

# Birthdays

- |                   |                     |                   |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 3 Sherry Draper   | 10 Paul Yau         | 17 Rob Cameron    |
| 4 Hannah Matthews | 11 Dusty Pennington | 18 Connor Quinn   |
| 5 Jackie Griffin  | 12 Debra Poole      | 25 Bill Brazelton |
| 8 Angelo Geraci   | 16 Nancy Berry      | 25 Sam Pulsipher  |
| 8 Julie Miller    | 17 Sara Leckie      |                   |

Wishing you a truly happy and blessed birthday celebration!

Visit us at: [www.erinpres.org](http://www.erinpres.org) for all of our upcoming events!

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# November



*Psalm 119:49 "Remember your word to your servant, for you have given me hope." (NIV)*

Dear Friends,

Perhaps like me, you often turn to the Book of Psalms for some reassurance and guidance especially when we're faced with something which is beyond our control. I usually find a verse which connects with my situation and gives me something positive from God. It amazes me that a Bible verse which was written thousands of years ago can be relevant to what I am going through right now. I guess that's why the scriptures have lasted so long - God's Word is always active, creative, and productive in every place and generation.

I like this month's highlighted verse because of two reasons. Firstly, it encourages us to remember God's Word and what He has done in each of our lives. When I think back over the decades that I have tried to be a Christian, I can recall many times when God has actively been involved. I am certain that you can also think back to special moments where God's

presence gave you the support and strength that you needed to help you through difficult times.

The second reason that I like this verse has to do with the Hebrew word for hope. It's pronounced 'yaw-khal' and it actually means to wait in expectation of something good that is yet to come. In the psalmist's case, he was waiting for God's blessing and protection in the midst of some personal troubles. In our case, we are waiting and hoping for a breakthrough to cure this pandemic, so we can get out and about to be with our families, friends, and congregation.

So, let's dedicate the month of November as a time to remember the great deeds of God in our lives, as well as to remain hopeful that He is still in control of all the uncontrollable things in our world today.

May God bless you and all whom you love.

*Pastor John*

# Connections

## CONNECTIONS CLASS FOR NOVEMBER

Pastor Stuart teaches a Bible class each week on Sunday mornings. At the moment, the class is meeting online via Zoom at 9:15 AM. We are currently studying the Book of Daniel and will be discussing chapters 8-12 on consecutive Sundays in November.

Daniel was an amazing prophet whose life has been taught to us since we were children. Most of us know the story of Daniel in the Lion's Den, but he also had some mysterious dreams and visions which were relevant to his time, though some of which have yet to be fulfilled today.

So, if you like to study the Bible, love mysterious books, and just like to talk about how God is working in the world today, come and join us at the class. Each study lasts about 45 minutes and everyone is encouraged to offer their viewpoints, comments, and questions about the passages we study together. Pastor Stuart sends out the text to be studied in advance by email which includes questions to ponder. The Sunday morning discussions are a great way to learn more about God's Word.

If you would like to join the class, send an email to Pastor Stuart at [pastor@erinpresbyterian.org](mailto:pastor@erinpresbyterian.org) and he'll send you the secure Zoom link to join the group.

## WORSHIP SERVICE UPDATE

Many of you are wondering when we can begin to offer safe worship services indoors. At the moment, we are still discussing how to handle this effectively and carefully. The local Covid-19 numbers are still relatively high, so currently we are still worshipping outdoors at 11:00 AM in the parking lot. As long as the weather cooperates and temperatures are tolerable, we will continue the 30-minute services.

We will also pre-record our services so that many of our church members can continue to worship safely in their homes. Your kind comments about these services have greatly encouraged all who participate in the production of these special programs. They are also great ways of seeing and hearing some of our church folks as they participate in leading the prayers and readings by recording them on their laptops or cellphones. If you would like to do this, too, just email April, our wonderful administrator, and she will add your name to the roster of folks who are helping. We are also always looking for musicians to fill our anthem spots and would be happy to have you, or family or friends, record a musical segment – they don't even have to be in Knoxville to record!

Thank you for your patience and support. God is in control and in His timing we will all be together again.

