Hello Epiphany Friends and Happy Fall,
I had an email from a person on the east coast who identified themselves as Lutheran who somehow found us on Facebook. They indicated that they appreciated our worship, and liked that I wasn’t afraid to yell a little when preaching. Then they went to share an idea they have implemented in their church. This person does crochet, and they make these little crochet leaves – the leaves sit in a bowl and people take one when they are feeling the need for a reminder of connection.

(Jesus said), “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower... Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit...” John 15 selected verses NRSV The thing is that being on the vine doesn’t just connect us to Jesus, but to each other; we ARE social animals! That is, we are fed to varying degrees by our connections to others; nourished in communities (larger for some, smaller for others).

I’ve asked the writer of the email for the pattern and the note that goes with the leaves.
I’d like to have one on my keys, not because I feel disconnected, but because somedays when things feel very dark and hopeless I need a tangible reminder of my responsibility to the rest of the vine. Take in light and turn it into nourishment for the whole vine. In this case, the light we take in comes from scripture, and from our experiences of God in the world (usually, but not always, through other people) – the face of Christ in a kind stranger, the Holy Spirit grabbing you by the ear, the power of God in the storm or in the stillness of sunrise (or sunset for those of us who do not like morning…) the experience gives us something to share with each other as we stumble along trying to follow Jesus.

John has Jesus talk about pruning the branches that don’t bear fruit – not US doing the pruning, not even Jesus pruning, but God pruning. I’m certain that John had important reasons for the implied threat, but it doesn’t work either to build faith or for our practice which is meant to encourage those who aren’t yet able to bear fruit on their own, but still have something to offer the community.

Paul tells us that ALL the gifts are equal. Jesus showed us that every person matters and deserves love and dignity. When Jesus forgot that and got dogmatic about the mission a foreign, pagan woman reminded him. Whose voices are calling us back to the Way? Where are our blind spots, whom do we fail to see as children of God, deserving love and dignity? In our striving for justice which injustices are we willing to overlook? Might a small leaf remind us of our covenants and our calling?

Be well, do good, don’t quit.

Pastor Kniz

PK Update

This past month I have: had seven pastoral care calls/visits; attended clergy group; preached twice; led Adult class discussion once or twice; participated in Metro Trans Umbrella Group discussion groups (and delivered MTUG food pantry boxes); done Wednesday and Friday zooms; done a walk-back with Jobs with Justice; met with J-MO regarding Metropolitan Congregations United; attended meetings for: Christian Education Committee, Worship Team, Fundraising Committee, Benton Park Neighborhood Association, and JNM Board; worked on our kitchen license; recorded for a queer theology podcast called “Blessed are the Binary Breakers”; worked with John on the sound system in the sanctuary; prepared for Del Miller’s Celebration of Life service; and participated in a Bread for the World webinar.
Thanks to my church family for all your love and support in this hard time. Del loved Epiphany and all we do. So many of you have stepped up and done extra to prepare for his Celebration of Life and I want you to know how much I appreciate all you've done.

Love,
Chris
FALL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
CLASSES
COME JOIN US!

Join us at 9:15-10:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Here is the schedule:


Oct. 10, 17, and 24 – *A Look at Israel and Palestine.* A series on the oppression of Palestinians within Israel, led by members of Progressive Jews of St. Louis and the Palestinian Solidarity Committee. Part 1 is history and background. Part 2 is how Israel maintains control with US support. Part 3 is BDS and other next steps. See page 5 for more details.

Oct. 31 and Nov. 7, 14, and 21 – How the Bible Got to Be the Bible, led by Pastor Kris.

Nov. 28 and Dec. 5, 12, and 19 – The Advent booklet series and lectionary study.

