

# THE ENLIGHTENER

Epiphany United Church of Christ, St. Louis, Missouri

June 2017



## **FROM THE BEEbe HIVE:**

### ***The Wisdom of John and Blanch McKay***

They lived in a “dogtrot” unpainted plank cabin on cinder blocks in the Arkansas River bottoms. We used to visit them a few times a year and I will never forget their wisdom. (If you don’t know what a “dogtrot” is, it is basically two rooms united by a roof over a breezeway where the dogs like to lie. One room is the kitchen/living room. The other is the bedroom. Sort of like the Scottish “butt & ben.”)

John was a dirt farmer. They didn’t have much but they were generous in sharing what they had, generous also in sharing bits of wisdom that I, a small boy then, have never forgotten. John was about a quarter Cherokee Indian. He used to say: *“It’s a good thing that everybody in the world isn’t alike. Otherwise they’d all want my squaw.”*

## **In This Issue**

- BEEbe Hive from Interim Pastor, David Beebe
- JNM Announcement
- Messages from Epiphany members John DeClue and Terry Dresser
- Transition Team Update
- Celebrating 60 Years
- And MUCH more!



*A “dogtrot.”*

But it was Blanche whose words I remember most vividly as sound advice for living. We used to drive up, unexpectedly to their home. Blanche would call out: *“Ya’ll light and set. We ain’t got much but hog jowl and cowpeas, but you’re welcome to what we got.”* When Blanche had done something generous and kind, if she was complimented, she would answer: *“I’m just sending up lumber for my mansion in heaven.”*

(Hive, continues on page 10.)

# Only a Red Door Away

*Excerpts from a letter from John DeClue, a member of our congregation incarcerated at Farmington Correctional Center. He sent a letter on May 14 thanking us for monthly deposits to his commissary account that allow him to buy personal needs like grooming supplies, and also said:*



God is blessing me every day through you and many more at Epiphany, and I want to do the same for others who feel that they have lost their way.....I am grateful God allowed you all to not give up on me.

As I searched for love and understanding, I never realized that it was only a red door away. I was so caught up in so much pain that it allowed me to develop anger toward my loved ones as well as strangers. But almost 23 years later, I allow God to work his love on me. [That has] allowed me to crave that same love for not only the guy that took my daughter's life, but I want to feel that kind of love that was promised to us by God.

To have the sermons that you send allows me to not only be a part of [Epiphany], but it helps me to have church within my cell with my celly Larry. He might not be able to read and spell, but I am helping him get closer to God.....as you all did for me.....I want to bring that love inside [prison] because it can get to be a pretty dark and gloomy environment.

When a person steps out of Epiphany, they will live with gifts – joy, peace, grace, forgiveness, but most of all love in your heart for the world, no matter how bad it gets. So I will never turn my back on anyone I come across who is wondering how to put a smile on a face that used to hold on to a frown. I will say this: there will never be anyone that walks through those big red doors that will be homeless, because Epiphany is a home of God. And if it is God's home, it is also the world's home, because we open our doors to not only the ones who seek a family, but also the ones who lost their ways.

## Lectionary Readings for *June 2017*

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.

### **June 4**

Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-21

Psalms 104:24-34, 35b

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

John 20:19-23

### **June 11**

Trinity Sunday

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Psalms 8

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20

### **June 18**

Genesis 18:1-15

Exodus 19:2-8a Psalms 100

Romans 5:1-8

Matthew 9:35—10<sup>8</sup>,(9-23)

### **June 25**

Genesis 21:8-21

Psalms 86:1-10, 16-17

Romans 6:1b-11

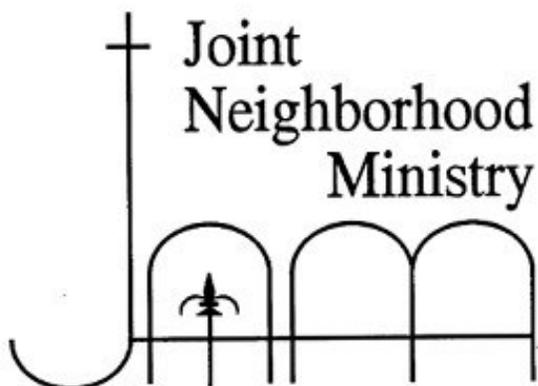
Matthew 10:24-39

# Announcement from Joint Neighborhood Ministry

**G**reetings in this Eastertide, as we move through the fifty days leading to Pentecost, when we witness and celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the calling forth of the Church! We celebrate that the Church is the Body of Christ, called by God to serve and lift up the most vulnerable, to embody God's love in practical ways and to build an inclusive, bold community.

