

MAY 2023



# THE ENLIGHTENER

Epiphany UCC | St. Louis, Missouri  
Benton Park Neighborhood

## PK's Little Epiphanies



Dear Epiphany Friends,

It is hard to believe that I have been with you for four years, but I have. Under the terms of our call agreement, that makes me eligible for a two month sabbatical. I will be taking that sabbatical during the months of June and July. Plans to make sure everything I do for you gets covered are ongoing, but very nearly completed.

Here are the pieces that are complete:

- Wes and Amanda are going to do the electronic bulletin and Friday email
- Wes and Amanda are trained and ready to run worship technology.
- Vernon will be running the zoom during adult class.
- Anne has a mailbox key and will handle the mail.
- Anne will handle Acts4 with backup from the President.
- Dorothy will be managing voicemail and the pastor's email (and will be my only point of contact with Epiphany).
- J-MO will take point on any justice oriented letters or petitions we need to sign on to as a congregation and ze is empowered to sign for me.
- The Officers and Council will run the Annual Meeting and other church business.



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(Continued from page 1.)

Here are the pieces that are being worked on:

- We will need a backup person to be trained for worship tech.
- I am recruiting clergy colleagues to cover pastoral care and their names, phone numbers, and coverage dates will be provided in the Enlightener and by email.



During my time off I'll be reading and writing, traveling, and hanging out with family. I will be particularly focusing on my physical and mental health during this time. I do plan to attend Pride and will carry the Epiphany sign with Gateway ONA if no one else volunteers – if someone from Epiphany does want to carry the sign (riding or walking options available), I will march with MTUG instead.

I will not be answering calls or texts from members or friends of Epiphany while on sabbatical.

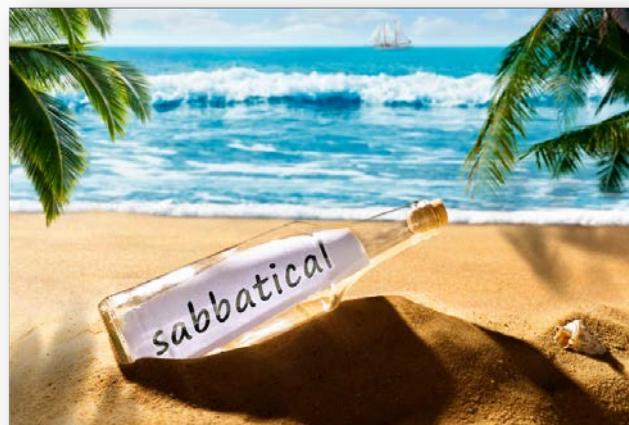
Travel plans include driving the equipment truck to Florida and back for the Columbia High Marching Eagles, and a river cruise in Europe.

Most of you will have heard that we are expecting a grandchild from Bailey and Kristian! Bailey is due near the end of my sabbatical (late July or early August) and we are very excited!!

I pray that this time of rest for me and of separation for us will be fruitful and healing!

Peace and blessings,

*Pastor Krissy*





# GIVE STL DAY

Epiphany UCC is excited to be participating in Give STL Day for the first time! Give STL Day is a local effort to expand charitable giving that is organized by the St. Louis Community Foundation. By working together with other non-profits and charitable groups, we can gain greater exposure and raise money for our church.



**Give STL Day officially begins at midnight on May 10, 2023 and will end at 10 a.m. on May 11. Early giving is also encouraged.** We have set a goal of raising \$1,000 for Give STL Day. In addition to donations made, Epiphany is eligible for potential prizes for just for participating. These include: \$500 Early Giving Prize, \$500 First Time Participant Prize, and \$5,000 End of Day Prize. So mark your calendars now for May 10, and plan on making a donation to Epiphany that day online at <http://www.givestlday.org/epiphany-ucc>. We will also have a link on the Epiphany website and Facebook page.

# 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!



# pride

## PREVIEW CONCERT

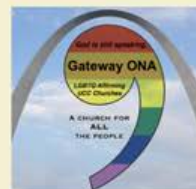
featuring Susan Drake  
& Julie Jennings

**SATURDAY, MAY 20**  
**5:30PM**  
**2911 McNair Ave. 63118**

Kick off Pride month early with live music, ice cream and lemonade,  
and a raffle! Free to attend, donations appreciated.  
All proceeds support Epiphany UCC ministries  
and Gateway ONA outreach.

PRESENTED BY EPIPHANY UCC & GATEWAY ONA

[epiphanyucc.org](http://epiphanyucc.org)  
We love God by welcoming and  
accepting everyone, fostering growth,  
and working for social justice.



