



August Birthdays

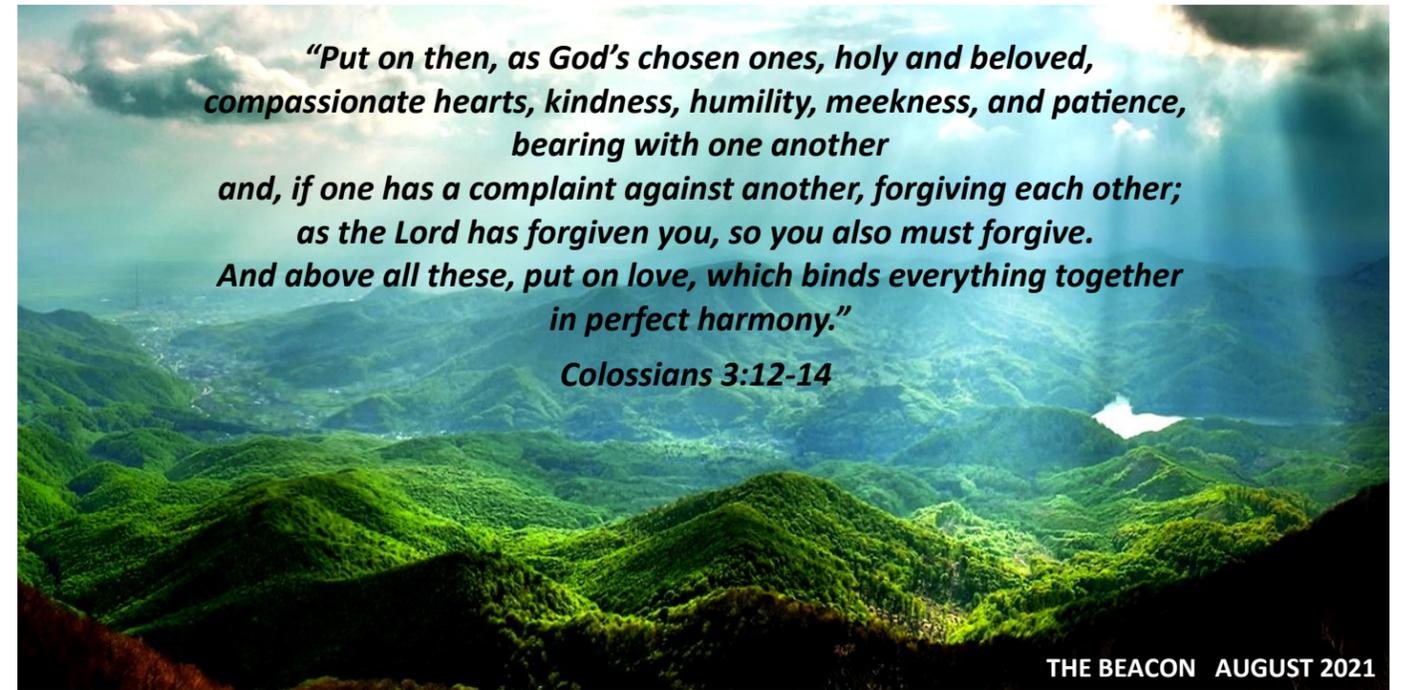
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|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 3 Agnes Kirby | 14 Mary Frierson | 24 Diane Geraci |
| 4 McKenzie Stump | 15 Keith Stump | 24 Lucy Cate |
| 6 Kevin Griffin | 17 Effie Fellers | 28 Don Gunter |
| 9 Lauren Stuart | 20 Ryan Blanchette | 30 Lynn Sexton |
| 9 Marcia Mechlin | 21 Kellan Sarles | 31 Lauren Gahan |

Happy August Birthday!

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

TO:

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



“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these, put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”

Colossians 3:12-14

THE BEACON AUGUST 2021

Dear Friends,

This time last year, our church was closed and all of our programs took place largely online. We were heading into one of the bleakest times of this pandemic, so it seemed very strange not to be able to gather together for worship, friendship, and laughter. It was as if the heart of the church had stopped and that everything we cherished as a congregation was gone. Greeting friends at the church door, talking to them before, during, and after worship were taken away from us and, since then, we have wondered if we can get back to where we once were.

