

THE BEACON

Hey folks!

The merry month of May marks many modifications among the movements of our mutual mission. My own mind moves toward mapping out meaningful midsummer ministries and maintaining the momentum we have made over the months since my family and I moved here.

Some of y'all are going to really love reading that paragraph, others are going to go a bit crosseyed looking at it.

In any case, May is a time of transition for our congregation. We're shifting out of the regular programming and into our summer schedule. SonShine is debuting their play the first weekend of this month, and then turning their eyes towards next year. The chancel and handbell choirs are preparing for a richly deserved break, our Sunday School teachers, likewise, are preparing for some time of rest. Many of us are planning to travel over the coming months, and our children and youth are excited beyond words about the upcoming summer break.

We will also be starting up our Stewardship season, beginning on Sunday, May 17th and extending into June. This is my first time through this process with y'all, and the Stewardship committee and I have been working on blending y'all's traditions with my fresh perspective. You'll see more on that in another article in this newsletter. I urge you to prayerfully consider helping

us plan for the upcoming year by giving us an estimate of what you and your household plan to contribute to church. Or more correctly, what God will provide to our shared ministry through you.

Someone recently wisely suggested that we include a summary of each month's Session meeting in the newsletter, as a way of helping the congregation know what's on the mind of those who discern God's will for our congregation. You'll find that writeup in this newsletter. Please let me know if it's a help to you, or if you have any questions.

This month also marks one year since y'all heard a report from the Pastor Nominating Committee, learned my name for the first time, and officially voted to call me as your next pastor. I am exceeding grateful and excited to continue the work God is doing through this relationship between pastor and congregation. Y'all have made yourselves easy to love, and a joy to minister alongside. The ministry is not mine, it belongs to God, and God calls each of us to undertake it together, sharing both the joys and the burdens of faithful community.

Your brother in Christ,
Rev. Joseph W. Taber IV,
 Pastor, Erin Presbyterian Church

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A MESSAGE FROM STEWARDSHIP

The other day, I noticed a church member, walking ahead of me towards the front doors, lean down and pick up a piece of trash in the parking lot. It struck me that in any other parking lot, that would have been unusual and unlikely. Imagine doing that at the mall.

It would be quite expected to pick up one's own yard, though. And that's the difference. My yard is my responsibility. It seemed quite normal for someone at church to pick up the trash, and if he hadn't, I would have. Just like my yard is my responsibility, my church is, too. That's the thing about Erin church. We are it. Its health and functioning are our responsibility. We don't think about that responsibility as belonging to someone else.

Every year about this time we have a Stewardship Budgeting Campaign to help raise awareness of the needs of the church and ask people to pledge financial support for Erin and its mission. Frankly, I doubt many of us need the reminder. We know Erin and its mission are important. It is our church and our responsibility. But it doesn't hurt to be reminded of what we do, because we do a lot. And it doesn't hurt to remember that costs go up for the church as much as they do anywhere else these days. So please bear with us. And please pledge your support. Because we are Erin and its health is all our responsibility.

Thanks,

-John House
Stewardship Team

SESSION SUMMARY 4/26

This is an informal summary of the April Session meeting, if you want to know more details, you're welcome to review the minutes of the meeting once they are approved by the Session. Session meetings are generally open to members of the congregation who want to come and observe, although we may ask visitors to excuse themselves if our deliberations need to touch on potentially sensitive subjects.

This month, Kellan Sarles led the opening prayer and a devotional on Psalm 15, giving us an opportunity to reflect on "who may rightly dwell within God's Holy Tent," and pointing to Christ as the model of what it means to be truly human as envisioned by the Psalmist. We also prayed for various members and friends of our congregation, including those struggling with grief, transition, and health concerns.

Having centered ourselves, we approved the previous month's minutes. We also reviewed a facility use agreement that would share our Family Life Center with the Beacon Academy of Knoxville, which seeks to create a learning environment uniquely equipped for special needs students. This has been in the works for a couple of months, now, as we ironed out details for how we're going to share space with them.

