

# September Birthdays

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

Happy Birthday To You!

Visit us at: [www.erinpres.org](http://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](http://www.erinpres.org)



**Psalm 31:24**

***“Be strong and take heart,  
all you who hope in the Lord.”***

Dear Friends,

In the last week of September of 1877, our wee church was established by a group of people who wanted to start a Presbyterian Church in the Bearden area. It was a remarkable act of faith in the midst of some turbulent times. The Civil War had ended twelve years previously and the policy of reconstruction was about to end. Nobody really knew what lay ahead of them and they were living in precarious times and yet, that small band of families laid the foundation for a small church that has existed in three different centuries.

If I had a time machine, I would love to go back and thank them for their vision and tenacity. I'd love to pray with them and tell them that thousands of folks through the years would be affected by their decision and inspired by their initial act of faith. It was a remarkable start of a religious venture in a very critical time, but they persisted and persevered; they came through times of plague, hunger, poverty, civil unrest, and wars; now we have been left with the church that they founded and built so long ago.

I guess what I'm trying to express is that in uncertain times like our own, the strength of our faith together can push, pull, and get us through anything that we face. Pandemics are not new; unrest is not unknown; divisions are not unfamiliar to us, and differences have been going on since the world began. The faithful folks of 1877 look down upon us as our faithful cloud of witnesses and are urging us on to persevere, to pull together, and to follow the path that they started so long ago. I believe they're telling us that we can do it, so that six years from now, we can celebrate their vision and endurance when we mark 2027 as our one hundred and fiftieth year.

So, let's be like our faithful ancestors. Like them, let's be strong and take heart by placing our hopes and dreams in God. We are Erin Presbyterian – big enough to make a difference, small enough to know our names. 😊

May God bless you and all your loved ones.

Pastor John

# Connections & BreadBreakers

## CONNECTIONS CLASS

During September, all of our adult and youth Sunday school classes will combine for the first two weeks to study and discuss the new PCUSA Curriculum Follow Me: Welcome All. Those classes will be held in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30AM to 10:30AM in the Fellowship Hall. As the title suggests, everyone is welcome to attend the class. From the third Sunday in September, Pastor Stuart will continue his weekly Connections class in the Noah's Ark Room and pick up his presentation on the Letter of Hebrews, beginning at chapter 8. The class will study and discuss a new chapter each Sunday. As well as meeting in-person (so long as the local Covid stats do not get too high), the pastor will attempt to teach the class on Zoom at the same time.

Each Connections Class study will begin at 9:30AM. Material for the class is emailed to participants each week on Thursdays or Fridays. The material is also made available on our Facebook Community page at that time, too.

## SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER SERMON SERIES

Do you remember the vows that you took when you joined the church? Are you ready to become part of our congregational membership? Are you willing to recommit your faith to God through the ministries and missions that we undertake and fulfill at Erin Presbyterian?

Beginning on the second Sunday in September, Pastor Stuart will incorporate the four membership vows into the weekly sermons. Each Sunday will have a different membership vow to contemplate and at the end of the series, all of our members will be asked to recommit their vows, along with any regular visitors who wish to become members on the first Sunday in October. After such a critical time, it will be good to remember what we once promised to God when we joined the church, as well as experiencing a time of renewal and reconnection which we all need in our lives.

So, come join us for worship on Sundays and get back to being with God's people!

## BREADBREAKERS IS BACK!

On Saturday, September 25, at 6:30 we will resume our tradition of Breadbreakers....it has been way too long!

Our first dinner will be held at the church instead of individual homes as we are still honoring the restrictions of Covid-19, so we will be dining on the portico with socially distanced tables. As always, we will have a main dish and ask that everyone bring along a side dish to share. It will be a "dry evening" since we are meeting at the church...we can adjust!!

There will be sign up sheets in the bulletins the first 3 Sundays in September and we will coordinate the dishes during that last week.

Please include your email addresses on the sheet in case there have been any changes. And remember that all adults are welcome to attend these dinners. **You don't have to be able to host a future event.....**just come and enjoy some good food and fellowship for an evening.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email Diana at [dmarybrandon49@gmail.com](mailto:dmarybrandon49@gmail.com).

## CHOIR WANTS YOU!

Choir will return to providing anthems in Worship on September 12. It's time to start singing again!

No formal vocal training is required, just a willingness to lift your voice in praise. We welcome high school students to senior adults!

