

# THE ENLIGHTENER

Epiphany United Church of Christ, St. Louis, Missouri

February 2019

## 💡 PK's Little Epiphanies 💡

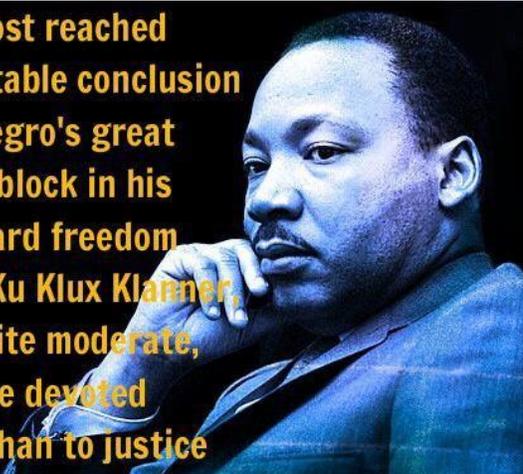
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in his epic “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” wrote, “I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's great stumbling block in his stride toward freedom is not the White Citizen's Council or the Ku Klux Klanner, but the white moderate, who is more devoted to ‘order’ than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice; who constantly says: ‘I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I cannot agree with your methods of direct action’; who paternalistically believes he can set the timetable for another man's freedom; who lives by a mythical concept of time and who constantly advises the Negro to wait for a ‘more convenient season.’ Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will. Lukewarm acceptance is much more bewildering than outright rejection.”

This is true not only as we seek racial justice and equality. But also as we seek justice and equality for women; for workers and the poor; for LGBTQIA folks; for people with disabilities; for immigrants, asylum seekers, and migrants; and for the environment.

### In This Issue

- Soul Food Potluck—Feb. 10
- Christian Ed Update
- Home Remedy concert—March 9
- Much more!

**I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's great stumbling block in his stride toward freedom is not the Ku Klux Klanner, but the white moderate, who is more devoted to 'order' than to justice**



I don't know about you, but I am struggling daily with the great leaps backward our nation is taking. Decades and even centuries of struggle being wiped out by the stroke of the pen in the Oval Office or the gavel fall in the Supreme Court. (Do they even use a gavel? No matter, you get my meaning.) It hurts to see the work of my parents and the progressive heroes of the past undone.

(Continued on page 2.)

(Continued from page 1.)

But I find my heart broken not by those who actively seek to oppress and destroy; but by those who say they don't hate but show daily that they care more about "respect for the flag" than dead children; who put "Thank you police" signs in their yards in integrated neighborhoods of North County and don't know or don't care how that hurts their neighbors; and who care more about the price of gas than they do about the Venezuelan and Yemeni lives being crushed.

Revelation is pretty weird and hard to understand because of our distance in time, space, and culture from both the author and the audience. One of the bits we CAN get is Jesus's statement to the church in Laodicea in chapter 3. In verses 15-16 he says, "I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth." Epiphany is NOT a lukewarm church, we have passion for justice and love for God and neighbor. We aren't afraid to study hard issues like systemic racism and ask both, "How are we complicit?" and, "What can we DO about it?"

***Epiphany is NOT a lukewarm church, we have passion for justice and love for God and neighbor.***

We can't be at every march, sit-in, vigil, or rally that comes along; but we must support those who march for freedom, who take a knee for justice, and who pray for true peace. In this pivotal moment of history we must not be a stumbling block for those who stride toward freedom, and we must recognize that all those who oppose fear, hate, violence, oppression, and injustice are with us. (paraphrase of Luke 9:50). Above all we must never lose hope because in seeking justice and equality we stand on God's side.

*Pastor Kris*

**Lectionary Readings  
for February 2019**

You can deepen your experience of worship by reading the scriptures in advance of Sunday.

Worship services are often (but not always) based on one of the lessons of the week.

