

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

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|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 2 Betty Gibbs | 9 Stacie Armsworth | 20 Tammy Murphy |
| 2 Anna Bornhoeft | 11 Stephen Lamb | 21 Jack Draper |
| 4 Keegan & Konnor Stump | 15 Ashley Draper | 23 Hayden Crisp |
| 5 Ella Levering | 16 Karen Stump | 24 Rob Lynch |
| 8 Thomas Boyd | 16 Joy Bornhoeft | 24 Brooks Eggers |
| | 18 Pat Wallin | |

Happy Birthday!

Visit us at: www.erinpres.org for events, news, and to read John's devotions!

TO:

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2 Timothy 1:7 "For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control." (NIV)

Dear Friends,

The mass shootings in Buffalo, NY and Uvalde, TX have shocked us all. It's impossible to understand why these horrifying events occurred. Black people were murdered just for being who they were; innocent children were massacred in their classroom with their teacher; and both of the callous murderers were eighteen years old. It makes no sense at all, and, in both communities, there is a lot of immense pain, anger, and confusion.

A similar tragedy occurred in Scotland in 1996 when a gunman killed sixteen elementary school kids and their teacher in the small town of Dunblane. I can remember feeling the shock of it, even though our family were over here. Our Scottish relatives and friends could not believe that something so diabolical had happened and most of them felt helpless and dazed for days and weeks. But the people of Scotland, and indeed all of Britain, didn't want something similar to happen again, so new restrictive laws about gun ownership and control of weapons were passed by Parliament. Ever since then, there have been no school shootings in Britain. In contrast, there have been over 500 hundred children & youth killed since then, in school shootings throughout the US.

The screen actor, Matthew McConaughey, whose hometown is Uvalde, made this statement after the horrifying slaying of the schoolchildren:

"Once again, we have tragically proven that we are failing to be responsible for the rights our freedoms grant us. The true call to action now is for every American to take a longer and deeper look in the mirror, and ask ourselves, 'What is it that we truly value? How do we repair the problem? What small sacrifices can we individually take today, to preserve a healthier and safer nation, state, and neighborhood tomorrow?'"

Those are questions that we as Christians, not just Americans, need to ask ourselves and seek ways to deal with this major problem of gun violence. This is one of the reasons that as a congregation we have become connected to the Knox Justice group of churches in our city. We have a gun problem here in our own community, so we have to honestly address the issue and courageously look and lobby for changes to our gun laws. The issue won't go away by itself; we have to tackle this seriously and find effective ways of influencing our elected leaders to propose and pass new laws. To do nothing means that we will not just be burying our heads in the sand; we will also be burying our children.

So, let's prayerfully become committed to not just making our community a better place, but to also make the changes and sacrifices that are necessary to make it a safer place.

May God bless you and all your loved ones.

Pastor John

PASTOR VACATION & MORE

GREEK VACATION

During the month of June, John and Evelyn will be visiting Greece. This was a trip that was planned two years ago but was postponed because of Covid. Now that travel restrictions have been lifted, they are both looking forward to this tour. It will include visiting places where Paul preached, as well as the ruins at Ephesus, and a visit to the isle of Patmos where the Apostle John had his vision which became the Book of Revelation. The Stuarts expect to fly out on June 12th and return on June 25th. Several guest preachers will lead the Sunday worship services, and pastoral coverage for emergencies will be overseen by two local PCUSA pastors. Here are the details:

Guest preachers for June:

12th Dr. James McTyre - Executive Presbyter of E. TN

19th Charles Snodgrass - Lay Pastor and longtime member at Erin

26th Barry Simmons - Lay Pastor to Gatlinburg Presbyterian Church

Pastoral coverage for June:

Sun. 12th to Sat. 18th Dr. Les Rust, pastor at Grey-stone Presbyterian

Sun. 19th to Sun. 26th Rev. Barry Simmons, pastor at Gatlinburg Presbyterian

John will be back in the church office on Monday 27th June.

