

JUNE 2023

THE ENLIGHTENER

Epiphany UCC | St. Louis, Missouri
Benton Park Neighborhood

PK's Little Epiphanies



Dear Epiphany Friends,

Greetings from Sabbatical (not really, I wrote this on the 26th of May). Our summer worship theme is People of the Stories and as part of that members who don't usually preach have been invited to testify, that is to share their own story of faith.

#522 in the New Century Hymnal is I Love to Tell the Story written by Katherine Hankey in London, England in 1866. Verse 4 is my favorite, "I love to tell the story for those who know it best seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest."

As you gather for the annual meeting to decide if there is a future for Epiphany and what shape that future may take, it will be important to tell the stories and to listen with care. Tell the stories of Epiphany's past; tell the stories of possibility for a future either as a congregation, or as a foundation, or as a legacy. Tell them to yourselves, tell them to each other. Listen deeply for the wisdom in the stories and in the Siblings in Christ who share them.



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(Continued from page 1.)

Some of the stories are of fear, anxiety, and grief. Some are stories of hope, resilience, and passion.

“How many members of Epiphany does it take to change a light bulb?”

“I don’t know Pastor. How many does it take?”

“All of them! Because the light bulb is a metaphor for our story.”

I’ll see you in August, one way or another.

Peace and blessings,
Pastor Krissy



Pastoral Care Coverage during Sabbatical will be:

June 1-8 | June 20-30 | July 10-20.

Rev. Jeff Groene: 314-517-2468

June 9-19 | July 1-9 | July 20-31

Rev. Sarah McCann - 314-303-4161

If there are changes to this schedule you will be notified here and in the Friday email.

- Wes and Amanda are going to do the electronic bulletin, Friday email, and run worship technology. We still need a backup person in case they are away.
- Vernon will be running the zoom during adult class.
- Anne has a mailbox key and will handle the mail.
- Dorothy will be managing voicemail and the pastor’s email as well as being the point person for worship.
- J-MO is handling social justice actions that need quick sign-on from the congregation.





ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 11

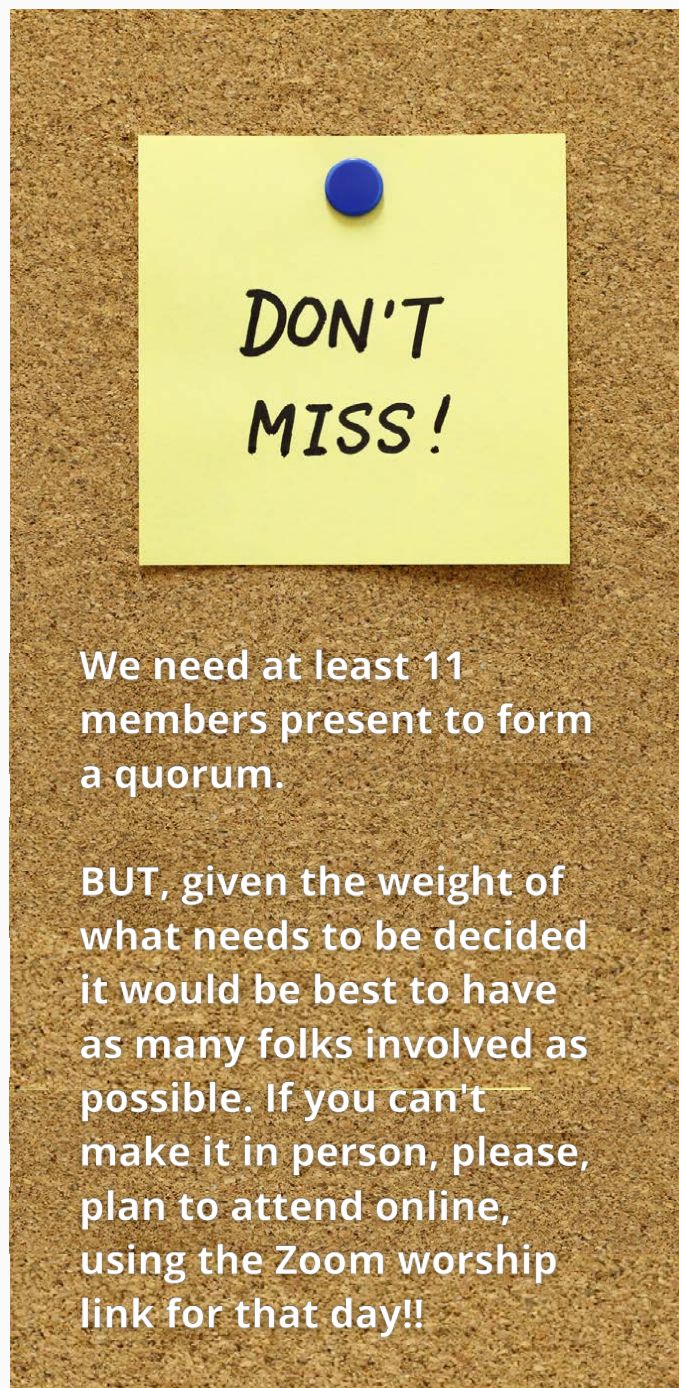
Our annual congregational meeting will be held after service on Sunday, June 11. We have many things to discuss at the meeting, including a proposed change to our bylaws.

