

# THE ENLIGHTENER

Epiphany United Church of Christ, St. Louis, Missouri

November 2019

## PK's Little Epiphanies



I like baseball. I especially like when the big-name teams from the biggest cities, the teams with the money and the legacy get eliminated. I like the Cinderella stories, the underdogs taking down the big guys. I was glad the World Series didn't end up Yankees vs. Dodgers.

Once upon a time a nobody from nowhere became a travelling rabbi and gathered a following of fishermen, tax collectors, women, children, peasants, slaves, sex workers, and foreigners. Pliny the Younger made fun of the religion of underdogs.

In my mind, the worst thing that ever happened to Christianity was when it became the official religion of the empire. Jesus was transformed from an anti-empire wisdom teacher into an emperor god. The faith was bent to prop up kings, support colonial projects, and defend the evils of slavery. The current form of this is American Civil Religion which mashes up imperial Christianity with American exceptionalism and white nationalism into mega church prosperity gospel garbage...

Christianity's power is waning in Europe and North America and we have the opportunity to become the religion of underdogs again. The United Church of Christ and our spiritual ancestors have been leaders in standing up for the underdogs for centuries - ordaining those that other denominations would not: a black man in 1785, the first woman since Biblical times in 1853, a gay man in 1972 - AND building orphanages, nursing homes, hospitals, and colleges - AND fighting against slavery; fighting for civil rights, workers' rights, and more.

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- Food Trucks at Benton Park
- Natural Bridge Concert
- Christian Education Update
- Much more!

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As a would-be emperor, our own petty tyrant has attacked the rights of women, children, immigrants, workers, veterans, people of color, persons with disabilities, and especially LGBTQ+ persons. As part of our response and resistance we are following Jesus' own example using table fellowship to build God's kingdom by bringing people together. On Thanksgiving Day we're having dinner beginning at 1 p.m. We have invited folks from the MTUG (Metro Trans Umbrella Group) community to join us for dinner - knowing that many of them don't have families with whom to share the day.

Turkey, stuffing, potatoes and gravy, and cranberries will be provided; the rest is potluck.

The hymn I think of as our "Epiphany Anthem" says, "Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still, no one stands alone, standing side by side..." We stand together against evil and empire; and against loneliness and isolation; and we draw the circle wide!

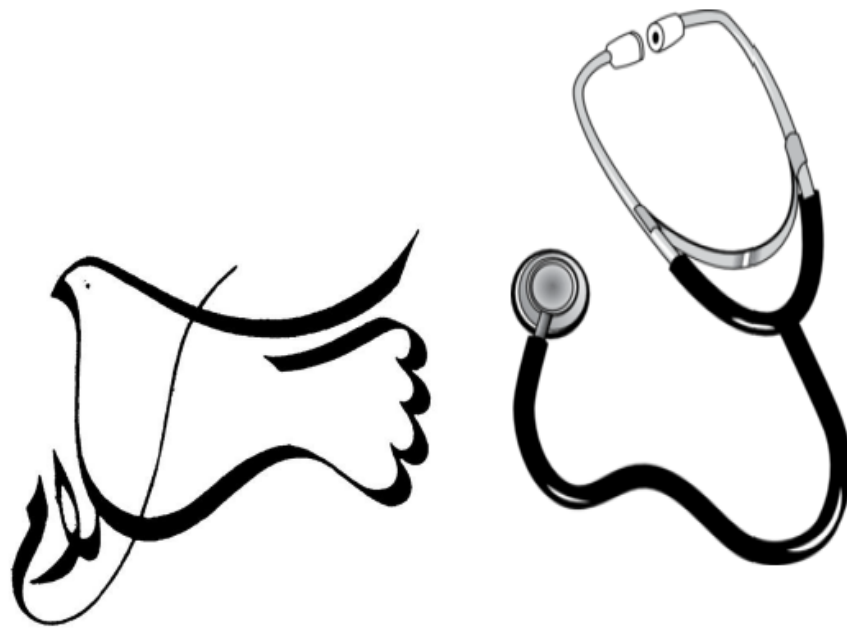


*Pastor Kris*



**SPECIAL  
THANKS**

Thank you to John Scott, Amanda Verbeck, Morgan Copeland, and Wes Buchek for their help repairing the ceiling downstairs in preparation for the Salam Free Health Clinic.



