

THE BEACON

✦ OCTOBER 2026

Hey folks!

I love October. I love the change in the weather as it turns cool. I love the change in the view as the maples and poplars turn their leaves to all the beautiful colors. I love getting to use the word “autumnal” in conversation. I love sitting by a fire in the firepit in our backyard. I love the stews and other meals that feel appropriate for the season – the church chili cook off is coming, y’all! I love fall.

But even though the word is the same, it’s not the same as the love I have for my family, or my friends, or my church. Even those are different kinds of love between them.

The New Testament was originally written down in a kind of Greek called “koine.” It was the language of the tradespeople of its day, not the high philosophical language we associate with classical literature. The authors of scripture had four different words where we only have one: “love.” C. S. Lewis has a book unpacking them entitled, helpfully, *The Four Loves*. They basically break down into family-love, friend-love, romantic-love, and charitable-love.

When Jesus is asked “What is the greatest commandment?” (Matthew 22:36-40), his answer quotes Deuteronomy 6 and Leviticus 19. Many commentators have also suggested that Jesus’s answer was one that every little boy in the synagogue would have been taught, and that the person asking the question was establishing Jesus’s credentials to see if he was “properly” educated. Regardless of the motivation of the asker, Jesus emphasizes part of his existing faith tradition to bring loving God and loving one’s



neighbor as oneself to the forefront.

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself, I am the LORD,” (Leviticus 19:18b). It’s a challenging commandment, and the people of God have struggled to keep it since it was given in the days of Moses. When this commandment is written in koine Greek, it uses the charitable-love.

I love October, and all that comes with it, but not everyone does. For some folks, the turning of the seasons brings them to sadness, and they miss the warm summer sun. Some folks struggle to love their neighbors, others struggle to love ourselves. God created humankind, in all our variety and diversity, in God’s own image. So be charitable with one another, let generosity and grace be the love that we share.

And remember that your pastor loves you even more than he loves Octobers.

Your brother in Christ,
Rev. Joseph W. Taber IV

ANNUAL CHILI COOKOFF

On Wednesday evening, October 21, we will be having our annual Chili Cook-off. It will start at 5:45 so that programs can start at 6:30 as usual. We need 5 competitors and lots of judges! So dust off your recipes and tune up your taste buds for a fun and delicious competition...sign ups will be in the bulletins for the next few Sundays.



We will also be selling our new Erin Cookbook at this event...all proceeds from the Cook Off and the cookbook will go to the Blessing Box Fund. See you there!!

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Some years ago, we had a photography club at Erin. We met monthly to discuss some of the technical and artistic components of photography then, also monthly, we went on a field trip to put what we learned into practice. I was thinking of starting it up again, if there was enough interest to do so. So if you would like to join us, perhaps learn a little about photography, and get out for some group shoots, let me know.

John House [_jchphd3@me.com](mailto:jchphd3@me.com)

JUSTICE KNOX LUNCHEON

Justice Knox listening session and lunch on 10/4 immediately following worship in the fellowship hall. This is not just for those who are already team members but for anyone who wants to share their concerns about our community. The more people

we hear from, the more accurately we can gauge the pulse of our community. Unlike state and national politics, Justice Knox takes up the local issues that are raised in our listening sessions. Please join us!

WOMEN'S FALL BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays at 10 am

Oct. 15 – Nov. 19

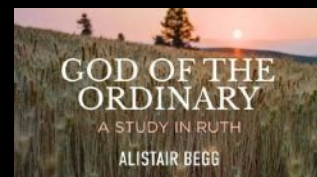
Adult Sunday School Room

Join us for this six-week video bible study as we

explore the Book of Ruth. Against a backdrop of strife and chaos, Ruth is a story of ordinary people in Bethlehem making the most of their bad situation – and finding God in the midst of it. It is a story of purity, faithfulness, loyalty, duty, and love. Each week, we'll begin our session with a time for fellowship, coffee and treats. Then, through scripture, a short video, and discussion, we will explore the themes of:

- Presence & Providence
- Grace & Favor
- Redemption & Hope
- Above & Beyond
- Restoration & Promise
- Refuge & Rest

Please use the insert in the worship bulletin to register or contact Joy Bornhoeft at:
cec@erinpresbyterian.org.