The Council is asking the congregation to vote on the following bylaw change:

Current - "The Council will consist of no less than seven and no more than 11 (Active) Members."

Suggested - "The Council will consist of no less than five and no more than nine (Active) Members."

We look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting!



We need at least 11 members present to form a quorum.

BUT, given the weight of what needs to be decided it would be best to have as many folks involved as possible. If you can't make it in person, please, plan to attend online, using the Zoom worship link for that day!!



UPCOMING COMMUNITY DINNER

Our first community dinner will be held on June 6, right before the Benton Park neighborhood association meeting. Come join us for both!



The flyer features a central graphic of a stylized church steeple with a tree branch on top, flanked by a fork on the left and a spoon on the right. The text 'EPIPHANY UCC' is above the steeple, and 'COMMUNITY DINNER' is below it. To the right of the graphic, the text reads: 'ALL ARE INVITED', 'SHARE A MEAL WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS', 'Tuesday, June 6', '5:30 - 7:00 pm', '2911 McNair Ave. 63118', 'Free will offering', and 'Join us for bbq and stay for the Benton Park neighborhood meeting'.

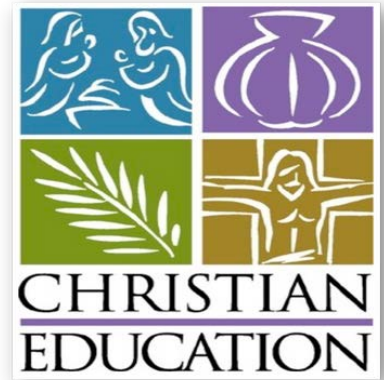
JULY/AUGUST ENLIGHTENER

Remember that the next issue for the Enlightener is a double issue! So be thinking ahead what folks will need to know for both July AND August. Send your Enlightener items to Wes or Anne.



JUNE/JULY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

This summer, our adult Sunday school will be focusing on the Sunday lectionary passages. There will be occasional special interest sessions: Myisha Johnson, from MCU, will be describing for us the areas of collaboration in which we can take part as individuals and as a church; and hunger issues to which we can become more informed. We are looking forward to August when we will begin a study of the book of Revelation. We will be asking for interest in the study guide later in the year.



URBAN MISSION EXPERIENCE (UME)



Urban Mission Experience STL is excited to welcome four youth groups this summer!

- Columbia UCC, Columbia, MO, June 25-28
- Pilgrim UCC, Grafton, WI, July 9-15
- Edmond FCC, Edmond, OK, July 23-29
- First Congregational, Downers Grove, IL, Aug. 2-6

As part of our program, Epiphany hosts a dinner and class one evening for each visiting group. If you would like to help out with the meal or attend the dinner/class for shared fellowship, please let Amanda know at amandanv530@yahoo.com. Here are the dates for the UME dinners:



- **Monday, June 26, 5:30 p.m.**
- **Wednesday, July 12, 5:30 p.m.**
- **Wednesday, July 26, 5:30 p.m.**
- **Thursday, Aug. 3, 5:30 p.m.**



PRIDEFEST FROM GATEWAY ONA

We are sharing space with Eden Theological Seminary Bookstore, a wonderful partner. And we will be next to our ecumenical partners, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), a very exciting move to share this experience.

