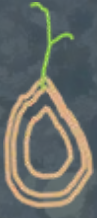


APRIL 2024



THE ENLIGHTENER

Epiphany UCC | St. Louis, Missouri
Benton Park Neighborhood

PK's Little Epiphanies



Hello Epiphany Friends,

By the time you read this we will have come through Holy Week into Easter Season – fifty whole days to celebrate the resurrection!! Hallelujah, Christ IS risen indeed!! After the contemplative preparation of Lent; the busyness and emotional rollercoaster of Holy Week; and the excitement of Easter Day, the season can feel like a let down. There are lots of ways to fight that feeling from daily affirmations of God’s love to acts of love and justice in the world.

Our Adult class is starting the week after Easter to study the book of Revelation, which contains both beautiful and troubling imagery and has been wildly misinterpreted and misused (particularly over the last 200 years) join us in person or on Zoom.

It was brought to the attention of the Council and myself that those not directly involved with the council and the conversations about where we might be moving feel rather left out or at least out of the loop.

(Continued on page 2.)

Avoid the Easter Letdown





(Continued from page 1.)

We will be increasing our communication through bulletins, verbal announcements in church, the Friday “This Week...” emails, the Enlightener, AND we will be having every other month discussion times after worship in which questions may be asked, feelings and opinions may be shared, and the whole congregation can be part of the journey together. Our first gathering will be April 14th after worship, please plan to stay or stay on Zoom (we will shut down the Facebook feed).

On the “releasing the building” side: we have had a number of inquiries about the building from worshipping communities, arts organizations, and developers. We have had two showings and lots of appreciation of our building, but no offers yet.

On the “Where will we land?” side: the Council has paused conversations regarding possible mergers. We are currently focusing on conversations about embedding Epiphany within a service agency. Our primary partner in the conversation agrees with our team that there would be advantages to such an arrangement and they are looking for similar space (all one level; fully accessible; modern and efficient; off street parking; multi-purpose space; dedicated sound, lights, and A-V for worship, education, and presentations; and an excellent licensed kitchen for cooking, teaching, and incubating minority owned businesses) in similar neighborhoods to what we have said is our preference. We have agreed in principle to put together a team to begin feasibility studies, neighborhood needs assessments, and other preliminary work – fully understanding that any final decision requires a vote of our congregation and their board.

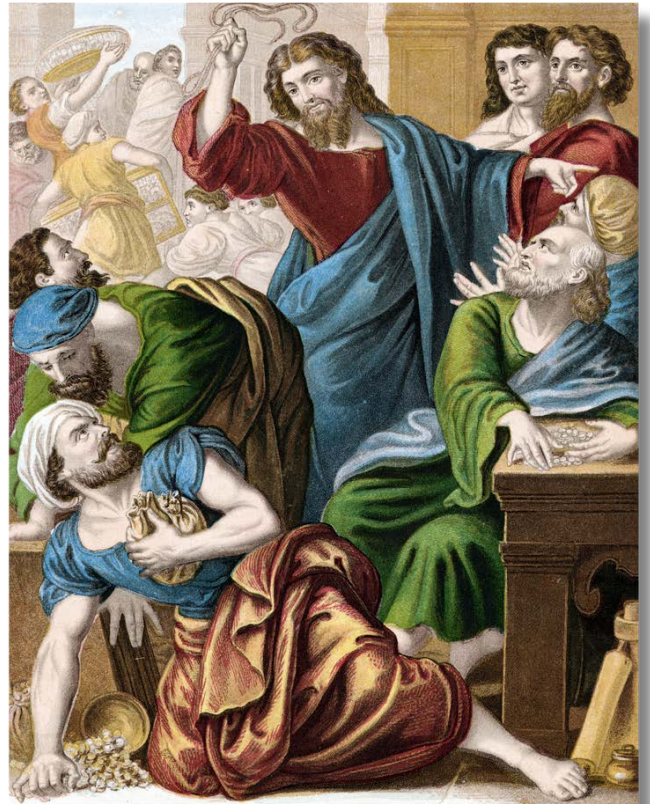


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If you have questions, concerns, thoughts, feeling, need to work through grief or anxiety in a judgement free space, PLEASE come on the 14th and be part of the conversation!!