BABY SHOWER THANK YOU

The Lindback and Stuart family would like to thank everyone who came along to Lauren's Baby Shower on Sunday afternoon. We greatly appreciate your kindness, support, and love. Also, for everyone who gave gifts to Lauren, we are very grateful for your love and support. We would also like to thank the Fellowship team and others who decorated the tables, provided the snacks and refreshments. You are all wonderful people, and we thank you for your time, talents, and encouragement. God bless you all. The Lindbacks & Stuarts

PENTECOST OFFERING JUNE 5

The Pentecost Offering is one of four special offerings we collect for our denomination each year. Your gift will encourage, develop, and support young people in the church and help them grow and express their faith, and will also address the needs of at-risk children. Since 1998, Presbyterians have contributed over \$15 million to the Pentecost Offering. Forty percent of what we collect at Erin will be used in our community, and the remaining sixty percent will support children, youth, and young adults through the worldwide ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Donate in person on Pentecost Sunday, June 5th, or on our website by clicking on DONATE in the menu at the top of the home page and selecting Special Offerings from the Fund menu.



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL SUMMER SERIES

"Our Favorite Hymns"

Join us for a special Sunday School series on the first and third Sundays during the summer months.

June 5 and 19 / July 3 and 17 / August 7

Adults will meet in the Fellowship Hall from 9:45 - 10:45 on these Sunday morning dates.

Come learn about the history of some of our favorite hymns, as presented by our adult Sunday School teachers and Staff.

On June 5th, Pastor John Stuart will present the hymn ***Be Thou My Vision*** by Mary E. Byrne and Eleanor Hull..

Joy Bornhoeft will lead the June 19th lesson on ***Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*** by Robert Robinson.

BECOME A STAKEHOLDER FOR THE YOUTH MISSION TRIP

We will again be inviting congregants to be stakeholders in our summer youth trip. This year we have a group of youth going to Sunset Gap to work there in the food pantry and also to do some repair work in the community. To become a stakeholder in our trip, we ask for a sponsorship gift of \$25.00. Benefits of being a stakeholder will include a postcard sent from Sunset Gap by one of our youth and an invitation to a breakfast where the youth will give a debrief of their trip and take questions about the experience. Look for the notice in the bulletin during the month

JULY POTLUCK & NAA NEWS

of June to sign up to help our youth make their mission trip a success!



RED, WHITE AND BLUE POTLUCK

On July 3rd, join us in the well-decorated Fellowship Hall for our 4th of July Potluck! We'll get together right after Sunday Worship Service. Bring your best dish to share and dress up in your favorite red, white and blue duds. We look forward to seeing you there!

NEHEMIAH ACTION ASSEMBLY



Justice knocked loudly at the 2022 Nehemiah Action Assembly on May 2nd. Over 40 network members and guests from Erin Presbyterian

gathered with people of faith across the community to support local justice initiatives. According to Justice Knox lead organizer Marjorie Thigpen-Carter, 971 people turned out to World's Fair Park amphitheater to hear local officials state their commitment to initiatives aimed at reducing gun violence, improving public transportation, and ending harsh and unfair discipline in our public schools.

In particular, Mayor Indya Kincannon, District Att. General Charme Allen, Knoxville Area Transit Director Isaac Thorne, both candidates for Knox County Sheriff, and School Superintendent Bob Thomas attended, in some cases rearranging their schedules to make it possible. Each official publicly committed to engage in the "ask" that Justice Knox brought to the table.

The three initiatives: public transportation, school discipline, and gun violence, were first identified in house meetings like those held last September at Erin. When asked "what kept them up at night," people said, "the need for reliable public transportation to and from work," "equitable school discipline practices for their children and grandchildren," and "fear of deadly gun violence in neighborhoods across Knoxville." The May Nehemiah Action Assembly culminated 9 months of committee work, including intensive study, research,

and interviews, to arrive at well-informed "asks" of appropriate officials.

As with all activities of Justice Knox, the Nehemiah Action Assembly was grounded in biblical authority, began and ended with prayer, and was carefully organized and scripted. In the coming year, they will follow-up with public officials to ensure the work continues. House meetings in September may identify another community problem for the organization to consider.

On Monday, June 13, team members/leaders, clergy & network members are invited to celebrate the year's successes, enjoy a picnic dinner, and consider making a financial investment so that the work of Justice Knox may continue. If you would like to become a member, please speak with Pastor John, Brooks or David Eggers, or Kellan Sarles. All are welcome!

THANK YOU FOR BLESSING THESE FAMILIES!

Thank you for joining us for Michelle Waters' Bridal Shower and Lauren Lindback's Baby Shower. Both events were organized by the Fellowship Team and made very lovely by Joy Bornhoeft.

Thank you, Joy, for sharing your excellent decorating and crafting skills with us!



Michelle and fiancé, Austin.

Lauren and her mom, Evelyn.