## NOVEMBER EVENTS

### SUNDAYS

9am Online Service Posted  
11am Outdoor Worship Service  
9:15am Connections Zoom  
9:30am Hard Sayings Zoom  
9:30am HS SS Zoom  
9:30am MS SS Zoom  
9:30am Children's SS Zoom  
4pm Living in Faith Zoom  
5pm Middle School Youth Group

### MONDAYS

7PM High School Youth Group

### WEDNESDAYS

6pm Journey 7  
6:25pm Sonshine Zoom  
6:30pm BridgeBuilders Zoom

### THURSDAYS

7pm Weekly Session Mtg  
(1st & 3rd Thursdays of month)

### FRIDAYS

12pm Staff Zoom Mtg

### SATURDAYS

10:30am Journey 7

### INDIVIDUAL TEAM MEETINGS

1st 12pm Stewardship  
12:30pm CEX  
3rd 7pm Fellowship & Discipleship  
8th 12pm Outreach Zoom  
9th 6pm Property Zoom  
7pm Worship Team Zoom  
15th 12:30pm OH&C  
2pm Vis. Follow-up  
16th 7pm MIT Zoom  
26th-27th Happy Thanksgiving!  
Office is Closed

# November Volunteers

## ONLINE SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

	NOVEMBER 1ST	NOVEMBER 8TH	NOVEMBER 15TH	NOVEMBER 22ND	NOVEMBER 29TH
GUIDE	Don and Linda Quinley	Cathy Van O. Kelly Boyd	John and Cynthia House	Rickey & Erin McCallum	Diana Brandon Ian Bone
READER	Stacie and Girls Armsworth	Dave and Sara Leckie	Yvette and Lizzy Freter	Andy and Kelsey Sarles	Sherry Draper Ashley Draper
CHILDREN'S SERMON	John Stuart	Joy Bornhoeft	Kelly Boyd	Mary Virginia Paletta	Kelly Boyd
BIRTHDAYS	No Birthdays	Glenda King	Mary V. Paletta	Kelly Boyd	Kelcey Levering

## SUNDAY OUTDOOR SERVICE VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

	NOVEMBER 1ST	NOVEMBER 8TH	NOVEMBER 15TH	NOVEMBER 22ND	NOVEMBER 29TH
MORNING SET-UP	Anna McKay	Suzanne Levering	Justin Bornhoeft	David & Brooks Eggers	Rickey McCallum
GREETERS	Erin McCallum	Cynthia House	Kellan Sarles	Suzanne Levering	Erin McCallum
USHERS	David & Brooks Eggers	Kellan Sarles	Cynthia House	Rickey & Erin McCallum	Anna McKay
GUIDE/READER	Cynthia House	John & Evelyn Stuart	Rickey McCallum	John & Evelyn Stuart	Suzanne Levering
CLEAN UP	All who are able	All who are able	All who are able	All who are able	All who are able

# Things to note...



## ADVENT DEVOTIONALS FOR ALL AGES

Advent begins on November 29<sup>th</sup>, the beginning of a new Christian Year and the season of preparation for the coming of Jesus. This year, the Discipleship Team has purchased devotional booklets for all ages, children, youth, and adults. Booklets

will be mailed out the middle of this month to all members. These daily devotions, which include a scripture verse and short reading for this sacred season, show us new ways to prepare our hearts for the Christ Child. We hope you find these devotionals comforting, inspirational, and thought provoking.

## HS Sunday School - Sunday's on Zoom at 9:30am

Our high school youth will next tackle the topics of Faith and Science using the Faith Questions curriculum beginning November 8. This four-session study explores the questions: "Is Science More or Less True Than the Bible?," "How Old Is the Earth?," "Why Do People Put Jesus and Darwin Fish on Their Cars?," and "Does God Really Care If I Pass Chemistry?"

All high school youth are welcome to join. Email Farrah at [youth@erinpresbyterian.org](mailto:youth@erinpresbyterian.org) if you would like to be added to the high school distribution list to receive the Zoom link each week.

## MS Sunday School - Sunday's On Zoom at 9:30 am

Our middle school youth are continuing in the Feasting on the Word curriculum. All middle school youth are invited. Email Farrah at [youth@erinpresbyterian.org](mailto:youth@erinpresbyterian.org) you would like to be added to the middle school distribution list to receive the Zoom link each week.

## ONLINE READ-ALoud BIBLE STORIES CREATED BY OUR NURSERY WORKER, MICHELLE WATERS

I have been working on putting together a virtual library for the preschool to have access to bible stories. See below for the link. My goal is to record myself reading a bible story and adding it to the library every week.

