



Hey Folks,

The hardest part of writing a newsletter article is choosing a topic, and one of my practices has been looking at previous newsletters to get an idea of what I've done in the past, which I find often propels me into the future. Looking out at our second year together, I read last September's newsletter and saw that I talked about my bone marrow donation story.

In the twelve months since I donated, I have heard almost nothing about the recipient, how they are doing, whether my donation made a difference, or whether the disease that plagued them continued despite my donation, and the wisdom and work of the medical experts charged with their care. The apostle Paul wrote in I Corinthians that "we know only in part." I have found that to be true in more areas of my life than my bone marrow story.

Even so, I am grateful that I did it. The inconveniences of travel and the aches in my bones were worthwhile to me, even if I don't know the outcome. So often, God uses us for purposes we cannot see. Other times, we may know the purpose, but do not see its fulfillment. "I planted, Apollos watered, but it was God who gave the growth," Paul writes earlier in that same letter. I also know that I have seen the fruits of vineyards that I did not plant. In the past year, some of the things that

might be credited to me as "accomplishments" were just waiting for a pastoral touch but had been planted and watered by others in years prior.

Those experiences encourage me when I don't get to see the end of the story. I know God is still at work even if I don't see the end of the story. I can look to the past, whether that's last year's newsletter or a notebook in the Heritage room to see how God has been faithful throughout the generations, and know that God is faithful still, and will continue to be in the future.

I've spent the past year trying to learn the rhythms and traditions of this particular community of faith, to discover and rejoice in the ways that y'all experience God's faithfulness. It has been such a joy to walk alongside y'all over the past year, and I look forward to many more years of sharing ministry together. I know that God is with us, and working through us, even if we don't always get to see the end of the thread.

So I don't fully know what comes next, but I'm grateful we get to rejoice together along the way as we discover God's promises together.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Joseph

Outreach Luncheon

On Sunday, September 20, the Outreach team will sponsor a lunch in the fellowship hall after church to hear from Wendi Love of Interfaith Health Center. Since 1991, they have provided accessible, affordable, quality health care to residents of East Tennessee who are working but uninsured and/or the underinsured. The average yearly income for Interfaith clients is just over \$30,000.

Many people don't realize the number of workers who lack health insurance, such as people who are self-employed, small business owners, part-time workers, employees of small companies that are not required to offer insurance, and private contractors. Some companies offer insurance plans that are very expensive, affordable only for management and senior staff. Some plans have very high deductibles (\$5,000 and up); while the monthly cost may be affordable, young workers and families don't have enough savings to cover their medical expenses before the deductible is met. Other companies offer insurance that covers only major medical events, not the ordinary doctor appointments and prescriptions that can add up quickly, especially for families. And with the large premium increases and reduced federal subsidies this year, plans under the Affordable Care Act are out of reach for many people.

Primarily through the support of individuals and the religious, health care, and business communities, Interfaith Health Center provides medical, dental, mental health, and prescription services regardless of race, sex, creed, age, religion, national origin, or ability to pay. Since opening their doors in 1991 they have served over 24,000 hardworking residents of 33 counties. They recently moved to a new, larger location on Middlebrook Pike.

Reserve your space at the lunch by filling out the form in the worship bulletin, or call the church office.

FISH Pantry Day

SAVE THE DATE! Our next Service Day is Saturday, September 26th from 9am to 1pm. Let Nathan Barber know if you joining us! nathan.barber213@gmail.com



This is a rewarding opportunity to lend a hand distributing food to people in Knoxville who need help. Erin has committed to volunteer one Saturday each quarter to this much-needed ministry. Whether you've helped in the past or want to come along for the first time, we'd love to have you with us.

Church Cookbook

More Recipes Wanted!

Thank you to everyone who sent recipes in order to bless Lauren Gahan with her church cookbook!

Now it's your turn...for the next 3 weeks, **until September 22nd**, send in any and all of your favorite recipes and we'll add them to the cookbook. Then, the Outreach team will sell our Cookbook in October to raise money for the Blessing Box!

Send typed recipes, or photos of them, to admin@erinpresbyterian.org.

Thank You from Lauren & Calum

Thank you so much for the thoughtful wedding gifts! We are so grateful for the Erin cookbook, sifter, and cooling rack. I can't wait to incorporate all of the wonderful recipes into our home. It means so much to have your love and support as we begin this next chapter of our lives. I'm so grateful for all of the memories and friendships from Erin and to be part of this amazing community!

Coffee & Crafts

September 22 at 10:30am

Join us on the first official day of Fall! Joy and April will bring some delicious autumn treats, make a good pot of seasonal coffee, and walk you through making a fun and decorative Fall craft to take home.

We always have fun crafting and visiting!



Sign up with the insert in the bulletin or text April 865-235-8891 and we'll look forward to this fun time together!