Our rebel rabbi rode in on a donkey; overturned the tables of the money changers and vendors in the temple; overturned ideas about how religion should work, that it ought to serve the people, not the other way around; he stood against the twin powers of religion and empire; he shared meals with everyone he could; he was killed; buried; and raised. Not one bit of that was what anyone expected of a faith leader or a savior. Let's follow that example and resurrect Epiphany into a new kind of church living our existing commitments in ways that shock and surprise even those who hate us.



Easter blessings,

Pastor Krissy

CHECK-IN CONVERSATION - APRIL 14

**DON'T
FORGET
APRIL 14**

On April 14, please plan to stay after worship to have a short conversation about our building transition. This is a chance to share your thoughts and feelings and ask questions about this process. Please join us!

A HOLY HEARING DURING HOLY WEEK

By Jeanette Mott Oxford

On March 26, I was in Jefferson City with a co-worker to testify for House Bills 2108 and 2555, two bills that would create “Clean Slate Expungement.” This would seal records of arrests or incarcerations for some people charged or convicted of crimes. The goal is to remove some of the current barriers to employment, housing, and education that some of our formerly incarcerated neighbors experience.

The testimony of personally impacted people at this hearing brought tears to my eyes. One woman told of working at McDonald’s for \$8 per hour, then writing a bad check when she could not pay her utility bill. She served six years in prison for that offense, and now she struggles to get a promotion at her current fast-food job because the rules say people with felony records cannot be shift supervisors.

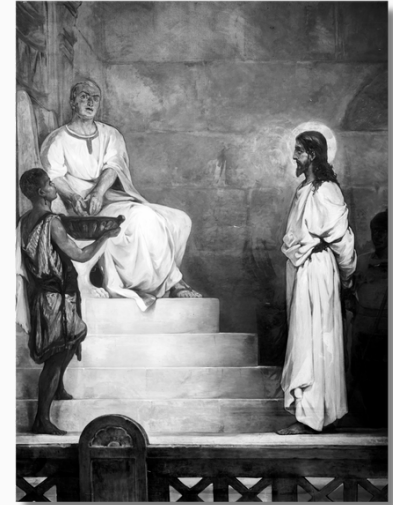
Equally powerful was the testimony at the hearing for House Bill 2468 just before the Clean Slate Hearing. HB 2468 tries to close something known as the “judicial loophole.” After a defendant has been found guilty of first-degree murder in the guilt phase of a trial, the sentencing phase of the trial will occur in which the jury is instructed to unanimously agree to either life without the possibility of parole, or the death penalty. If the jury cannot unanimously agree to one sentence or the other (resulting in a “Hung Jury”), the court system in Missouri allows the judge leeway to decide on a punishment of life without the possibility of parole OR a death sentence by utilizing a loophole in Missouri statute.

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A court interpretation of the plain language of the statute has granted the ability to sentence the defendant to death in the case of a hung jury to a sole judge by reading a comma - that does not exist - into a sentence of that statute and, since 1998, eight people have been sentenced to death this way. People who testified on this issue included attorneys, criminal justice advocates, and ministers who have accompanied prisoners to their execution. Again, my heart was moved by this experience.



I recognized that I was going through a Holy Week experience very like the unjust trial that led to the brutal killing of Jesus of Nazareth. One way to honor the memory of Jesus is to stand against these atrocities in our current times.

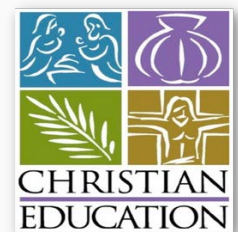
It is too late to submit testimony now, but we can still urge the committee to move all of these bills forward to floor debate. Won't you put your faith into action by contacting members of the House General Laws Committee to ask them to vote "Do Pass" on House Bills 2108, 2555, and 2468?

Find a list of the members of the committee by going to the [webpage of Chairman Alex Riley](#) and clicking on "General Laws Committee" on his committees membership list.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE



Hear ye, hear ye! We will finally begin our study of the Book of Revelations. Our first class discussion will be on Sunday, April 7, 9:15 am, at church. If you cannot make it in person, join us on Zoom. The link is in the weekly email. See you then!





