

# THE ENLIGHTENER

Epiphany United Church of Christ, St. Louis, Missouri

February 2018



## *FROM THE BEEbe HIVE*

### Fasting From Injustice

The Prophet Isaiah was upset because people were following the religious rituals but not carrying out the ways of justice and mercy that are much more important to God. He said:

*Is this the kind of fast I choose,  
a day of self-affliction,  
of bending one's head like a reed  
and of lying down in mourning clothing and ashes?  
Is this what you call a fast,  
a day acceptable to the Lord?  
Isn't this the fast I choose:  
releasing wicked restraints, untying the ropes of a yoke,  
setting free the mistreated,  
and breaking every yoke?  
Isn't it sharing your bread with the hungry  
and bringing the homeless poor into your house,  
covering the naked when you see them,  
and not hiding from your own family?  
Then your light will break out like the dawn,  
and you will be healed quickly.  
— Isaiah 58:5-8 CEB*

### In This Issue

- Ash Wednesday and Lent updates
- Acoustic Evenings at Epiphany
- Four-Way Covenants
- Much more!

### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE OF RETURN AND RENEWAL

**Wednesday, Feb. 14**, is the first Wednesday of Lent. It will be observed again this year in our sanctuary with a service of worship at **7 p.m.**, including the marking on the forehead or hand of those desiring it with a cross signed with ashes, reminding us of our frailty and mortality but also of the richness of God's grace.

In the middle of February we will observe Ash Wednesday and begin the season of Lent, as time of preparation for Christian discipleship and for the great events of Holy Week and Easter. (continued on page 2.)

(Continued from Page 1)

From the custom of fasting (often an important spiritual discipline for those seeking to focus their lives) we have developed the practice of giving something up for Lent. But what Isaiah suggests is that we give up selfishness, injustice, and narrow-mindedness.

Since I have a problem, as Jesus did, with people putting on the show of their righteousness, I have two minds about the imposition of ashes and wearing them all day, though for some this is a real act of piety. I am glad that here we do this ceremony in the evening, so that it has its spiritual effect, but then we go home and go to bed.

The point of the ashes is to remind us that we are mortal.

Grace and peace,  
David Beebe, interim pastor

## Sharing Our Gifts

Attached to this online issue of *The Enlightener* is a survey, "Sharing Our Gifts." We are at a point in our lives when several people have indicated that they need others to step in, either to help them or to follow in their footsteps. We invite you to look over this list, think about what your abilities and gifts are, and let us know where you are willing to help. You can fill out the form here: <https://goo.gl/forms/O4DiKcN58684Anw62>



Epiphany is known in the Missouri Mid-South Conference as "small but mighty." That is because our membership is deeply involved in service and in justice action. We invite you to pitch in, step up, and share your gifts.

## Lectionary Readings for *February 2018*

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 4**

Isaiah 40:21-31  
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23  
Mark 1:29-39

### **February 11**

2 Kings 2:1-12  
Psalm 50:1-6  
2 Corinthians 4:3-6  
Mark 9:2-9

### **February 18**

Genesis 9:8-17  
Psalm 25:1-10  
1 Peter 3:18-22  
Mark 1:9-15

### **February 25**

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16  
Psalm 22:23-31  
Romans 4:13-25  
Mark 8:31-38

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)

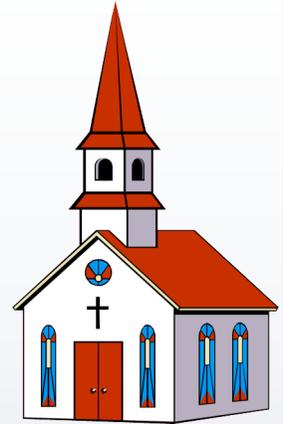
## Epiphany's Four-Way Covenants

Covenant is a precious component of our UCC heritage. The language of covenant comes into play in many ways. We use the language of covenant when we ordain pastors. We enter into a covenant between the pastor, the congregation, and the association. When we ordain a minister to a ministry outside the local church, we use a four-way covenant between the minister, their home congregation, the ministry site, and the association. The local congregation pledges support to the minister and the ministry setting and minister pledges to support the local congregation.

At Epiphany, we have entered into four-way covenant with Doug Kaufman (Serving at Bethesda Healthgroup,) Dawn Martin (serving at St. Anthony's Hospital,) Chance Beehler (serving at St. Elizabeth's Hospital,) and Dorothy Gannon (serving at Bethesda Hospice.) On February 18 it will be our privilege to enter into a four-way covenant with Carol Trissell who will soon have standing in the UCC. In the next few months, we will be inviting folks in four-way covenants to share updates on their ministries, prayer requests from their ministries, or other aspects of the ministry in the Enlightener. In the meantime, your prayers are always welcome for the ministers and ministries with whom we are in covenant.