We then approved a multi-week Elder Training Syllabus, as working to better equip our elders for leadership is one of our strategic goals.

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Lastly, we elected David Eggers and Kim Pennington as commissioners to the May 12th Presbytery meeting.

We then moved to the reports we had received. The Pastor's report summarized how I prioritize my time and ministry focus since our last meeting, shared questions I had received from community members and potential visitors about LGBTQ+ inclusion in our congregation, and some observations and questions raised by the Justice Knox Nehemiah Action Committee.

The question I took away from the discussion of that report was "How do we be who we are in a way that attracts people."

The Clerk's report and Administrator's report were both received with minimal discussion. Our membership is holding steady at 169 active members, and April is grateful for the love and support the Session has given her as her dad declined and passed from death to life eternal.

The Session received written reports from the Worship, Discipleship, Outreach, Property, and Stewardship committees. Several of those committees have separate write-ups in this newsletter. In engaging with these reports, we discussed budget preparation, Presbytery and denominational support, and our commitment to at least 10% of the budget going to Outreach.

Our next meeting will be May 21st!

SERENITY SHELTER

Remember that we're having a collection to support Sernity Shelter through Sunday, May 17th. Thank you for beginning to fill the bin in the narthex!

- shampoo and conditioner
- body wash
- deodorant
- tampons and pads
- laundry detergent pods
- dryer sheets
- dishwashing liquid

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE NEHEMIAH ACTION ASSEMBLY!

The Knoxville Civic Auditorium was packed with more than 1,650 Justice Knox leaders & friends, alongside 12 public officials, including the County Mayoral Candidates. This was the 10th and biggest Nehemiah Action Assembly with almost a 100 person increase from last year, and we got a clear yes to all of our requests for help!



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Tuesday, May 12
6:30-7:30 pm
PIONEER CLUB
WRAP PARTY!

Join us for the last Pioneer Club of this school year! We will have an end-of-the-year party under the BIG TOP, as we read "If I Ran the Circus."

There will be games, treats, and a crazy craft or two – it's sure to be a CIRCUS!



Planet Worship
May 10

This month in Planet Worship, we continue to follow the lectionary scripture readings. Lessons will be illustrated by a coordinating children's book using Storypath, a resource of Union Presbyterian Seminary.

There will be no Planet Worship on May 24th due to the Memorial Day holiday weekend.

SAVE THE DATE!
Sunday May 17th

Sunday School:

Last day for Sunday School for this year as we give our teachers a break over the summer.

In Worship:

Teacher Appreciation and Graduate Recognition

Join us as we thank our dedicated teachers and recognize our youth who will be moving up and moving on in Sunday School next year.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 6-9
9:30am- Noon
Family Life Center



4 years old – 5th Grade
Middle Schoolers serve as Jr. Helpers
Register by May 20th on-line at:
www.erinpresbyterian.org/vbs-2026/



Moving Up to High School Sunday School:

Lucy Cate

Graduating High School, Class of 2026:

Rose Armsworth, L&N STEM Academy

SONSHINE COMPANY **PRESENTS...**

The Buried Legacy Mystery

The Castle in the Rockies! What a great place to explore and enjoy! However, while their parents are in a training workshop, 12 kids are dropped off at the Rec Center for a two-team scavenger hunt.

As they search for items, they find they're caught in a mystery that leads them to an unexpected place, and forces them to think about the truth of family legacies – others and their own.

MAY 1-3

Adults \$12, Preschool \$8 Family Max \$40

TICKETS: www.erinpres.org

Or purchase tickets at the door.

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WORDPLAYERS RUMMAGE SALE

The WordPlayers will hold a Benefit Rummage Sale on Saturday, May 9, 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Please come and enjoy some great bargains!

Proceeds will benefit The WordPlayers. For questions or more information, please call 865-539-2490.

THE WORDPLAYERS PRESENT...