TRUNK OR TREAT

Fall Festival!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24 3-6PM

Bring your family and friends for an afternoon of Fall Fun, Fellowship & Treats!

We'll have Trunk or Treat, Pumpkin Painting, Fall Snacks and Treats, Face Painting, Hot Dogs, and Apple Cider! Come celebrate the fall season with us!

We need folks to decorate their car trunk and pass out candy, and other positions like: manning the cider table, cooking hotdogs, and donating supplies. Sign up in the narthex at church or contact Tony Denny for more ideas and fun!

canden3620@gmail.com



PLANET WORSHIP

October 18 and 25

Planet Worship usually meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. But, this month, we will meet on Oct. 18 instead of Oct. 11 due to Knox County Fall Break. Children will continue to work on their Worship Kits as we discuss the importance of music in worship and make hymn bookmarks.

PIONEER CLUB

Tuesday, Oct. 27th

6:00-7:30 pm

Family Life Center



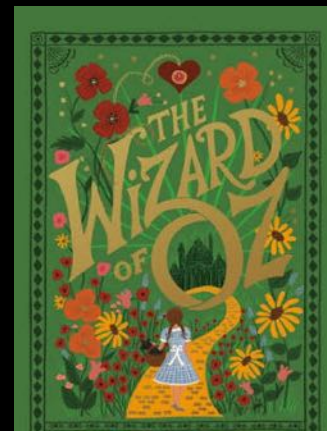
Pioneer Club meets monthly in conjunction with Pub Theology. Join us this month for some Halloween fun – treats, games, pumpkins, and a jack-o-lantern volcano! Kids in Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to attend this hands-on activity club.

MUSICAL THEATER CLASSES WITH THE WORDPLAYERS

The WordPlayers are continuing their fall 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.

The final performance will be November 13th, and it will be a showcase of The Wizard of Oz.



The showcase is by donation, so please come out and join us as we celebrate all the hard work these young people have put into their class time!

PW FALL GATHERING

Saturday, October 28, 2026

Coffee and Registration

9:30-10:00 am

Celebrating 200 years of Presbyterian Women! Rev. Cathy Meyer, Moderator of the Presbytery of East Tennessee and Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church, Chattanooga, will be our presenter. We'll also enjoy table activities and a video.

MISSION FOCUS

Celebrating 75+ years of Mission Haven with speaker Aleathea Harris-Little, TN State Representative for Mission Haven. Learn about all things Mission Haven and hear an update on their purpose and outreach. Mission Haven is supported and operated by Presbyterian Women in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Please bring monetary donations to support Mission Haven; you may write a check directly to them or make an online donation at [tinyurl.com/pwpetmissionhaven](https://www.pwpetmissionhaven.com).

For more information, visit:

<https://www.presbyteryeasttn.org/events/>



THANKS FOR COMING TO FALL COFFEE CLUB!

We had a fun time at Fall Coffee Club! Joy taught us how to make traditional Irish Harvest Wreaths using real pieces of wheat. They're lovely and will be a decoration we can use each Autumn. Here are some pictures...



Pyromaniacs giggling as they burn the frayed edges off the wreaths.



WORLD COMMUNION OFFERING

On Sunday, October 4, we will celebrate communion

along with churches around the world!



Rev. Hugh Thompson Kerr first conceived of World Communion Sunday as moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly in 1930 to bring churches together in a service of Christian unity, and to emphasize the importance of the Church of Jesus Christ and how each congregation is interconnected one with another. The idea was adopted throughout the PCUSA in 1936 and subsequently spread to other denominations. In 1940, the National Council of Churches endorsed World Communion Sunday and began to promote it to Christian churches worldwide.

The PCUSA also collects the World Communion Offering on this day. Through this special offering, one of three we participate in each year, we at Erin Church will join our siblings in Christ across the globe in God's mission of welcome, justice, and hope, stepping beyond the boundaries of our neighborhood and into the life of the worldwide church. The Outreach Team invites you to take part in this offering as we celebrate together what it means to belong to a global, connected church shaped by God's endless love.