- Michelle Waters

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1\\_b2AmAcOvi25JytpSvtd7B5XaUxL1t2C5qdW7xXJ7KM/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1_b2AmAcOvi25JytpSvtd7B5XaUxL1t2C5qdW7xXJ7KM/edit?usp=sharing)



## SHOW US YOUR NATIVITY

Take a picture of your Nativity and send it to April at [admin@erinpresbyterian.org](mailto:admin@erinpresbyterian.org) and she will put together a slideshow of them so we can enjoy the heartwarming reminder of what this season is really all about. If you have a special tradition with your Nativity Set let us know about that, too. Some like to add baby Jesus on Christmas Eve. Some people let the Wise Men travel from different parts of the house and end up with the Holy Family on Christmas morning. Can't wait to see your Nativity! Please send in your photos by December 8th.



## SENIOR CARE PACKAGES

The Fellowship and Congregational Care Team compiled and distributed 24 Care Packages this Fall. Thank you to all who were involved in the compilation and distribution of these boxes. The boxes included several small gifts, including a CD with Nancy Berry playing piano, and congregation and staff members reading scripture. The Care Packages were a hit!

# Family Ministry



I am so very thankful for our Children's Sunday School Zoom class and for my co-teacher, Brooks Eggers! Each week, Brooks and I take turns leading 5 to 6 children through our Bible story lesson. To be honest, in the beginning, we were both worried about doing Sunday School on Zoom - *would the kids come, would it be the same as being in person, would the technology work, how would we do crafts?*

But, it has been two months now and Sunday School on Zoom has exceeded all of my expectations! The kids do come, regularly every week, thanks to their parents who help them "log on" and stand by on the sidelines to help with tech problems, hunt down a can of play-doh, or find the book of Ruth in the bible (we just started learning how to use the table of contents). Thank you parents for your dedication and devotion! This could not work without you and we appreciate your support.

The kids take turns reading aloud from their story cards, prayers, and scripture passages. We have great discussions about the story and have even attempted a craft or two. We share the ups and downs of our week, what's happening at school, and what we are doing outside of school - sports, dance, learning French, piano lessons, birthday parties and sleepovers. We are a very active and cultured group!

Honestly, I feel as connected to our kids now as I ever have! I love "seeing" them each week and am so grateful for our time together. They are full of energy, honesty, and joy! Turns out, Children's Sunday School on Zoom is not that much different than in person, but with the added features of cool backgrounds, chats, and a mute button. (*Don't worry, I almost never use the mute button.*) And I love every minute we have together!

In Christ,  
Ms. Joy

## Children's Sunday School on Zoom every Sunday at 9:30 am

This month, we will conclude our lessons from the Old Testament and begin our Advent lessons on Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>. The **November Sunday School Kits** were mailed out earlier this week. These kits contain everything you need for our Zoom classes: Bible Story cards, activity pages, prayers and readings. A reminder email, with the Zoom link and details, is sent out every Friday to parents.

If you have not tried Children's Sunday School on Zoom, then now is a great time to join in! As Advent approaches, we plan to include some favorite traditions of the season, like the advent wreath and candle lighting, as part of our weekly lessons.

## The parking lot premiere of Zootopia was a hit! ★ 5/5



Eight families (30 people) attended the Outdoor Movie Night at Messiah Lutheran Church, including 2 Erin families! A great time (and lots of popcorn) was had by all. Special thanks to Jaclyn Levy and Messiah Lutheran for hosting this fun event. We look forward to doing it again sometime in the Spring!

# Outreach & Creative Expressions

Outreach has several ways for you to get involved and give back during the remainder of this year!



## 1. Coats for the

in support of the Morgan-Scott Project: We will be collecting new or gently used men's, women's, and

children's coats during the month of November for the Morgan-Scott Project's coat collection. There will be a rack in the Narthex for collection. Please bring them in to the church during the in-person service, or drop off as you are able.

## 2. Reverse Advent

**Calendar:** We will be handing out a list for a church wide collection that each family can do



at home during the Advent season. We will be collecting items to support Sunset Gap and their continued needs. This will likely be a combination of food items, office supplies, and cleaning items. Go ahead and find a box you can use for your collection and get it ready for the season of Advent. We will plan to have families bring in their Advent boxes on Christmas Eve, or soon after. More information will be coming!