[gatewayona.com](http://gatewayona.com)  
A coalition of LGBTQ Affirming  
congregations of the United Church of  
Christ in the St. Louis metro area.

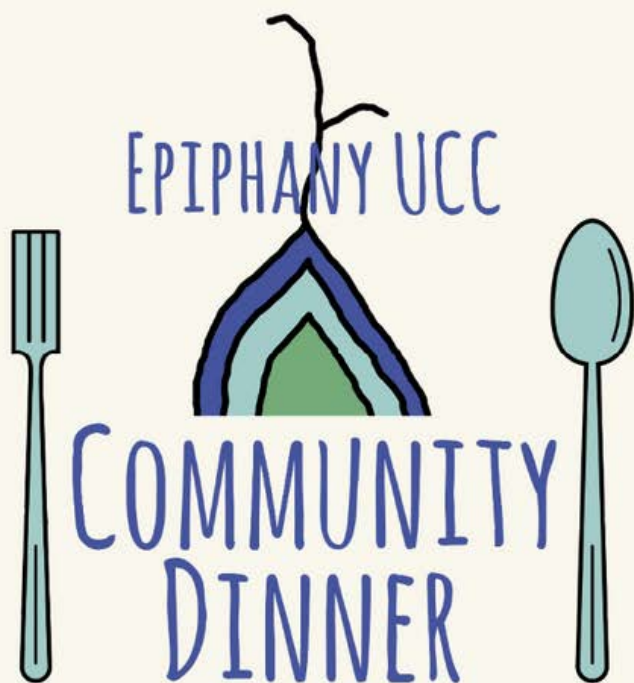




## UPCOMING COMMUNITY DINNER

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

If you need flyers, contact Amanda or Wes.



ALL ARE INVITED  
SHARE A MEAL  
WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS

Tuesday, June 6  
5:30 - 7:00 pm

2911 McNair Ave. 63118  
Free will offering  
Join us for bbq and  
stay for the Benton Park  
neighborhood meeting



## PEOPLE OF THE STORIES

We are people of The Story, or perhaps more appropriately, of The Stories. Scripture is precious to us as the stories of our faith ancestors, of their challenges, their success, their failures, and of their God who was faithful through it all. While the canon of scripture we know as the bible is sacred to us, as the UCC is determined to remind us, the closing of the canon was not the end of the story. We continue to live out stories of faith and of God's faithfulness.

What a privilege it is to hear our siblings in faith share their faith journeys, to learn more about the ways God has worked through people and events in their lives to shape them into the Spirit colleagues we have come to know. Paul, in writing his epistles, frequently reminded the community of their mentors and of the life circumstances that helped form their faith.

This summer some of us will be sharing testimony one Sunday a month during worship. Kat Logan-Smith has graciously agreed to take the first turn in June. If you find yourself feeling inclined to be one of those who will share testimony this summer, please let Dorothy Gannon (314-791-5904 or [dorothygannon2@gmail.com](mailto:dorothygannon2@gmail.com)) know.



# FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION EVENT

In partnership, the St. Louis Area Food Bank, SSM Health St. Louis University Hospital, and SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital are hosting a drive-through Community Mobile Market. Neighbors have the opportunity to get a mix of fresh and nonperishable food items at no cost. The distribution will end at the stated time or once all of the food and other resources have been distributed.

This event is set up as a drive through distribution and volunteers and/or staff of the organization will put food directly into your car. We ask that you have space in your vehicle for the food items and that you not leave your vehicle during the distribution. Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the event.

Identification or verification of income is not required– anyone is welcome.

**Date:** Friday, May 5, 2023

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Where:** 3450 Park Ave. / SSM Healthcare

**Event Link:** [More info](#)



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](#).