Joint Neighborhood Ministry (JNM) has, for fifty years now, faithfully served the Benton Park Neighborhood after the Way of Christ to do just this, thanks to many servant leaders and disciples - including you.

All of us have experienced change in our lives and have discerned how we need to adjust during this change. To thrive and live fully requires this adaptation. Life, in fact, means change and growth.



Organizations experience the movement of culture and change in their contexts, too, and must be willing to let go of some known patterns to embrace new possibilities. The Church in this time is moving toward the emergence of new understandings of what it means to be Church. Joint Neighborhood Ministry is part of the Church.

The Church and her ministries are facing new challenges and are called to adapt as well. In this time of adaptive change, the JNM board has made the difficult decision to cease the operation of the Food Pantry, the Full Circle rep-payee program, and the Matthew 25 utility assistance program effective May 31, 2017, which will also be the last day for all paid staff.

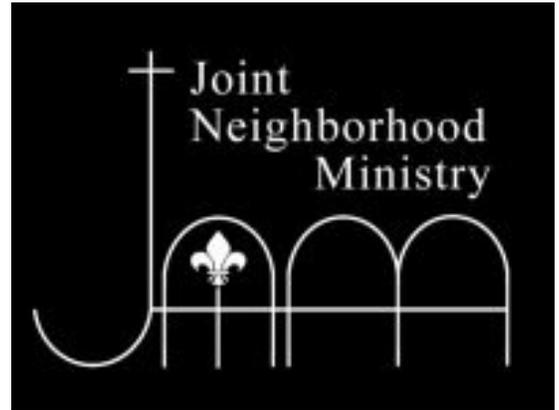
This decision did not come easily and has not been made lightly. We on the Board continue to bear a heavy burden in coming to this point. The simple and frustrating truth is that our financial resources have not kept up with expenses, and our faithfulness in this time means naming that truth and moving forward.

The non-profit status will remain intact, and we as an Easter people will enter a time of new discernment regarding new ministry in Christ's name. God always calls us to share the Good News! We are always called to serve, to feed, to heal, to build relationship with our brothers and sisters.

(JNM, continued on page 4.)

(JNM, continued from page 3.)

During this time of discernment, we seek God's new vision for sharing the Good News. We are not folding our tents and disappearing, but pausing to discern anew the needs of our neighbors in an empowerment model (as named in the Q&A section below), and to discover new and collaborative resources moving forward.



JNM has faithfully served the most vulnerable in the Benton Park Neighborhood for fifty years! That is cause for celebration, even with the need to let go of what is – at least in the short term. Many of our brothers and sisters in Christ have participated in this effort, too many people to name or even count in those fifty years. How many of God's beloved Children have been helped and in how many different ways in that time? We may never know the complete impact of JNM's ministry.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

In order to meet expenses of the next thirty days and clear the books, we require more funds than we currently have available. We humbly ask your prayerful support in this time. Any financial gifts received will be directed to successfully releasing our financial burden and will celebrate the fifty-year ministry of JNM.

Please be with us in prayer this next month, and plan to join us celebrating Joint Neighborhood Ministry!

In the powerful name of Jesus Christ,

*The Board of Joint  
Neighborhood Ministry*





## *Terry Talk*

People often ask: How is my relationship with God? How did it begin? That is so easy for me but it

seems hard to others when I try to explain.

My first encounter to Church/God was through my family—every child had to go to church school on Sundays after church, even though no one in my family went to church. Then my best friend had me spend the night and we had to go to church because her dad was the Pastor. I liked the church because of the songs and what were said about God and Jesus. After a while the pastor took me around to visit several people who didn't usually come to church. To me they were old, we talked to them about God and just about anything going on in their lives. I loved it. I started to go on my own and help out, cut wood or grass, clean the kitchen, just about anything.

***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)***

I remember one person that always asked "is this sweater yours?" about every three minutes while visiting. I always answered "No ma'am it's someone else's," with one concern about her obvious problem.