## Building Report

Many thanks to Gail who has been making repairs to the JNM space in our building.



This includes:

- In the kitchen area--Scraped water-damaged east wall and painted with Dry-Lock. To stop water entry, caulked the exterior foundation with concrete, covered with asphalt. Repaired and painted baseboards; cleaned rust off of floor.
- In the Welcome Room--Spot-plastered walls
- In the former Nurse's Office--Plastered, Dry-Locked, and painted lower half of west wall; painted baseboards
- In the bathroom--Removed old floor tiles in preparation for laying new tiles.

Tentative plans are to have a UME group paint parts of the kitchen and Welcome Room.

# Acoustic Evenings at Epiphany

Feb. 17 - April 14 - May 19



This year, the fun(d) raising committee will kick off its first annual concert SERIES! Prompted by the terrific experiences of concerts offered by Mayor Taylor and Pete Ruthenburg, and egged on by last year's Dust Covers performance, the committee has decided to make a schedule of three concerts this spring, including some exciting innovations.

As in previous concerts, admission will be free, and we will conduct a free will offering at the end of the first set (suggested donation \$20). We will probably be selling raffle tickets for a quilt at all three concerts, with the winning ticket to be drawn at the final concert in May.



All concerts will be presented 5-7 p.m. on Saturdays, which gives concert-goers plenty of time to go to other events afterward. It is also a family-friendly time. And to underscore how friendly, we will provide a “kids’ dance floor” in the narthex, for little ones to bounce to the music.

“Been there, done that, got the t shirt” — We’re jumping in with both feet, not only scheduling the concerts, but getting a couple of neighborhood businesses to be sponsors, and... our own t shirt touting the event.

Our sponsors include Cafe Piazza, which will be providing pizza we can sell by the slice during intermission, and STL-Style, which is providing the t shirts at a humungous discount. I should also mention Gene Abbey, who operates his own graphic arts studio, for the custom t shirt design he donated.

Save the dates! Bring your friends! Buy a t shirt! Eat some pizza! Buy and sell raffle tickets! What a great way to raise money for a good cause.

**\*\*See next page for more details on the performers!\*\***



All concerts are Saturdays, from 5-7 p.m.  
At Epiphany UCC—2911 McNair Ave.



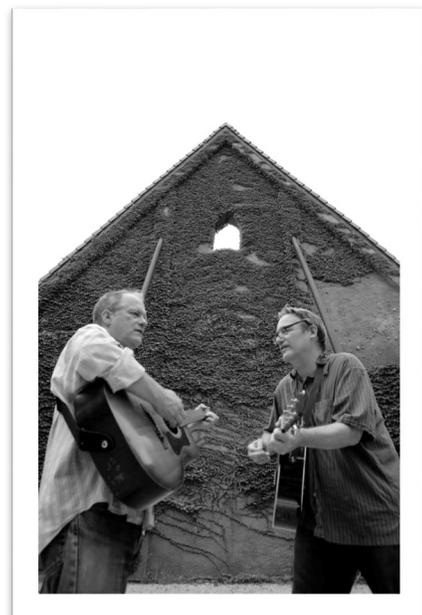
## **Brian Curran Feb. 17**

Blues and fingerstyle guitarist Brian Curran is a veteran St. Louis musician whose repertoire ranges from Mississippi John Hurt to Chet Atkins and John Prine. A member of the old-timey/traditional music band the Dust Covers, he can be heard around town in solo shows and various collaborations from country to jazz.



## **Mayor Taylor April 14**

Mayor Taylor – Lydia Ruffin (guitar/ukulele), Charlie Pfeffer (mandolin) and Mike Tiefenbrun (bass) – performs “roots music” from jazz to folk to spirituals and original songs as well. Pianist Pete Ruthenburg will sit in with Mayor Taylor at Epiphany.



