



THE ENLIGHTENER

OCTOBER 2023

Epiphany UCC | St. Louis, Missouri
Benton Park Neighborhood

PK's Little Epiphanies

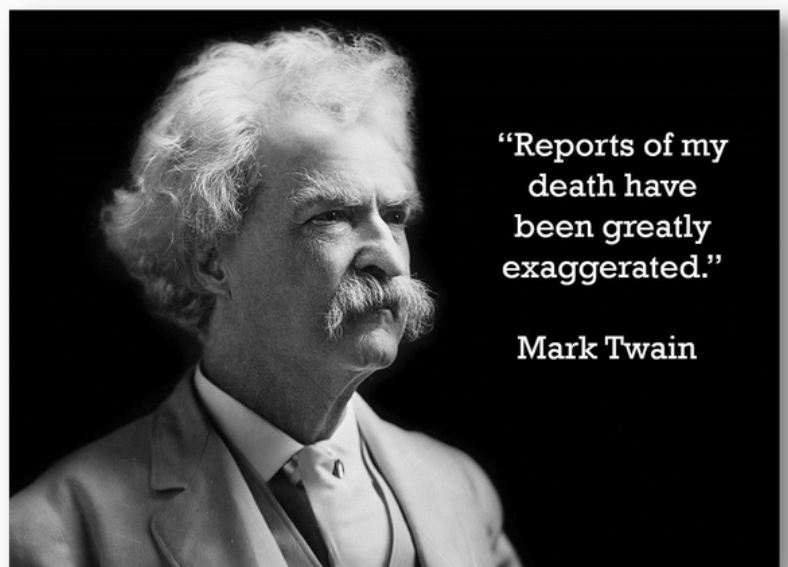


Hello Epiphany Friends,

Looking at the October calendar one could be forgiven for thinking that fundraising has become the primary mission of Epiphany. It hasn't! Our finance team has been working to make sure we fulfill our commitment to mission giving. The Adult Class faithfully wrestles with scripture and big issues. Community Dinner with the International Institute providing both education and practice (assembling kits for new neighbors) was a faithful use of time and resources.

September saw me leading Faith Labor Alliance breakfast; working the Gateway Open and Affirming booth at Tower Grove Pride; and marching and praying with the striking nurses at SLU Hospital. Our worship continues to be vibrant, liberative, and central to our life together. Mark Twain might say that the 'rumors of our death have been greatly exaggerated!' We aren't even on hospice or life support.

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"Reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated."

Mark Twain



(Continued from page 1.)

It is hard not knowing what is going to happen and when - I can feel the change coming, but it is coming on God's time and at this point I'm not sure even God knows exactly what the change will be.

One of the lectionary texts for Sunday, Oct. 1, is from Exodus 17 when the people camp at Rephidim and there is no water to drink. After he gets water out of the rock, Moses ends up calling the place, "Massah and Meribah," because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?" It would be so easy for us to slip into quarreling and to yell at God, "How long?!?"

This is a time where our attitude matters! Do we see this as a time of trial, uncertainty, and ordeal OR do we see this as a time of opportunity? Do we feel lost and abandoned or can we perceive God with us AND the support of our web of covenants within the UCC and beyond? Do we want to cry out the first verse of psalm 22, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?"

Or even if we can't manage to move to the end of that Psalm and the praise it offers, can we sing:

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

If you are struggling let me know, I can visit or arrange a phone call as best serves your needs. There are a million things we can't control, but our response and our attitude toward this time in the life of Epiphany is one thing that is firmly in our hands!

Even as we seek the way forward, let us strengthen our relationships and the ways we care for each other and (in the words of Bill & Ted) be excellent to each other!!

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Krissy



WHAT'S NEXT DISCUSSION

Your Epiphany church council has been busy looking at options for our building and next steps, and we look forward to continuing to share as a congregation. Our next discussion will be after worship on Nov. 5 at noon. Soup will be provided for lunch.

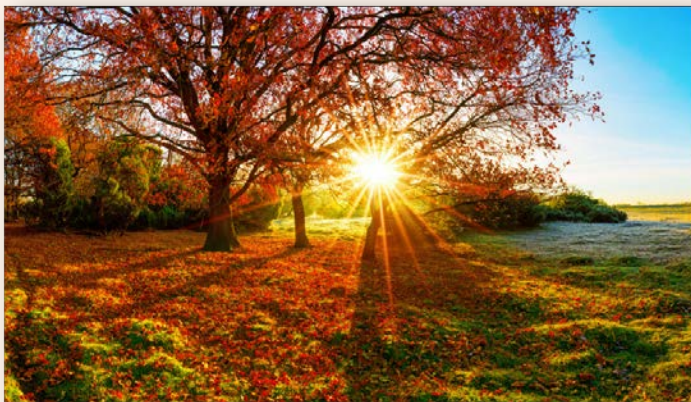
Nov. 5 Agenda:

Congregation

- Focus on mission during transition
- Getting-to-know-you meetings (Carondelet)
- Merger vs. independent

Building

- Building offer
- Realtor meeting
- Alternative meeting locations
- Pursue selling building while talking with other congregations



FALL WORSHIP

Starting on Sunday, Oct. 1, we will move worship back into the sanctuary. Enjoy the beautiful fall weather!