I liked to play a game that is kind of like Hopscotch, and every time it got too difficult I had to jump so far and turn to the right. I always raised my arm with my hand open and say, "Hey my man, I need a helping hand!" My arm still up, my hand is holding onto God's hand, and I always jumped and turned and made it, every time. No one could tell me that God was not on the other side!

When I was 14 my grandfather was in the hospital on the other side of the state. I prayed so hard that God would heal him and bring him home. When he died I was very angry, God didn't answer my prayers. I went to a private place outside with a pack of cigs and a six pack of soda. I screamed and cussed at God, I drank and smoked, cussed some more at God. Then I heard a voice where no one was, calm and still. "Your grandfather was very sick, he was in pain, he couldn't move or talk. Would he have wanted to live like that, my child?" No, I don't think so. But you could have healed him, couldn't you? God said, "No, I couldn't it was his time. He had a full life. He loves you as I do. I can't answer every prayer because it might not be in your best interest or theirs. Trust me, my child!" I sat in silence and thought. After a long time, after I drank my sodas, I left with a clear heart and mind.

(Terry, continues on page 8.)



On June 25<sup>th</sup> the United Church of Christ will be 60 years old. We are celebrating our diamond jubilee!

It all began here in St. Louis in the middle of the Twentieth Century. Pastor Truman Douglas of Pilgrim Congregational Church on Union Blvd. got to know Dr. Samuel H. Press, the president of Eden Seminary, a school of the Evangelical & Reformed Church, a denomination scarcely two decades old from the union of the German Evangelical Churches and the German Reformed Churches.

Press and Douglas noticed the similarities between the two Churches. Both emphasized freedom of thought, social ministries, and social justice. Both cherished the independence of the local congregations but with covenants to be together under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. So they planted a seed that blossomed in Cleveland, Ohio sixty years ago this month, June 25, 1957, at the first General Synod of the UCC.

It took a few years to hammer out the constitution but at its beginning it stakes its claim to freedom under Christ: *“The United Church of Christ acknowledges Jesus Christ as the sole head of the Church.”*

Since then, we have been listening to the leading of the Spirit of Christ and have discovered that it places us on the front lines of the *“struggle for justice and peace .”* Celebrate with us our Diamond anniversary!



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## Strengthen the Church Offering – June 4

On Sunday, June 4, we will recall the story of the Holy Spirit coming in a different way to the earliest of Jesus’ followers. It is celebrated as Pentecost, the birthday of the Church.

In the United Church of Christ, we support the work of the Spirit in new ways through the specific offering, *Strengthen the Church*. This offering allows Conferences and Associations to support the work of God in new ways and in new settings. Here are some ways that your offering has made a difference:

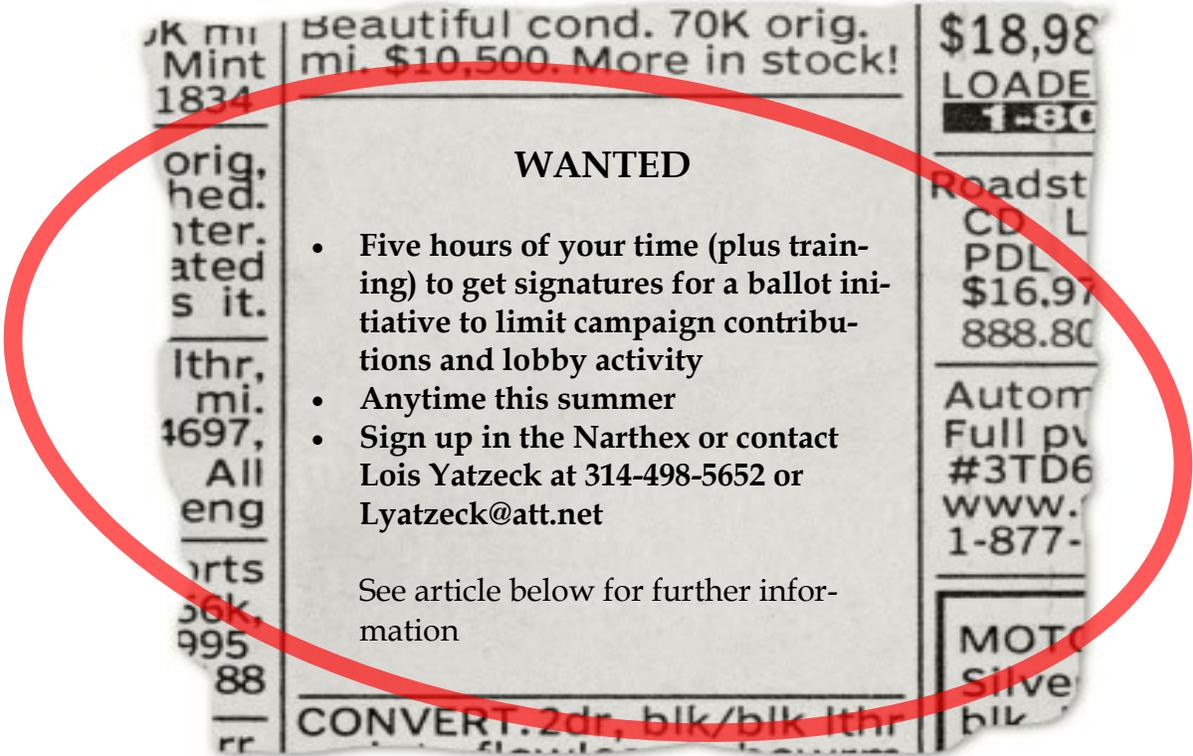
*Strengthen the Church* is helping to fund the *God is Stillspeaking Ministry*, that helps make religion relevant again and to extend an extravagant welcome to all.

Money will be given in the form of grants to provide pastoral leadership for *new church starts* and *revitalizing congregations*. **In our earliest years of formation, we received monies from this offering to establish Hope UCC.**

God is calling new generations to ministry in our increasingly diverse church. Funds will be used to help meet future leadership needs for all our congregations.

**Some of this offering each year is kept in the Conference. This year funds from Strengthen the Church will underwrite the costs of our delegates attending the General Synod 2017 in Baltimore.**

This offering will be taken on Sunday, June 4. Special offering envelopes will be available or you may simply mark your check with the wording, *Strengthen the Church*, in the memo. Thank you!



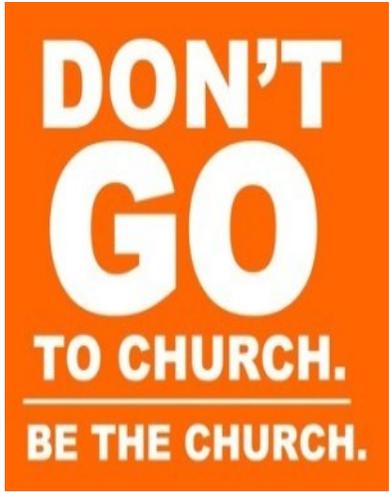
### CLEAN MISSOURI BALLOT INITIATIVE

Empower Missouri, Jobs with Justice, Metropolitan Congregations United and other state organizations are seeking volunteers to collect signatures for a ballot initiative to propose a **constitutional amendment** which would limit campaign contributions and lobby gifts and reform redistricting to provide greater competition in political races. This initiative would go on the ballot in 2018. More than 20,000 signatures are needed. This is winnable. That is why we are starting this summer.

*Poetry*

*Corner*

*Love your life  
In such a way that  
When your feet hit the  
floor in the morning  
Satan shudders and says,  
"Oh Hell.... She's awake!"  
~unknown*



*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*

(Terry, continued from page 5.)

I had an 8th grade therapist in school that was cool, so when I went on to St. J. Academy as a freshman. I went back to see her after classes and called her on Sundays after church. I was normally drunk on Saturdays, so after going to church I would call my old therapist and she would whisper yelling at me. But she knew why I told her because I told her everything, three men raping me for several years, for an example. Her favorite statement to whisper was "don't do that, they are winning!" When I went into foster care and they found out about her, they wanted to pull her license. She said, "if I reported it at first you would have pulled her and put her in and she would have fought with every ounce she has. She had to come, she had to tell, she had to be willing for help." I can't argue and thank God she kept her license and God put her there to keep me sane.