It was also a time when we all were stressed out and worried about the future. Families divided among themselves and friendships became fractured. Misinformation about many things began to worm its way into the whole of our society and across the entire world. We didn’t know who or what to trust anymore and because we were without the constancy of the church, we let our worries and fears affect our faith, hopes, and lives. It was hard to experience and some of us fell out with one another, even though we had built up years of friendship and understanding.

Centuries ago, when Christians endured persecution, famine, and troubles, they also faced the same issues about returning to the church or re-integrating people

into their lives. Some of them built up resentment against those who had recanted their faith in order to save their lives; others were bitter about those who had just looked after themselves during times of famine and disease, instead of sharing their resources with the whole faithful community. It was a difficult time of transition and very hard for local churches to overcome. However, scripture verses like the ones highlighted above, which had been preserved in the New Testament, spoke to Christian folks and helped them to overcome their differences. Instead of hostility, congregations sought healing; rather than focus on resentment, Christians looked for restoration.

I think this is exactly what the post-pandemic church will be called and challenged to do and it’s precisely what our vision statement at Erin faithfully expresses:

Unified in Christ, we actively seek to create harmony in a diverse community through compassion, mutual respect, and love.

May God bless you and all whom you love.

Pastor John



Rally Day

A Sunday School Homecoming: August 15th, 9:30 - 10:30 Fellowship Hall

Rally Day is our annual kick-off to a new Sunday School Year! After a year and a half of Covid lockdowns, restrictions, on-line worship, and Zoom Sunday School we begin this year with renewed faith and hope for better days ahead! **So join us for a joyous homecoming as we return to in-person Sunday School on August 15th.**

All ages (children, youth, and adults) are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall:

9:30 am - coffee, juice, pastries and fellowship

10 am - Introduction to **Follow Me: Welcome All**, multi-age Sunday School curriculum

11 am - Worship in the Sanctuary

Nursery will be available upstairs during both Sunday School and Worship for children 4 years old and younger.

Beginning on August 22nd, all ages will meet in their respective classrooms for the Sunday School hour.

“WELCOME ALL”



We are trying something new for Sunday School this year - for the first month, all ages (children, youth, and adults) will be using the same curriculum and studying the same bible stories. We'll be using a new

multi-age study developed by PCUSA called **Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living.**

Following Jesus is a lifelong journey where we learn and do what Jesus said and did. It takes more than the head, checking off boxes of belief. It even takes more than the heart, feeling deeply about another person or a cause. Following Jesus is about these things and more. It is also about doing. And it takes practice, practice, practice. But, unlike an Olympic athlete, we are not practicing for perfection - we are practicing to put faith and love into action!

For the first month of Sunday School, we will explore the practice of hospitality and welcome through a series of 4 lessons titled **“Welcome All.”** If Christians are known for anything, it is how we welcome others. Greeters welcome visitors and members to worship with a smile and a handshake or hug. Churches enthusiastically proclaim that all are welcome to our worship community. Hospitality is not a choice for Christians. It is part of our covenant with God. God welcomes us, and we are to welcome others. All others!

So join us on this 4 week journey as we learn about and practice biblical hospitality:

1 Welcome Others as God Welcomes You

Genesis 1 and 2

2 See Christ in Every Person

Matthew 25:31-46

3 Know Your Gifts

Luke 10:38-42

4 Challenge Othering

Luke 7:36-50



A fundamental truth about hospitality is that we can welcome others only because we have first been welcomed and had a place prepared for us by God.



Choir, Handbells & Sunset Gap

CHOIR BEGINS AUGUST 25TH

Our long pandemic blackout is coming to an end, and the choir will return to providing anthems in Worship on September 12. It's time to start singing again! **THE CHOIR NEEDS YOU!**

No formal vocal training is required ... just a willingness to learn and an eagerness to lift your voice in praise. We welcome all ages, from high school students to senior adults!

We believe that God is worshipped in many ways. Consequently, the Choir performs a wide variety of music, from classical to contemporary. More importantly, we strive to have fun with the music and with each other. In addition to singing, we share joys and concerns and support one another with prayer and compassion each week.

Sounds like fun, doesn't it? Come join us and experience it for yourself. We practice Wednesday nights from 7:30-8:30 pm starting August 25.

HANDBELL PRACTICE

We're B-A-A-A-C-K!!!

Joyful Sounds Handbell Ensemble is once again making music, after being silent for over a year because of the pandemic.