*We are exploring having a series on healthy boundaries for those living a life of faith during January.* More information will be coming soon.
EPIPHANY’S ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS TAKES “A LOOK AT ISRAEL & PALESTINE” IN OCTOBER

The Epiphany UCC Adult Sunday School will host a very important three-week series on **Oct. 10, 17, and 24**, that is likely to change how many of us read the daily newspaper. Titled “A Look at Israel and Palestine,” the class will be led by guest speakers Anna Ginsburg and Michael Berg. A Palestinian speaker will also speak on October 17.

**Anna Ginsburg** is a community organizer. She was with the City of St. Louis’s Neighborhood Stabilization program for 10 years. Her work experience also includes political campaigns, the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign in St. Louis, and the Missouri Coalition for the Environment. She supports the Black Lives Matter movement by serving as a legal observer and working jail support. Groups she belongs to include the Anti-Racism Organizing Collective, Progressive Jews of St. Louis, and the World Community Center Board of Directors. In 1972, she went on a high school trip to Israel, saw a settlement, and came back home opposed to the Israeli occupation.

**Michael Berg** is a founding member of St. Louis Jewish Voice for Peace and the St. Louis Palestine Solidarity Committee. He grew up in St. Louis, had his bar mitzvah on Masada in Israel, was confirmed from B’nai El synagogue and has visited Palestine and Israel multiple times since. He has lived and worked in China, Bolivia, Paraguay, and South Carolina before moving back to St. Louis more than a decade ago. Michael presently works as the Political Director of the Missouri Sierra Club.

(Continued on page 6.)
Week one of the series lays a foundation by outlining history and other important background pieces. Week two will explore how Israel maintains control with US support. Week three focuses on the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement and next steps that allies for justice can take.

Progressive Jews of St. Louis have made reflection about Israel and Palestine part of their spiritual practice during recent High Holy Days. Their Facebook page included this invitation: ".....this Jewish year 5782 is the Shmita year, which means ‘release.’ Traditionally, the purpose of this year was to let the land rest by not harvesting, freeing enslaved people, and forgiving debt -- all in efforts to start over in ways that prioritize social equity, community, and health of the land. Now that we have taken the past week to make teshuva by both naming/recognizing harms as well as identifying repairs we can make, we want to take a couple of days to consider how we could practice Shmita in this new year, as individuals and as a community. We hope you join us during the last two Days of Awe to envision and plan for action. Together, we can envision a Judaism without Zionism." (Note: Some English translations use the word "Jubilee" as the label for this year of release. "Teshuva" is the Hebrew word for repentance.)

Please ask your friends and family to join us for this class, in person or virtually! Pastor Kris can send a link if requests are sent to pastorkris@epiphanyucc.org.
NEW ADDRESS FOR LOIS

Lois Yatzeck moved to a new home last month. Her new address is:

31 N. Old Orchard Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63119

EPIPHANY’S TITHES TO MISSIONS

Every year, Epiphany tithes 10 percent of its budget to various organizations in the St. Louis area.

- Darlene Sowell, President & CEO of Unleashing Potential, sent a letter expressing gratitude for Epiphany's contributions of $200 to their early childhood education program at Caroline Mission, after school programs in three districts and enrichment camps. (6/18/21)

- Mary Schaller Blaufuss, Vice President of Institutional Advancement with Eden Seminary, sent a letter expressing gratitude for Epiphany's mission gift of $125. She also noted appreciation for our encouragement of potential new students and invited those exploring a call to ministry to reach out to their Director of Admissions, Sonya Vann at svann@eden.edu. (6/29/21)

- Andrew Lang, Executive Director of the Open and Affirming Coalition, United Church of Christ, sent a letter thanking Epiphany for a donation of $200 to support its work toward the goal of working for LGBTQIA+ inclusion in every church in our denomination. They invited us to watch for issues of their e-newsletter Ripples and their quarterly newsletter Waves. (6/9/21)

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR OCTOBER 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.