You can give by using the special envelopes in the pew racks, mailing a check with "World Communion Offering" in the subject line to the church office, or making a donation via the church website at erinpresbyterian.org. Under "FUND" choose PCUSA Special Offering.

CAMPUS MINISTRIES

The new school year is under way, and the Outreach Team is celebrating the three campus ministries we support as part of our church's budget. In addition to the donations from our yearly budget, this year Erin Church will pay for the meal before the worship service at UKirk on Wednesday evening, November 4.

We're looking for a few Erin members to represent us that evening - the food is all arranged and you don't have to do anything except be present. If you're interested, please text or call Kim Jaynes at 865-384-9997.

A number of Erin members have been part of these three important ministries over the years, including two members of the Outreach Team.

Susan Miller lived at the UT Knoxville Presbyterian Center (now known as UKirk) in the late 1970s. She recalls, "As the only girl, I lived in the front room on the second story. Seven guys lived at the house too, including in the attic. We shared Sunday night programs, which usually began with a dinner of spaghetti and garlic bread followed by skits, Bible studies, and good talks. I remember touring Brushy Mountain Prison and taking a trip to Washington D.C. with the group. Thank goodness I had the opportunity to live there because I would not be the person I am today. The Presbyterian Center kept me grounded as much as I could be grounded at that time. Seeing the UT students at church on Sunday, September 20, I was proud to know that they are hearing, seeing, and experiencing the same opportunities I had. And we heard an amazing sermon from one of them, Bo Corum, that was off the charts!" More recently, Chloe Levering participated in UKirk when she was a student, and her sister Ella, a current UT student, is very active in its ministry.

CAMPUS MINISTRIES CONT'D



UT Presbyterian Center & Susan Miller's room there in the 1970s.

Erin McCallum says, "When I decided to attend UT Chattanooga many moons ago as a college freshman, I did not know very many people from my hometown who were going to school there. I was starting fresh, trying to find my "home" and make friends. I was handed a flyer at a cookout hosted by several organizations during the first week of school to help new students meet each other and learn about the extracurricular activities UTC had to offer. The flyer was an invitation to attend the Presbyterian student ministry, which was called "Pres House" back then (now called Hope House). There was a weekly worship service as well as a time of fellowship, and a meal was provided. The free meal was a big draw for a poor freshman who did not know how to cook!

I kept going back due to the feeling of home that I found there, surrounded by other students who were worshipping in a way that felt familiar and singing songs that I knew by heart. I did not find a specific church home in Chattanooga during my time at UTC, but I did find a home at Pres House where I felt seen and felt comfortable seeking God's presence in my life during a time when a lot of students can feel lost and alone. This ministry is especially important now that I have a high school senior who will be going off into the world next year. I will hope that he will find a place where he can feel God's love and comfort in his new "college home."

David McKay also appreciated Hope House (especially Tuesday lunches) during his time at UTC several years ago.

Erin Church also donates to the Center for Campus Ministry at Maryville College. Our gifts have helped them upgrade their production and technical equipment to support live streaming and recording of worship services and programs, which are not only broadcast on campus but also allow access to people around the country.

Michelle (Waters) DeLozier, who graduated in 2020, was a Church and College Scholar and worked with children at New Providence Presbyterian Church in Maryville as part of her scholarship program through the Center for Campus Ministry.

Kathryn Bornhoeft, a current student at Maryville College, enjoys the chapel and special worship services there, as well.



THANK YOU FROM PAT WALLIN

Dear Erin Friends,

It's ALMOST worth my 6 bone fractures to experience the love Erin members show one another! Your many delicious dishes, your sweet cards, calls, visits, and offers of rides over the last 8 weeks - all have been an important part of my recovery journey.

It was especially uplifting to gather with you again in person for worship in September. Thank you for your many acts of kindness.

Pat Wallin

BRAVER ANGELS



A new group is meeting at Erin Church. They're not sponsored by our church, but we wanted to make you aware of them because their platform is very beneficial during these difficult times.

The Braver Angels Way

We state our views freely and fully, without fear.

We treat people who disagree with us with honesty, dignity and respect.

We welcome opportunities to engage those with whom we disagree.