Choir performs a wide variety of music, from classical to contemporary. More importantly, we strive to have fun with the music and 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 7:30-8:30pm.

# Volunteers & Events

## SUNDAY MORNING VOLUNTEERS

SEPTEMBER 5TH	SEPTEMBER 12TH	SEPTEMBER 19TH	SEPTEMBER 26TH
<b>GREETERS</b>	<b>GREETERS</b>	<b>GREETERS</b>	<b>GREETERS</b>
Dave Leckie Susan Miller	David and Brooks Eggers	Jenny Boyd Jim Montgomery	Joanne Clelland Jim Thompson
<b>GUIDE</b>	<b>GUIDE</b>	<b>GUIDE</b>	<b>GUIDE</b>
Neill Murphy	Kelcey Levering	John House	Erin McCallum
<b>READER</b>	<b>READER</b>	<b>READER</b>	<b>READER</b>
Evelyn Stuart	Yvette Freter	Joe Jaynes	Diana Brandon
<b>USHERS</b>	<b>USHERS</b>	<b>USHERS</b>	<b>USHERS</b>
Christa Mueller Ginger Thompson Jim Thompson	Rob Levering Kelcey Levering Ella Levering	Elaina Wood Dusty and Kim Pennington	Rickey McCallum Randy Sarles Kellan Sarles
<b>COUNTERS</b>	<b>COUNTERS</b>	<b>COUNTERS</b>	<b>COUNTERS</b>
Neill Murphy Ian Bone	David Eggers Joe Jaynes	John House Craig Strand	Rickey McCallum Ian Bone
<b>NURSERY</b>	<b>NURSERY</b>	<b>NURSERY</b>	<b>NURSERY</b>
Kenleigh Pennington	Kathryn Bornhoeft	Ella Levering	Lizzy Freter

## ONLINE SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

	SEPTEMBER 5TH	SEPTEMBER 12TH	SEPTEMBER 19TH	SEPTEMBER 26TH
<b>GUIDE</b>	Dave and Sara Leckie	Andy and Kelsey Sarles	Rickey and Erin McCallum	Rob and Kelcey Levering
<b>READER</b>	Cathy Van Ostrand Kelly Boyd	Yvette Freter and Kids	Randy and Kellan Sarles	Suzanne and Ella Levering

## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

### SUNDAYS

9:30am Sunday School and Connections Class  
11am Worship Service

### WEDNESDAYS

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

### INDIVIDUAL EVENTS/MEETINGS

6th LABOR DAY - Office Closed  
7th 7pm Discipleship  
9th 7pm Worship Team  
10th 12pm Staff Meeting  
12th 12pm Outreach  
13th 6pm Property  
7pm BridgeBuilders

16th 7pm Session  
19th 12pm Stewardship and Visitor Follow-Up  
25th 6:30pm BreadBreakers

# Outreach & Youth

washer and dryer, printers and computers anyone can use, and lots of space for hanging out including a large porch and backyard with picnic tables. They offer worship, interfaith dialogue, mission and retreat opportunities, and small group experiences. Food ministry has been critical. Free Tuesday lunches are sponsored by local churches and all are welcome for dinner and Bible study one evening a week. Leftovers and sandwich fixings are always available, as well.

Erin members may remember Tricia Dillon Thomas, the director of Hope House, who led our church-wide retreat at John Knox Center a few years ago.

## KARM

*"When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very corners of your field...you shall leave them for the needy and for the stranger."*  
Leviticus 23:22

Corners of Your Field is a partnership opportunity between local churches and KARM that encourages us to be intentional about donating gently used household items to KARM Stores. KARM then returns a portion of the value of these items to each church through gift cards that can be given to anyone in need.

"The pandemic definitely contributed to a lot of decluttering," according to Cindy Sullivan, president of the nonprofit Institute for Challenging Disorganization, as quoted in the latest issue of *Consumer Reports*. Apparently Erin folks did quite a bit of cleaning out because from April through June of this year, 38 donations to KARM Stores were credited to Erin Presbyterian Church. Through the Corners of Your Field program we received \$120 in KARM gift cards, which Erin gives to individuals and families in need. Some recipients come by the church office looking for help; cards are also given to foster parents and to seniors, families, and disabled residents of low-income housing.

