



Birthdays

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| 1 Kim Jaynes | 13 Elliott Blanchette | 16 Mollie Gunter |
| 1 Madeline Griffin | 13 Eleanor Jaynes | 19 Ian Bone |
| 9 Mary Franz | 13 Bayard Erskine | 19 John Stuart |
| 10 Randy Sarles | 14 Mike Massengill | 25 Cynthia House |
| 11 Ripley Linkous | 14 Kenleigh Pennington | 26 Happy Hilty |
| 11 Steve Foster | 16 Maggie Gunter | 31 Glenda King |

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS, EVERYONE!

Visit us at: www.erinpres.org to catch up on news,
give an offering, and read John's devotions!

To: «Agnes Kirby»
«8007 Ball Camp Pike»
«Knoxville» «TN» «37931»

Erin Presbyterian Church
200 Lockett Rd. Knoxville, TN 37919
865.588.5350 www.erinpres.org



*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,
he is a new creation.
The old has passed away;
behold, the new has come.”
2 Corinthians 5:17*

Dear Friends,

Spring appears to be just around the corner and with it the promise of new life. I’m sure we’re all looking forward to brighter days and fairer weather. Already the crocuses, daffodils, and tulips are beginning to push through the ground. Within a couple of weeks, their colors will brighten our gardens and bless our days. The bulbs which have remained dormant for a while will produce some beautiful flowers to please our eyes and give us hope for a new season.

The church has been a bit like those dormant bulbs over the last year. We’ve been patiently waiting for the opportunity to safely come back together in the sanctuary to praise God, as well as seeing one another in-person. This whole pandemic experience has been hard to bear, but God has kept us united through our online services, special CDs, Facebook posts, emails, and regular newsletters. This time last year, we didn’t know what we were facing and a fearful

shadow came over the whole world. Now we know what the pandemic is and it appears that we are almost ready to be together again. I don’t know about you, but that is part of my daily prayers and constant hope.

I like what the apostle Paul had to write about being a new creation in Christ. Jesus does change all of us for the better and in such a way that our lives can be transformed. When we gather together for the first time, we will all have been changed by Christ, so our church, our congregation, and all of our people will not just be getting back to where we were, we will be moving forward to where God needs us to be. We may have been dormant for a while, but the brightness of our faith and the beauty of our church will blossom again with new life.

May God bless all of your hopes and dreams. May He gather us together again soon.

Pastor John

Connections

CONNECTIONS CLASS

Every Sunday, Pastor Stuart teaches a Bible class which is currently taking place online via the Zoom platform. At the moment, the class is studying the Sunday sermon Gospel passages a week ahead of the pastor preaching them on Sundays. Class members discuss the selected text with the pastor and offer their questions, ideas, and suggestions about what it means to them. It's a great way to study the Bible, share its meaning, and discover ways to apply it in our lives.

During these uncertain times, it's very comforting to look at the Gospels and be given guidance from what Jesus says or does. The class is open to anyone who wants to learn more about the Bible and draw

closer to Christ. It starts at 9:15am on Sundays and concludes around 10:00am.

If you would like to participate or receive the weekly lesson, just contact April (admin@erinpresbyterian.org) and she will add you to the Connections Class email group. The pastor will send out the weekly lesson by email, along with the Zoom link.

The lessons for March are as follows:

- 07 John 3:14-21** **What is God's Love?**
- 14 John 12:20-33** **Looking for Jesus**
- 21 Mark 11:1-11** **What is Palm Sunday?**
- 28 Mark 16:1-8** **What is Easter all about?**

March Events

SUNDAYS

9:30am Online Worship Service
 9:15am Connections Zoom
 9:30am Hard Sayings Zoom
 9:30am Living in Faith Zoom
 9:30am HS SS Zoom
 9:30am MS SS Zoom
 9:30am Children's SS Zoom
 5pm MS Group

MONDAYS

7pm High School Youth Group

WEDNESDAYS

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

THURSDAYS

10am PW Lent Study

FRIDAYS

12pm Staff Mtg (1st and 3rd Friday of the month)

SATURDAYS

10am Journey 7

INDIVIDUAL TEAM MEETINGS

1st 7pm Worship Meeting
2nd 7pm Fellowship and Discipleship Meetings
7th 12pm Stewardship and Outreach, 12:30pm CEX
8th Property Meeting
15th -19th **SPRING BREAK**
OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE WEEK
Journey 7 meets only 1 time after Spring Break: Saturday the 27th
15th 7pm MIT Zoom
21st 12:30pm OH&C
 2pm Visitor Follow-up

March Volunteers

	FEBRUARY 7TH	FEBRUARY 14TH	FEBRUARY 21ST	FEBRUARY 28TH
GUIDE	Stacie Armsworth and Girls	Randy and Kellan Sarles	Dave and Sara Leckie	Andy and Kelsey Sarles
READER	John and Cynthia House	Don and Linda Quinley	Cathy Van Ostrand Kelly Boyd	Yvette and Kids Freter
CHILDREN'S SERMON	John Stuart	Joy Bornhoeft	Kelly Boyd	Mary Virginia Paletta
BIRTHDAY VIDEO	Kelcey Levering	Pat Wallin	Lisa Parker	Cathy Van Ostrand

WordPlayers

A Video Presentation of The WordPlayers' original Black History Show, *The Ends We Seek*, is available for viewing through March 10.