We still need people to volunteer in these spots:

- **Saturday - June 24**
 - Noon - 2 p.m. (one volunteer needed.)
 - 2-4 p.m. (two volunteers and one CLERGY volunteer needed.)
 - 4-6 p.m. (two volunteers needed.)
- **Sunday - June 25**
 - 11 a.m.-1 p.m. (two volunteers and one CLERGY volunteer needed.)
 - 1-3 p.m. (two volunteers needed.)
 - 3-5 p.m. (two volunteers needed.)
 - 6-7 p.m. (two volunteers and one CLERGY volunteer needed.)

Use this [link to sign-up for a shift](#):

For the parade, send your name, your church name, your email, and your cell phone number to: buckeyeohio@hotmail.com. We will be in touch with you with details for participating in the parade.

Thanks for your help!





ALL WIGGED OUT - SAVE THE DATES

TWO DAYS OF SPECIAL EVENTS: OCT. 20-21

For several years, Epiphany United Church of Christ has been hosting neighborhood concerts to bring the joy of live music to Benton Park and the Greater St. Louis Region. On October 20 and 21, we will undertake our most ambitious musical event to date by welcoming Grammy Award winning artists Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer for two days of programming that highlights breast cancer awareness and community resources for people experiencing cancer.

This event is made possible through a major grant from AARP in St. Louis. AARP has secured the Hi-Pointe Theater on Friday, October 20, for a showing of “All Wiggged Out,” a movie of a ten-song musical written by Marxer and Fink to chronicle Marcy’s experience of breast cancer and neuropathy caused by chemotherapy. It was filmed by the Emmy Award winning HMS Media in Evanston, IL before a live audience and was directed by Tracy Walsh. The movie will be followed by a panel featuring Marxer and Fink and representatives from Cancer Support Community of Greater St. Louis and the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network.

On Saturday evening, October 21, Fink and Marxer will bring their musical talents to Epiphany UCC. Expect a variety of music from folk to swing to jazz to bluegrass from these multi-talented artists. Along with refreshments in the fellowship hall during intermission, cancer resources will be available, and we’ll have some fun raffle prizes as usual.

The American Cancer Society has indicated that by the year 2030, one in two people in the US will be diagnosed with cancer. Epiphany UCC knows the pain of cancer all too well, having lost John Scott to cancer in 2023. Anne Little has survived breast cancer twice and thanks Medicaid for the treatment necessary to provide her surgeries, medicines, and follow up care. We pray for Rev. Doug Kaufman who starts radiation for prostate cancer in June.

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Since Fink and Marxer filmed “All Wiggged Out”, Fink has also been diagnosed with breast cancer and is currently being treated. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, so this two-day event can encourage early detection and possibly save some lives. Please mark your calendar now for October 20 and 21 and start to invite friends to come to the movie and the concert.

ALL WIGGED OUT, was featured on NPR’s *Morning Edition* in May with a fabulous interview by Leila Fadel. [Click here to heart the interview.](#)

Links to all streaming and purchase options, as well as info on All Wiggged Out:
<https://www.cathymarcy.com/allwigggedout/>



THANK YOU TO SUSAN DRAKE & JULIE JENNINGS

Thank you to everyone who came out to enjoy our Pride Preview concert with Susan Drake and Julie Jennings! And an extra special thanks to Gateway ONA for sponsoring the concert and for generously supporting Epiphany.

We took in more than \$1500 in income between the co-sponsorship check from Gateway ONA, the raffle, and the offering.



About 60 were in attendance, and there was a wonderful spirit to the event. There was lots of singing along and storytelling. Great event!



2023 LEGISLATION UPDATE: BOTH STEPS FORWARD AND BACK ON JUSTICE

By Jeanette Mott Oxford

The Legislative Session began on Jan. 4 and ended on May 12, and much time was spent on passing the largest budget in state history – about \$50 billion – and discussing very emotional and divisive “culture wars” issues. There were 2,251 pieces of legislation filed during the session, but only 59 pieces of legislation reached “Truly Agreed and Finally Passed” status to reach the governor’s desk. That included 19 appropriation bills.



As an Open and Affirming (ONA) congregation welcoming people of all sexual orientations and gender identities into abundant life and leadership in church and society, we especially grieve passage of anti-transgender legislation. The House of Representatives on May 10 sent a pair of bills to the governor making it illegal to provide gender-affirming health care to transgender minors and prohibiting transgender athletes from competing on a sports team that doesn’t correspond with the gender they were assigned at birth. The bills were a top priority for Missouri Majority Caucus as part of a national movement by the radical religious right to enact laws persecuting transgender residents.