Proceeds from sales at KARM stores support

KARM's work in our community. In keeping with their mission statement—*Seeking to rescue the poor and needy in Jesus' name*—KARM initially supplies rescue services of food and shelter by practicing biblical hospitality. They serve three meals a day to homeless and other people in crisis and offer a safe and warm place to sleep for more than 300 men, women, and children each night, including those fleeing domestic violence. Through their other programs, they work to break the cycle of homelessness and restore people to their community and to God through faith in Jesus. The four-week LaunchPoint program is a first step toward employment and independent living. CityNights offers worship and community in the KARM courtyard three nights a week. The 9 to 12-month-long Berea program focuses on learning, community service, and employment. See the KARM website for information on these and other KARM programs Erin supports through our Outreach budget.

How can you help? To participate in Corners of the Field, the process is simple. Just drop off gently used items at a KARM Store, using the drive-up lane. When the KARM Stores employee asks the name of your church, request Erin Presbyterian as the beneficiary of your donations. You can still take advantage of the tax deduction for every gift to KARM Stores. It's a great way to pass on things you no longer need and help others at the same time.

## YOUTH GROUP IS BACK!

We will resume meeting for youth group in person after Labor Day. Middle School and High School groups will meet together initially and masks will be required while inside the church building. We will get together to play some games, make plans for a youth-led worship service and start working On the Faith Questions series In the Old Testament. I'll be emailing more details soon, so if you are in 6th-12th grade, please send me your email so that you will be sure to get all of our youth information.

[youth@erinpresbyterian.org](mailto:youth@erinpresbyterian.org)

# Ministry & BridgeBuilders

## KNOX CO. MOBILE MEALS

Knox County Mobile Meals (part of CAC Office on Aging) delivers approximately 1,100 meals daily to residents over 60. I started volunteering through my job over 18 years ago. Over time, a monthly route became a weekly route, and then the corporate liaison to coordinate volunteers.

Most clients are unable to leave their home and/or live alone. While many are low income, a lot of recipients do pay what they can for meals. The program is much more than just food delivery 5 days per week, but also a means of contact with the outside world. You get to know your clients, and many times, you are the only social contact they will have throughout the day. Most importantly, Mobile Meals serves as a way to check on their well-being. Clients become friends, you learn their routines and behaviors, and can recognize when something is off or someone needs assistance.

Never has this been as necessary as during a pandemic. With people even more cut off from society, it's important to check on others and provide help when needed. After delivering thousands of meals over many years, I can honestly say that what my client friends have given me in return, far outweighs the small commitment of a couple of hours per week. Many people talk about helping others, and donations are great, but you're only truly rewarded by living it through your own actions. Anyone interested in volunteering, meals are delivered weekdays anytime between 10am and 1pm. Spots are available once a month, once a week, or whenever available. Feel free to contact me for more info!

-Rob Levering

*Here is a photo of Robbie Levering and Mayor Kincannon the day she rode along with him to deliver meals earlier this year.*

## BRIDGEBUILDERS

To enroll now for Fall 2021 ...  
Bridging the Gap: The Poor Among Us  
September 13th - December 13th  
Mon. evenings @ 7:00 pm, online via Zoom  
Go here: <https://www.erinpresbyterian.org/bridgebuilders/>

## Topics of Study

*What does the Bible say about poverty?*

*Who are the poor?*

*Going Hungry*

*Rural and Urban Poverty*

*The Homeless*

*Caught in the Cycle*

*Children in Poverty*

*Helping, not Harming*

Neither membership/attendance at Erin Presbyterian nor past participation in Bridge Builders is required. All you need is a phone or computer and a willingness to better understand and serve those who are less fortunate.

If you have questions, feel free to call Kellan at: (304) 887-2652



# Family Ministry

*Come Worship with Me*  
*A Journey through the Church Year*  
By Ruth Boling



## Ordinary Time

In between the special seasons at church there is Ordinary Time. The word "ordinary" here does not mean "common" or "not special." Instead, it refers to the "ordinal numbers" (first, second, third, etc.) used to name and count the Sundays (Second Sunday after Pentecost).

When we worship God during Ordinary Time we celebrate God's everyday blessings. A blessing is something given by God. Food is a blessing. Hope is a blessing. So are snow days, good friends, and whistling. Blessings are everywhere!

We can thank God for our blessings by serving Him! Jesus served God. He preached good news to poor people. He healed sick people. He made friends with people that nobody else liked. He showed God's love to all. Jesus was a great leader. He taught us to lead by serving.

