

SEPTEMBER 2023

# THE ENLIGHTENER

Epiphany UCC | St. Louis, Missouri  
Benton Park Neighborhood

## PK's Little Epiphanies



Dear Epiphany Friends,

Thank you for including sabbatical time in the call agreement and in practice. It was so needed to reset my mind and recharge my soul. I know some of you wish I had not taken time away in the midst of big decisions and felt that I had abandoned you. I honor those feelings, they are valid. I would answer with this: “If you wait until the perfect time to do a thing, it will never be done.” I would also point out that I was kept up to date by the council regarding the Annual Meeting and other “need to know” information.

As I said before I left, you didn’t call a Herr Pastor who has the need to be in every meeting and control the narrative. You called ME to walk with you and to help connect your stories and the story of Epiphany to the universal story of God’s work in creation. I didn’t need to be at the annual meeting because you are Epiphany and are fully qualified to make decisions about your future AND as long as you agreed to stay together as community – I had no preference for the rest of the choices.



(Continued on page 2.)



(Continued from page 1.)

During my sabbatical I did, unfortunately, have to keep working at Every Child's Hope except during our two trips. The first trip, Nicole and I drove the equipment truck to Orlando, Florida (and back) for the Columbia, IL High School Marching Eagles. We had a great time reconnecting along the way, listening to audio books, and remembering why we are so good together. The band did a great job marching in the Magic Kingdom and it was fun to watch Kristian doing his job well and with passion!



Our second trip was a cruise down the Rhine from Amsterdam to Basel, Switzerland. Most of the trip is in Germany with a stop in Strassbourg, France – we didn't see any of Switzerland, they took us off the ship at 4 a.m. in the dark and by motorcoach to the airport... Nicole and I loved walking around the towns and cities we visited; touring fortresses and cathedrals; UNESCO World Heritage Sites like the windmills in Kinderdijk, Netherlands; eating and drinking in sidewalk cafes; and attending Pridefest in Cologne (the largest in Europe with a parade that circles the city center for over four hours!) and Bretzelfest (pretzel in English) in Speyer, Germany – YUMMY!!

In between trips and work I spent my time reading and learning to enjoy reading again, Praise the LORD!! I also did quite a bit of knitting finishing a skirt I started before coming to Epiphany and starting a hooded baby blanket.

OH, YES, the best part of sabbatical: the arrival on July 26 of Amelia "Millie" Kate Avise-Rouse. She came into the world at during the 2 a.m. hour, weighing 6 pounds even and measuring 18 inches long. She is already showing a big personality, lots of facial expression and determination. Mommy and Daddy like to have her swaddled; Millie likes to have her arms and legs free and has been found having escaped not only the swaddle but also the onepiece pajamas under the swaddle, living her best life bare to the waist!

(Continued on page 3.)





(Continued from page 2.)

Upon my return I had long meetings with Dorothy and Amanda to catch up on all the goings on. On my first Sunday back when I got up to do the greeting, I picked up and put on the stole I had laid down on my last Sunday in May; it felt really good and right to do that.

As we move forward, I'll be working with Council and Pastoral Relations to increase pastoral care; and to find and make available resources for how we stay together even as we release the building or work toward merger with another congregation. This time is going to be critical for our future and we need to do the waiting and planning well; we need to tell the stories of our past and dream toward the future and I will be here to walk with you through the wilderness and the storm.

Peace,

*Pastor Krissy*

## WHAT'S NEXT?

At our last congregational meeting, one of the many possibilities for our future that was discussed was that of merger. Carondelet UCC in south city came up as a potential partner if we considered merger. After some conversation with their pastor, Brad Urban, it became clear that both congregations are open to initial conversations about merger and that the congregations do not know each other very well. The two pastors and the two councils have scheduled to meet September 5th for a getting acquainted conversation. The conversation will begin around the following questions:

1. A brief history of your church
2. What missions/ministries currently excite you?
3. Current challenges for your church?
4. How does your congregation practice justice and inclusion as a congregation?
5. What's next for your church?