## **The Wilhelms May 19**

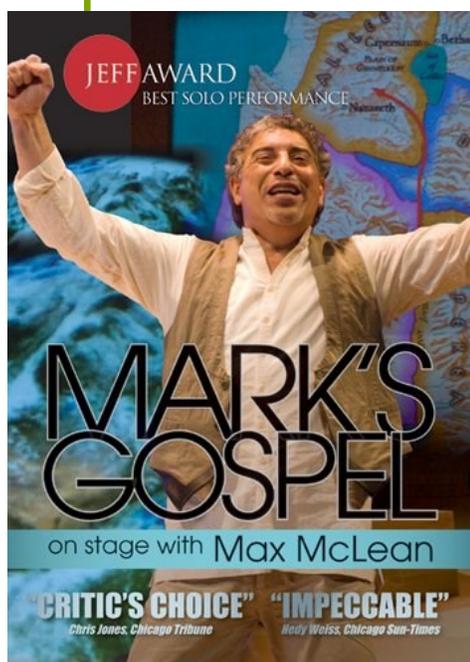
Multi-instrumentalists Andy Ploof and John Wendland, the core songwriters in veteran St. Louis band Rough Shop, are the Wilhelms. The musical partners, who go back to the alt-country band One Fell Swoop in the '90s, feature a repertoire of original songs and inspired covers of the folk music they love.

# LENTEN WEDNESDAYS

## *Soup, Screen, Reflections*

**6:30 p.m.**

Between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week there are five Wednesdays. We invite you to join us in the fellowship hall on each of these evenings. We will begin at 6:30 p.m. each week with soup and bread. Please, our good cooks, bring your most tasty soups.



Following each meal we will view a segment of two videos and then have a chance to share our reactions and thoughts.

The first video, on our first two Wednesdays is an amazingly alive dramatic presentation of the words of the Gospel of Mark by the celebrated Chicago dramatist, Max McLean. Without ever departing from the actual text, his movements and facial expressions bring out insights often missed. Don't miss it!

The second video, "Cotton Patch Gospel," was dramatized by

Tom Key as

though the gospel of Matthew happened in Georgia. It is accompanied by a blue grass band, "The Cotton Pickers," from "Hee Haw." The music was composed by Harry Chapin (author of "Cat's in the Cradle" and "Taxi." He died in an accident before the premier show, but he had said that he was born to write this music.

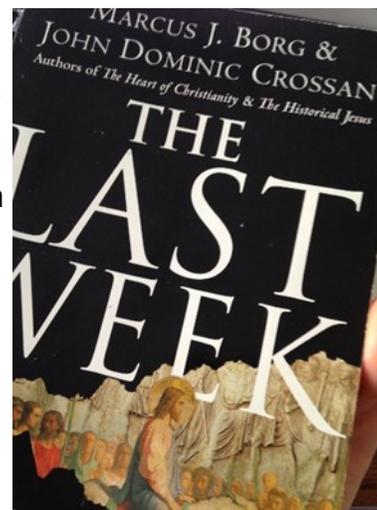


"The Greatest Story Ever Retold"

## Deepen Your 2018 Lenten Journey By Attending Sunday School: An Invitation into Jesus' Last Week in Jerusalem

*From the Christian Education Team*

For several years, our Christian Education Team has offered an Advent Devotions resource to the congregation so that our family of faith can deepen their spiritual reflection and prayer life during Advent. This year we are also offering an opportunity for daily and/or weekly reflection during Lent through a book selection for the adult Sunday School class, beginning on February 18 and continuing through March 25.



The book is **The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus' Final Days in Jerusalem** by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan. Borg (1942-2015) was an influential New Testament scholar, academic, theologian and prolific writer, publishing about thirty books. Crossan, born in 1934, is a Irish-American New Testament scholar, theologian, writer and former Catholic priest. Borg and Crossan were very influential in the "Jesus Seminar" from the 1980's to about 2006, a collection of scholars who debated the historicity of Jesus' words and deeds in the Gospels and apocryphal writings.

Are you worried that the book will be too academic to enjoy or "over your head?" Our experience of other Borg and Crossan books leads us to believe this one will be very accessible for a broad audience and lead to a lively discussion.

Reviewer Casey Fedde writes in *BibleWise.com*, a not-for-profit offering online resources for those seeking a deeper understanding of the Bible and its application to daily life: "*Much like Mark's day-to-day (often hourly) account of Jesus' final days, **The Last Week** is sectioned into a chapter for each day, making it a perfect read during Holy Week. Think of it like an advent calendar during Christmastime. Or read the book at your own pace, letting yourself marvel at Mark's interpretation of the week leading up to Easter. The authors' scholarly break down of each day doesn't alienate readers. The book is written for all – those who know, think they know, and who know nothing.*"

If you would like a copy of the book, please let Lois Yatzeck, Christian Education Team chair, or Interim Pastor David Beebe know as soon as possible. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for discussion from 9:15-10:15 a.m. each Sunday from Ash Wednesday through Palm Sunday.

