



FEBRUARY 2024



# THE ENLIGHTENER

Epiphany UCC | St. Louis, Missouri  
Benton Park Neighborhood

## PK's Little Epiphanies

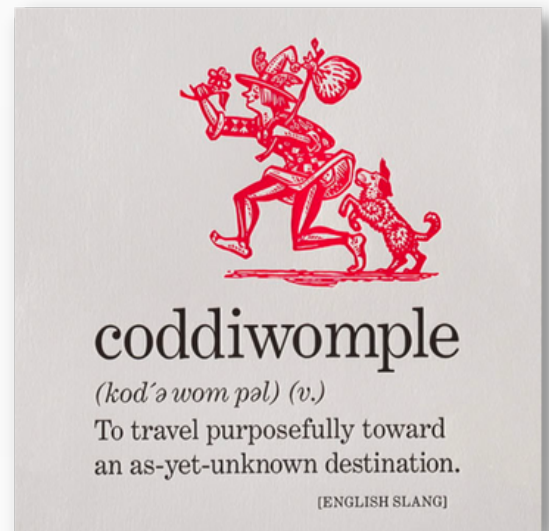


Hello Epiphany Friends,

I get weird and forgotten words in my facebook feed. Recently the word “Coddiwomple” turned up and, lo and behold, it happens to be exactly what we are doing as a congregation. We know we aren’t closing, we know we aren’t staying in our current building and we are moving ahead with purpose, but without a destination. We have engaged Paul Nagel with Gundaker Commercial to list the building for sale and an architect from the neighborhood to do the measurements and floor plans. The Council has been in conversation around both short and long term solutions from cohabitating with another congregation to renting or buying our own space. We are in full coddiwomple. Even though it could take up to a year to sell the building we will need to begin discussion of what we want to take with us and what we can release (sell, donate, dispose of, leave behind, etc.)

My family motto is “Adventures in Living” and it seem to me that we who are Epiphany might think of this particular coddiwomple as “Adventures in Being Church” and it might even be fun along the way... or at least non-fatal as long as we stick together and get to where we are going without leaving anyone behind.

(Continued on page 2.)





(Continued from page 1.)

### LENT IS COMING FAST!!

Ash Wednesday will be Feb. 14. Larry’s great joke about ash hearts aside, the service will be our traditional Ash Wednesday service at 7p.m.

Our Lenten theme is “Where is our treasure?” The Wednesdays of Lent we will have zoom gatherings – beginning at 6:30 p.m. for those who want to eat “together” and then at 7 p.m. engaging in a Lectio Divina. We have a different leader for each of the five Wednesdays and that leader will choose the reading for that week – scripture, poetry, prose, etc., for us to consider in relationship to where our treasure is and could or should be.



### Anti-racism ideas:

The Pursuing Justice and Equity Core Ministry Team of the Missouri Mid-South Conference UCC; of which I am co-chair; is seeking ideas for how \$10,000 in funds from the sale of the TAMBO portion of Camp Mo-Val can best be used “to fight white supremacy in the MO Mid-South Conf.” If you have ideas, please share them with me right away.

Peace and blessings,

*Pastor Krissy*



## MEMORIALS

Thank you for the following memorials:

- Mary Ann Kohring in memory of Curt Kohring
- Sandy Kohring in memory of Lola Kohring



Tuesday, Feb 13  
5:30 - 7:00 pm

ALL ARE INVITED  
SHARE A MEAL WITH FRIENDS  
& SUPPORT BLESSING IN A BAG

Join us for a free dinner and help the  
unhoused community in STL!  
Stay after dinner to assemble  
blessing bottles for those in need.

2911 McNair Ave. 63118  
More info at [epiphanyucc.org](http://epiphanyucc.org)

Menu: spaghetti (meat & vegetarian), salad, rolls,  
brownies, lemonade, iced tea.