There are many ways to serve. Here at church, we can serve as greeters, ushers, and readers. We can give an offering each week and donate food and supplies to local charities. We can call or mail cards to the sick and homebound.

What are your special gifts and how will you use them to serve God?



October 1 - 2  
John Knox Center  
Preteen Retreat

This annual retreat, for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders, is an excellent opportunity to meet preteens from other Presbyterian churches in our area and enjoy a day at the John Knox Center!

It serves as a stepping stone and transitional retreat for preteens who will soon age up into youth group and middle school retreats.

The optional Friday night sleepover in the cabins will be a time of fellowship with a campfire and s'mores!

The Saturday morning session will focus on a bible story theme with hands-on activities and games. The afternoon will be full of outdoor activities and crafts and will end with a closing session and worship.

More information to come soon! Contact Joy Bornhoeft at [cec@erinpresbyterian.org](mailto:cec@erinpresbyterian.org).



Sunday School  
Challenge  
Offering

The Discipleship Team is challenging everyone who attends Sunday School to give an offering each week during the 4-week "Welcome All" multi-age study.

There will be a collection jar in each classroom for you to give. The offering will be matched, dollar for dollar, by funds from Discipleship and the total offering will be donated to Sunset Gap Ministries. The last chance to give will be Sunday, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>.

Please consider meeting this challenge and giving a small offering each week in Sunday School.

# Outreach

## PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS

*May the God of peace grant you peace at all times in every way. -2 Thessalonians 3:16*

On Word Communion Sunday, October 3, our denomination collects the Peace and Global Witness Offering. Extending the peace of Christ is part of our active, engaged faith and symbolizes what it means for us to be the Church together. Half of the offering received at Erin will be used for peace and reconciliation work by Presbyterians across the globe, and 25 percent will be used by Presbyterian mid-councils to support peacemaking in our region. The other 25 percent will remain with our congregation, and Erin's Outreach team decides how it will be used in our local community to address the anxiety and discord that's been especially prevalent in recent years.

The verse above is from Paul's second letter to the church at Thessalonica during a time when the Christian community was persecuted so severely that some believed the time of God's judgment was imminent. It might have been daring enough for the young church to imagine peace at some time in the future. But when Paul wrote to the church, during a time of confusion, turmoil, and strife, it was a daring prayer to say the least.

It's a daring prayer for us, too. As God's people, though, we remember that we find our peace in Him. We won't always agree, but we are sisters and brothers nonetheless. Jesus challenges us to show the rest of the world that peace is possible even when we disagree, and even when we're surrounded by conflict. Christ's peace is truly for all times and all ways.

To donate to the Presbyterian Peace and Global Witness offering you can write a check and drop it in the offering plate on Sunday, October 3, using the special envelopes in the pew racks. You can mail your check, marked Peace and Global Witness Offering, to the church office. Or you can go to Erin's website [www.erinpres.org](http://www.erinpres.org), click on DONATE in the menu at

the top of the home page, and select "Special Offerings" in the Choose a Fund box. Either way, know that your gift will help spread Christ's much-needed peace in our community, our region, and around the world.

## CAMPUS MINISTRIES

It's back-to-school time! Finding a new faith home is one of the challenges our college kids t face. Erin supports three campus ministries, and we sent our fall semester contributions in August.

**UKirk UTK**, at UT Knoxville, offers a welcoming spiritual home to students. Carolyn Gahan from Erin reports, "We are going back to worshiping inside on Wednesday nights and we are able to have more fellowship gatherings as well. We have interfaith discussions during Seminary Light over lunch on Mondays, are starting a weekly book club, and UPerk, our coffee shop, has reopened! I am also excited to say that I am returning as the worship intern again. I am looking forward to working with Rachel again to cultivate a special worship experience for all of our students."

**Maryville College** is a highly ranked Presbyterian college in downtown Maryville. Michelle Waters, our nursery coordinator, graduated from Maryville College just over a year ago. Michelle participated in Expanding Horizons, a week-long summer theology institute, as a high school student and enrolled in college as a Church and College Scholar, a service-related program for PCUSA students supported in part by Erin's contributions. This past year Erin's contributions also helped the college upgrade production and technical equipment for live-streaming and recording worship services and campus ministry programs during the pandemic.

Erin also supports **Hope House, the UKirk ministry at UT Chattanooga**. The former Victorian house just a few blocks off campus has a coffee shop, free