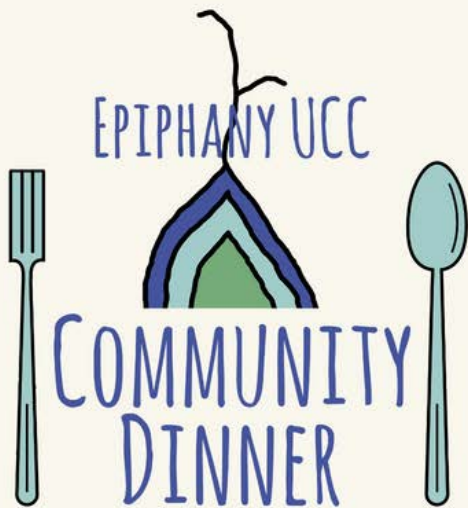
The experts tell us that successful mergers happen when churches merge around mission. The intention of this conversation is to get to know each other better, for each church to be stretched in our respective discernment processes, and to learn more about each other's missional visions. We will have feedback for you at the next congregational meeting.

Please keep this conversation and all of the "What's Next?" process in your prayers.

*~Dorothy Gannon*

# UPCOMING COMMUNITY DINNER

Our second community dinner will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 26, from 5:30-8 p.m.  
Join us!



Tuesday, Sept 26  
5:30 - 8:00 pm

ALL ARE INVITED  
SHARE A MEAL WITH FRIENDS & HELP  
THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE

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

Join us for a free dinner and learn  
about The International Institute!  
Stay after dinner to assemble  
welcome kits for immigrant families.

Menu: chili (meat & vegetarian), salad, rolls,  
apple crisp, lemonade, iced tea.

## PASTOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE

As has been advertised, a new Pastoral Relations Committee has been formed. The purpose of the committee is to support and maintain a healthy relationship between the pastor and the congregation. The Committee will meet quarterly, unless there is a special need. The committee is Jeanette Mott Oxford, Chris Heckendorn, and Vernon Kays. Please speak to a committee member if you have a need. We meet again Nov. 5.



# EPIPHANY UCC

# TRIVIA NIGHT

October 7th  
2023

6:30p Doors  
7:00p Trivia

Tables of 8  
\$200/table  
\$25/person

Hosted at St. Paul's UCC  
5508 Telegraph Rd.  
63129

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF TRIVIA AND FUN  
TO SUPPORT EPIPHANY MISSIONS!

50/50 raffle, mulligans, silent auction, and more.  
Snacks and soda provided, you are welcome to bring  
outside food. No alcohol please.  
Donate non-perishable food items for free mulligans.

**CONTACT WES BUCHEK  
TO RESERVE YOUR TABLE TODAY.  
314-200-5334 (TEXT OR CALL) OR  
WBUCKEK@GMAIL.COM  
EPIPHANYUCC.ORG**





## SILENT AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED

Our annual trivia night is coming up in October, and we will have a silent auction table. We've reached out to several businesses, restaurants, and St. Louis attractions to collect donations of tickets and gift cards. But we need your help to round out the baskets. There are several basket themes to guide you if you would like to donate items for the auction. Please contact Amanda at [amandanv530@yahoo.com](mailto:amandanv530@yahoo.com) and let her know what item(s) you plan to donate. Items will need to be brought to the council room at church by September 23. Thanks in advance for your help!

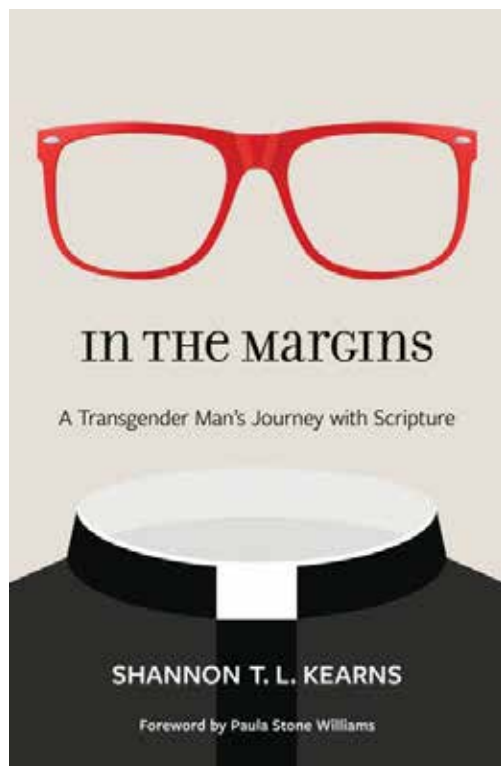
- Taco Night Basket (salsa assortment, taco seasoning, tortilla warmer, margarita mix)
- Pet Lovers Basket (pet themed items)
- Movie Night Basket (boxed candy assortment)
- Self Care Basket (scented candle, hand/body lotion, eye pillow, face mask)
- Garden Basket (seed packets, hand garden tool, gardening gloves)
- Kids Basket (yard game, kids card or board game, kids puzzle)\*

\*Do not put actual kids in the Kid Basket



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Beginning Sept. 3, during Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., we will be discussing the book “In the Margins,” by Fr. Shannon Kearns. While his experience as a transgender man has often made it difficult for him to fit in—especially in the context of Christianity—it has also shaped his perspective in important ways on complicated, gender-transgressing aspects of theology and Scripture.