## EPIPHANY UCC CONCERT SERIES

# HOME REMEDY

**SAT, FEB 24, 5:30P**  
**MELINDA MONROE**  
**& CINDY MINNIS**

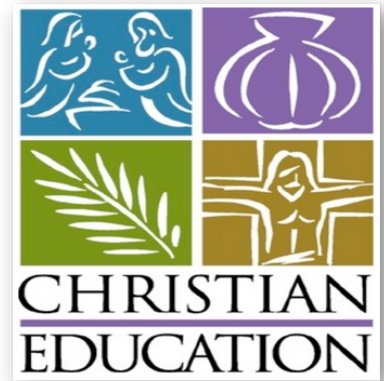
Join us for live music, hot cocoa and  
snacks, and raffle. Free to attend,  
donations appreciated! All proceeds  
support Epiphany ministries.

2911 McNair Ave. 63118  
[www.epiphanyucc.org](http://www.epiphanyucc.org)



# FEBRUARY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

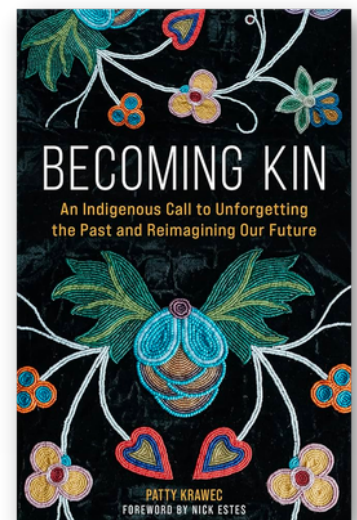
Adult Sunday School will continue to meet from 9:15-10:15 a.m. each Sunday, and will continue its study of Patty Kawec's book "Becoming Kin." This powerful retelling of American history from indigenous peoples perspective shakes our ideas of who we are and invites us into a new relationship with each other and the land. New participants are welcome. Connect with us on Zoom or in person. See the accompanying article below to learn more about the book study.



## EYES WIDE OPEN

**By Dorothy Gannon**

When I was a kid, I was drawn to scary films, but I had no tolerance for gore. I watched a lot of films through my fingers or actually closing my eyes when the scary parts came, and then having to ask what happened. As I have matured, I still don't like the gore or the really painful parts. But I have come to understand that if I want to see with God's eyes, I have to be willing to see the pain, to look at this world with my eyes wide open.



Becoming Kin: An Indigenous Call to Unforgetting the Past and Reimagining Our Future is a book that invites us to see our history with our eyes wide open, and to let what we learn from that help us envision the future God wants for all our kin in creation. The author, Patty Krawec, is a Canadian Anishinaabe Presbyterian Christian woman who invites North Americans in particular to hear the history of this continent from the perspective of those who were here long before 1492. She reminds us that this continent was not discovered, but was invaded and colonized, and that the invaders and colonizers did so not only for kings and queens but for the church as well. She reiterates that reality that we cannot help heal in the present if we cannot tell the truth about the past. And she does all of this with candor and compassion, with sadness and with hope.

Epiphany Adult Ed is currently reading and discussing this book. I am reading it with a book group. It is kindling a lot of interest, I think because of its compassion and hope while telling hard truths. I encourage you to read Becoming Kin, to let your eyes be opened more widely. I pray it blesses you and your work in this world.



## SOUND BATH JOURNEY

The first thing I see is the dim amber light of the sanctuary guiding me to move slowly as I make my way down the sides. The center aisle is filled with gongs. Finding a comfy place to lay on the floor or along a pew with a comfy blanket and pillow, the guides introduce themselves and let us know how

this Sound Journey is like a massage from the inside out. The vibrational healing is ours to just lay relax and feel. I close my eyes and start to hear the quiet bells, and bowls, building up to deep tone didgeridoo and gongs. I hear the whispers of the ancestors ride the tones in this sacred space and let the vibrations move through me as we journey together bathing in the sound. I relax completely. The acoustics of this space allows the sound to washes over, coming from above, below and all around me. After building up like a concert and then back down again, we are guided gently to the end. I move slowly and clearly taking time for a bit of writing about where I went and what clarity I felt in this meditation.