## DID YOU KNOW...



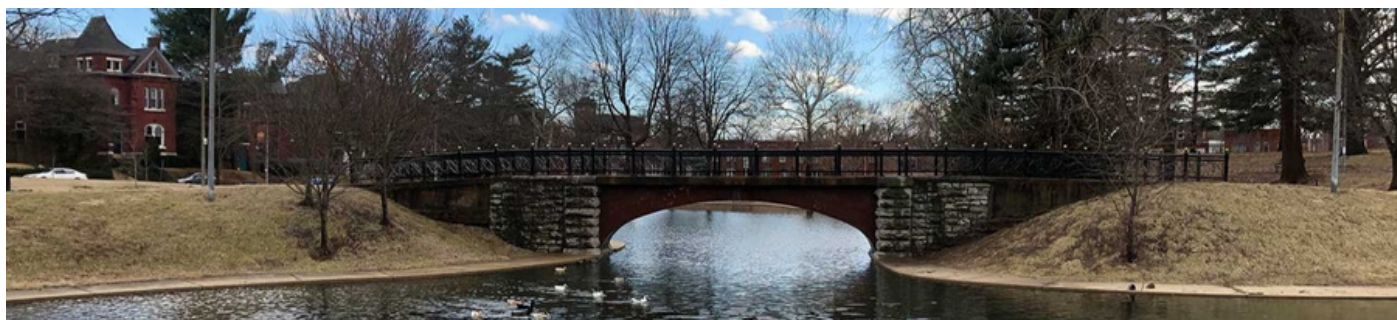
From Kat:

When I was here at the church one day, two guys were walking close to our building like they were casing the place.

One explained that they were geeking out on the masonry and pointed out that the craftsmen who built the sanctuary designed the window sills to shed water. Notice the tilt of the stone away from the building and the bevel on the corner, as well as the ingenious groove to channel sheet flow off the bricks like a miniature gutter.

## CONCERTS IN BENTON PARK

Benton Park will host concerts on the second to last Sunday of the month all summer. The first one is May 21, 4-7 p.m. For full details, visit [bpnastl.org](http://bpnastl.org).







## WORMS ARE BEING EVICTED

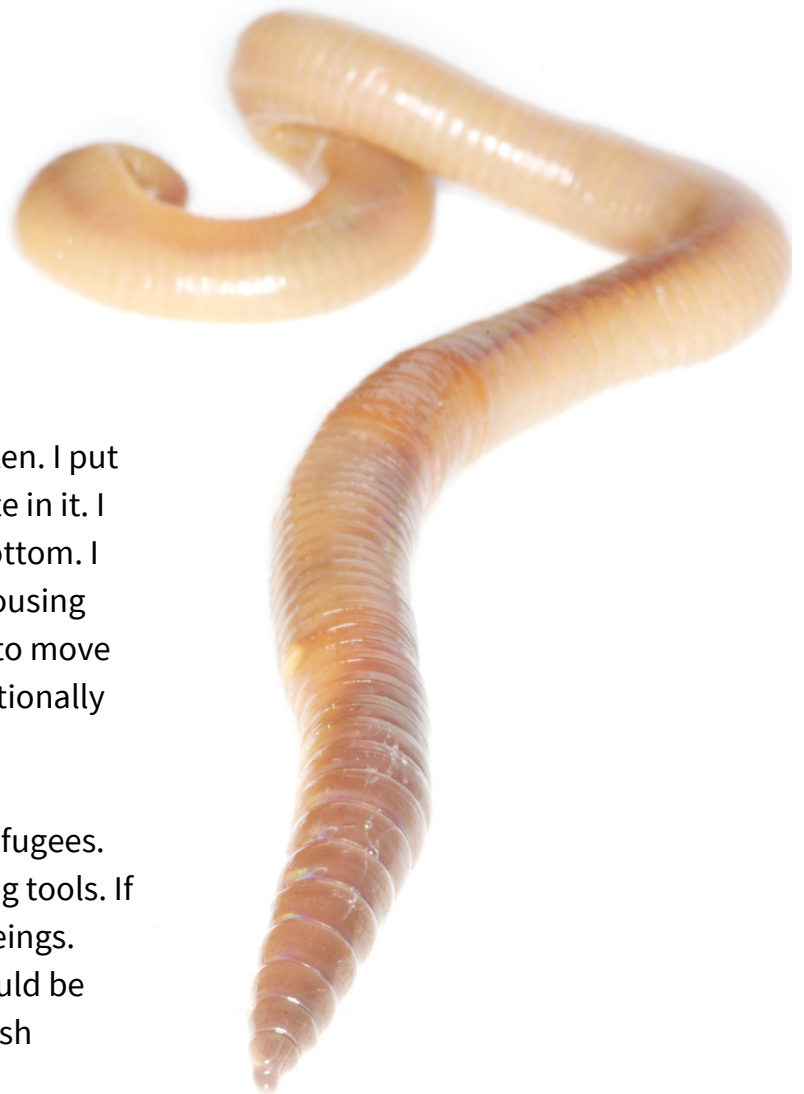
These worms are said to have predatory habits. I belong to a gardening group. Our instructor identified these beings as Tiger worms. She is not a fan of them. I am trying to be a good steward but, well, here is what has happened so far.