Senate Bill 49 would ban gender-affirming surgery for minors, which currently only happens in rare situations, and also outlaw the use of puberty-blocking drugs and hormone therapy for transitioning minors. Those who have already started transitioning when the bill is slated to take effect on Aug. 28 would be exempt from the latter restriction. The House voted 108-50 in favor of the bill.

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Senate Bill 39 would prohibit public and private schools from allowing transgender athletes to compete on sports teams that corresponds with their gender identity at any level, from kindergarten through college. The House passed it on a vote of 109-49, with one member voting “present.” As part of a compromise brokered when the Senate originally approved the bills in March, the restrictions on athletic participation and the limits on puberty-blocking drugs and hormone therapy are set to expire in 2027 unless lawmakers later renew them. Gov. Mike Parson, a Republican, is expected to sign both measures into law. Our faith still compels us to ask him for a veto, and we can email his office at:

<https://governor.mo.gov/contact-us/mo-governor>.

Some progress toward justice did occur during the Session:

The Senate on May 8 voted 26-1 to grant final passage to legislation expanding coverage for postpartum care under Medicaid from 60 days following a pregnancy to one year. The House of Representatives had approved the bill, which includes several other provisions related to health care generally and women’s health in particular, the previous week on a vote of 119-23, with four members voting “present.”

Another important provision, added by the House to the wide-ranging bill, ends the “cliff effect” that strips participants in the welfare, food stamp or childcare subsidy programs of their benefits if they start earning too much money from their job to qualify. The bill creates transitional benefits to allow working recipients to continue receiving some assistance until they are closer to earning enough to have basic human needs without government assistance.



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Finally, Rep. Melanie Stinnett, R-Springfield, a speech pathologist, added an amendment to SB 106 that improves earnings and asset rules for people with disabilities so that they are more likely to keep access to personal care attendants. Her amendment also requires Missouri government to improve its record on hiring people with disabilities.

Advocates for people with disabilities also celebrate that:

- Language Equality and Acquisition for Deaf Kids (LEAD-K) from Sen. Greg Razer was amended onto HB 447 which became Truly Agreed and Finally Passed on May 10. The goal of LEAD-K is to see that deaf and hard of hearing children have attention to their language needs from birth until kindergarten so that they do not start school at a deficit.
- A \$700,000 increase in funding for independent living centers was appropriated in Budget Bill 2.
- A \$42 million increase for the Consumer Directed Services (CDS) program was passed as a compromise in Budget Bill 10. We thank Sen. Lincoln Hough, R-Springfield, for his efforts to help people with disabilities have the supports they need to keep living in their own homes.



An important defensive victory was that a harmful reform to the initiative petition process did not pass. Metropolitan Congregations United and Paraquod participated in the Missouri Voter Protection Coalition and the Will of the People Coalition to oppose the loss of majority rule in House Joint Resolution 43 and a number of other electoral reform proposals.

Thanks to all at Epiphany who spoke up as people of faith in this Legislative Session.



LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JUNE 2023

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

Genesis 1:1-2:4a and
Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

June 11

Genesis 12:1-9 and
Psalm 33:1-12
Hosea 5:15-6:6 and
Psalm 50:87-15
Romans 4:13-25
Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

June 18

Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7) and
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
Exodus 19:2-8a and
Psalm 100
Romans 5:1-8
Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

June 25

Genesis 21:8-21 and
Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17
Jeremiah 20:7-13 and
Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18
Romans 6:1b-11
Matthew 10:24-39