*~ Anne Childers, LMT, owner of Indigo Massage & Wellness*

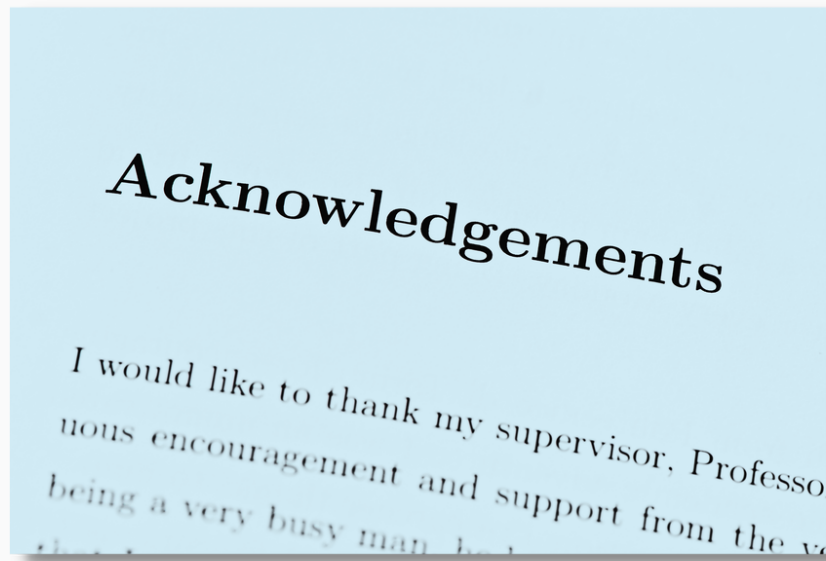


**We hope to bring this event back to Epiphany in time for the Spring Solstice.**

**The tentative date is March 16, likely 6 p.m. We really hope to see you here!**



“The sound journey was a powerfully immersive experience. The sense of having sound flood my senses brought on a meditative state in a thunderous yet gentle way.” ~ **Megan W.**



The following are acknowledgements from organizations that received donations from Epiphany:

**Eden Theological Seminary**

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff of Eden Theological Seminary, thank you for your gift. ... Thank you for being part of this transformative education. Your support helps Eden build capacity, increase demand, and expand access to theological education in service of congregations and ministries of the Progressive Christian Movement.

**Every Child's Hope**

Thank you for your donation to benefit the children and families served by Every Child's Hope. ... Because of your gift, the staff at ECH is able to provide the young people in our care with the tools they need to feel good about themselves and be prepared to learn and thrive. Thank you for being a part of the healing process for all the young people we work with.

**Emmaus**

Emmaus Homes has always turned to our faith community for help, and today is no exception. Thank you for your gift. Thank you for sharing your blessings with the people of Emmaus.



**The following is an excerpt from a letter to Epiphany from the International Institute of St. Louis. At the more recent Community Dinner hosted at Epiphany, participants took part in a presentation by the International Institute, and also stuffed and donated 50 hygiene bags.**



**INTERNATIONAL  
INSTITUTE**  
SAINT LOUIS

*...With profound gratitude, I think you for the recent in-kind donation of 50 hygiene bags and \$112 to the international Institute of St. Louis. Your efforts and contribution will enable us to provide critical support to newly arrived individuals and families.*

*Your generosity comes at a time of great anticipated need, as we expect to receive up to 1,000 new individuals arriving in our region in the coming year. With your support, we will be ready to welcome any displaced families that arrive in the St. Louis region and to provide them consistent and holistic support. ...*





## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR FEBRUARY 2024

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 9:16-3 | 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 or Mark 9:2-9

## Sundays Worship & Education

Adult Education, 9:15 a.m.

Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Click the link to Zoom with us,  
or worship with us at  
[facebook.com/epiphanyucc](https://facebook.com/epiphanyucc).



## NOISY OFFERING - 3RD SUNDAYS

**JUST**  
DON'T GO TO CHURCH;  
BE THE CHURCH.





# FEBRUARY

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	-	-

*You may contact Pastor Krissy at [pastorkris@epiphanyucc.org](mailto:pastorkris@epiphanyucc.org) for an invitation to the Zoom worship and meetings.*

**February 1 - Thursday**

8 a.m. PK Office Hours

**February 2 - Friday**

**February 3 - Saturday**

**February 4 - Sunday**

9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion

10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion

**February 5 - Monday**

**February 6 - Tuesday**

7 p.m. Benton Park Neighborhood Assoc.