We believe all of us have blind spots and none of us are not worth talking to.

We seek to disagree accurately, avoiding exaggeration and stereotypes.

We look for common ground where it exists and, if possible, find ways to work together.

We believe that, in disagreements, both sides share and learn.

In Braver Angels, neither side is teaching the other, or giving feedback on how, to think or say things differently.

Braver Angels comes together on the third Thursday of each month at 6pm for a fantastic time of discussion, learning about upcoming events, and practicing our skills at **civil discourse**.

The East TN Alliance hosts the statewide monthly meeting, providing both in-person and online means of attending. You can join in-person at Erin Presbyterian Church in the education wing, or go to their website and click the red button on the homepage that says "Join the Meeting".

[Homepage](#)

Our discussion topics draw from articles and videos posted on our Events Page [click here for upcoming events!](#)

For more info: kim@knoxwealthpartners.com

SESSION SUMMARY

Hey folks!

Session meetings are structured such that we begin with a time of devotion and prayer, move on to our action items, and then receive reports. Some months we have much to discuss, some months we have much on which to act, and other months we mostly receive reports. This meeting was discussion heavy, and a few actions came out of those discussions.

Devotion and prayer are the most important business before the leadership of the church, which is why we do it first. We shared joys and concerns to be held in prayer, and then Tony Denny led us in a devotional based on I Peter 5:6-5, and the importance of humility and finding God's peace.

From there, we had a spirited discussion on the blessing box which lives outside our main entrance. It's been cleaned out of all its supplies a number of times over the past few months, and a member of our community had suggested that moving it elsewhere might make it less likely to get fully emptied. The Session went around the table on this question, and the consensus was that God calls us to be generous, to bless others, not to judge their worthiness or how much they may take from the blessing box. So the box will remain where it is, although we would welcome additional volunteers to make sure it gets restocked when it needs it. This also reflects the values of the Fish Pantry we support, where the only questions asked are "which food would you like," rather than any question of deserving. God is generous with us, so we are generous with others.

The Session also, in the spirit of generosity to our neighbors who use our building, opted to approve

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The Session also, in the spirit of generosity to our neighbors who use our building, opted to approve some needed upgrades to the family life center, which we share with a number of outside groups.

We also discussed the need to better equip one another for visiting one another, especially our homebound. This has been a growth edge for me over the course of my pastoring career, and so the Session has asked me to lead a conversation after worship one Sunday that would help us feel more confident in visiting and connecting with one another. Most of the time, just being your regular friendly self is plenty. Other times, it's good to have a little more of an idea of what to say, and what not to say. We're working on getting that scheduled and will let you know when it comes up. But look out for sign-ups from the Fellowship team if you feel called to do more!

So the theme for Session this month was that we are generous with our neighbors, and we are generous with one another. This is how we, as Tony's devotional quoted, "clothe ourselves with humanity toward one another," and embody God's peace toward all people.

HOMEBOUND VISITATION TEAM

We are looking for a few people interested in visiting our homebound church members. After many years of faithful attendance, a few of our church family can no longer make it to worship in person. We are forming a visitation team, hopefully comprised of 8 eager individuals who will visit our homebound members at least once a month.

Our plan is to go in teams of 2...Pastor Taber will conduct a training class before these visits officially start in preparation for the visits. Please consider being a member of this team. Be

assured it is just as much a blessing to the visitor as it is the visited.... pastor@erinpresbyterian.org

END OF YEAR GIVING

QCD - it's not a maritime distress code! (maritime distress code SOS, used to be CQD) Did you know that you can save federal taxes and support Erin Church at the same time? For those of us older than 70.5 years, there is an opportunity to support Erin and save on federal taxes too.

Ask your tax preparer. (Note – some info is dated by OBBB 2025) Here is an abstract from the IRS website. IRS Tax Tip 2022-171, November 8, 2022

In most cases, distributions from a traditional Individual Retirement Account are taxable in the year the account owner receives them but there are some exceptions.

A qualified charitable distribution is one of the few exceptions.

A QCD is a nontaxable distribution made directly by the trustee of an IRA to organizations that are eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions.