Sundays Worship & Education

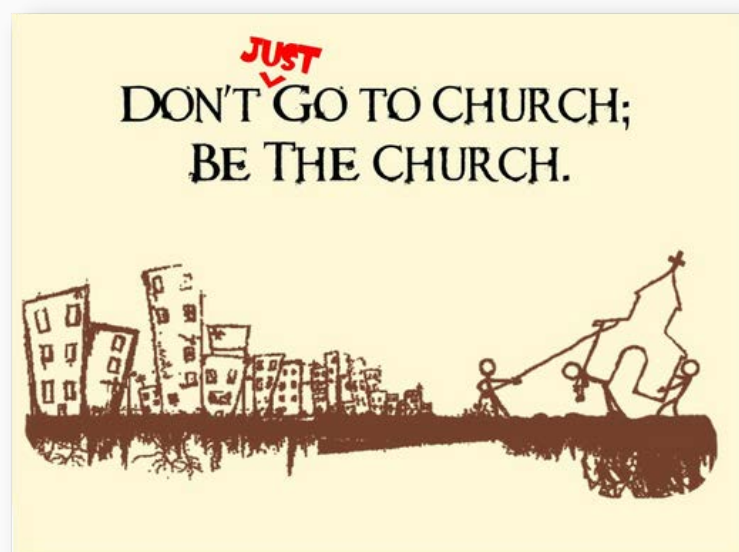
Adult Education, 9:15 a.m.

Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Click the link to Zoom with us,
or worship with us at
facebook.com/epiphanyucc.



NOISY OFFERING - 3RD SUNDAYS



JUNE

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	-

You may contact Amanda at amandanv530@yahoo.com for an invitation to the Zoom worship and meetings.

Pastor Kris on sabbatical through June & July.

June 1 - Thursday

June 2 - Friday

June 3 - Saturday

June 4 - Sunday

9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion

10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion

June 5 - Monday

June 6 - Tuesday

5:30 - 7 p.m. Epiphany Community Dinner
with a free will offering

7 p.m. Benton Park Neighborhood Assoc.

June 7 - Wednesday

5:30 p.m. Centering Prayer Group

June 8 - Thursday

June 9 - Friday

June 10 - Saturday

June 11 - Sunday

9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion

10:30 a.m. Worship

June 12 - Monday

June 13 - Tuesday

June 14 - Wednesday

June 15 - Thursday

7 p.m. Church Council on Zoom

June 16 - Friday

June 17 - Saturday

June 18 - Sunday with *Noisy Offering*

9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion

10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion

June 19 - Monday

June 20 - Tuesday

June 21 - Wednesday

5:30 p.m. Centering Prayer Group

June 22 - Thursday

June 23 - Friday

June 24 - Saturday

June 25 - Sunday

9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion

10:30 a.m. Worship

June 26 - Monday

June 27 - Tuesday

June 28 - Wednesday

June 29 - Thursday

June 30 - Friday



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](#) or [Anne](#).

Stewardship Update April 2023

Income:	April	YTD
Contributions	\$ 5,526	\$ 45,600
Memorial	20	725
Ordinary Income - Other	0	1,196
Christian Education	0	20
Total Restricted Income	- 825	8,913
Special Appeals	0	1,900
Fundraising	17	4,958
Urban Mission Exp	200	2,045
Interest	23	348
Facilities Rental	75	3,300
Passthrough Income	237	645
Total Other GenFund Income	0	45
Total Income:	\$ 5,235	\$ 69,716

Expenses:

Ordinary Expense	25	50,826
Gay Resources Listing	0	35
Microgrant MO Midsouth Conf	0	484
Total Other Designated Exp	651	9,728
Missions	0	4,210
Christian Education	0	136
Worship	5,092	52,245
Communication	412	4,114
Building & Grounds	131	20,081
Utilities	1,185	10,026
Urban Mission Exp.	0	1,009
Fundraising	0	296
Passthrough Expense	176	- 159
Other GenFund Exp	0	0
Total Expenses	\$ 7,875	\$ 69,716

Net Income **\$ - 2,640** **\$ - 83,320**

Additional information is available from the Treasurer

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



June Birthdays

Irene Gulovsen 6/26

June Anniversaries

Rev. Michael & Anne Nancy
Vosler 6/6





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

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.

Ministers at Epiphany

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

Building Care, Amanda Yatzeck
Choir, Dorothy Gannon
Christian Education Chair, Lois Yatzeck
Church Office, Anne Little
Enlightener Editor, Wes Buchek
Hospitality and Usher Coordinator,
Wes Buchek
Minister of Music, 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 Education

10:30 a.m.

Worship

Telephone:

314-772-0263

Email:

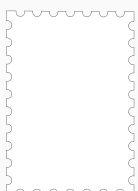
pastorkris@epiphanyucc.org

or

anne@epiphanyucc.org

Website:

www.epiphanyucc.org



Return Service Requested

Epiphany United Church of Christ
2911 McNair Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63118