Wishing you soul-enrichment during the season of Lent!

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**At Epiphany, we believe:**  
*Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here. No Exceptions.*

*Your Values Venue for Lunch Meetings*

## **THE KITCHEN TABLE (Worker Owned)**

- A private room or
- Seasonal seating in the garden
- All homemade including entree, side, salad, drink and dessert for \$8.50



**Thursday's 11:30-1:00**

**Call 314-728-9800**

**Or visit us on Facebook**

**@ The Kitchen Table**



**THE KITCHEN TABLE**

**2911 Mc Nair**

**St. Louis, MO. 63118**

*Your Place is Set at The Kitchen Table*

## **From Neighborhood Houses:**

"Thank you for your thoughtful support of Neighborhood Houses. Your donation of \$125 is greatly appreciated. We have four programs that fulfill our mission. UP at Caroline Mission serving nearly 90 children, ages 6 weeks to 5 years; UP After School and UP Enrichment Camps that encompass before- and after school services in 18 locations plus summer camp at various locations; Girls' Moving UP, and UP at Magnificent Creations, are both teen programs that support high school completion and job readiness skills. With all these programs combined we serve more than 1,200 children every week."

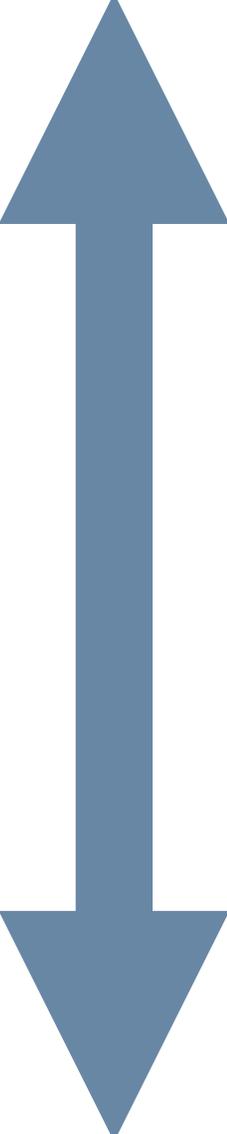
## **From Gateway ONA:**

"Thank you very much for your donation.... Gateway ONA provides resources for current ONA churches, churches that are going through or are considering going through the ONA process, and to the community at large. Your donations help us keep costs low for our annual convocation and completely funds our participation at Pride events in our community."

## **From the St. Louis Association:**

"Thank you for your recent gifts to the St. Louis Association.... Your support is crucial to the ministry we share with and through our mission partners. Your faithful giving is so appreciated."

## Refugees



They have no need of our help  
So do not tell me  
These haggard faces could belong to you or me  
Should life have dealt a different hand  
We need to see them for who they really are  
Chancers and scroungers  
Layabouts and loungers  
With bombs up their sleeves  
Cut-throats and thieves  
They are not  
Welcome here  
We should make them  
Go back to where they came from  
They cannot  
Share our food  
Share our homes  
Share our countries  
Instead let us  
Build a wall to keep them out  
It is not okay to say  
These are people just like us  
A place should only belong to those who are born there  
Do not be so stupid to think that  
The world can be looked at another way

*(now read from bottom to top)*

**Brian Bilston**  
**Brian Bilston's Poetry Laboetry**  
**From Ideation to Poemification**

# SANCTUARY Update

As Angie O’Gorman has decided to step away after January’s Sanctuary meeting, the Sanctuary team will continue to meet the fourth Sunday of each month after church service. Many thanks to Larry Gains, who will be leading February’s meeting.

In January, many topics were discussed. In keeping in faith with the Sacred Resistance Commitment with Christ Church UCC, it was discussed that they do need our support, as I.C.E. appears to be increasing tension toward those supporting people in sanctuary. Those who wish to serve by way of accompaniment for Alex Garcia at CCUCC should contact Lauren Verseman or Wes Buchek.

The committee continued discussions of Epiphany becoming a Sanctuary space in the same mold as CCUCC. The committee hopes to have leaders from the CCUCC Sanctuary team come talk at Epiphany about more details. The committee also expressed an interest in having more information given from an immigration lawyer, and discussed how to best support CCUCC while also considering Epiphany’s place in the Sanctuary Movement.