**February 3**

Jeremiah 1:4-10  
Psalm 71:1-6  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13  
Luke 4:21-30

**February 10**

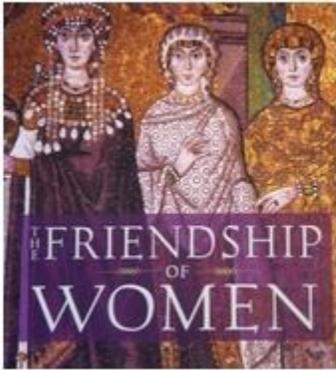
Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)  
Psalm 138  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
Luke 5:1-11

**February 17**

Jeremiah 17:5-10  
Psalm 1  
1 Corinthians 15:12-20  
Luke 6:17-26

**February 24**

Genesis 45:3-11, 15  
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40  
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50  
Luke 6:27-38



# Missouri Mid South Women's Retreat "The Friendship of Women"

April 26-28, 2019

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel

For more information, visit <https://www.missourimidsouth.org>.



## Update your Address Book

Del Miller's email  
address has changed  
from  
yellowrose86@att.net

to [delmiller86@outlook.com](mailto:delmiller86@outlook.com).

Make sure you record the change in your  
phone, email address book, directory, and  
anywhere else you keep addresses.

Thanks!

**Ash Wednesday  
is March 6.**

**Stay tuned for  
more details  
about Lent at  
Epiphany.**

**February 10**



## **Second Sunday Noisy Offerings**

Our next set of noisy offerings will go to Shower to the People—an organization that has mobile shower trucks that allow those without homes or shower facilities to bathe and get other hygiene services.

Per their website, <https://www.showertothepeople.net>:

“It’s more than bringing showers, soap, and hygiene products to the people. It’s about restoring basic human dignity and fostering hope. It’s about taking the time to love someone. It’s about being renewed and feeling like a person again.”



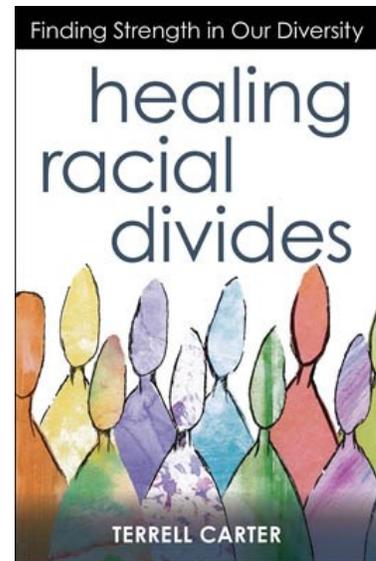
**CHRISTIAN  
EDUCATION**

## Christian Education report on Anti-racism series

During January, our Adult Sunday School class was enriched by presentations from “Faith and For the Sake of All” and Terrell Carter, author of *Healing Racial Divides*. The presentations and discussion highlighted that the inequality experienced by so many African Americans today has long historical roots stemming from public policies. These have resulted in inadequate housing, limited access to good health care and healthy food, substandard education, and shorter life expectancies. A key to improving their quality of life is literacy training. This would be enhanced by increasing the availability of early childhood education.

We were challenged to consider some concrete action that we might engage in as a congregation to counter some of these realities. There are many organizations that are addressing these issues. Due to a lack of time, we couldn’t come to any agreement. We hope to explore this issue in the future and develop some sort of action. We are not limited to meeting about this only on Sunday morning.

If you are interested in participating in this discussion, please contact Lois Yatzeck 314-498-5652 or Wes Buchek 314-258-5050.



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## Do you know a possible tenant for Epiphany?

Restoration of the offices and conference rooms on the ground floor of the Fellowship Hall building has been completed. It is likely that some of those spaces will be made available for rental to nonprofit organizations. If you know of a nonprofit looking for office space in the city of St. Louis, you might suggest that they give the church a call.





# Acoustic Evenings @ Epiphany

**SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2019**  
**5-7 PM**  
**EPIPHANY UCC**  
**2911 MCNAIR AVE.**

Family Friendly Concerts  
in the  
Benton Park Neighborhood

Admission is FREE.  
A free-will offering  
will be held at  
intermission  
(suggested donation: \$20)



## Home Remedy

Cindy Minnis & Melinda Monroe

altos, harmony, guitars, keyboard, percussion, joy!  
original and borrowed music from the 60s, 70s and beyond

Sponsored by

CAFE  PIAZZA

*This is an excerpt from the Feb. 1 Washington Post. For the full article, click [HERE](#).*

# **This Black History Month, Don't Pretend Racism Has Disappeared From the Church**

By Jemar Tisby

...Christians who see racism as mainly a problem of the past often fail to see that they or other people of faith still hold negative views about people of certain races and ethnicities.