QCDs can't occur from Simplified Employee Pension plans and Savings Incentive Match Plan for Employees IRA.

Making a QCD can benefit the taxpayer by reducing their taxable income while they support qualifying charitable organizations of their choice. The taxpayer doesn't have to worry about meeting the standard deduction or itemizing deductions with a QCD.

Financial institutions report QCDs on Form 1099-R for the calendar year the distribution occurs.

There's no number or letter code on the Form 1099-R that indicates the distribution was a QCD. So, support Erin's mission and save on taxes too. As they say, it's a "no brainer."

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THE WORDPLAYERS PRESENT.... THE DIARY OF ANN FRANK

at Erin Presbyterian Church, 200 Lockett Road

An impassioned drama about the lives of eight people hiding from the Nazis in a concealed storage attic, The Diary of Anne Frank captures the claustrophobic realities of their daily existence - their fear, their hope, their laughter, and their grief.

Performances

Click the "TICKETS" link [here](#) to purchase tickets in advance for specific dates.

Thursday nights are "Pay What You Wish" at the door.

- Thursday, Oct 15 7:30pm
- Friday, Oct 16 7:30pm
- Sunday, Oct 18 2:30pm
- Thursday, Oct 22 7:30pm
- Friday, Oct 23 7:30pm
- Saturday, Oct 24 7:30pm
- Sunday, Oct 25 7:30pm
- Adults: \$22 Students: \$18

Offering group ticket rates for this production:

Groups of 10 or more qualify for 10% off each ticket.

If you have any questions, please email

productions@wordplayers.org

Group Ticket Discount Code: **DAFGRP10**



In this hilarious Christmas classic, a couple struggling to put on a church Christmas pageant are faced with casting the Herdman kids: probably the most inventively awful kids in history. You won't believe the mayhem (and the fun) when the Herdmans collide head-on with the story of Christmas!

Dec. 11-13 at Clayton Performing Arts Center, on the Hardin Valley campus of Pellissippi State.

Friday the 11th at 7:30pm

Saturday the 12th 2:30pm

Sunday the 13th 2:30pm

TICKETS

Adults: \$22

Students aged 13 and up: \$18

Students aged 12 and under: \$14

For ticket information please head to our website

wordplayers.org



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 4TH	OCTOBER 11TH	OCTOBER 18TH	OCTOBER 25TH
COFFEE	COFFEE	COFFEE	COFFEE
Pat Wallin	Mary Nelle Cate	Suzanne Lawrence	Susan Miller
BELL RINGER	BELL RINGER	BELL RINGER	BELL RINGER
Craig Strand	Addison Strand	Will McCallum	Luna Wiggins
GREETER	GREETER	GREETER	GREETER
Kathy Boyd	Pat Wallin	Mike Cate	Jim Thompson
Tony Denny	Kim Pennington	Kelcey Levering	Brooks Eggers
GUIDE	GUIDE	GUIDE	GUIDE
Kellan Sarles	Kim Jaynes	Kelcey Levering	David Eggers
READER	READER	READER	READER
Rickey McCallum	John House	Robbie Levering	Neill Murphy
USHERS	USHERS	USHERS	USHERS
Linda Quinley	David Eggers	Gary Pennington	Erin McCallum
Jim Montgomery	Brooks Eggers	Dusty Pennington	Kelcey Levering
Mike Cate	Robbie Levering	Kim Pennington	Kathy Boyd
COUNTERS	COUNTERS	COUNTERS	COUNTERS
Craig Strand	David Eggers	Ann Snodgrass	Andy Sarles
Rickey McCallum	John House	Joe Jaynes	Neill Murphy
LIGHTS	LIGHTS	LIGHTS	LIGHTS
David Cowen	David Cowen	Neill Murphy	David Cowen
SOUND	SOUND	SOUND	SOUND
Kevin Griffin	David Snodgrass	Tammy Murphy	Tammy Murphy
STREAMING	STREAMING	STREAMING	STREAMING
Phil Watkins	Stacie Amsworth	Joe Jaynes	Phil Watkins
SLIDES	SLIDES	SLIDES	SLIDES
Anna McKay	Phil Watkins	Craig Strand	David Snodgrass