You Are Invited!

Community Meeting for Air Permit Renewal for Hazardous Waste Incinerator in Sauget, Illinois

IN-PERSON MEETING TIME & DATE:

6– 8 p.m.
April 15, 2024

IN-PERSON MEETING LOCATION:

Cahokia Heights Fitness & Community Center

509 Camp Jackson Road, Cahokia, Illinois

VIRTUAL MEETING ZOOM LINK:

Register to obtain link

For Registration and More Information:

<https://www.epa.gov/caa-permitting/veolia-sauget-air-permitting>

Or contact EPA at 312-353-0987 or R5AirPermits@epa.gov

Come to:

Learn about the permit application and process.

Provide input for U.S. EPA to consider when processing the application.

Provide input on how to ensure robust community participation during the permitting process.

Background:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency received an application from Veolia ES Technical Solutions to renew its Clean Air Act Title V operating permit for a new 5-year term. Veolia operates a facility at 7 Mobile Avenue in Sauget, Illinois, that stores and burns hazardous waste.

**Contact Kat Logan
Smith for more info**





A HUGE thank you to Kat and Anne for heading up the Easter Egg Hunt event in our courtyard this year. And thank you to all those who helped make it a success!



Thank you, Fred Hudson, for making our sanctuary look so beautiful for Holy Week and Easter!





LECTIONARY READINGS FOR APRIL 2024

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.

April 7

Acts 4:32-35 | Psalm 133
1 John 1:1-22 | John 20:19-31

April 14

Acts 3:12-19 | Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7 | Luke 24:36b-48

April 21

Acts 4:5-12 | Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24 | John 10:11-18

April 28

Acts 8:26-40 | Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21 | John 15:1-8

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

CENTERING PRAYER

Centering prayer will start again on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Prayer is at 5:30 p.m. in person at church.

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



APRIL

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

April 1 - Monday

April 2 - Tuesday

8 a.m. Pastor Krissy Office Hours
7 p.m. Benton Park Neighborhood Assoc.

April 3 - Wednesday

5:30 p.m. Centering Prayer Group

April 4 - Thursday

8 a.m. Pastor Krissy Office Hours

April 5 - Friday

April 6 - Saturday

April 7 - Sunday

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

April 8 - Monday

April 9 - Tuesday

8 a.m. Pastor Krissy Office Hours

April 10 - Wednesday: Eid al-Fitr (Ramadan ends)

April 11 - Thursday

8 a.m. Pastor Krissy Office Hours

April 12 - Friday

April 13 - Saturday

April 14 - Sunday

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

April 15 - Monday

April 16 - Tuesday

8 a.m. Pastor Krissy Office Hours

April 17 - Wednesday

5:30 p.m. Centering Prayer Group
7 p.m. Metro Toxic Air Task Force

April 18 - Thursday

7:30 a.m. Faith Labor Alliance Breakfast
7 p.m. Church Council on Zoom

April 19 - Friday

April 20 - Saturday

April 21 - Sunday with *Noisy Offering*

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

April 22 - Monday

April 23 - Tuesday

8 a.m. Pastor Krissy Office Hours

April 24 - Wednesday

April 25 - Thursday

8 a.m. Pastor Krissy Office Hours

April 26 - Friday

April 27 - Saturday

April 28 - Sunday

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

April 29 - Monday

April 30 - Tuesday

8 a.m. Pastor Krissy 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](#).



Whoever you are
 And wherever
 you are on life's
 journey
 You are
 welcome here
 No
 Exceptions



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

April Birthdays

- Noah Williams 4/12
- Terry Dresser 4/17
- Chris Heckendorn 4/18
- Doug Kaufman 4/20

April Anniversary

None

ACT
 JUSTLY
 and
 LOVE
 MERCY
 and
 WALK
 HUMBLLY
 WITH YOUR GOD
 Micah 6:8





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, Kat Logan Smith
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:

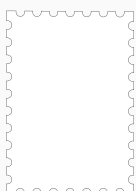
314-772-0263

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pastorkris@epiphanyucc.org

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