8 a.m. PK Office Hours

**February 7 - Wednesday**

5:30 p.m. Centering Prayer Group

**February 8 - Thursday**

8 a.m. PK Office Hours

**February 9 - Friday**

**February 10 - Saturday**

**February 11 - Transfiguration Sunday**

9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion

10:30 a.m. Worship

**February 12 - Monday**

8 a.m. PK Office Hours

**February 13 - Tuesday**

5:30-7 p.m. Community Dinner

**February 14 - Wednesday**

7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

**February 15 - Thursday**

8 a.m. PK Office Hours

7 p.m. Council Meeting

**February 16 - Friday**

**February 17 - Saturday**

**February 18 - Sunday with Noisy Offering**

9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion

10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion

**February 19 - Monday**

**February 20 - Tuesday**

8 a.m. PK Office Hours

**February 21 - Wednesday**

6:30/7 p.m. Lenten Dinner/Discussion

**February 22 - Thursday**

8 a.m. PK Office Hours

**February 23 - Friday**

**February 24 - Saturday**

5:30-7 p.m. Home Remedy Concert

**February 25 - Sunday**

9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion

10:30 a.m. Worship

**February 26 - Monday**

**February 27 - Tuesday**

8 a.m. PK Office Hours

**February 28 - Wednesday**

Lenten Meeting

**February 29 - Thursday**

8 a.m. PK Office Hours



<b>Stewardship Report-Dec 31, 2023</b>			
<b>Income</b>	<b>Budget FY24</b>	<b>Actual YTD</b>	<b>Narrative</b>
<b>Ordinary Income</b>			
Contributions	54,500	26,084	
Memorials/Honorariums	500	25	
Special Appeals	4,000	13,355	
<b>Fundraiser</b>		190	Sound Service
Concerts	8,800	5,497	partnership fall concert event
Trivia Night	1,800	4,258	
<b>Facilities Rental</b>			
Kitchen Rent	-	200	
Office Rent	300	125	
Facilities Rental	800	500	
<b>Other General Fund Inc</b>			
Urban Mission Experience	10,000	5,850	
Interest	250	181	
<b>Passthrough Income</b>			
		6,604	Incl. Boiler Repair/AC
Christian Education		63	Books
<b>Designated</b>			
Other Designated Income		868	
Community Meal		1,157	
<b>Other Income</b>		38	Bank Fee Refund
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>80,950</b>	<b>64,957</b>	



**February Birthdays**

John Albert DeClue 2/17  
Karen Sell 2/28

**February Anniversary**

Gail Ahumada &  
Mary Albert 2/4



**John DeClue** #529925  
C/O Digital Mail Center-Missouri DOC  
PO Box 25678, Tampa FL. 33622-5678

**David Hon**  
2005 Frenken St.  
Pocahontas, AR 72455

**Chris Heckendorn**  
Garden Villa South, Apt. 130  
13457 Tesson Ferry Rd.  
St. Louis, MO 63128  
Front desk phone: 314-843-7788  
Chris welcomes visitors, please call first.



Remember, the **newsletter** is only as good as the items that are submitted to the editors. We're always looking for new and interesting content. If you have anything to share (news, ideas, musings), send to [Wes](#).

### Ministers at Epiphany

Pastor, Rev. Kristofer Avise-Rouse  
President, Lois Yatzeck  
Vice President, Karen Sell  
Secretary, Amanda Verbeck  
Treasurer, Kat Logan Smith  
Council Member: Dorothy Gannon  
Financial Secretary, Dorothy Gannon  
Accounts Payable, Jeanette Mott Oxford

Building Care, Kat Logan Smith  
Choir, Dorothy Gannon  
Christian Education Chair, Lois Yatzeck  
Enlightener Editor, Wes Buchek  
Hospitality and Usher Coordinator,  
Wes Buchek

**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 Education

10:30 a.m.

Worship

**Telephone:**

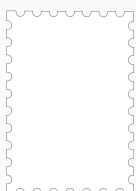
314-772-0263

**Email:**

[pastorkris@epiphanyucc.org](mailto:pastorkris@epiphanyucc.org)

**Website:**

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



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