Hello Epiphany Friends,

It’s the December/January double issue which means: Advent, Christmas, New Year, and the Epiphany of our Lord all in one!! Makes it hard to know what to say.

I’m not one to rush ahead or skip to the end, but I want to talk about hopes for the new year. Lauren Verseman is going to be leading us through an appreciative inquiry process (see page 4) that begins with one-on-one conversations. I really want to urge you to participate as we need every voice to get a full picture of where we are and where we want to go. With the leading of the Spirit, your hopes and dreams for the future of Epiphany will set our priorities and help us do mid- and long-term planning.

(Continued on page 2.)

Christmas Eve Service
Dec. 24, 7 p.m.
In-Person, Zoom, or Facebook
My hopes for the coming year include successful relaunches of the breakfast ministry and Urban Mission Experience (see page 3); and the implementation of some of the ideas we got from the ONA Next webinar. We don’t have full control of the first two as they depend on humanity getting its act together and stopping the spread and mutation of COVID-19. Among the ideas from ONA Next were the idea of each of having a supply of Epiphany “calling cards” with a prominent rainbow comma on it; so when we meet a person in need of a welcoming, affirming, progressive community, we give them our card! Another idea that I have already begun work on is our offering celebrations of name changes for trans and queer folks. Some of them may be a simple liturgical acknowledgment of the change but others may be a baptism of the NEW person with the new, true name!! I’ve put the word out that we offer the service, free of charge, no strings attached, and I’m working on writing liturgy for it. We’ve even had an inquiry that may lead to a celebration in the new year!!

Here’s a to-do list for December and January:
- Get your Advent Devotional at our website or contact me for a physical copy.
- Come to Christmas Eve worship at 7 p.m. – or stream it on Zoom or Facebook!
- Have a safe, fabulous New Year's celebration!
- Take care of yourself and those around you!

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Knix

PK Update

Here’s what I’ve been up to this month:

- Three pastoral care calls/visits
- Attended clergy group
- Preached once
- Participated in MTUG groups
- Enjoyed Wednesday and Friday Zoom calls
- Participated in another worker walk-back with Jobs for Justice
- Attended a UCC webinar on mindfulness and mysticism
- worked on the Advent devotional
- Led four sessions of adult education
- Participated in Trans Day of Remembrance service
- Led group in watching and discussing ONA Next webinar
- Canvassed neighborhood with MCU about air quality and handed out Epiphany flyers
- Memorial service for Sylvie and Noah Williams' father, Alvin
- Thanksgiving potluck at church
ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

We are a diverse group of followers of Jesus who hold fast to liberty of conscience and so hold a wide array of beliefs. Eighteen of us have written portions of this book out of our own sincere faith. We invite you to take from this book what you can use and leave the rest.

To view the devotional, go to epiphanyucc.org or click here.

Please share this devotional with anyone you see fit, and have a blessed Advent!

UME IS BACK!

We are happy to announce that the Urban Mission Experience STL (UME) is being relaunched! We have a new website and logo ready to go, and preparations are being made to spruce up the UME space at Epiphany.

We are hoping to welcome groups back for summer 2022. Stay tuned for more details and opportunities to volunteer with the program and share info with anyone who may be looking for a mission trip experience.

Website: umestl.org
Email address: umestl@epiphanyucc.org
Program Coordinator: Amanda Verbeck
UME Committee Members: Dorothy Gannon, Doug Kaufman, Lauren Verseman
What is life-giving for us, and how do we grow it?

This church year, I am inviting Epiphany members, friends, acquaintances, and even strangers (if they want) to participate in conversations about where we find life in our faith community. This is not about problem solving or developing a list of shoulds, but asking ourselves what we already love, where we already feel the Spirit moving, what is already good.

For the first stage of this practice, I will be reaching out to everyone I can in December and January to have one-on-one conversations that delve into these questions. Using themes that emerge from these encounters, we will then create opportunities for small group and congregational processing and daydreaming around what our answers tell us about our past, present, and future.

I look forward to talking with everyone who will talk to me! If you have any questions, or are just very enthusiastic about setting up a date, you can email me at lauren@epiphanyucc.org.

Peace,

Lauren Verseman
BEAT CABIN FEVER WITH CONCERT VIEWING PARTY IN JANUARY

Many of us are probably not looking forward to another Covid winter cooped up inside. There aren’t many opportunities to safely gather in large groups. So why not spend some quality time with a few close friends instead?