THE ENDS WE SEEK is historical fiction, which moves between actual events in the 19th and 20th centuries. The play illustrates how major historical events - Lincoln's election and Emancipation Proclamation, as well as the movement for civil rights inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. - impacted the lives of ordinary individuals and families. A mother and a son, in two different centuries, play out the average person's struggle with life in a dysfunctional society rife with racism. Scenes of daily life play out against a backdrop of history and lead us through moments where national, social, and political turmoil have lasting and powerful effects on ordinary families. It personalizes and humanizes the experience of ordinary people swept up in the events of history. (length app. 45 minutes)

For details, please see: <http://wordplayers.org/current-season/touring-shows/black-history-month-touring-show/>

Things to Note...

back to church

WHEN WILL WE REOPEN?

Session and our Reopening team are actively working on this and we may have good news soon. The positive rate for Covid infections is coming down quickly, so let's hope and pray that this continues due to more vaccinations being given and for our local folks to keep practicing safety precautions. Watch out for a special letter, email, and Facebook post with details. 😊



POD GROUPS - NOW WHAT DO I DO

Last month, you should have received a letter about your household becoming part of a pod group in the church. We set this up to keep everyone connected to other folks in the congregation who live near to one another. Every pod group is inter-generational and the hope is that pod members will regularly pray for one another, especially during this unsettling time.

Some pods may have someone willing to act as a point person who will try to keep in contact with everyone. Other pods may use email or texts to communicate with each other. Some others may send birthday cards, 'thinking of you' notes, or even 'get-well' cards during a time of illness. How the pods work will be determined by the pod group. Hopefully, when we get back together in person for worship and other events, pod

members will know one another better. If anyone has any ideas to strengthen pod connections, let us know at the church office and we'll pass on your ideas to the other pods. God bless you all as you bless and support one another. 😊



Are you having difficulty signing up for the Covid 19 Vaccination? Would you appreciate another set of eyes and ears to help you track down the facilities that are offering the vaccine?

If so, a few of our tech-savvy Erin folks would like to be of assistance. Please call the church (865) 588-5350 and leave your name and telephone number, and a member of our Covid 19 sign-up team will contact you.

Something New @ Erin Church

SUNDAYS AT SEVEN

The pastor is going to start a new Zoom group at 7PM on Sunday evenings, beginning on March 7th. It will be a weekly check-in with one another, as well as a time to discuss and reflect on the worship service and sermon for that day. If you would like to participate in this group, just email April (admin@erinpresbyterian.org) and she'll add you to the new group's email list. The pastor will then send out the weekly link via email.

Spring Break & BB



OFFICE CLOSED FOR WEEK OF SPRING BREAK

You heard it here first, folks! It's been a loooong year and the staff are taking Spring Break week off. If you have a question that week that needs to be answered, email April, admin@erinpresbyterian.org and I'll get back with you.

John will be out of state on vacation, so please only reach out to him if you have an *actual emergency*. If an emergency occurs, you can call him on his cell phone at: 865-454-3942.

Otherwise, we're headed out to get a tan and we wish you a happy, healthy Spring Break! Bon voyage! Sayonara! Au revoir! Cheerio!



This session of BridgeBuilders offers participants a chance to be "Pilgrims Together", Christians who seek to know and understand more about their own denomination, but who are also curious about what other Christians believe and how other Christians practice their faith.

Four weeks into the course, we have talked about how religious beliefs originate and change over time; how the Presbyterian church came into being during the reformation, evolved and branched out; what Presbyterians (USA)

believe and how PCUSA is representative of other mainline protestant churches.

We were privileged to spend an evening with mission partners Dan and Elizabeth Turk, hearing about the church's mission in the world, specifically in Madagascar.

In the coming weeks, we will hear from Reverend Cleo Brooks from the Greater Warren AME Zion, a historically Black church with a unique history. We'll also hear from representatives of an evangelical church and a Roman Catholic congregation.

We will explore differences in theology, sacraments, leadership, worship, and witness. Even more, we want to know why Christians who read the same bible do not share the same understandings and positions on the political and ethical issues of our time.

As pilgrims, we are called to be Bridge-Builders Repairers of the breach. We are called to respect and honor one another, and to listen. But, like first century Christians, we are also called to discern the will of God for our own lives and for the church. We are to seek higher ground and find the common good. It is not easy.