A foster mother got a hint that I was suicidal so she decided to challenge me, by calling me a "chicken." No one calls a tomboy a chicken and lives! What does she mean? She recognized the look in my eyes, "not a chicken to commit suicide but a chicken to live! If you die you let every guy that ever raped you to win, if you live you show them all that you're better than them! So are you a chicken?" Hell no I'm not a chicken! They are not going to win, I will live, I Will Live! God put her there to remind me, God puts angels everywhere.

I can go on and on with stories where God put angels in the right places or where I was there for others. Right now all I can say is God is Great because I know that I wouldn't be in my own apartment with furniture, aids, doctors, O/T and P/T if God wasn't behind Green Park Rehab or Epiphany UCC. So does God put Angels everywhere? Yes God does and God is Great!

That is relationship with God—any questions?

God's Peace,  
Cowboy Terry



*Council Meeting Highlights*  
*April 17, 2017*

(As approved at the May Council Meeting)

**FINANCES:** The April 2017, Financial Report was reviewed and accepted. The report is on file in the church office.

**LIAISON REPORTS:**

**Fundraising:** Discussion on having more concerts at Epiphany, in addition to Mayor Taylor and Dust Covers. Could Epiphany be used as a concert venue for fundraising purposes?

**Christian Education:** April 23 was the last class on Revelations; April 30 on Sanctuary Movement.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** On file in the church office.

**OLD BUSINESS:** The Kitchen Water Heater is good to go and taken off the agenda with ground flourish and gratitude to John Scott! Lauren Verseman will submit a draft of a Facebook site policy. Anne Little, Linda Paglusch, and John Scott will form the Nominating Committee as Angie O'Gorman and Beverly Blattner are termed out and Chris Guelbert is not running for a second term.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The Kitchen Table will be preparing meals for the Urban Mission Experience Monday night meals this year.



**The Annual Congregational Meeting has been moved from June 18 to June 11 immediately after worship.**

**Please bring finger food to share.**



**Transition Update**

The Transition Team and Church Council met on May 21 with Associate Conference Minister Dale Parson and Lorin Cope about the transition process to a new pastor. There the group was presented with the Local Church Profile—which will be initially drafted by the Transition Team, but ultimately finalized and used by the Search Committee.

The Transition Team has gathered much information thus far—primarily through the Lenten meal/discussions. The Team plans to put this information into an accessible document so the congregation can review it and see if anything was missed or needs to be added. From that point, the Team will filter it down to find the key themes that were expressed by the congregation.

**Stay tuned for more information soon!**

## Ministries Page

**The Enlightener has been asked to host a page about ministries and ministers at Epiphany. Send your entries to Anne Little at [epiphany.adm.assist@juno.com](mailto:epiphany.adm.assist@juno.com) or Wes Buchek at [wbuchek@gmail.com](mailto:wbuchek@gmail.com).**

- ◇ Wes Buchek has agreed to take over the duties of editing The Enlightener, in place of Angie O’Gorman. Angie, Anne Little and David Beebe have all been patient and helpful to Wes as he learns the ropes.
- ◇ Lauren Verseman is now heading up the Urban Ministry Experience (UME) team. We will have multiple groups coming through this summer, including two in the month of June. If you have questions or a desire to serve in some capacity, contact Lauren.
- ◇ Have you ever wanted to experience the joy of ushering? There are plenty of openings on the sign-up sheet in the back of church. Pick a week or two and sign up.
- ◇ Discussions are continuing with regard to Epiphany serving in the Sanctuary Movement within the UCC.

(Hive, continued from page 1.)

But what really taught me wisdom was one day, when I noticed that Blanche never seemed to worry. I asked her why not. Her answer: *“David, either I can do something about it, so I do it and then I don’t have to worry. Or I can’t do anything about it and worrying won’t help.”*

The great public theologian, Reinhold Niebuhr, born at Immanuel UCC in Wright City, said the same thing this way: *“God, give me grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, courage to change the things which should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.”*