## 3. "Host a Tree" Collection

for the Compassion Closet. This is in lieu of the former "Angel Tree" program which no longer exists in Knoxville. We will have an in-person tree, which will have needed items for new

families who are adopting or fostering children. We also plan to have a virtual wish-list option, similar to a Sign-up Genius, where you can sign up to buy needed items. These items will be collected through mid-December.

## Creative Expressions News

These are difficult time for children and youth, and engagement in theatre can provide a much needed artistic respite from the stressors of school and home. That's why it is important to the CEX Team to continue offering Sonshine Company for children and Journey7 for youth. These programs enable members to continue growing as actors and Christians, to continue challenging themselves, expressing their feelings, having fun and bonding with one another. These programs enable members to focus on something other than the daily difficulties presented by the pandemic.

To illustrate the importance of J7 for the youth enrolled, I want to share a text we received from Matt last week.

*"So I have to share. A kid in my class came up to me after the class had ended and told me that she really was enjoying the class and said that she was feeling things she had never felt before with theatre. She also said that she struggles with anxiety and depression sometimes and it's really hard for her, but she thinks about the challenges in our acting class and says to herself if I can get through this then I can get through my anxiety. That theatre helps her cope. I nearly lost it."*

Sonshine Company workshops are happening virtually. Members are currently preparing skits to perform online and learning new music and dance steps. We are all learning about doing virtual musical theatre workshops as we go, but we get better as a troupe every week. Sonshine parents tell us that they have no difficulty getting their children to "sign in" for the workshops each week.

Thanks to the members of Erin for your support of CEX and our programs. Please continue to pray for all those involved. It feels good to us that we are making a difference for the children and youth that God has sent us to minister to in this stressful time. We hope it feels good to you as well.

Cynthia House

# Bridge Builders

## BRIDGEBUILDERS

Here is what Erin Bridge-Builders are saying:

"Through BridgeBuilders, I have learned to listen more deeply and speak less often. For a non-stop talker like me, such lessons are critical, especially during contentious times. Secondly, as a 'Child of the South,' I am beginning to see the world through others' eyes and not just my own. So...I'm more than ¾'s of a century old and still learning! I challenge my younger Erin friends to join in and learn with me. Commit an hour each Wednesday to growing together. Bridge-Builders is a safe place to share perspectives and to learn from one another." - Pat Wallin

"I always thought of racism as an individual thing, but the BridgeBuilders series is revealing to me the hidden, but equally devastating ways people of color have been at a disadvantage in spite of laws meant to eliminate bias. Yes, racism can be overt, but its subtle, everyday expressions are just as damaging."

- Kim Jaynes

"BridgeBuilders has helped me understand the pervasive racism that exists in the US, white fragility, and the inherent advantage that Caucasian Americans have over other races in the US. I have learned some good techniques for having contentious conversations." - Randy Sarles

"I was unhappy to learn what a poor listener I am. I suspected it but didn't realize how important this skill is for communicating successfully. I have a habit of interrupting a speaker as we converse because I want to express my point before I forget it. I also fail to listen the entire time that he/she speaks because I'm formulating what I want to say. I want to improve and strive for the 'cooperative conversations' that we learned about in one of our sessions. I want to listen with my eyes, my ears and my heart." - Janice James

"I have learned so much from BridgeBuilders. The first thing that comes to mind is when [guest moderator]



Diane Cain said that she made a five-page contract with her grandson about driving after giving him a car. I thought that was quite cute and funny. Then after she told a bit about what was in the contract, I felt so stupid and thoughtless. It was all about keeping his hands on the steering wheel when stopped by an officer! At the gathering at John Knox, I realized that with so many different life experiences, we must have different ways of looking at the same thing. We may agree on the same issues but have gotten there a different way."

- Brooks Eggers

"BridgeBuilders has helped me to temper my political discussions and in politics to only debate policy, with positivity and active listening no degrading a side or a politician. I has reminded me that Communication is in listening first, speaking second, and to only speak when a clear helpful thought can be made. No tearing down and no name calling. Also my favorite new saying: 'Do not read the comments' in social media where others say many things they would never say to others face to face. [I am] still trying to master that discipline, realizing that social media often provides ill-advised false courage." - Karen Stump

## What could you learn from BridgeBuilders?

How could it help you become a more compassionate speaker and listener? A better ambassador for Jesus Christ? Please contact Kellan Sarles if you would like to join this or a future BridgeBuilders class. [sarleskellan@gmail.com](mailto:sarleskellan@gmail.com)