

JULY BIRTHDAYS

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|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1 Patty Britton | 9 Jean Johnson | 22 Lynsey Stuart |
| 1 Kim Pennington | 10 Chloe Levering | 26 Amanda Murphy |
| 5 Kathy Erskine | 11 Pat Sexton | 29 Bob McLean |
| 5 Shawn Bailes | 14 Lisa Parker | 30 David Leckie |
| 6 Carolyn Gahan | 15 Ben Sarles | 30 Ali Sarles |
| 7 David Draper | 17 Mike Jones | 31 Katie Bailes |
| | 20 Liam Quinn | |

Happy Birthday!

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

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THE BEACON JULY 2022



Ephesians 1:15-16 "For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers". (NIV)

Dear Friends,

I want to thank you for how well you responded to our Stewardship campaign. Your faithful giving and pledging, under some difficult circumstances, have been both humbling and gladdening for the whole church. You are remarkable people whose devotion to Christ through this congregation has been a blessing for all that we seek to undertake and accomplish at Erin. Thank you for your kindness and generosity, your prayers and support. May God continue to bless you, as well as our congregation.

The sharing and combining of our resources give our wee church the ability to fulfill ministries and missions that Christ wants us to complete. Throughout the summer, we will be preparing for what lies ahead of us, as we tackle some community-wide issues that are affecting our beloved town. We live in a beautiful part of the world and belong to a good community, but there are some issues which beset us – gun violence, racism, and poverty – which our church, along with some other congregations, could effectively help to solve and heal. We may be small in numbers, but we can make a substantial

difference to the lives of others, especially those who are marginalized and powerless in both our city and county.

In the first week of July, we will all be celebrating our independence and enjoying the festivities. Here, at the church, we'll be hosting a potluck lunch after the worship service on July 3. **Everybody will be invited to wear red, white, and blue that day, to celebrate the fact that we have the freedom to worship**, which many places in the world still do not. It will also be good to share food in the fellowship hall and be together at a meal. Food, fun, and faith make us a better congregation, so let's all put it on our calendars and enjoy the celebration.

Finally, on the same day, I'll be starting a summer sermon series on the Lord's Prayer. Each Sunday, I'll be focusing on a different part of Christ's great prayer, in order to show us how to pray, not just in worship, but in our daily lives. I hope that you'll all be there for the series, but if you're elsewhere on vacation, you can still watch the series via our online services.

May you all have a wonderful summer; may God bless you and all your loved ones.

Pastor John

POTLUCK, VBS, AND MORE!

RED, WHITE & BLUE POTLUCK

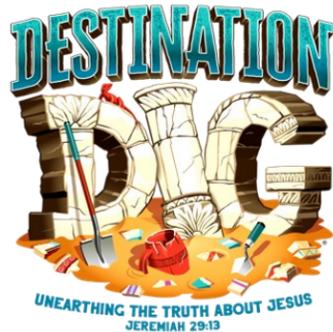


On July 3rd, join us in the well-decorated Fellowship Hall for our 4th of July Potluck! We'll get together right after Sunday Worship Service.

Bring your best dish to share and **dress up in your favorite red, white and blue duds**. We look forward to seeing you there!

SILENT AUCTION BAKE SALE

Cakes, Pies, Cookies, Cupcakes by Erin's best cooks! All proceeds go to Justice Knox. Because **"everyone deserves a slice of the pie!"** Share with family! Freeze for later!



Vacation Bible School
July 11 - 15
9:30 am - Noon
Family Life Center

At **Destination Dig**, kids will unearth more than just dirt. They'll discover real-life archaeological finds that have helped to uncover the truth about Jesus. Stories from the Bible will leap off the pages as kids explore where Jesus walked and examine artifacts that bring the world of the Bible to life.

Open to Erin Church families and friends, ages 4 years old - rising 5th Grade. Middle School and High School youth serve as Jr. Crew helpers.