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## **Here are some stories that have been published about the Sanctuary of Alex Garcia at Christ Church UCC:**

- [St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Feb. 5](#)
- [UCC.org](#)
- [KSDK, Channel 5](#)
- [Riverfront Times](#)
- [Audio statement from Alex’s wife Carleen](#)

Thank You  
 Friends of the Congregation  
 For Special Financial Gifts

**Memorial Gift**

Our thanks to Dwaine and Karen Sell  
 for a memorial gift in memory of  
 Shirley Bax and Alice Greenwood

**July Appeal**

Anne Nancy & Michael Vosler  
 Kathy McHugh  
 Jo Ann Alves  
 Alice Greenwood

**HOSPITALITY SCHEDULE**

1st Sunday: Gail Auhmada  
 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 7 months  
 ending December 2017

	Actual	Budget
Income:	YTD	YTD
Contributions	\$ 32,431	\$ 35,583
Memorials	200	0
Special Appeals	2,410	4,000
Fundraisers	3,304	1,650
Facilities Rental	3,460	4,235
Urban Mission Exp.	9,175	8,250
JNM Utilities	1,200	0
Interest	216	115
Parsonage	6,430	6,694
e-scrip	62	145
Other	472	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 59,360</b>	<b>\$ 60,672</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Mission:	5,275	5,521
Christian Educ./Camp	150	292
Worship & Leadership	29,235	30,619
Comm./Evangelism	2,932	3,404
Hospitality & Insurance	9,340	10,422
Utilities	6,896	7,884
Other	1,934	2,853
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 55,764</b>	<b>\$ 60,995</b>



# 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—Thursday

11:30 a.m.—1 p.m. The Kitchen Table

## February 3—Saturday

1:30 p.m. Fund Raising Committee

## February 4—Sunday

9:15 a.m. Adult discussion: Virginia Gilbert: "Poetry Writing as a Spiritual Practice"

10:30 a.m. Worship with communion

## February 6—Tuesday

6 p.m. Search Committee

7 p.m. Benton Park N'hood Assoc.

## February 7—Wednesday

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

6 p.m. Meditation / Prayer Group

## February 8—Thursday

11:30 a.m.—1 p.m. The Kitchen Table

## February 10—Saturday

10 a.m. Conference celebrates the Shandonale Ministry of Jeff Fulk, Columbia UCC

## February 11—Sunday

**Transfiguration Sunday, Race Relations Sunday**

9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion: "Art as Spiritual Practice: Sharing Our Creative Gifts" - all

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. "Soul Food" potluck

## February 13—Tuesday

6:30 p.m. Search Committee

## February 14—Wednesday

**Ash Wednesday (Valentines Day)**

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

7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service of Returning and Renewal

## February 15—Thursday

11:30 a.m.—1 p.m. The Kitchen Table

## February 17—Saturday

**5—7 p.m. Our first Acoustic Concert: Brian Curran of the Dust Covers**

## February 19—Sunday

9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion Class begins study of "The Last Week" by Borg & Crossan

10:30 a.m. Worship with communion

## February 19—Monday

6:30 p.m. Church Council

## February 21—Wednesday

8:30 a.m. Breakfast at Epiphany with St. John—Mehville

6 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper—Video—Max Maclean "The Gospel of Mark" Part 1

## February 22—Thursday

11:30 a.m.—1 p.m. The Kitchen Table

## February 25—Sunday

9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion

10:30 a.m. Worship, Seminary Sunday, Christian Vocations Sunday

11:30 a.m. Sanctuary Team meets

## February 27—Tuesday

6:30 p.m. Search Committee

## November 22—Wednesday

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

6 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper with Part II



**Brian Curran in Concert**  
**Saturday, Feb. 17th, 5—7 p.m.**

***Our sympathies go to the families of long time member, Shirley Bax and a good friend of Epiphany, Alice Greenwood.***



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—6th**

**John Scott—13th**

**John DeClue—17th**

**Chance Beeler—22nd**

**Karen Sell—28th**

### **Anniversary**

**Gail Ahumada & Mary Albert—4th**

Read *The Enlightener* online at <http://epiphanyucc.org>. Click "Newsletter." Archived back issues also available.

### **MINISTERS AT EPIPHANY**

Interim Pastor, *David Beebe*  
President, *Rev. Dorothy Gannon*  
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, Lauren Verseman*

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

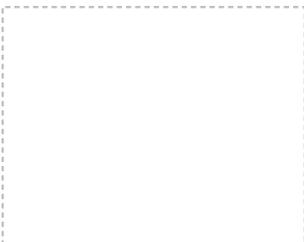
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or [epiphany.adm.assist@juno.com](mailto:epiphany.adm.assist@juno.com)

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

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**February 2018**



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Return Service Requested