Our enthusiastic band of ringers returned to rehearsal on June 9th and celebrated with balloons and cookies. Since it had been “a while” since we had touched a bell, a bit of reviewing was in order, but it didn't take long to revive that muscle memory. What a joy it was seeing all those smiling faces making music together again!

We hope you will join us on August 15 when Joyful Sounds will ring for our Rally Day worship service. We are anxious to see YOUR smiling face once again back in our sanctuary praising God and thanking him for bringing us through this past difficult year. See you then!

SUNSET GAP

2020-2021

We are enjoying good weather, exceptional staff, and eager chaperones and campers. We planned early this year for Camp with Covid-19 precautions in place. As of June 2021, we have had 11 groups and 219 campers.

Our Thrift Store is open and thriving. Every day is Quarter day, and the hours are Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, 9am to 2pm. The Thrift Store Overflow room has a new facelift, new ceiling and lights installed by Crestview Presbyterian Church.

We have volunteers/board members that have coordinated numerous yard sales during 2021.

We have been blessed to have an addition built onto our food pantry. This should be complete and ready to fill by the end of August. We're in the process of being able to purchase a walk-in Cooler and Freezer, as well. This has been a vision for several years and through faith it will become a reality. We have been using home freezers and refrigerators and our truck as a freezer for years. This has been made possible by many donors.

In 2020 I was diagnosed with Breast Cancer and my husband suffered a massive stroke in Feb. I am, by the grace of God, in remission. Through His grace I was able to continue at Sunset Gap, while taking chemotherapy, surgery, and radiation. Our God is so wonderful.

My husband is on hospice, but we are thankful for the time that we have and that I can continue to serve at Sunset Gap and share my testimony with groups and provide for the Appalachian people.

BridgeBuilders & Events

WILL YOU BE A BRIDGEBUILDER?

About this time last year - separated by disease and fear - Erin members and community participants came together virtually to learn how to span the differences that kept us apart. Amid almost daily reports of racial division and violence, we learned how to draw near to, and love, our Black brothers and sisters. This spring, when churches and denominations remained at odds over when and how to reopen, we heard from a variety of pastors and missionaries, opening our minds to different theological understandings and worship practices. Through the wizardry of technology and by the power of God's Spirit, we learned to be bridge-builders when all around us the world seemed to be collapsing.

Of all participants, I surely learned the most. Notably, that God's word commands us to (1) share the good news and (2) be agents of God's justice and mercy in the place where we are planted. These are the twin assignments Christ's followers are given whether we choose to call them "outreach," "evangelism," "stewardship," or "social action" or "feeding God's sheep."

In the words of theologian Don Carson, "Because [the gospel] is powerful, it not only reconciles us to God, but transforms us, and that necessarily shapes our behavior, priorities, values, relationships with people, and much more. These are not optional extras for the extremely sanctified, but entailments of the gospel."

Will you become a bridge-builder? This fall's BridgeBuilders course will look at the economic divide, and at the many faces of poverty in Knox County and overseas. What is God calling us to understand, to pray for, to do, and to be? How can a "wee church" and its individual members leverage God's power to make life better for those who have so little?

The first session will take place on Zoom beginning **September 13th at 7:00 PM**, and continue every

Monday evening through December 20th.

If you are new to Zoom, we will gladly walk you through it. All sessions are recorded for those who miss a session.

Please watch for upcoming instructions for enrolling in the course on Erin's website (mid-August). Once enrolled, you will receive weekly readings and further information.

I ask for your prayers as I work with others to design a course that will draw us closer to God and to His children.

Sincerely, *Kellan*

AUGUST MEETINGS/EVENTS

SUNDAYS

Worship Service
9:30am Sunday School

WEDNESDAYS

6:30pm Handbells
6:30pm Journey 7
6:30pm Sonshine
7:30pm Choir

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS/MEETINGS

6th 12pm Staff Meeting
8th 12pm Outreach
9th 6pm Property and 7pm Stewardship
10th 7pm Discipleship
12th 7pm Worship Team
15th 9:30am RALLY DAY!
2pm Visitor Follow-up
19th 7pm Session Meeting
25th 7:30pm Choir Begins
29th 12pm Congregational Mtg.

What Is Your Ministry?

