

# FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

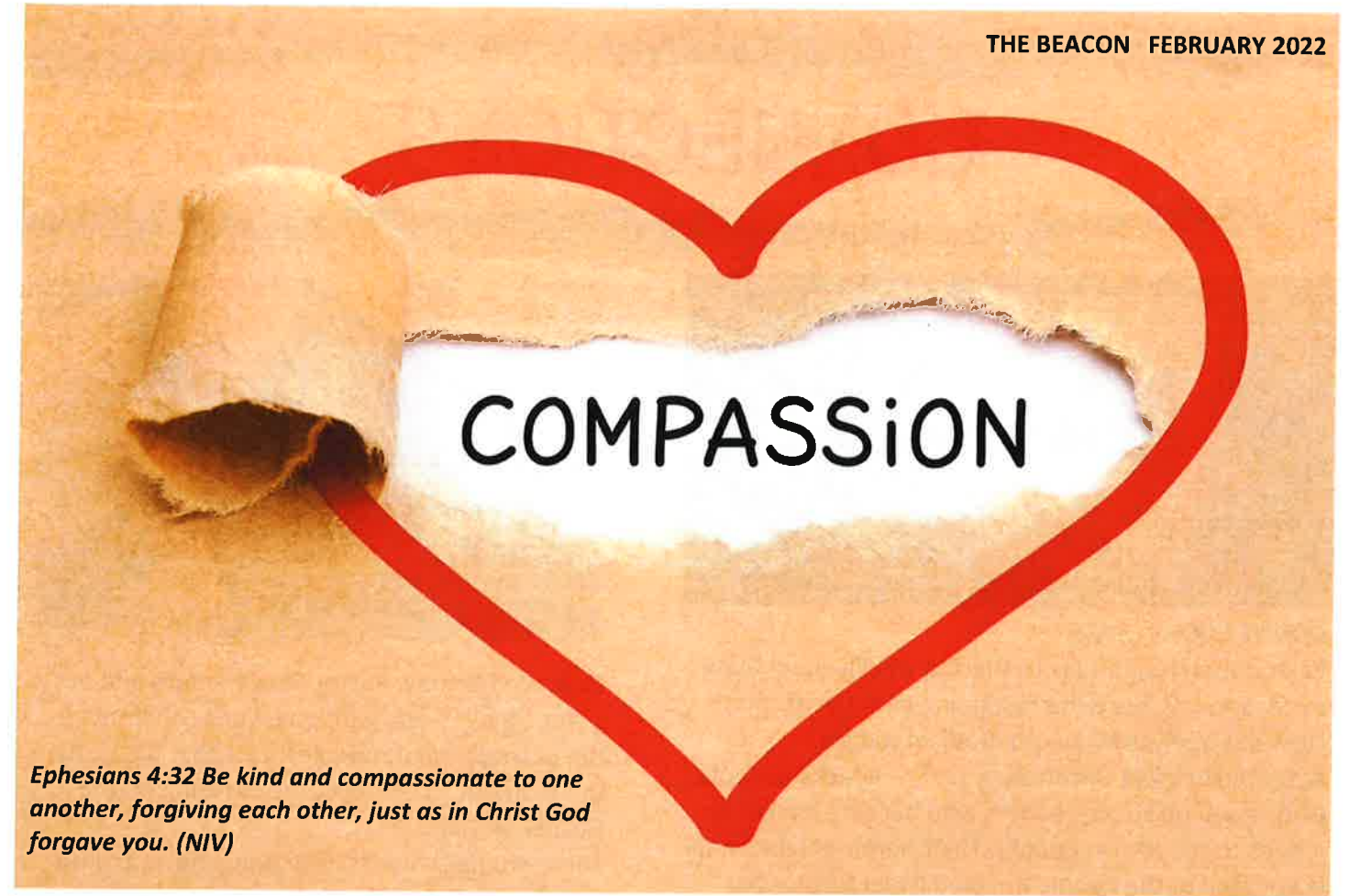
- |                   |                   |                    |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 2 Ginger Thompson | 12 Rose Armsworth | 20 Anna McKay      |
| 6 Neill Murphy    | 13 Dan Gibbs      | 27 Mike Cate       |
| 7 Lisa Osborne    | 14 Bette Brasher  | 28 Robbie Levering |
| 10 Eva Lynch      | 17 David McKay    | 28 Harter Crisp    |

Happy February Birthday!