Within a week of being evicted the worms disappeared. Or they could have been eaten. I put them in a container that had kitchen waste in it. I was not aware there were larvae at the bottom. I know what it is to be forced out of your housing without any place to go. Or what it's like to move into a "bad neighborhood," then get emotionally consumed.

I don't have high hopes for most recent refugees. Many of them have injuries from gardening tools. If they survive; they will no longer be free beings. They are now property. These beings could be sold as bait. For just enough money to wash laundry—\$4

Anyone going fishing?

*C. James Verde*





## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MAY 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.

### **May 7**

Acts 7:55-60  
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
1 Peter 2:2-10  
John 14:1-14

### **May 14**

Acts 17:22-31  
Psalm 66:8-20  
1 Peter 3:13-22  
John 14:15-21

### **May 21**

Acts 1:6-14  
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35  
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11  
John 17:1-11

### **May 28**

Pentecost Sunday  
Acts 2:1-21 or  
Numbers 11:24-30  
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or  
Acts 2:1-21  
John 20:19-23 or  
John 7:37-39

## 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](https://facebook.com/epiphanyucc).



## NOISY OFFERING 3RD SUNDAYS

# MAY

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	31	-	-	-

**You may contact Pastor Kris at [pastorkris@epiphanyucc.org](mailto:pastorkris@epiphanyucc.org) for an invitation to the Zoom internet groups.**

**May 1 - Monday**

Pastor Kris' day off

**May 2 - Tuesday**

8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours  
7 p.m. Benton Park Neighborhood Assoc.

**May 3 - Wednesday**

5:30 p.m. Centering Prayer Group  
7 p.m. Community Dinner Team on Zoom

**May 4 - Thursday**

8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours

**May 5 - Friday**

**May 6 - Saturday**

**May 7 - Sunday**

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

**May 8 - Monday**

Pastor Kris' day off

**May 9 - Tuesday**

8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours

**May 10 - Wednesday**

**May 11 - Thursday**

8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours

**May 12 - Friday**

8 p.m. Wine and Theology on Zoom

**May 13 - Saturday**

**May 14 - Sunday**

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

**May 15 - Monday**

Pastor Kris' day off

**May 16 - Tuesday**

8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours

**May 17 - Wednesday**

5:30 p.m. Centering Prayer Group

**May 18 - Thursday**

8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours  
7 p.m. Church Council on Zoom

**May 19 - Friday**

8 p.m. Wine and Theology on Zoom

**May 20 - Saturday: In the Sanctuary**

**Concert at Epiphany with  
Susan Drake and Julie Jennings**

**May 21 - Sunday with NOISY OFFERING**

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

**May 22 - Monday**

Pastor Kris' day off

**May 23 - Tuesday**

8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours

**May 24 - Wednesday**

**May 25 - Thursday**

8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours

**May 26 - Friday**

8 p.m. Wine and Theology on Zoom

**May 27 - Saturday**

**May 28 - Sunday**

**Strengthen the Church offering**

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

**May 29 - Monday**

**May 30 - Tuesday**

**May 31 - Wednesday**

**Preview:**

**June 6 - Tuesday**

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

**Pastor Kris on sabbatical through June & July**

## Stewardship Update February 2023

Income:	February	YTD
Contributions	\$ 2,831	\$ 36,903
Memorial	485	725
Ordinary Income - Other	0	1,196
Christian Education	0	20
Total Restricted Income		960
Special Appeals		900
Fundraising		41
		15
		0
Ex		
Or		
Gay		
Mic		
Total		
Missi		
Christ		
Worsh		12,415
Comm	304	3,353
Hospita	922	15,207
Utilities	1,459	7,821
Urban Mission Exp.	0	1,009
Fundraising	150	297
Passthrough Expense	0	- 464
Other GenFund Exp	0	27
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 8,137</b>	<b>\$ 133,770</b>

**In Progress/  
Coming Soon**

The stewardship update information will be reported in an addendum email later in the month. Thank you for your patience! :)

**Net Income**                    **-\$ 3,503**    **-\$ 72,786**

Additional information is available from the Treasurer

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



### May Birthdays

Amanda Verbeck 5/30

### May Anniversaries

Doug & Cassandra Kaufman 5/2

Fred & Beckie Tilinski 5/26





**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.

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## **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:**

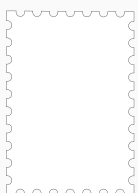
[pastorkris@epiphanyucc.org](mailto:pastorkris@epiphanyucc.org)

or

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

**Website:**

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



Return Service Requested

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