# Free Health Clinic

**Salam Free Health Clinic @ Epiphany**

**United Church of Christ**

**Opening Ceremony/Health Fair on November 9, 2019**

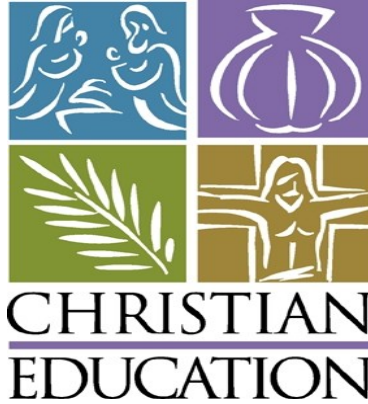
**A Free Walk-in Clinic Every Saturday from 11 AM – 1PM – Starting November 16, 2019**

**2911 McNair Avenue, St. Louis, MO. 63118**

Sponsored by the Muslim Community of St. Louis (MCLS) and Epiphany United Church of Christ to provide basic adult medical screening, treatment, and referrals free of charge for adults 18 and older with no insurance. A photo ID is required to be seen in the clinic.

For more information please call: 314-282-8512 to speak with the nurse coordinator.

# November Adult Education Class



**Nov. 3**—Forgiveness,  
led by Pastor Kris

**Nov. 10**—Bread for the World,  
led by Dr. Clint McCann

**Nov. 17**—Forgiveness,  
led by Pastor Kris

**Nov. 24**—“Feed my Sheep” Our Call to Action about Hunger,  
led by Jeanette Mott Oxford

**Please join us as we consider  
ways to be more faithful with our food!**

## WHERE IS THE TRUTH?

The October Christian Education series “Facts vs Truth” presented some important ideas for discussion. Pastor Kris in “Facts vs Truth in Scripture” invited us to consider what “truth” is. They suggested that it is how we interpret facts through the lens of our belief. They pointed out that many of the so-called facts of history in the Bible are not verifiable archaeologically but they point to a truth that is beyond the stated facts.

Ray Hartmann, founder and columnist of the *Riverfront Times*, talked about “Facts vs Truth in the media.” He described “Red vs. Blue” silos in which even the facts describing our present reality are different, reflecting different political persuasions. He is hoping we can move more to a common place for discourse. He invited us to discover the views of those with whom we disagree and “fact-check.”

Jeanette Mott Oxford, Executive Director of Empower Missouri, tackled “Facts vs Truth in Politics”. Her focus is working for food security for all people. Her frustration is that people of opposing views don’t accept the validity of the “facts” presented in sources they don’t agree with. The need is to find sources that present both sides of the arguments.

Pastor Kris closed the series with their reflections on “Facts vs Truth in the Faith Community.” They reviewed the past history of our church and its present reality and asked us to look at the “facts,” not pretending things are rosier or worse than they really are.

Through all these discussions, we are challenged to find out the true facts. There are a number of internet sites that can help us, including Snopes.com and factcheck.org. And let us continue to look for the truth that makes sense of our lives and gives us direction and hope.

## Lectionary Readings for November 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.

### **November 3**

Psalm 119:137-144  
Isaiah 1:10-18  
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12  
Luke 19:1-10

### **November 10**

Haggai 1:15b-2:9 &  
Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21  
Psalm 98  
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17  
Luke 20:27-38

### **November 17**

Isaiah 65:17-25 &  
Isaiah 12  
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13  
Luke 21:5-19

### **November 24**

Jeremiah 23:1-6 &  
Luke 1:68-79  
Colossians 1:11-20  
Luke 23:33-43

# November 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	29	30

**November 1—Friday**

**November 2—Saturday**

5-7 p.m. Concert at Epiphany with trio,  
Natural Bridge

**November 3—Sunday**

9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion  
10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion  
Food Truck Pop-Up in Benton Park  
following worship

**November 4—Monday**

**November 5—Tuesday**

7 p.m. Benton Park Neighborhood Assoc.

**November 6—Wednesday**

8:30 a.m. Breakfast at Epiphany with  
Hope UCC

6—6:30 p.m. Centering Prayer Group

**November 7—Thursday**

**November 8—Friday**

**November 9—Saturday**

**November 10—Sunday**

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

**November 11—Monday**

**November 12—Tuesday**

**November 13—Wednesday**

8:30 a.m. Breakfast with Epiphany with  
St. Lucas UCC

**November 14—Thursday**

**November 15—Friday**

**November 16—Saturday**

1:30 p.m. Christian Education Com.