If you would like to join our discussions, you need only email Kellan Sarles to be added to the mailing list (sarleskellan@gmail.com). You will be warmly welcomed by all!

Outreach

LENT COLLECTION BOXES

We'll keep working on our boxes through Easter Sunday. See the updated list for March - April 4th. Feel free to drop off at little at a time, or bring your box into the church on Easter Sunday.

March 1: Dry Erase Markers

March 2: Sandwich Ziploc Bags

March 3: Sharpie Markers

March 4: Box of pasta

March 5: Paper Plates

March 6: 30-Gallon Trash Bags

March 7: Bag of rice

March 8: Dish Detergent

March 9: Can of Soup

March 10: Peanut Butter

March 11: Span canned meat

March 12: Hand Soap

March 13: Can of vegetables

March 14: Canned chicken

March 15: Paper towels

March 16: Brillo Pads

March 17: Can of Spaghetti O's

March 18: Gallon Ziploc bags

March 19: Copy paper

March 20: Clorox wipes

March 21: Container of cooking oil

March 22: Paper bowls and/or cups

March 23: Toilet Paper

March 24: Bag of Corn Meal

March 25: Wide packing tape

March 26: Vienna Sausages

March 27: Can of chili

March 28: Lysol Spray

March 29: Manwich

March 30: Sheet Protectors

March 31: Can of fruit or vegetables

April 1: Envelopes-No. 10

April 2: Box of Pasta

April 3: Stamps

April 4: Plastic Forks, Spoons, Knives



We are preparing for our special offering, One Great Hour of Sharing, which is going to be collected on April 4, during the Easter service.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering is collected to support the Presbyterian Mission Agency in the following ways:

36% to the Presbyterian Hunger Program

32% to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

32% to self-development of people

For more information, go to PCUSA.org/oghs. You can donate to this collection in person, by mailing money to the church, designating it to OGHS, or by going to the church giving site online, and clicking on special offerings in the drop down menu. Type this into your browser: shorturl.at/lqstG

A NOTE FROM PASTOR MAMISOA

Just a quick update about my study. I just started my Spring course which is an independent study for me to do a literature review and draft a project proposal for my final dissertation. I have decided to work on a curriculum for women's empowerment using post-colonial feminist

Outreach & Youth

theories. By April, I will attend a workshop and will start the research for my final project. The research I am conducting may require my going to Madagascar in Summer which will be difficult at this time for many reasons but will see. I am grateful that I am at the final project stage and have about a year to finish before graduating by Dec 2022 or May 2023 at the latest. My husband, son, and daughter are continuing virtual learning at home too.

Also, I am taking this opportunity to confirm receipt of the \$1,000 scholarship sent to CTS this month. I am so thankful for the continuing support of Erin PC.

Thank you so much! Stay warm and blessed.
Mamisoa Rakotomalala

MIDDLE SCHOOL MONTREAT

Currently, plans are in place for the Montreat Middle School Conference to happen in person July 13-17. The Middle School Conference is designed for youth who have completed fifth, sixth, seventh, or eighth grade by summer 2020. The conference will be held at **Maryville College**, a PC(USA) affiliated private college, located in Maryville, Tennessee. The cost of the conference is \$415.00. If your youth is interested in attending this summer, please get in touch with Farrah Linkous at youth@erinpresbyterian.org.

HIGH SCHOOL MONTREAT

If you have not already let Farrah know of your interest in attending the Montreat High School Conference, please get in touch with her at this email: youth@erinpresbyterian.org and let her know you would like to attend.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL

MS Sunday School is at 9:30am via Zoom with Mrs. Stacie Armsworth. We are currently using the "Feasting on the Word" curriculum. The Feasting on the Word Curriculum follows the Revised Common Lectionary and allows everyone to explore the same Bible passage each week. This makes it easy for families to live out their faith together. This curriculum invites learners, from children through adults, into the rhythm of the church year.

HIGH SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays at 9:30am via Zoom with Miss Farrah Linkous - We are currently using the Faith Questions Series and are studying the lessons on Justice this month. This four-session study explores the questions:

"Who Exactly Are My Neighbors and Why Do I Have to Help Them?"

"Why Do I Have to Help People Who Aren't Willing to Work to Help Themselves?"

"Does God Really Expect Us to Stand Up for Things When Doing So Could Put Us In Danger?"

"God Wants Us to Help People, but Couldn't God Just Do It On God's Own?"

MS Youth Group - Sundays at 5:00pm via Zoom
HS Youth Group - Mondays at 7:00pm via Zoom

If you would like to join us for Sunday School or youth group, please email Farrah Linkous at youth@erinpresbyterian.org for the Zoom link to the sessions.