On January 29, you’ll have a chance to do just that. Epiphany is hosting a virtual concert fundraiser featuring Kristen Goodman (details are on page 6 or on this flyer). This is the perfect opportunity to invite a small group of family and friends over to your place to watch the concert together. Send out your invites now and we’ll see you online in January!

PAY THE PIPER

To date, we have raised $6,385. Keep up the good work!
Epiphany UCC virtual concert featuring Kristen Goodman

Saturday, January 29, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Enjoy an evening of music and help Epiphany pay for the broken church water main

Event will be held on Facebook Live at www.facebook.com/epiphanyucc
Can’t make it? You can still donate online! epiphanyucc.org

Kristen Goodman is an openly queer musician, versatile singer, and entertainment producer. You can connect with Kristen and follow her travels on Facebook and Instagram @kristengoodmansings and at kristengoodman.com.
Christmas Holiday Plants
Order now thru Sunday, December 12th

Please order early!
Plants will arrive for Christmas Eve
This year we are offering red poinsettias
with 5—6 blooms at a cost of $7.50.
How many red poinsettias? _____@ $7.50 Total: ________

Please enclose a check with your mail order.
Make checks payable to: Epiphany UCC, 2911 McNair St. Louis, MO 63118
Let us know if this is a memorial or dedication and who you are honoring.

Please PRINT names and addresses:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Please Print:
Your Name:___________________________________Phone_____________________
Address:_________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

For more info: call Anne Little at 314-322-3014.
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES

COME JOIN US!

In January, the Adult Education class will explore interpersonal boundaries. What are healthy boundaries? How they are set and maintained? Why are boundaries important?

Our guide on this tour is the Rev. Dr. Mark Robinson. Mark is the Founder and Executive Director of the Center for Creative Conflict Resolution, a church-related agency which does research and education about conflict sources, styles, and resolution, offers training to pastors and other interveners, and gives individual and family counseling sessions. He is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and a member at Pilgrim UCC.

Please join us on Jan 9, 16, and 23, from 9:15-10:15 a.m. for this interesting class.

CHURCH INVESTMENT

Coming Soon: Investment talk!*

This Sunday, there will be an informational meeting given in regards to Epiphany's investment options. On Dec. 19, the congregation will take a vote on investment decisions. For more questions, see council members.

*Dates subject to change.
ADDRESS UPDATE

Sylvie Williams and Noah Williams now have a new shared address. Their new mailing address is:

459 E. Lockwood Ave.
#204
Webster Groves, MO 63119

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.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR DECEMBER 2021

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.

December 5
Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philemon 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

December 12
Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philemon 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

December 19
Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7
Hebrews 10:5-10

December 26
1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52
MAKE A NOTE

Epiphany UCC will no longer be using the email address epiphanyucc.1@juno.com. In the future, your Enlightener emails will come from newsletter@epiphanyucc.org. If given the option, you may wish to mark this email address as safe or "not spam."

SAVE YOUR CAPS AND LIDS

Peace UCC is collecting plastic caps and lids to convert them into a bench.

Epiphany is going to help collect them. Bring your cleaned caps and lids to Epiphany and we'll get them to Peace UCC.

Thank you, Donna, for heading up this project!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

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.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JANUARY 2022

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.

January 2
Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20 or Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:(1-9), 10-18

January 9
Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 16
Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

January 23
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

January 30
Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
You may contact Pastor Kris at pastorkris@epiphanyucc.org for an invitation to the Zoom internet prayer group, adult discussion and worship services.

December 1 - Wednesday
  6 p.m. Centering Prayer Group
  Council Room
  7 p.m. Fellowship Time on Zoom

December 2 - Thursday
  8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours

December 3 - Friday
  8 p.m. Wine and Theology on Zoom

December 4 - Saturday

December 5 - Sunday
  9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion
  10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion

December 6 - Monday
  6:30 p.m. Fundraising Committee on Zoom

December 7 - Tuesday
  8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours

December 8 - Wednesday
  7 p.m. Fellowship Time on Zoom

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

December 10 - Friday
  8 p.m. Wine and Theology on Zoom

December 11 - Saturday

December 12 - Sunday
  9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion
  10:30 a.m. Worship

December 13 - Monday

December 14 - Tuesday
  8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours

December 15 - Wednesday
  6 p.m. Centering Prayer Group
  Council Room
  6:30 p.m. Church Council
  7 p.m. Fellowship Time on Zoom

December 16 - Thursday
  8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours

December 17 - Friday
  8 p.m. Wine and Theology on Zoom

December 18 - Saturday

December 19 - Sunday
  9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion
  10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion

December 20 - Monday

December 21 - Tuesday
  8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours

December 22 - Wednesday
  7 p.m. Fellowship Time on Zoom

December 23 - Thursday
  8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours

December 24 - Friday
  7 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

December 25 - Saturday
  Merry Christmas

December 26 - Sunday
  9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion
  10:30 a.m. Worship

December 27 - Monday

December 28 - Tuesday
  8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours

December 29 - Wednesday
  7 p.m. Fellowship Time on Zoom

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

December 31 - Friday
  8 p.m. Wine and Theology on Zoom
  New Year's Eve
You may contact Pastor Kris at pastorkris@epiphanyucc.org for an invitation to the Zoom internet prayer group, adult discussion and worship services.

January 1 - Saturday
8 p.m. Wine and Theology on Zoom
Happy New Year

January 2 - Sunday
9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion
10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion

January 3 - Monday

January 4 - Tuesday
8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours

January 5 - Wednesday
6 p.m. Centering Prayer Group
Council Room
7 p.m. Fellowship Time on Zoom

January 6 - Thursday
8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours

January 7 - Friday
8 p.m. Wine and Theology on Zoom

January 8 - Saturday

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

January 10 - Monday

January 11 - Tuesday
8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours

January 12 - Wednesday
7 p.m. Fellowship Time on Zoom

January 13 - Thursday
8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours

January 14 - Friday
8 p.m. Wine and Theology on Zoom

January 15 - Saturday

January 16 - Sunday
9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion
10:30 a.m. Worship

January 17 - Monday

January 18 - Tuesday
8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours

January 19 - Wednesday
6 p.m. Centering Prayer Group
Council Room
6:30 p.m. Church Council
7 p.m. Fellowship Time on Zoom

January 20 - Thursday
8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours

January 21 - Friday
8 p.m. Wine and Theology on Zoom

January 22 - Saturday

January 23 - Sunday
9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion
10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion

January 24 - Monday

January 25 - Tuesday
8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours

January 26 - Wednesday
7 p.m. Fellowship Time on Zoom

January 27 - Thursday
8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours

January 28 - Friday
8 p.m. Wine and Theology on Zoom

January 29 - Saturday

January 30 - Sunday
9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion
10:30 a.m. Worship

January 31 - Monday
# Stewardship Update

**For October 2021**

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<tr>
<th>Income:</th>
<th>October</th>
<th>Actual YTD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$ 4,200</td>
<td>$ 33,842</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christian Education</td>
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<td>300</td>
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<td>Memorial</td>
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<td>595</td>
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<td>Special Appeals</td>
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<td>Fundraiser</td>
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<td>Facilities Rental</td>
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<td>Urban Mission Exp.</td>
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<td>Interest</td>
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<td>PayPal</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mission</td>
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<td>2,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christian Education</td>
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<td>Worship/Ldrship.</td>
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<td>Comm/Evanglsm.</td>
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<td>1,657</td>
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<td>Hospitality/Insurance</td>
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<td>8,125</td>
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<td>Utilities</td>
<td>393</td>
<td>3,518</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>155</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$ 3,698</td>
<td>$ 29,215</td>
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**Net Income**

$ 2,041 $ 15,035
Centering Prayer
1st/3rd Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Twice a month a dedicated group of Epiphany members gather for centering prayer.

The group meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month.

The location varies, so if you wish to join, contact Lois, Lauren, Wes, or Pastor Kris for more information. The group will plan to meet in the Council Room during winter months.

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

John DeClue
#529925 H.U.-9-B-11
Farmington Correctional Center
1012 W. Columbia
Farmington, MO 63648

RaeKwon Kinnard
123 Draper Hall
801 E. Main St.
Redford, VA 24142-0001
raekinnard@gmail.com

David Hon
2005 Frenken St.
Pocahontas, AR 72455

Ministers at Epiphany

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

Building Care, John Scott
Choir, Dorothy Gannon
Christian Education Chair, Lois Yatzeck
Church Office, Anne Little
Enlightener Editor, Wes Buchek
Hospitality and Usher Coordinator, Wes Buchek
Safe Church Coordinator, Jennifer Everett
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**

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**Sunday Schedule**
- 9:15 a.m. Christian Education
- 10:30 a.m. Worship

**Telephone:**
314-772-0263

**Email:**
pastorkris@epiphanyucc.org
anne@epiphanyucc.org

**Website:**
www.epiphanyucc.org