In each chapter, the author shows how stories have helped him make sense of his own identity, and how those same stories can unlock the transformative power of faith for those willing to listen with an open mind and stand alongside him in the in-between.

Join us for these five sessions. If you can't attend class, but wish to read the book, please contact Lois Yatzeck at 314-498-5652 and we will order you a copy. (Approximately \$11.)



## NEW GAS LINES

Spire is upgrading the gas lines in Benton Park, so be prepared for construction in the neighborhood over the next month or so.



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 SOON: A CRITICAL CONVERSATION

SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER 9:15 A.M.

EMAIL TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT:  
[JMO.MOTT.OXFORD@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JMO.MOTT.OXFORD@GMAIL.COM)

EPIPHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
[WWW.EPIPHANYUCC.ORG](http://WWW.EPIPHANYUCC.ORG)  
2911 MCNAIR, 63118





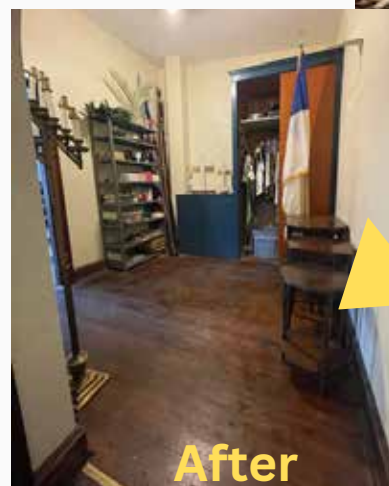
## UME WRAP UP

It was such a wonderful gift to host four groups at Epiphany this Summer for Urban Mission Experience STL! There were youth groups from Columbia UCC, Columbia, MO, Pilgrim UCC, Grafton, WI, Edmond FCC, Edmond, OK and First Congregational UCC, Downer's Grove, IL. We had 47 people participate (ages 11-80), and the UME program raised \$7,050 this year.

This year our participants worked at the English Cave Garden, Seed STL, LifeWise STL, Lydia's House, and St. Louis Area Foodbank. Activities included sorting food donations, gardening, yard work, cleaning, and apartment setup. They volunteered at Epiphany cleaning and organizing the two sanctuary balconies, sacristy, upstairs hall closet, and basement storage room. Additionally, I took each group on a Benton Park neighborhood walking tour while we picked up trash in the alleys.

I'm so grateful to our partner organizations, the St. Louis Association, Joint Neighborhood Ministries, and Carondelet YMCA for their support. And a special thank you goes out to Norma Keller, Bob Keller, and Dorothy Gannon for their help with the UME dinners.

*Amanda Jeebeck*





## END OF AN ERA

About 30 years ago, a young, quiet relatively new college graduate named Pete Ruthenburg arrived at Epiphany. With his jazz hands and unbelievable patience and flexibility, he joined the family as our pianist/organist. In the years since, we got to know and love his then new wife Vicki, to baptize his twins Jackson and Hannah, and to watch the kids grow up. We celebrated his interesting gigs live and on-line, grieved losses, and supported his new career in music education. And through all that he blessed us Sunday after Sunday.



We are so grateful. We have been together through 3 pastors and at least three interims, 3 pianos and keyboards, hundreds of worship services and choir rehearsals, lots of potlucks and congregational meetings, and one pandemic. As our musician, he was patient with a choir that had no director and had a coordinator who could not conduct. He faithfully undergirded our singing and improvised through preludes and offertories and communions and Prayers As We Go and postludes. He made concert videos for us that comforted and encouraged during the long periods of the pandemic when we could not be together. He allowed the Holy Spirit to work through him week after week, year after year, to be a blessing to this piece of the Body of Christ.

Preachers can all tell a story about the time when someone thanked them after worship for saying XYZ during the sermon because it was exactly what they needed to hear, when the preacher knows for certain they never said XYZ. But we trust that the Spirit was at work bringing what someone needed to hear. We know there were some Sundays when work the night before had gone pretty late and he was, shall we say, less prepared than other Sundays. We want to be sure he knows that a Sunday has not gone by when some among us have not been blessed by his riff on a hymn that was exactly what we needed to hear. For more than 30 years, Pete has blessed our minds, our hearts, our souls, with his talent and his passion and his willingness to be used by the Spirit among us.