Diary of Anne Frank at Erin

Come and see the powerful and sobering story of a group of families trying to survive in hiding in the 1940s Nazi-occupied Netherlands. Please join us as we ask, "How do we love our neighbors in the midst of persecution?" This well-known story comes to life on stage at Erin Presbyterian Church Oct. 15th, 16th, 18th, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, and 25th. For further details and ticketing information, please visit wordplayers.org.

WordPlayers

Fall Musical Theatre Class
class series for young artists who want to learn about the basics of musical theatre and gain experience in the performing arts without the full-blown work and commitment of a normal show. The class meets each week on Tuesday

afternoons until November, when we will do a small performance of the work the students are putting in.

October Chili Cookoff

SAVE THE DATE!

We will have our annual Chili Cook-off on Wednesday, October 21 @ 5:45 pm
More info and sign ups to come, but put it on your calendar....and competitors, dust off your best recipes!

Pub Theology

Yeah, we started for the young folks, but we realize that we're a **MULTI-GENERATIONAL Church** and the best conversations happen when we're **TOGETHER!**



Join us at Abridged for thought-provoking conversation, laughter, and 20% off dinner and a beer! The next one is September 22nd from 6-8pm and we hope to see YOU there!
If you'd like more info, email Nathan Barber. nathan.barber213@gmail.com

PW Lydia Circle

The Presbyterian Women Lydia Circle will resume meeting Saturday, September 12th at 9:15. We will be studying the 2026-2027 Presbyterian Women Bible Study: United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other: Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, by Rhonda Mawhood Lee. We can't wait to begin this study, and hope you can join us!

Books can be ordered and sent directly to your home with the following QR Code:
For questions...

Kelli Canan-Denny,
kellicanan@hotmail.com or
Jennifer Gahan
gahangirl1@gmail.com



Jig & Reel Concert

September 19th 7pm



When we received an email from the Jig & Reel Band asking for a room to work on their instruments and jam a little, then have a **FREE CONCERT**, we said **YES!**

The concert is September 19th at 7pm, and they sent us a little bio to share with you.

The Knoxville Scottish Session meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday at 7:15pm at Boyd's Jig and Reel, owned by *fiddler Jenny Boyd*.

The session group emerged out of the Scottish music club that was founded by David Pickens and Betsy Hooper in 1998. David has led the session since it moved to the Jig and Reel and anchors the group on guitar.

Tracy Jenkins joined the session in 2021 after moving to the area. He has been playing bagpipes for 23 years with various groups, and has been singing folk songs since he learned to talk. Tracy grew up going to sessions and workshops like the one we're putting on, and they're both such vital cradles of community, creativity, and tradition. Musicians who attend the session regularly play at festivals and concerts in the area.



Erin Choir Needs You!

Beginning September 2nd at 7:30pm
We'll begin singing Sunday mornings on September 13th.

Summer is coming to an end, and the choir will be back in action. Please join us!

No formal vocal training is required, just a willingness to learn and an eagerness to lift your voice in praise. We welcome all ages, from high school students to senior adults! We believe that God is worshiped in many ways, consequently, the Choir performs a wide variety of music, from classical to contemporary.

More importantly, we strive to have fun with the music and with each other. In addition to singing, we share joys and concerns, and support one another with prayer and compassion each week. Sounds like fun, doesn't it?

Come join us and experience it for yourself!

Thank You!

Another annual Justice Knox "Makers and Bakers" event is in the books, and what a great fundraiser it was! I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who supported this event by making, baking, volunteering, supporting, and shopping!! From beautiful hand-turned wood bowls and museum quality photography (John House) to amazing crochet art (Stephanie Tanksley) to miniature cathedrals and "Hogwart's buildings (John Miller), to wonderful soaps, aprons, bird houses, scarves, plants(too many contributors to name) we had merchandise galore!! And our bakers and canners outdid themselves with beautiful

merchandise galore!! And our bakers and canners outdid themselves with beautiful cakes, pies, cookies, and even cupcakes iced to look like the adorable shaggy heads of dogs - AMAZING!

From coordinators Susan Miller, David Eggers, and me, please accept our thanks and love for sharing your talent, effort, and time to support Justice Knox in making our community a place where all can thrive. Justice Knox does the kind of hard, steady work of changing unfair practices so that feeding and rescuing our neighbors may one day be unnecessary.

Bravo, Erin!! Bravo, Jesus, for opening hearts to love and hands to give!!!

-Kellan Sarles

Session Summary

Our Session is tasked with measuring our congregation's faithfulness to God's Word, and with discerning God's will for our congregation. They are as faithful and as wise a bunch as any church could hope for, although their collective humility would cause them to dispute that.

As we seek to faithfully and wisely discern what God is calling us to do, it's important to keep the congregation in the loop, because listening to as many voices as possible is part of the discernment process. Presbyterians affirm that God is free to speak through anyone, and that the wise and faithful among us ought to listen for what God is saying.