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)



*Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (NIV)*

Dear Friends,

As always, I hope you are keeping safe and well. This is not an easy journey for any one of us, so looking after our own well-being – whether physically, mentally, emotionally, or spiritually – is very important for all of us. These last two years, we have all had to use up our personal reserves of energy and focus, so it's crucial that we keep connected to God in order to replenish ourselves with His love and blessings.

One of the main things that we can do for one another is to be kind. When the Christian church first began, kindness and compassion were the two main qualities that made other people say, "Look at these Christians and how they love one another!" It set Christ's followers apart from other folks because their acts of kindness and compassion seemed so refreshing to a Roman imperial culture where everyone looked out for themselves and only the strong could survive.

Jesus turned that selfish way of thinking upside down by commanding His disciples to love one another in ways that meant others – especially the weak and the vulnerable – came first. It was a radical teaching and cost Christ His life. It would have been far easier and safer for Jesus to have said "Look out for yourselves and don't think about anyone

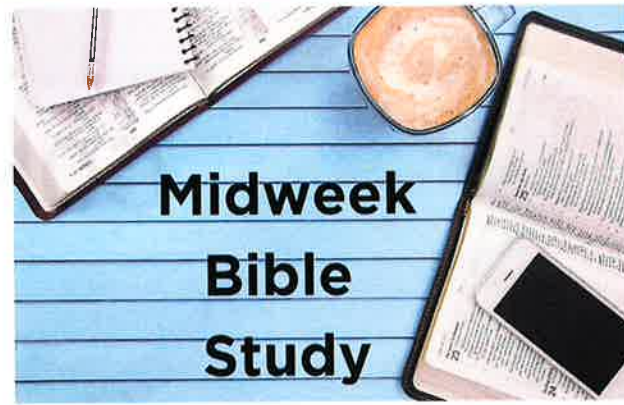
else," but that is not what God's Kingdom is all about. Being self-centered was never a part of Christ's teaching – the parable of the Good Samaritan – Luke 10:30 -37 – clearly tells us that, so if we truly claim Christianity as our faith, then kindness to others and compassion for the weak, powerless, and marginalized should be evident in our lives. If we're more zealous about our own personal rights instead of how God rights all wrongs with love, then we could be on the wrong path that leads us away from Christ.

So, let's all honestly and inwardly reflect on how we live by faith. The world is full of broken and hurting people, right now, so a little kindness and more compassion can go a long way in healing all of us. Or as Glen Campbell – one of my mom's favorite singers used to sing:

*You've got to try a little kindness  
Yes, show a little kindness  
Just shine your light for everyone to see  
And if you try a little kindness  
Then you'll overlook the blindness  
Of narrow-minded people on the narrow-minded streets*

God bless and be with you all.  
Pastor John

# CONNECTIONS



## CONNECTIONS CLASS

Pastor Stuart continues to teach a weekly Bible Class every Sunday. Since the beginning of the year, the class has been studying the Book of Judges. At a time of great uncertainty for the Israelite people, God raised up strong leaders who became known as judges to the Jewish people. Their heroic exploits and leadership of the people enabled Israel to survive some terrifying moments in their history. Each Friday, Pastor Stuart emails the study text and questions for class members, in order to prepare them for the deep discussions which take place during each lesson. At the moment, the class takes place online via Zoom, but hopefully it will soon return to in-person learning. If you would like to participate or even receive the lessons, contact April, our administrator, ([admin@erinpresbyterian.org](mailto:admin@erinpresbyterian.org)) and she will add you to the Connections Class email group. For the month of February, the class will study the following chapters:

Sun 6<sup>th</sup> Feb Judges 5 – Deborah’s Song  
 Sun 13<sup>th</sup> Feb Judges 6 – A Man Called Gideon  
 Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Feb Judges 7 – The Gallant Three Hundred  
 Sun 27<sup>th</sup> Feb Judges 8 – The Man Who Would Not be King

*The classes start at 9:30AM on Sundays and conclude around 10:15AM. Everyone is welcome to attend.*

Each Wednesday, Pastor Stuart emails and posts a short Bible study with questions concerning the passage that he suggests for that week. At the moment, the studies are focusing on the Gospel of Mark.

These studies can easily be done individually or with family & friends. The purpose is to make us all think critically about what Christ has done for others in the past, so that we can try to follow His lead and be effective Christians within our congregation and in our community. If you would like to receive the study passage and questions by email, just contact April and she will add you to the Events email group which the pastor uses to send out each Midweek study.

## SESSION NOTES ON COVID

At our last Session meeting on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January, the elders agreed by consensus to temporarily close the sanctuary for worship on Sundays for the rest of January. The recent Covid numbers in our region were over 45% at that time, so they felt it was safer to do this, especially for our most vulnerable people. If the numbers begin to come down substantially, we will return to worshipping in the sanctuary, as well as allowing our program leaders and class teachers to hold in-person gatherings in the church building.

# FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS

## SUNDAY MORNING VOLUNTEERS

FEBRUARY 6	FEBRUARY 13	FEBRUARY 20	FEBRUARY 27
<b>GREETER</b>	<b>GREETER</b>	<b>GREETER</b>	<b>GREETER</b>
Nehemiah Fretter	Dave Leckie	Kelli Canan-Denny	Randy Sarles
<b>GUIDE</b>	<b>GUIDE</b>	<b>GUIDE</b>	<b>GUIDE</b>
Rickey McCallum	Yvette Freter	Kelcey Levering	Evelyn Stuart
<b>READER</b>	<b>READER</b>	<b>READER</b>	<b>READER</b>
Kellan Sarles	Elaina Wood	Rob Levering	David Eggers
<b>USHERS</b>	<b>USHERS</b>	<b>USHERS</b>	<b>USHERS</b>
Brooks Eggers	Linda Quinley	Joanne Clelland	David Eggers
Randy Sarles	Christa Muller	Jim Montgomery	Kellan Sarles
<b>COUNTERS</b>	<b>COUNTERS</b>	<b>COUNTERS</b>	<b>COUNTERS</b>
David Eggers	Ian Bone	John House	Rickey McCallum
Craig Strand	Neill Murphy	Joe Jaynes	Ian Bone
<b>NURSERY</b>	<b>NURSERY</b>	<b>NURSERY</b>	<b>NURSERY</b>
Elaina Wood	Ella Levering	Lizzy Freter	Brooks Eggers

## ONLINE SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

	FEBRUARY 6TH	FEBRUARY 13TH	FEBRUARY 20TH	FEBRUARY 27TH
<b>GUIDE</b>	Randy and Kellan Sarles	Cathy Van Ostrand Kelly Boyd	Yvette Freter and Kids	Rob and Kelcey Levering
<b>READER</b>	Stacie Armsworth and Girls	Don and Linda Quinley	Dave and Sara Leckie	Suzanne and Ella Levering

# FINANCIALS

Erin Presbyterian Church  
**Balance Sheet**  
 As of January 7, 2022

	<u>Jan 7, 22</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Checking/Savings	
HF Primary Checking	7,384.46
HF Savings	367,352.27
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<u>374,736.73</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	374,736.73
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
Building Improvements	46,547.00
Computer Equipment	2,420.97
Furniture and Fixtures	35,699.89
General Equipment	9,764.55
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>-73,855.45</u>
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<u>20,576.96</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>395,313.69</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Other Current Liabilities	
Payroll Liabilities	1,719.68
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<u>1,719.68</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>1,719.68</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	1,719.68
<b>Equity</b>	
Retained Earnings	219,081.48
Unrestricted Funds	47,164.25
Net Income	<u>127,348.28</u>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>393,594.01</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u>395,313.69</u></b>