TRIVIA NIGHT - OCT. 7 - TABLES STILL AVAILABLE

There is still time to reserve your spot for trivia on Saturday, Oct. 7! Ray Hartmann from “Donnybrook” will be our emcee, and the event will be held at St. Paul's UCC, 5508 Telegraph Rd 63129. No alcohol please. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., trivia starts at 7 p.m. Tables of 8: \$200/table, \$25/person. **Contact Wes at 314-200-5334 (text or call) to make your reservation.**

Remember to bring canned goods to donate for free mulligans. Many thanks to silent auction contributors and donors, especially Alamo Drafthouse Cinema, Indigo Massage, Six Flags, and Ted Drewes.



EPIPHANY UCC HOSTS TWO SPECIAL DAYS OF BREAST CANCER AWARENESS EVENTS IN OCTOBER

By Jeanette Mott Oxford

We are about to host our most ambitious concert to date! Marcy Marxer and Cathy Fink will be appearing at Epiphany United Church of Christ for a community concert at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 21. Marxer and Fink are GRAMMY® winning singers, songwriters, and multi-instrumentalists. They have performed at hundreds of bluegrass and folk festivals and taught at close to 100 music camps worldwide.



They have performed with Pete Seeger, Tom Paxton, Patsy Montana, Riders in the Sky, and other well-known performers. Rhiannon Giddens has been one of their students.

In addition to the concert, Epiphany will also join in sponsoring a movie version of a musical written by Marxer and Fink, *All Wiggged Out*, at the Hi-Pointe Theatre at 1005 McCausland (Highway 40 and Clayton) on Friday, October 20, beginning at 7 p.m. (Doors open at 6, and parking is available in the bank parking lot across the street.) *All Wiggged Out* chronicles Marxer's experience with breast cancer and neuropathy caused by chemotherapy and is funny, moving, and inspirational. Since the musical was released, Fink also has been diagnosed with breast cancer and completed chemotherapy and radiation.

Cathy and Marcy are life partners in addition to being musical partners, so they are wonderful musicians for our Open and Affirming Church to host. They share our Just Peace sensibilities too and have sung for the AFL-CIO and other unions and advocated for health care for children and the rights and livelihoods of artists.

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Epiphany could not have afforded to bring Marxer and Fink to St. Louis without the generous financial and in-kind support of five partnering organizations:

- AARP of St. Louis
- American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN)
- SSM Breast Care
- The Missouri History Museum (as a Gateway to Pride event)
- Cancer Support Community of Greater St. Louis

Tickets for the movie are free, but registration must be completed with AARP by October 17 at [THIS LINK](#). The concert is also free, but a freewill offering will be collected just before intermission. Thanks to the generosity of AARP St. Louis and SSM Breast Care, those attending the movie will receive a free medium popcorn and a beverage. SSM will also offer a photo booth at both events so that those attending can dress in pink items and post photos on social media to build breast cancer awareness.

All of us know someone who has experienced breast cancer. These two events allow us to honor their struggle and build awareness about cancer in ways that may mean early detection and survival. SSM Breast Care will be scheduling mammograms from their table at both events. We will also be collecting donations for American Cancer Society's Hope Lodge both nights. Hope Lodge provides lodging to cancer patients traveling to St. Louis from more than forty miles away to receive treatment. A list of items to bring for Hope Lodge may be found [HERE](#).

AARP will be sending information out to their email distribution list of more than 100,000 St. Louis area addresses, so this is excellent visibility for Epiphany UCC. Music can be a powerful force in promoting justice and health! Let us reach out to our friends, relatives, co-workers, and neighbors with an invitation to the movie and concert.





ALL WIGGED OUT AND HUNGRY?

Intermission often equals a little something to eat, right? Epiphany is hoping to share some sweet treats with our guests at the “All Wiggged Out” concert on Oct. 21. Can you help? We would gladly accept financial donations for treats and someone has already agreed to make the Costco run to get some. If you prefer to actually bake, please make sure what you bring can be comfortably consumed with fingers and a napkin. Please let Dorothy Gannon (314-791-5904 or dorothygannon2@gmail.com) know as soon as possible if you are able to help.



OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Whether you are living with cancer, in remission from cancer, carrying genes that make you more susceptible to cancer, grieving a loss attributed to cancer, or walking with someone who is, you are not alone. May you claim the strength of your community, and may we all be faithful companions on the journey.



ANOTHER UCC FIRST



This past summer the Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson was elected the tenth General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. She is the first woman to serve in this role. She began on Aug. 1, 2023. Most recently, Rev. Thompson had served as the UCC’s officer for global and interfaith relations.

Rev. Thompson will be installed as general minister and president Friday, Oct. 20, at 5 p.m. EST (4 p.m. Central) and we can participate in the service virtually. Registration is through the UCC website at www.ucc.org. Please keep the service of installation and Rev. Thompson, her ministry, and the UCC in your prayers.