We began, as always, with a time of sharing prayer concerns and devotional, this time led by Nathan Barber.

We approved a proposal from the property committee to repair the vent for the washer dryer we have on campus, and approved a pair of property use requests from community organizations (Better Angels and LiVe Rooted Knox). When asked if we ought to develop amore robust property use policy or trust that our current practice, one elder remarked that we ought to "leave it where the Lord flung it." Which I thought was a delightful line, and much more fun than the old cliché about not fixing broken things.

The wisdom and faithfulness of our Session also means sometimes changing our minds. I end every Session meeting with prayer, and that prayer always includes the line, "If any action we have taken this evening is counter to your will, we pray that it may fail, that we may better learn to follow you by our stumbling."

Well last month we got excited about an idea, and approved it before we examined it as thoroughly as perhaps we ought. Right now, our church budget, programing, and Session



Classes run from July 1st of one year to June 30th of the following year. That makes some of the institutional needs of our church a little more complicated. Insurance, both property insurance and Pastoral medical insurance, run on a calendar year. So sometimes our estimates are a little off for part of the year. Last month, we solved that problem by approving transition to a calendar-year model over the next 18 months. When we were informed over the weeks since that decision that it would cause issues for other committees, we decided together as a Session that we felt called to be the kind of church that privileges mission and ministry over institutional maintenance. So with a motion to reconsider, which was then seconded and approved, we are returning to our previous practice of the July-June fiscal and programming year.

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly for the life of our active members, there will be a congregational meeting immediately following worship on September 13th. At that meeting, the congregation will be voting on an update to the Pastor's Terms of Call, will receive a copy of the Session-approved budget, and will perhaps even elect a new class of elders!

September Birthdays

- 6 Joe Jaynes
- 7 Don Quinley
- 11 Andy Sarles
- 21 Larry McKay
- 27 Kay Pennington
- 29 Nicole Waters



Family Ministry Fun!



Pioneer Club Returns
Tuesday, Sept. 22nd
6:00-7:30 pm
Family Life Center

Pioneer Club is a "hands-on" activity club for children K - 5th grade. We meet monthly on the 4th Tuesday in conjunction with Pub Theology.

This year's theme is "Messy Tuesdays." That's right! We're not afraid to get our hands dirty to learn more about God, ourselves, and each other!

Each session, young pioneers will participate in crafts, science demonstrations, computer fun, games and more.



Planet Worship

September 13 and 27

This month in Planet Worship, we continue our discussion of the different parts of worship. Children will make Worship Kits with tools and resources, including as hymn bookmarks and prayer cards, they can keep in their worship bags to use during the worship hour.

Reminder

If you or your group/team are the last ones out of the building at night, please make *certain* that the front doors are locked. We've found them unlocked when coming to work in the morning a few times.

Also, be sure to shut off lights.
 Thank you for helping us be good stewards of the Erin Church.

SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 6TH	SEPTEMBER 13TH	SEPTEMBER 20TH	SEPTEMBER 27TH
COFFEE	COFFEE	COFFEE	COFFEE
Pat Wallin	Mary Nelle Cate	Suzanne Lawrence	Susan Miller
BELL RINGER	BELL RINGER	BELL RINGER	BELL RINGER
Lucas Barber	Eliza Barber	William Taber	Ginger Thompson
GREETER	GREETER	GREETER	GREETER
Rickey McCallum	Kelli Canan Denny	Pat Wallin	Jim Thompson
Erin McCallum	Tony Denny	Kathy Boyd	Jim Montgomery
GUIDE	GUIDE	GUIDE	GUIDE
Craig Strand	Betty Gibbs	Robbie Levering	Eliza Barber
READER	READER	READER	READER
Kellan Sarles	Neill Murphy	Kelcey Levering	David Eggers
USHERS	USHERS	USHERS	USHERS
Rickey McCallum	Kelcey Levering	Brooks and David	Kim Pennington
Dave Leckie	Robbie Levering	Eggers	Gary Pennington
Linda Quinley	Jim Montgomery	Mike Cate	Dusty Pennington
COUNTERS	COUNTERS	COUNTERS	COUNTERS
Craig Strand	Neill Murphy	Ann Snoggrass	Andy Sarles
Joe Jaynes	John House	David Eggers	Rickey McCallum
LIGHTS	LIGHTS	LIGHTS	LIGHTS
Neill Murphy	Neill Murphy	David Cowen	Neill Murphy
SOUND	SOUND	SOUND	SOUND
Tammy Murphy	Tammy Murphy	David Snodgrass	Tammy Murphy
STREAMING	STREAMING	STREAMING	STREAMING
David Snodgrass	Stacie Armsworth	Kevin Griffin	Joe Jaynes
SLIDES	SLIDES	SLIDES	SLIDES
David Cowen	Anna McKay	Phil Watkins	Craig Strand

Communion

Class of 2026 by Intinction