In a study conducted by the Public Religion Research Institute, 54 percent of white evangelicals indicated that the country becoming majority nonwhite by 2045 would have negative effects on the nation. But 79 percent of black Protestant respondents and 80 percent of Hispanic Protestants thought this demographic change would be good for the country.

It's easier to believe racism is a problem of the past if you think of racism strictly in interpersonal terms, truncating the definition of racism. Hurling the "n-word" at someone is, for most people, an identifiable form of racism. But racism is not simply one person harboring personal animus toward another because of his or her race or ethnicity.

Christians believe that an individual's sins make it necessary for salvation through Jesus. That theological emphasis on individual sin, however, can lead some Christians to miss the way sins such as racism work out through systems.

In his book "The Next Evangelicalism," Soong-Chan Rah writes, "Evangelicalism's captivity to excessive individualism means that outrage for the corporate sin of racism is rarely present. ... We are so busy trying to justify and deny the reality of the personal, individual prejudice that we ignore the larger issue of a corporate shame that arises from a structural, systemic evil."

Sociologists Michael O. Emerson and Christian Smith found in their book "Divided by Faith" that white evangelical religious beliefs can reinforce an individualistic view of racism.

"If race problems — poor relationships — result from sin, then race problems must largely be individually based. ... Absent from [white evangelical] accounts is the idea that poor relationships might be shaped by social structures, such as laws, the ways institutions operate, or forms of segregation."

An individualistic understanding denies the racism lurking in the normal functions of systems, institutions and policies. Overt examples of individual racism still exist, and FBI data even reveals that hate crimes are on the rise. But Christians need to attune themselves to more modern manifestations of racial marginalization.

... [For the full story, click here.](#)

# February Calendar

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

**February 1—Friday**

**February 2—Saturday**

PK office hours  
Pastor/Parish Committee 11 a.m.

**February 3—Sunday**

9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion  
10:30 a.m. Worship with communion

**February 4—Monday**

**February 5—Tuesday**

Benton Park Neighborhood Assoc 7 p.m.

**February 6—Wednesday**

8:30 a.m. Breakfast at Epiphany with Hope UCC  
PK office hours  
6 p.m. Meditation / Prayer Group

**February 7—Thursday**

**February 8—Friday**

**February 9—Saturday**

PK office hours  
Fundraising Com. 1:30 p.m.  
Christian Education 3:00 p.m.

**February 10—Sunday**

9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
Soul Food Picnic (potluck) following worship

**February 11—Monday**

**February 12—Tuesday**

**February 13—Wednesday**

8:30 a.m. Breakfast at Epiphany with St. Lucas UCC  
PK office hours

**February 14—Thursday**

**February 15—Friday**

**February 16—Saturday**

**February 17—Sunday**

9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion  
10:30 a.m. Worship with communion  
Choir practice following worship

**February 18—Monday**

Church Council 6:30 p.m.

**February 19—Tuesday**

**November 21—Wednesday**

8:30 a.m. Breakfast at Epiphany with St. John / Mehlville  
PK office hours  
6 p.m. Meditation / Prayer Group

**February 21—Thursday**

**February 22—Friday**

**February 23—Saturday**

PK office hours

**February 24—Sunday**

9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion  
10:30 a.m. Worship

**February 25—Monday**

**February 26—Tuesday**

**February 27—Wednesday**

8:30 a.m. Breakfast at Epiphany with 1st Congregational UCC @ Wydown  
PK office hours

**February 28—Thursday**

## Save the Dates

**Soul Food Picnic - Feb. 10**

**Potluck following worship**

**Concert with Home Remedy**

**Saturday, March 9**

Thank You  
 Friends of the Congregation  
 For Special Financial Gifts

**Whoever you are  
 and wherever  
 you are on life's  
 journey, you are  
 welcome here.  
 No exceptions.**

**HOSPITALITY SCHEDULE**

- 1st Sunday: Gail Ahumada
- 2nd Sunday: Lois Yatzeck
- 3rd Sunday: Will you sign up?
- 4th Sunday: Will you sign up?
- 5th Sunday: Dorothy Gannon & Jeanette Oxford