It has long been one of Epiphany's missions to receive the gifts God sned us in each person who comes through our doors and stays a while, and then to bless their journey when it is time for folks to leave. Pete ended his ministry among us this July and is now sharing his gifts with Bethlehem Lutheran Church in north city. We are grieving the loss of his presence and his gifts among us even as we give thanks for all that God is doing and will do in and through him in his new ministry. Thank you seems inadequate. But we give thanks anyway. Thank you, Pete. And thank you, God.



# All Wiggged Out THE MUSICAL

## MARCY MARXER WITH CATHY FINK

MOVIE SCREENING  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 7PM  
HI-POINTE THEATRE  
RESERVE YOUR FREE TICKETS ONLINE

Immediately following the movie, there will be a panel discussion with Cathy and Marcy, Dannie Hodges (Cancer Support Community of STL), Dr. Jovita Oruwari (SSM), and Emily Kalmer (ACSCAN).

This is a free event, but monetary donations will be accepted. Donations of household items for residents of Hope Lodge will also be collected. Details at [epiphanyucc.org](http://epiphanyucc.org).

You can also join us for a live concert with Marcy and Cathy on Saturday, October 21, 5:30PM at Epiphany UCC.

Two-time GRAMMY® Award Winners, Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer are musicians with a career spanning over 35 years. Their superb harmonies are backed by instrumentals on more than fifty instruments. Both are breast cancer survivors, and they have written a breast cancer musical, All Wiggged Out, that has been featured on NPR's Morning Edition.

### PROUDLY SPONSORED BY



# LIVE CONCERT WITH MARCY MARXER AND CATHY FINK

from

## All Wiggged Out THE MUSICAL

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

A free will offering will be taken, and donations of household items for residents of Hope Lodge will also be collected.

Details at [epiphanyucc.org](http://epiphanyucc.org).

You can also join us for a free movie screening of All Wiggged Out on Friday, October 20, 7PM at Hi-Pointe Theatre.

Reserve your free tickets online.

Two-time GRAMMY® Award Winners, Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer are musicians with a career spanning over 35 years. Their superb harmonies are backed by instrumentals on more than fifty instruments. Both are breast cancer survivors, and they have written a breast cancer musical, All Wiggged Out, that has been featured on NPR's Morning Edition.

### PROUDLY SPONSORED BY







## SUMMER BUILDING PROJECTS

Your building team has had a busy summer! It takes a village to triage the projects around our building. If you are interested in helping with projects, we could especially use ongoing cleaning or grass cutting help. We ask folks to sign up for a month at time for either task.

Many thanks to the UME volunteers, Gail, Mary, Pastor Krissy, Nicole, Wes, Amanda, and anyone I've missed for all of your hard work. Here are **some** of the projects we've tackled this summer:

- Yard cleanup & pruning (early and late summer)
- New sanctuary door thresholds
- New AC units in 2 UME rooms
- Clean & organize church areas (see the UME article for more details!)
- Clean & repair gutters
- New blinds in the bathroom foyer
- Power wash outside concrete
- New electric meter
- New high speed internet service



## DONATE TO MAUI



The Hawai'i Conference UCC has four churches on the island of Maui that wildfires heavily impacted. Prayerfully send donations:

- Directly to the National UCC Disaster Recovery Fund for Hawaii
- To MMSC with "Disaster Ministries Hawaii Wildfire" designation to be forwarded

For more information, [visit the UCC website](#).



*You're Cordially Invited!*

# MCU Gala

October 5, 2023

Thursday  
5:30 - 8:30 pm

Polish Heritage Center  
1413 N 20th St

Register:  
[bit.ly/  
MCU  
Gala2023](https://bit.ly/MCU_Gala2023)



## SEASON OF CHANGE

*Embracing the Magic & Making a Difference*

A glimpse of what's in store:

Music & Leader Testimonies

Building Community

Local Dining and Treats

Photo Booth Fun

Dancing under the Stars

At this year's Gala, we aim to celebrate growth, hope, and the power of transformational change. This Gala is as much about creating joy and friendships as it's about coming together as a community to make a real impact in the lives of our neighbors and larger community. Your participation and support will help us in our mission to create transformational change and spread hope.

