



Birthdays and Events

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

JULY EVENTS

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

- 2nd Church Outside and Red, White & Blue Potluck
- 4th **OFFICE CLOSED**
- 9th Outreach 11am
- 10th -13th **VBS WEEK**

- 20th Session Meeting 7pm
- 21st Staff Meeting 12pm
- 22nd FISH Pantry Day

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



Philippians 1:6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (NIV)

Dear Friends,

I hope you are having a good summer and enjoying the sunshine. Our grandson Andrew is coming to stay with Evelyn and me for two weeks, so that he can enjoy the wonderful summer camp that Tate's School of Discovery annually puts on for kids. Joe and Lou L have done this for years - our own daughters enjoyed being at the camp decades ago. It's now Andrew's turn and we are excited for him to be experiencing something new. We'll also be quickly exhausted - he has all the energy of a young boy, so we'll find it hard keeping up with him!

There are many things this summer that will be new for all of us. I've just completed part one of a Transitional Ministry conference in St. Louis, MO, which gave me a lot of information about the next steps that our church has to take with regard to the upcoming pastoral vacancy. We haven't done this in almost thirty years as a congregation, so we'll need much knowledge about the process to help us move forward. I'm also attending the second part of the conference at the end of August, but this time it will be nearer to home because it takes place at Montreat.

One of the first things that we have to do is find an interim pastor. She or he will lead the congregation from January 1 of 2024. The Session elders have just appointed the Interim Pastor Search Team, made up

of three elders from the different year classes. They are Joy Bornhoeft (2024), Jim Montgomery (2025) and John House (2026). They will soon receive information and a possible list of interim pastor candidates from our Presbytery's Committee on Ministry. They will meet together on a regular basis to pray about selecting the right candidate and perusing any material and applications they receive. As a concerned congregation, we should all be prayerfully lifting up that team on a daily basis, by asking God to grant them the gift of discernment, so that they can decide who to interview and finally recommend to Session for our interim pastor. I know that I am continually praying for them and my successor, so I hope that you will, too.

As we move forward together, there will be more information to share, as well as opportunities to serve. Having just come out of our Covid hibernation, we need to reestablish various teams that will help this important process, which will include selecting a new Personnel team, as well as the Pastor Search Team that the congregation will elect.

I know that this may be an anxious time for most of us, which is why I chose this month's highlighted Bible verse. It reminds us that God is continually working for the well-being of our beloved congregation, so the future life, ministry, and mission of Erin Presbyterian are all in good hands.

Pastor John



NEW ELDERS - CLASS OF 2026

During July, our new class of elders will replace the class of 2023. This will come as a great relief to the latter class because they spent their entire term of office dealing with Covid. Kim Jaynes, Larry McKay, and Don Quinley focused on what our congregation needed, to endure and overcome all the problems that the pandemic caused. We should all be grateful to them for their devotion, service, and wisdom in enabling our wee church to survive.

The Class of 2026 will have different things to consider. They will probably experience three pastors during their term of office – the current pastor, the interim pastor, and the new pastor. Suzanne Lawrence, Tony Denny, and John House fully understand what is expected of them, so your prayers for their leadership and service will be greatly appreciated.

THE VACANCY PROCESS

A lot of you are wondering what the process of the vacancy will be like and what we should expect to happen. Finding a new minister takes time because a lot of things have to be worked out, especially after a long-time ministry. The PC(USA) has a substantial system which must be followed in order to search, find, and install a new minister. Thankfully, our Presbytery's Committee on Ministry has key people and pastors who are familiar with the process and they will enable our congregation to fulfill this task.

Firstly, our current minister has to officially inform the PC(USA), Presbytery of East Tennessee, and the congregation about his intent to retire. John has already done this, so the process has begun.

Secondly, the Session appoints an interim-pastor search team (IPST) to select a suitable candidate. Last month, Session appointed three elders - Joy Bornhoeft, Jim Montgomery, and John House.

Next, the Committee on Ministry will contact our church and give us a list of likely candidates for the

interim position. The IPST will review that list to consider a possible candidate. The IPST can also look for a candidate beyond our Presbytery, using the PC (USA)'s website and registry of available interim-pastors. Those interim-pastors are usually specialists who have a surfeit of knowledge and experience of church vacancies.

When a likely candidate is interviewed and found, the IPST will make a recommendation to Session. The current elders of Session will then interview and negotiate a contract with the candidate. Session does this because it is the employer of the interim-pastor. When all agreements have been concluded and the candidate approved by Session, the congregation will be informed of the chosen interim-pastor. Once the interim-pastor is installed, he or she will lead the Session and congregation through the next part of the process of finding the new full-time pastor.

The interim will lead worship services, moderate Session meetings, and provide pastoral care to the congregation. Once the interim's work has been concluded and the new pastor is on the field, the interim relinquishes his or her links with the congregation and moves on elsewhere.

If you have any questions about this process, then just ask the pastor or the interim team members. They will all be happy to supply you with more Information, and will regularly update you about the process. Your role is not to worry, but to pray. 😊

SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS

July 10th – 14th 9:30am – Noon Family Life Center
Come along on an epic adventure where kids are empowered to "Stand Strong for God."

Through bible stories, games, crafts, music, and fun, kids will learn that:

- God's love helps us stand strong!
- Family and friends help us stand strong!
- Prayer helps us stand strong!
- The Bible helps us stand strong!

<https://www.erinpresbyterian.org/vbs-2023/>



July Volunteers

JULY 2ND	JULY 9TH	JULY 16TH	JULY 23RD	JULY 30TH
BELL RINGER	BELL RINGER	BELL RINGER	BELL RINGER	BELL RINGER
Lucy Cate	Addison Strand	Ginger Thompson	Craig Strand	Ripley Linkous
GREETER	GREETER	GREETER	GREETER	GREETER
Kelli and Tony Denny	Joanne Clelland Jim Montgomery	Mike and Mary Nelle Cate	Susan Miller Anna McKay	Farrah and Ripley Pat Wallin
GUIDE	GUIDE	GUIDE	GUIDE	GUIDE
Neill Murphy	Kellan Sarles	Evelyn Stuart	Robbie Levering	Erin McCallum
READER	READER	READER	READER	READER
Diana Brandon	Randy Sarles	Anna McKay	Kelcey Levering	David Eggers
USHERS	USHERS	USHERS	USHERS	USHERS
Kim Pennington Dusty Pennington Gary Pennington	David and Brooks Eggers Susan Miller	Jim and Ginger Thompson Linda Quinley	Rob and Kelcey Levering Ella Levering	Mike and Mary Nelle Cate Jim Montgomery
COUNTERS	COUNTERS	COUNTERS	COUNTERS	COUNTERS
John House Neill Murphy	David Eggers Craig Strand	Joe Jaynes Andy Sarles	John House Neill Murphy	Rickey McCallum Craig Strand
NURSERY	NURSERY	NURSERY	NURSERY	NURSERY
Elaina Wood Farrah Linkous	Evelyn Stuart Kelcey Levering	Ella Levering Brooks Eggers	Elaina Wood Farrah Linkous	Lindsey Barber Kay Pennington

ONLINE SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

JULY 2ND	JULY 9TH	JULY 16TH	JULY 23RD	JULY 30TH
Levering Family	Andy and Kelsey Sarles	Kellan and Randy Sarles	Dave and Sara Leckie	Don and Linda Quinley