For more information, contact Joy Bornhoeft at cec@erinpresbyterian.org



YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO SUNSET GAP

Our youth will be going on their summer mission trip to Sunset Gap this month, July 24-28. One of our hopes is that although this is a "youth" trip, we would like to involve the congregation in the experience with our youth. To that end we have partnered with the Worship team and Outreach team to once again have worship and a work day at Sunset Gap on the Sunday that the trip starts, July 24.

We are inviting everyone to come have church with us at Sunset Gap and then stay for a few hours after worship and do some work on the campus. We'll do some cleaning, organizing, and some yard cleanup around some of the buildings. We are also asking for some volunteers to come up on Monday July 25th to work alongside us to complete our construction project. There will be sign ups in the bulletin for those that plan to come for worship and the work day, as well as for those interested in coming up to help on Monday. Hope you all join us!

COLLECTION FOR SUNSET GAP

We will be collecting backpacks and school supplies leading up to the trip. Sunset Gap receives requests year round for these items, so let's replenish their supply. Items needed include backpacks, pens, pencils, crayons, erasers, rulers, folders, and notebook paper

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL SUMMER SERIES "Our Favorite Hymns"

Our special Sunday School series continues this month on **July 3rd** and **17th**.

BRIDGEBUILDERS & JUSTICE KNOX

Don Quinley will lead the first lesson on **A Survey of National Songs**. On July 17th, Kim Jaynes will share her favorite hymn, **My Shepherd Will Supply My Need**, written by Isaac Watts in 1719.

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



NEW BRIDGEBUILDERS COURSE

"Finding Courage In Fearful Times"

School shootings, run-away inflation, forest fires, plane crashes, cyber-attacks, humanitarian disasters, political upheaval at home, and wars abroad. Such headlines instill fear. In fact, for many twenty-first century humans, fear has become the pervasive state-of-mind. While our faith promises an antidote to fear, holding onto God's promises is difficult when social media and cable news broadcast every actual or potential disaster anywhere on the globe. Factor in personal crises at home or work, and the outcome spells emotional breakdown.

In September, BridgeBuilders will look at three contemporary social problems through the lens of fear: how our fears influence our understanding of and response to problems, how our fears are exploited by others and, most importantly, how our fears can be harnessed for constructive outcomes. The course will acquaint you with biblical/historical people of God who chose courage over fear to become salt and light in difficult times.

Please join us for this 9-week series "Finding Courage in Fearful Times," beginning Monday September 19th at 7 PM. All Erin members, friends, and family are welcome to this interactive Bible study.

To enroll, visit <https://www.erinpresbyterian.org/bridgebuilders/>

Kellan Sarles, Lead Organizer, Dr. Yvette Freter, Suzanne Burnell and Anna McKay

WHAT'S NEXT FOR JUSTICE KNOX

A June 13th picnic on the grounds of Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd marked the end of the 2021-2022 cycle of activities for Justice Knox. The year was a busy one as committees worked for public micro-transit, equitable school disciplinary practice, and initial steps toward reducing gun violence in Knoxville – problems named again and again in house meetings held throughout the city last fall.

At the Nehemiah Action Assembly in May, top policy makers from Knoxville Area Transit, Knox County Schools, and Knoxville city/county law enforcement agencies pledged their intention – before 1,000+ people-- to carry out the recommended actions! Hence, the celebration picnic!

But what comes next? And how can you become a network member?

In September, Erin will again host two house meetings – informal gatherings where you will have an opportunity to share what keeps you up at night. What are the things you worry about? What injustice do you experience or lament? Your comments will be taken seriously and relayed to Justice Knox leaders; the full organization will then select one or more new initiatives for the coming year.

Our house meetings will also provide an opportunity for members of Erin's network team to share what affiliation with Justice Knox has meant to them in the past year.

Please watch for more information in the August newsletter and other Erin publications. Justice Knox offers a biblically-grounded, carefully organized, and respected means of carrying out our command to "Love mercy, do justice, and walk humbly with [our] God. [Micah 6: 8].

Your house leaders,
Kellan and Randy Sarles
Brooks and David Eggers