# FAMILY MINISTRIES

**Pop-Up Pioneer Club**  
**Wed. February 9th**  
**6:15 - 7:15 pm**  
**Family Life Center**

♥ **HAPPY**  
*Valentine's*  
**DAY** ♥



Join us for an hour of fun and lots of valentine's crafting at our monthly "Pop-Up Pioneer Club." All kids, grades K - 5<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome! Invite a friend or two to come along!! Please register by Friday, February 4<sup>th</sup> to Joy Bornhoeft at [cec@erinpresbyterian.org](mailto:cec@erinpresbyterian.org) so we have a head-count for supplies.

# CALENDAR

**SUNDAYS**

9:30am Sunday School Classes  
 11am Worship Service  
 12:30pm Youth Groups

**MONDAYS**

7pm BridgeBuilders Begins

**WEDNESDAYS**

6:20pm Sonshine  
 6:30pm Handbells  
 6:30pm Journey 7  
 7:30pm Choir

**INDIVIDUAL EVENTS/MEETINGS**

1st 7pm Discipleship Team  
 7th 7pm BridgeBuilders Begins  
 10th 7pm Worship Team  
 11th 12pm Staff Meeting  
 13th 12pm Outreach & Stewardship  
 14th **Happy Valentine's Day**/6pm Property Team  
 17th 7pm Session Meeting  
 25th - 27th Youth Summit

# OUTREACH

## SIGN UP EARLY FOR OUR FISH PANTRY WORKDAY!

We need to know the number of volunteers for our workday on **Saturday, Feb 26, 2021** to make sure our group is big enough to fill all needed positions that day.

Groups of more than 10 can choose to split the group to volunteer approx. two hour shifts on the same day (9am-11:15 am and 11:15am-1:15 pm).

Volunteers at this facility help with a number of things, including greeting guests coming for food, helping guests select food items, helping repack bulk food items, etc. About 250 families come to this pantry for food each day it operates.

The location is our Northwest Pantry/food warehouse at 122 W. Scott Ave, Knoxville 37917. During COVID-19 we are following these safety precautions:

- All volunteers, and guests coming for food, must wear face masks or face shields. (We provide these as needed.)
- We have several hand sanitization stations inside and outside our building.
- We have markings on the outside pavement and floor for social distancing.
- We provide gloves to volunteers.
- Most of the food we offer is prepacked for distribution outside. We also prepack some non-perishables for pickup just inside our front door.

Talk to Marcia to sign up, or email her at: [marcia.mechlin@gmail.com](mailto:marcia.mechlin@gmail.com).

You can also call April to sign up, or email her at: [admin@erinpresbyterian.org](mailto:admin@erinpresbyterian.org)

## THANK YOU!

The Outreach Team would like to thank all who contributed to the ministries we supported in December!

On Saturday, December 18, Marcia Mechlin and Kellan Sarles delivered an SUV full of health and hygiene items to Sunset Gap for them to distribute these much-needed supplies, along with food boxes. A second load of items collected at the Abridged

Brewing Co. were delivered to Sunset Gap in January by Marcia Mechlin and Brian Sohn.

Erin members also gave \$365 to Sunset Gap for jigsaw puzzles donated by Cynthia and John House!



Many of you also chose a tag from the Compassion Closet Christmas tree for supplies needed by foster parents that provide a home for children under difficult circumstances, and on very short notice. Kids who are removed from their homes often can't bring clothing or toys with them, and because foster parents don't know the ages of children who may

be placed with them ahead of time, it's very hard for them to prepare. Compassion Closet posted a photo of our gifts on their Facebook page along with their thanks.