SERVING WITH AMACHI - YVETTE FRETER & FAMILY

In Knoxville, 4,400 children have at least one parent in jail, so my family and I decided to put our faith into action three years ago and mentor a child whose dad was incarcerated and whose mom wanted to help her son in any way she could. We have been blessed by being able to humbly leverage our privilege and love for his sake.

Why Amachi:

Statistically, without intervention, children with an incarcerated parent are 70% more likely to follow in the same footsteps.

Amachi is helping to break this cycle. They help children address barriers, impact their future and challenge the cycle of incarceration by providing them with friendship through a caring adult mentor.

Requirements:

- 19+ years of age (18+ for group mentors)
- Enrollment to include a Background Check
- 12 month commitment (9 for group mentors)
- 4-6 activity hours per month (1hr/week for group mentors)

Helpful links

<https://amachi.klf.org/>

<https://amachi.klf.org/become-a-mentor/meet-and-greet-request/>

Open the camera on your phone and place it over this QR code to sign up to volunteer.



Or visit this link:
<https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5553862/Mentor-Volunteer-Application>

WHAT IS YOUR MINISTRY?

Fifteen short verses in the 25th chapter of Matthew spells out, in no uncertain terms, what Disciples of Christ are expected to do. On the Day of Judgment, those who inherit the Kingdom will be those who truly served their God. "For I was hungry," God will say from his throne, "and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. . . . Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."

No clearer statement could explain how Christians are to engage in the world around them. In 2016 and again in 2018, the PC(USA) General Assemblies exhorted the denomination to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned, or poor. It was an urgent call to be a church of action, where God's love, justice and mercy shine forth and are contagious. In that spirit, Erin is asking God how we can best serve our brothers and sisters in this place and time.

As a starting point, **you are invited to tell us about the various service ministries you, our members, are already engaged in – whether an organized effort like Meals on Wheels, or a personal initiative. We encourage you to submit a short description of the ministry you are called to, why this ministry is important to you, and how others can support it or participate in it. Each month, our newsletter readers will hear about one or more opportunities to love God and serve his children.**

We know that being hearers of the Word is not enough. We must believe and act on the gospel message. Matthew 25 calls us to action.

-Kellan Sarles

Children's Ministry

Mom's Morning Out Certified Detectives



**In-person Sunday School returns
August 15th, 9:30 - 10:30 am
in the Fellowship Hall**

All ages are invited to join us!!

9:30am Coffee, juice, pastries and fellowship

10am Elementary Age children dismissed to their classrooms in the Family Life Center Youth and Adults remain in Fellowship Hall for an introduction to the new **"Welcome All"** Sunday School Curriculum

11am Worship in the Sanctuary

Nursery will be available upstairs for all children 4 years old and younger.

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Volunteer Schedules

OUTDOOR WORSHIP			INDOOR WORSHIP			
	AUGUST 1ST	AUGUST 8TH		AUGUST 15TH	AUGUST 22ND	AUGUST 29TH
GUIDE	Yvette Freter	Duane Parker	GREETERS	Nehemiah Freter	Susan Miller	David Eggers
READER	Yvette Freter	Duane Parker	GUIDE	Kelcey Levering	Erin McCallum	Elaina Wood
USHERS	Jenny Boyd Ella Levering	David Eggers Dave Leckie	READER	Rob Levering	Diana Brandon	Rose Freter
COUNTERS	Craig Strand Joe Jaynes	Neill M. Ian Bone	USHERS	Jim Montgomery Jim and Ginger Thompson	Kellan Sarles Randy Sarles Duane Parker	Brooks Eggers Kim and Dusty Pennington
NURSERY (on call)	Elaina Wood	Kenleigh P.	COUNTER	David Eggers Joe Jaynes	Rickey McCallum John House	Ian Bone Neill Murphy
			NURSERY	Kellan Sarles	Lizzy Freter	Lahla Deakins

ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES					
	AUGUST 1ST	AUGUST 8TH	AUGUST 15TH	AUGUST 22ND	AUGUST 29TH
GUIDE	Yvette and Kids Freter	Don and Linda Quinley	Suzanne and Kelcey Levering	Stacie and Girls Armsworth	Randy and Kellan Sarles
READER	Andy and Kelsey Sarles	Rickey and Erin McCallum	Robbie and Ella Levering	John and Cynthia House	Don and Linda Quinley
CHILDREN'S SERMON	Pastor Stuart	Joy Bornhoeft	Kelly Boyd	Mary Virginia P.	Pastor Stuart