OCTOBER
SUNDAYS

9:15 A.M.

LIVE OR
ZOOM

EPIPHANY
UCC

THE END TIMES? OR MAYBE NOT.
STUDY END TIMES PROPHECY WITH
SKEPTICISM & GRACE

REVELATION

Coming in
January

COMING SOON: A CRITICAL CONVERSATION

SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER 9:15 A.M.

EMAIL TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT:
JMO.MOTT.OXFORD@GMAIL.COM

EPIPHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
WWW.EPIPHANYUCC.ORG
2911 MCNAIR, 63118



FALL COMMUNITY DINNER

Thank you to everyone who joined us all for our Fall Community Dinner! We had 40+ people attend, we packed 50 hygiene kits for immigrants, we raised \$112 for The International Institute, and we donated leftovers to Isaiah 58. Bravo!

A special shoutout to our friends from St. Lucas, St. John's, Hope, and First Congregational Wydown for joining us. It really is wonderful to share in mission with you all.





LECTIONARY READINGS FOR OCTOBER 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.

October 1

Exodus 17:1-7 & Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 or
Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 & Psalm 25:1-9
Philemon 2:1-13 | Matthew 21:23-32

October 8

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 & Psalm 19 or
Isaiah 5:1-7 & Psalm 80:7-15
Philemon 3:4b-14 | Matthew 21:33-46

October 15

Exodus 33:1-14 & Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 or
Isaiah 25:1-9 & Psalm 23
Philemon 4:1-9 | Matthew 22:1-14

October 22

Exodus 33:12-23 & Psalm 99 or
Isaiah 45:1-7 & Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13)
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 | Matthew 22:15-22

October 29

Deuteronomy 34:1-12 & Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
or Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 & Psalm 1
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 | Matthew 22:34-46

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

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



OCTOBER

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 Krissy at pastorkris@epiphanyucc.org for an invitation to the Zoom worship and meetings.

- October 1 - Sunday:** World Communion Sunday
& Neighbors in Need Offering
9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion
10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion
- October 2 - Monday**
- October 3 - Tuesday**
8 a.m. PK office hours
7 p.m. Benton Park Neighborhood Assoc.
- October 4 - Wednesday**
5:30 p.m. Centering Prayer Group
- October 5 - Thursday**
8 a.m. PK office hours
- October 6 - Friday**
- October 7- Saturday**
7 p.m. - Epiphany Trivia Night at St. Paul's
- October 8 - Sunday**
9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion
10:30 a.m. Worship
- October 9 - Monday:** Indigenous People's Day
- October 10 - Tuesday**
8 a.m. PK office hours
6:30 p.m. Worship Team meeting
- October 11 - Wednesday**
- October 12 - Thursday**
8 a.m. PK office hours

You can view the Epiphany calendar at epiphanyucc.org/newsandevents or go to the epiphanyucc.org home page and click the "News & Events" tab at the top of the page.

- October 13 - Friday (Boo!)**
- October 14 - Saturday**
- October 15 - Sunday** *Noisy Offering*
9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion
10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion
- October 16 - Monday**
- October 17 - Tuesday**
8 a.m. PK office hours
6 p.m. Council meeting w/Carondelet UCC
- October 18- Wednesday**
5:30 p.m. Centering Prayer Group
- October 19 - Thursday**
8 a.m. PK office hours
7 p.m. Church Council on Zoom
- October 20 - Friday**
7 p.m. All Wiggged Out 1 of 2
- October 21 - Saturday**
5:30 p.m. All Wiggged Out 2 of 2
- October 22 - Sunday**
9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion
10:30 a.m. Worship
- October 23 - Monday**
- October 24 - Tuesday**
8 a.m. PK office hours
- October 25 - Wednesday**
- October 26 - Thursday**
8 a.m. PK office hours
- October 27 - Friday**
- October 28 - Saturday**
- October 29 - Sunday**
9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion
10:30 a.m. Worship
- October 30 - Monday**
- October 31 - Tuesday**
8 a.m. PK office hours



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](#).



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

October Birthdays

David Hon 10/8

Larry Gaines 10/31

October Anniversaries

Wes Buchek & Amanda Verbeck 10/10



LIVE CONCERT WITH MARCY MARXER AND CATHY FINK from

All Wiggged Out THE MUSICAL

FREE CONCERT, OCTOBER 21, 5:30PM
EPIPHANY UCC, 2911 MCNAIR AVE, 63118

Free will offering. Donations of household items for residents of Hope Lodge will be collected. Enjoy live music, a photo booth, refreshments, and more. Details at epiphanyucc.org.

Proudly sponsored by AARP St. Louis, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Cancer Support Community Greater St. Louis, Epiphany UCC, Missouri Historical Society, and SSM Health Breast Care.



**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
Council Member, Dorothy Gannon
Financial Secretary, Dorothy Gannon
Accounts Payable, Jeanette Mott Oxford

Building Care, Amanda Yatzeck
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

Website:

www.epiphanyucc.org



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