We also collected new and gently used coats for the **Morgan-Scott Project: Coats for the Cold** that were picked up after Christmas. They particularly needed children's coats this year, and plan to distribute them through schools in Morgan and Scott counties. The response from Erin members was wonderful, and we collected more coats this year than ever before!

Finally, Erin contributed \$500 to the **Christmas Joy Offering** from donations made at the Christmas Eve service and through our website. Funds from this annual PCUSA offering will help retired church workers and their spouses, as well as students at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges that equip communities of color.

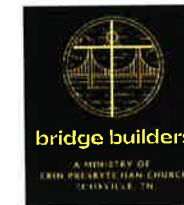
**Again, many thanks from the Outreach Team to all who contributed to one or more of these worthy causes!**

# STEWARDSHIP, BB, & WORDPLAYERS

## A GENEROUS GIFT

On behalf of all believers at Erin, the Stewardship Committee would like to **express our profound and deepest thanks to the Jaynes family**, for the generous gifts originating from long term and devoted members, Hugh and Eleanor Jaynes. Their lives exemplified their love for Jesus Christ. After life on earth, they continue to show that love through these generous gifts. May God use these gifts to His Glory.

Erin Stewardship Committee



## SPRING BRIDGEBUILDERS

On February 7<sup>th</sup>, BridgeBuilders will begin a new 9-week course: **Applying a Micah Lens to Contemporary Issues**. This time I am delighted to be sharing the helm with Dr. Yvette Freter who has been a faithful participant in our BridgeBuilders series. Yvette and I cordially invite you to enroll for the Spring course by Feb. 1 by visiting: [www.erinpresbyterian.org/bridgebuilders/](http://www.erinpresbyterian.org/bridgebuilders/) or by emailing me at [sarleskellan@gmail.com](mailto:sarleskellan@gmail.com).

This course will examine three issues of our day: Anti-Semitism, Gender, and Environment. We will look beyond headlines to the underlying facts, vocabulary, historical roots and biblical texts. Ultimately we will filter all through the Micah 6:8 lens of justice, mercy, and humility. Three weeks will be devoted to each topic with a week off for Knox County Schools' Spring Break. All classes will be via Zoom, Monday evenings at 7:00. **Participants should register by February 1st.**

**2/7 JUSTICE** The Facts: Historical context of anti-Semitism in the USA; extent and presentation of the problem; biblical texts (Discussion introduced with current example of anti-Semitism).

**2/14 MERCY** Guest Speaker

**2/21 HUMILITY** Imitating Christ/Being the Church to our Jewish neighbors.

**2/28 JUSTICE** The Facts: Terminology and understanding of gender and orientation; historical context and current culture; biblical texts (Discussion

introduced with current example of gender inequality/homophobia)

**3/7 MERCY** Guest Speaker (More Light Presbyterians: speaker?)

**3/21 HUMILITY** Imitating Christ/ Being the Church to our LGBTQ+ neighbors.

**3/28 JUSTICE** The Facts: Terminology and survey of environmental harms and root causes; contributing structures and policies (Discussion introduced with current example of environmental threat/damage)

**4/4 MERCY** Guest Speaker

**4/11 HUMILITY** Imitating Christ/ Being the Church to our planet and all who live here.

Please feel free to share this invitation with friends and family. Enrollment is free and open to all, whether Erin members or not.

## WORDPLAYERS - BLACK HISTORY MONTH

"THE ENDS WE SEEK" is a work of historical fiction, which moves between actual events in the 19th and 20th centuries, powerfully illustrating 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. With sharp dialogue, and inspired by true stories, "The Ends We Seek" personalizes and humanizes the experience of ordinary people swept up in the events of history. Written by Ethan Norman.

## FREE PUBLIC PERFORMANCE

**February 9th at Central Baptist Bearden  
6300 Deane Hill Dr., Knoxville, 6:00 PM**

Several other performances can be found on their website. <https://wordplayers.org/current-season/touring-shows/black-history-month-touring-show/>