**USHER SCHEDULE**

- 1st Sunday: Will you sign up?
- 2nd Sunday: Wes Buchek
- 3rd Sunday: Will you sign up?
- 4th Sunday: Will you sign up?
- 5th Sunday: Wes Buchek



**Stewardship Update**

For 6 months  
 ending December 2018

	Actual	Budget
Income:	YTD	YTD
Contributions	\$ 35,624	\$ 30,919
Memorials	120	0
Special Appeals	2,100	0
Fundraiser	4,267	4,100
Facilities Rental	6,461	6,937
Urban Mission Exp.	7,125	9,000
JNM Utilities	0	0
Interest	234	119
Parsonage	6,651	6,650
e-scrip	79	56
Other	11	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 62,824</b>	<b>\$ 57,781</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Mission:	4,448	9,775
Christian Educ./Camp	0	280
Worship & Leadership	37,606	31,370
Comm./Evangelism	2,497	2,790
Hospitality & Insurance	10,913	9,094
Utilities	6,341	9,814
Other	2,494	549
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 64,299</b>	<b>\$ 63,672</b>





Members who cannot be with us but  
would love to hear from you!

**John DeClue #529925 H.U.-9-B-11**

Farmington Correctional Center  
1012 W. Columbia  
Farmington, MO 63648

**RaeKwon Kinnard**

raekinnard@gmail.com

**David Hon**

2005 Frenken St.  
Pocahontas, AR 72455

**Joan Kernebeck**

c/o Altenheim  
5408 S. Broadway, # 584  
St. Louis, MO 63111

## February



**Chris Guelbert 2/6**

**John Scott 2/13**

**John DeClue 2/17**

**Chance Beeler 2/22**

**Karen Sell 2/28**

### **Anniversary**

**Gail Ahumada & Mary Albert 2/4**

If you have a story or experience to share  
in *The Enlightener*, please contact Wes  
Buchek or email it to:  
[epiphany.adm.assist@juno.com](mailto:epiphany.adm.assist@juno.com)

## MINISTERS AT EPIPHANY

Pastor, *Rev. Kristofer Avise-Rouse*  
President, *Rev. Chance Beeler*  
Vice President, *John Scott*  
Secretary, *Doug Kaufman*  
Treasurer, *Linda Paglusch*  
Asst. Treas, *Chris Heckendorn*  
Financial Secretary, *Dorothy Gannon*  
Acct. Payable, *Jeanette Mott Oxford*  
Council Members: *Donna Schaeffer,*  
*Anne Little, Larry Gaines, Lois Yatzeck*

Building Care, *Gail Ahumada*  
Choir, *Dorothy Gannon*  
Christian Educ. Chair, *Lois Yatzeck*  
Church Office, *Anne Little*  
Enlightener Editor, *Wes Buchek*  
Hospitality and Usher Coordinator, *Wes Buchek*  
Safe Church Coordinator, *Jennifer Everett*  
Musician, *Peter Ruthenburg*

**Our Purpose:** We love God by: Accepting and affirming all, fostering growth, and working for social justice.

**Our Commitments:**

**We are “Open and Affirming”** – welcoming people of all sexual orientations and gender identities into church life and leadership.

**We are a “Just Peace” Church** – seeking to bring peace by working for social justice.

**We are a “Whole Earth” Church** – committed to caring for creation and bringing a ‘green’ consciousness to our living.

**We seek to become a “Multicultural” Church** – celebrating the diversity of racial and ethnic traditions.

**WE SEEK TO BE MULTI-CULTURAL AND**

**ACCESSIBLE TO ALL**

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

9:15 A.M. Christian Ed.

10:30 A.M. Worship

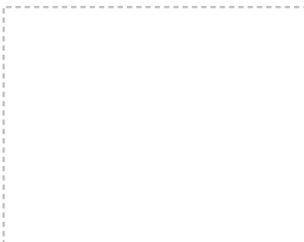
**TELEPHONE:** (314) 772-0263

**EMAIL:** [epiphanyucc.1@juno.com](mailto:epiphanyucc.1@juno.com) ,  
or [epiphany.adm.assist@juno.com](mailto:epiphany.adm.assist@juno.com)

**WEBSITE:** [www.epiphanyucc.org](http://www.epiphanyucc.org)

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**February 2019**



Epiphany United Church of Christ  
2911 McNair Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63118  
Return Service Requested