**[Click here to sign up and buy tickets!!](#)**





## MCU UPDATE

The next monthly meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 12 from 6-10 p.m.. The Environmental Justice Planning Committee will be planning their next action event to take place in mid October. Their focus this year has been on illegal dumping and this final action event of the year will be a site cleanup. We'd like as much involvement from citizens of the city of St. Louis and surrounding counties as possible and will be inviting other stakeholder organizations to join forces. The meeting will be held at the Deaconess Foundation at 1000 N. Vandeventer Ave.

Please join the conversation and invite your friends, too! The environmental Justice Planning Team will also be discussing ideas for the 2024 year's focus. [Submit your ideas to Doris via email](#) or come to the meeting and join the conversation.

Also, if you would like to attend the Gala with Doris (see flyer above), please let her know.



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## THE WONDERFUL MR. BEANS

Our book's been published! [The Wonderful Mr. Beans](#). You can find it online at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, & Walmart under juvenile fiction. \$16.95 paperback. Jerry's the author, our Christy did all the watercolor illustrations, & I'm the editor.

"How does a donkey, who tended cows for a very long time, deal with unexpected change & still remain wonderful? Follow Mr. Beans as he begins his new life, meets new friends, & learns that kindness & love can provide a new chapter in his life."

All proceeds are donated to the non-profit Ray of Light Farm in East Haddam, Ct. They care for more than 160 rescued animals. There's an excellent video so you can meet some of the animals. [www.rayoflightfarm.org](http://www.rayoflightfarm.org). Thanking you all so much for your encouragement & support.



Hugs,  
**Janice Markham**



## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 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.

### **September 3**

Exodus 3:1-15 &  
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b or  
Jeremiah 15:15-21 & Psalm 26:1-8  
Romans 12:9-21  
Matthew 16:21-28

### **September 10**

Exodus 12:1-14 & Psalm 149  
Ezekiel 33:7-11 & Psalm 119:33-40  
Romans 13:8-14  
Matthew 18:15-20

### **September 17**

Exodus 14:19-31 & Psalm 114 or  
Genesis 50:15-21 & Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13  
Romans 14:1-12  
Matthew 18:21-35

### **September 24**

Exodus 16:2-15 &  
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 or  
Jonah 3:10-4:11 & Psalm 145:1-8  
Philemon 1:21-30  
Matthew 20:1-6

## 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.





# SEPTEMBER

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	22
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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

**September 1 - Friday**

**September 2 - Saturday**

**September 3 - Sunday**

9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion

10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion

**September 4 - Monday**

**September 5 - Tuesday**

7 p.m. Benton Park Neighborhood Assoc.

**September 6 - Wednesday**

6 p.m. Centering Prayer Group

**September 7 - Thursday**

**September 8 - Friday**

**September 9 - Saturday**

**September 10 - Sunday**

9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion

10:30 a.m. Worship

**September 11 - Monday**

**September 12 - Tuesday**

**September 13 - Wednesday**

**September 14 - Thursday**

7:30 p.m. Fundraising Committee via Zoom

**September 15 - Friday**

**September 16 - Saturday**

**September 17 - Sunday with *Noisy Offering***

9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion

10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion

**September 18 - Monday**

**September 19 - Tuesday**

**September 20 - Wednesday**

6 p.m. Centering Prayer Group

**September 21 - Thursday**

7 p.m. Church Council on Zoom

**September 22 - Friday**

**September 23 - Saturday**

**September 24 - Sunday**

9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion

10:30 a.m. Worship

**September 25 - Monday**

**September 26 - Tuesday**

5:30 p.m. Community Dinner

**September 27 - Wednesday**

**September 28 - Thursday**

**September 29 - Friday**

**September 30 - Saturday**



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 June 2023

	June	June YTD
Total Income:	\$ 4,423.19	\$ 4,423.19
Total Expenses:	\$ 6,739.77	\$ 6,739.77
Net Income:	\$ - 2,361.58	\$ - 2,361.58

*Additional information is available from the Treasurer*

### Stewardship Update July 2023

	July	July YTD
Total Income:	\$ 19,796.40	\$ 24,219.59
Total Expenses:	\$ 7,771.88	\$ 14,511.65
Net Income:	\$ 12,024.52	\$ 9,707.94

*Additional information is available from the Treasurer*



### September Birthdays

Dorothy Gannon 9/23

### September Anniversaries

Krissy & Nicole  
Avise-Rouse 9/28







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

Building Care, Amanda Verbeck  
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:**

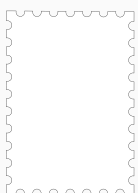
314-772-0263

**Email:**

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

**Website:**

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



Return Service Requested

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