messiah Lutheran Church
and Erin Presbyterian
Present:**



featuring
Disney's
Zootopia



BRIDGEBUILDERS

Disciples of Christ have always struggled with how to get along and demonstrate the love and mercy of the One we follow. And now, more than ever, it is important for us to speak, listen, and act with love and mercy.

Thus, our BridgeBuilders series – now in its 5th week - has focused on honing the communication skills foundational for bridging divides. Over 40 people are presently enrolled to receive our readings and participate in or view our Wednesday evening sessions. Thus far, participation and feedback have been positive!

Starting October 21st, we will turn our attention to bridging the racial gap. And we will hear from guest historians, pastors, and business leaders with personal experience in dealing with racism.

Planning for Spring BridgeBuilders will also begin soon! The religious gap will be one of the two topics of study. **Thinkers and planners are needed – people who will look at curriculum options and resources to help chart our course.** If you have an interest in this topic of study or a talent for curriculum planning, please call or email Kellan Sarles - sarleskellan@gmail.com Blessings! *Kellan*



WORDPLAYERS

KNOXVILL FREEDOM SONGS AND STORIES

Sunday, October 4, 2020 from 6-7:15pm at Erin Presbyterian Church

Live, Outdoor Event. Free admission. Donations appreciated. (Rain Date: October 5) Performers and audience members will be physically distant. Please bring your own chair if possible. Knoxville Freedom Songs and Stories chronicles the history of the local black community beginning in the post Civil War era. The song/story collection narrates the old layout of the town and the population movement that created the Knoxville we know today. It recounts the proud stories of prominent figures of the times, and features songs which local musicians were creating to express their response to the world around them, a world where post-war steps forward were met with Jim Crow steps backward. These are stories of celebration and stories of lament. These are stories of Knoxville.

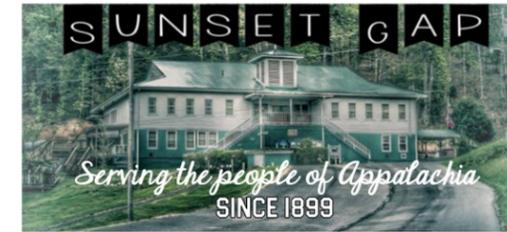
Singers and Musicians

- Tomi Robb
- John Jackson
- Ethan Norman
- Matthew Cunningham-Stokes
- Cole Liles
- Adam Whipple
- Dan Higgins

HIGH SCHOOL

The high school Sunday School class will begin a new series on Politics from the Faith Questions curriculum on October 4th. This four-session study explores the questions: "Is God a Republican or a Democrat?," "Is It a Sin Not to Vote?," "Why Do Some Politicians Lie and Make Bad Decisions in Their Personal Lives?," and "Is It OK or Not OK to Talk about Politics at Church?"

We meet via Zoom on Sunday's at 10:45 am. The link is emailed out weekly. If you are not on our email list and would like to request the meeting link, email Farrah at youth@erinpresbyterian.org.



CONITNUED SUPPORT OF SUNSET GAP

Sunset Gap has been hit hard, financially, due to the global pandemic, and we want to continue to do all that we can to assist them. We have sent \$4,400 to them to assist in their operations.

We will continue to collect gently used items for their monthly yard sale fundraiser that they have on the second Saturday of every month. Donated items can be left in the Narthex pews. In addition, we will continue to collect cleaning supplies, office supplies, and staple food items. These items may also be left on the Narthex pew.

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.

THE PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

will be on Sunday, October 3, 2020, which is World Communion Sunday. This offering supports peace building through ministries of prevention, accompaniment, advocacy, and education, addresses violence and inspires new approaches to active peacemaking, and supports local peace building ministries with 25% retained by our church.

Outreach

ONLINE GIVING WEBSITE

A link has been added to the online giving website, so you can donate specifically to this special collection.

You may also donate directly to the PCUSA Peace and Global Witness Offering on their website at PCUSA.org/Peace-Global.

You can text PEACE to 20222, in order to give a \$10 donation to this offering.



Coats for the Cold collection, benefitting Morgan Scott Project, will be coming soon! Mid-October through the month of November.

Start cleaning out your coats now, and we will have a rack in the Narthex for the collection soon.



PRESBYTERY DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Our team has delegated \$500 from the Emergency/New Mission Fund, for the PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Agency) in support of disaster relief for the victims of Hurricane Laura in Louisiana. We also allocated \$500 from the Emergency/New Mission funds for NEST (Near East School of Theology) in support of relief from the blast in Beirut.