Grace and peace,  
David Beebe, Interim Pastor



*A Scottish “butt & ben.”*

Thank You  
 Friends of the Congregation  
 For Special Financial Gifts

J Reuben Rigel

Donald & Lynnea Mayer

Cindy Mueller & Nancy Shrewsbury

St. Lucas UCC for the  
 Breakfast Ministry

**HOSPITALITY SCHEDULE**

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

**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 11 months  
 ending April 30, 2017

	Actual	Budget
	YTD	YTD
<b>Income:</b>		
Contributions	\$ 53,206	\$ 55,917
Memorials	150	250
Special Appeals	715	2,750
Fundraisers	2,639	5,650
Facilities Rental	5,770	5,430
Urban Mission Exper.	3,050	5,000
JNM Utilities	6,000	6,600
Interest	336	229
Parsonage	10,246	10,358
e-scrip	116	137
Other	2,507	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 84,735</b>	<b>\$ 92,321</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Mission:	10,070	9,944
Christian Educ./Camp	480	1,375
Worship & Leadership	36,966	48,761
Comm./Evangelism	5,504	5,612
Hospitality & Insurance	14,601	15,502
Utilities	15,209	14,703
Other	3,875	2,088
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 86,705</b>	<b>\$ 97,985</b>



# June 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	

## June 1—Thursday

11:30 a.m.—1 p.m. The Kitchen Table

## June 4—Sunday

9:15 a.m. Christian Education  
10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion  
3 p.m. JNM 50th Celebration @ Curby

## June 5—Monday

## June 6—Tuesday

7 p.m. Benton Park N'Hood Association

## June 7—Wednesday

8:30 a.m. Breakfast at Epiphany (Hope UCC)

6 p.m. Meditation / Prayer Group  
MO Mid South CAG

## June 8—Thursday

11:30 a.m.—1 p.m. The Kitchen Table  
MO Mid South CAG

## June 9—Friday

MO Mid South CAG

## June 10—Saturday

1:30 p.m. Christian Education  
MO Mid South CAG

## June 11—Sunday

9:15 a.m. Christian Education  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
UME Group 6/11—6/15

## June 12—Monday

## June 13—Tuesday

## June 14—Wednesday

8:30 p.m. Breakfast at Epiphany  
(St. Lucas UCC)

## June 15—Thursday

11:30 a.m.—1 p.m. The Kitchen Table

## June 16—Friday

## June 17—Saturday

## June 18—Sunday

9:15 a.m. Christian Education  
10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion  
Annual Meeting following worship

## June 19—Monday

6:30 p.m. Church Council

## June 21—Wednesday

8:30 a.m. Breakfast at Epiphany (St. John—Mehlville)

6 p.m. Meditation / Prayer Group

## June 22—Thursday

11:30 a.m.—1 p.m. The Kitchen Table

## June 24—Saturday

1:30 p.m. Fundraising Committee  
Pride Weekend

## June 25—Sunday

9:15 a.m. Christian Education  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
Pride Weekend  
UME Highland Hope UME 6/25—6/29

## June 26—Monday

6:30 p.m. JNM Board at Curby

## June 28—Wednesday

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



**Save the Date**

Our 2017 annual meeting will be held after worship on **Sunday, June 11th**. Reports, plans, finances, food—don't miss it!



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

**Shirley Bax**

Beauvais Manor Nursing Home  
3625 Magnolia Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63110

**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

# BIRTHDAYS!

Pam Wilson 6/9  
Robert Eugene May 6/18  
Eldon Nattier 6/21  
Irene Gulovsen 6/26

## Anniversaries

Michael & Anne Nancy Vosler  
6/6  
Del Miller & Chris Heckendorn  
6/7  
Janice & Jerry Markham 6/30

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

## MINISTERS AT EPIPHANY

Interim Pastor, *David Beebe*  
President, *Rev. Dorothy Gannon*  
Vice President, *John Scott*  
Secretary, *Angie O'Gorman*  
Treasurer, *Lauren Verseman*  
Asst. Treas, *Chris Heckendorn*  
Financial Secretary, *Dorothy Gannon*  
Acct. Payable, *Jeanette Mott Oxford*  
Council Members: *Beverly Blattner,*  
*Linda Paglusch*

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)

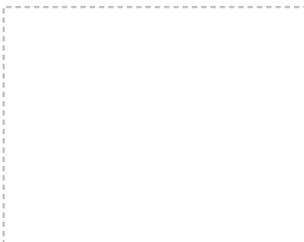
**JOINT NEIGHBORHOOD**

**MINISTRY:**

314) 771-3987

**THE ENLIGHTENER**

**June 2017**



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