A STAGED READING OF THE GREAT DIVORCE

BY C.S. LEWIS

The WordPlayers of Knoxville is honored to present a staged reading of C.S. Lewis' classic work, *The Great Divorce*, on Thursday, May 7 at 7:00 PM.

The location is Erin Presbyterian Church, 200 Lockett Rd., Knoxville, TN. Admission is free with donations appreciated.

Lewis delves into his gift for allegory with this fantastical tale of a writer who, in a dream, takes an incredible voyage through Heaven and Hell. There he encounters ghostly characters faced with the choice between remaining in Heaven or choosing an eternity divorced from it. Will they stay or will they go?

This thought-provoking work explores our human desires and their hold on us with Lewis' characteristic wit, wisdom, and insight into what it means to choose God above all things.



The Great Divorce is by C.S. Lewis, (c) copyright 1946, C.S. Lewis Pte Ltd. and is adapted for the stage by George Drance and the Magis Theatre Co.

The WordPlayers is a 501(c)3 theatre org. based in Knoxville and dedicated to providing high-quality productions from a faith-based perspective. *The Great Divorce* is sponsored by Brad Croisdale, Realty Executives.

For information about The WordPlayers, please visit wordplayers.org or call 865-539-2490.

THE GREAT DIVORCE
C.S. LEWIS
adapted for the stage by George Drance and
the Magis Theatre Company
STAGED READING

THURS, MAY 7th at 7:00 PM
Erin Presbyterian Church
200 Lockett, Rd. Knoxville

free admission + talkback after the show
(Donations appreciated!)

wordplayers.org

REALTY EXECUTIVES ASSOCIATES | LEASING & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
Brad Croisdale 865/805-9964

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MAY 3RD	MAY 10TH	MAY 17TH	MAY 24TH	MAY 31ST
COFFEE	COFFEE	COFFEE	COFFEE	COFFEE
Pat Wallin	Mary Nelle Cate	Suzanne Lawrence	David Eggers	Diana Brandon
BELL RINGER	BELL RINGER	BELL RINGER	BELL RINGER	BELL RINGER
Will McCallum	Luna Wiggins	Lucas Barber	Eliza Barber	William Taber
GREETER	GREETER	GREETER	GREETER	GREETER
Tony and Kelli Denny	Pat Wallin Kathy Boyd	Kathy Boyd Jim Montgomery	Dave Leckie Sara Leckie	Pat Wallin Regina Bishop
GUIDE	GUIDE	GUIDE	GUIDE	GUIDE
Diana Brandon	Eliza Barber	Kellan Sarles	Craig Strand	Carter McCallum
READER	READER	READER	READER	READER
John House	Betty Gibbs	David Eggers	Rickey McCallum	Erin McCallum
USHERS	USHERS	USHERS	USHERS	USHERS
Linda Quinley Robbie and Kelcey Levering	Mike Cate Jim Montgomery Dave Leckie	Brooks and David Eggers Erin McCallum	Gary Pennington Kim and Dusty Pennington	Jim Montgomery Jim Thompson Susan Miller
COUNTERS	COUNTERS	COUNTERS	COUNTERS	COUNTERS
Craig Strand Rickey McCallum	David Eggers John House	Ann Snograss Andy Sarles	Neill Murphy Joe Jaynes	Ann Snodgrass David Eggers

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Henry Fellers
- 4 Gary Pennington
- 4 Will McCallum
- 6 Kelcey Levering
- 9 Justin Bornhoeft
- 20 Wes Fellers
- 22 Jim Thompson
- 26 Colton Pennington
- 28 Diana Brandon

MAY CHURCH CALENDAR

Visit the link below for Events
and Ministry meeting dates:

<https://www.erinpresbyterian.org/calendar/>

HIGHLIGHTS

May 1-3 SonShine Show
Friday & Saturday 7pm
Sunday 2pm

May 9 WordPlayers Rummage Sale
8am-1pm
in the Fellowship Hall