**November 17—Sunday**

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

**November 18—Monday**

6:30 p.m. Church Council

**November 19—Tuesday**

**November 20—Wednesday**

8:30 a.m. Breakfast with Epiphany with  
St. John / Mehlville  
6—6:30 p.m. Centering Prayer Group

**November 21—Thursday**

**November 22—Friday**

**November 23—Saturday**

**November 24—Sunday**

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

**November 25—Monday**

**November 26—Tuesday**

**November 27—Wednesday**

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

**November 28—Thursday**

*Happy Thanksgiving*

**November 29—Friday**

**November 30—Saturday**





**STLFTA**



**benton park**



# Food Truck Pop Up

*Sunday, Nov. 3  
10 am - 4 pm*

Food and Drinks from local food trucks \* Live Music by "The Wilmingtons"

\* Soccer Demonstrations \* Dog & Animal Blessings \* Dog Adoptions



The Wilmingtons



*Sponsored by Benton Park Neighborhood Association, Epiphany UCC, and STLFTA  
A percentage of proceeds will benefit Epiphany UCC and Benton Park Neighborhood Dog Park*



# Christmas Holiday Plants

***Order by Sunday, Dec. 8***

*Please order early*

**Plants will arrive Christmas Sunday, Dec. 22**

**This year we are offering red poinsettias  
with 5-6 blooms at a cost of \$8.50.**

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How many red poinsettias? \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$8.50 Total: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please enclose a check with your mail order.)

Make check payable to: Epiphany UCC / 2911 McNair / St. Louis, MO 63118

**Let us know if this is a memorial or dedication  
and who you are honoring**

**Please print names and addresses**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please print: Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**For more information, call Anne Little at 314-322-3014.**

Family Friendly Concerts  
in the Benton Park  
Neighborhood



Epiphany Concert Series presents...

# NATURAL BRIDGE

Andy Ploof, Joel Ferber, and Mike Lindauer string together  
an eclectic mix of roots music and toe-tapping tunes to  
the delight of all audiences

**When: Saturday, November 2, 2019 | 5-7 PM**

**Where: Epiphany UCC; 2911 McNair Ave; 63118**

**Admission is free**

A free-will offering will be taken at intermission. (\$20 suggested donation)

Pizza and soda will be available for purchase at intermission.

Sponsored by: CAFE  PIAZZA



# *Epiphany Concert Series*

Join us for family-friendly concerts in the  
Benton Park Neighborhood

2 November 2019 — Natural Bridge  
15 February 2020 — Home Remedy  
18 April 2020 — Pete Ruthenburg Band

*Concerts are all on Saturdays from 5-7 pm*

Admission is FREE, but a free-will offering will be taken at intermission.  
Proceeds benefit Epiphany UCC general fund.



Pizza and soda are available for purchase at intermission

Thank You  
 Friends of the Congregation  
 For Special Financial Gifts

Thank you to Karen and Dwaine Sell and Dorothy Gannon and Jeanette Mott Oxford for their memorial gifts in memory of Beverly Blattner.

Thank you to Ailene Liebman, Karen and Dwaine Sell, Dorothy Gannon and Jeanette Mott Oxford, and Fred and Beckie Tilinski for their memorial gifts in memory of Joan Kernebeck.

Thank you to Karen and Dwaine Sell for their gift in honor of Wes Buchek

**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 4 months  
 ending September 2019

	Actual	Budget
Income:	YTD	YTD
Contributions	\$ 20,802	\$ 19,164
Memorials	100	64
Special Appeals	1,630	1,500
Fundraiser	2,821	2,000
Facilities Rental	4,374	4,932
Urban Mission Exp.	500	3,750
Interest	88	82
Parsonage	3,908	3,800
e-scrip	0	36
Other	22	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 34,245</b>	<b>\$ 35,328</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Mission:	2,344	2,821
Christian Educ./Camp	0	100
Worship & Leadership	16,776	17,619
Comm./Evangelism	1,392	1,641
Hospitality & Insurance	8,787	8,984
Utilities	2,935	4,170
Other	374	2,351
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 32,608</b>	<b>\$ 37,686</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

## BIRTHDAYS!

### November

Gail Ahumada

Wes Buchek 11/2

Lauren Verseman 11/4

James Bellamy Jr. 11/5

Monica Bellamy 11/11

Dennis Paglusch 11/17

Raekwon Kinnard 11/18

If you have a story or experience  
to share in The Enlightener,  
please contact Wes Buchek or  
email it to:  
anne@epiphanyucc.org.

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

### MINISTERS AT EPIPHANY

Pastor, *Rev. Kristofer Avise-Rouse*  
President, *Donna Schaeffer*  
Vice President, *Karen Sell*  
Secretary, *Doug Kaufman*  
Treasurer, *Morgan Copeland*  
Asst. Treas., *Chris Heckendorn*  
Financial Secretary, *Dorothy Gannon*  
Acct. Payable, *Jeanette Mott Oxford*  
Council Members: *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:**

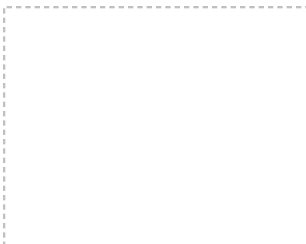
pastorkris@epiphanyucc.org

or anne@epiphanyucc.org

**WEBSITE:** www.epiphanyucc.org

**THE ENLIGHTENER**

**November 2019**



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