**October 3**
Job 1:1, 2:1-10 & Psalm 26
Genesis 2:18-24 & Psalm 8
Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12
Mark 10:2-16

**October 10**
Job 23:1-9, 16-17
Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 & Psalm 90:12-16
Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 10:17-31

**October 17**
Job 38:1-7, (34-41)
Isaiah 53:4-12 & Psalm 91:9-16
Hebrew 5:1-10
Mark 10:35-45

**October 24**
Job 42:1-6, 10-17
Jeremiah 31:7-9
Hebrews 7:23-28
Mark 10:46-52

**September 31**
Ruth 1:1-18 & Psalm 146
Deuteronomy 6:1-9
Hebrews 9:1114
Mark 12:28-34
INVITATION TO CONTRIBUTE TO EPIPHANY’S ANNUAL ADVENT BOOKLET PROJECT

Since 2013, Epiphany members, and sometimes friends of the congregation, too, have been working together to prepare a daily devotion booklet that can be used to enrich the congregation’s experience of the season of Advent. We also post the booklet online and print extra copies so that friends and neighbors may join us in daily spiritual practice.

The Epiphany booklet includes Bible texts from the daily lectionary, artwork, and a prose or poetry reflection for each day. Many writers choose to include a prayer for the day as well, but diversity in format and perspective is encouraged. Advent 2021 begins on Sunday, November 28, and the theme selected by the Worship Committee for this year is “Crying Out in the Wilderness, Preparing the Way of the Lord.” To find a list of all scriptures, go to this link.

If you would like to be a writer in 2021, please let Jeanette Mott (“J-MO”) Oxford know the date or dates you have selected by November 1. Submissions of up to 250 words are due by Friday, November 19, at this J-MO’s email address: isaiah-58@juno.com.

This year, members of Epiphany UCC are considering taking flyers with our Advent and Christmas schedule of worship to doors in our neighborhood along with an invitation to download the Advent booklet. A brief survey regarding health issues related to air quality may be completed at the same time as part of our congregational commitment to standing against environmental racism.

About Advent: Advent is a season of the liturgical year observed in most Christian denominations as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Christ at Christmas and the return of Christ in what some term “the Second Coming.” Many at Epiphany enjoy the opportunity to be countercultural by waiting for Christmas to arrive instead of joining the rushed practices of secular society where Christmas decorations appear in stores before Halloween and Christmas songs play non-stop on some local radio stations by the day after Thanksgiving.
PAY THE PIPER CONCERT

Outdoor street concert at Epiphany UCC
featuring Pete Ruthenburg and Friends

Saturday, October 2, 5:30p – 7:30p
Come enjoy an evening of music, food, and fun...
all while helping Epiphany pay for the broken church water main!

- Live music, food truck, and raffle (art, gift certificates, and more)
- Bring a folding chair and cash – free to attend, donations appreciated!
- Can’t make it? Donate online at epiphanyucc.org
- No event if rain (we will reschedule)

Epiphany UCC, 2911 McNair Ave., St. Louis, MO 63118

PAY THE PIPER

To date, we have raised $3,485. Keep up the good work!

Whoever you are
And wherever you are on life’s journey
You are welcome here
No Exceptions
Support Epiphany UCC
Through the Pay the Piper Raffle

Grand Prize – Framed limited edition lithograph by Missouri artist Jesse Barnes

2nd Prize: Restaurant Certificate; 3rd Prize: Homemade Afghan

Raffle ticket prices: 1 for $1; 6 for $5
12 for $10; 25 for $20; 60 for $50; 120 for $100

Ways you can help:
1) Buy tickets; 2) Sell tickets;
3) Advertise the raffle by sharing LINK in social media, emails, etc.
   (Click on “Optional” and selected “Raffle.”)

Name: __________________________________________________________

Address: _______________________________________________________

Phone number(s): _______________________________________________

Number of Tickets Desired: _____ Amount enclosed: _______

Drawing will be on October 2 following the Pay the Piper Fundraising Concert with Peter Ruthenburg’s band. You do not need to be present to win. Complete order form and mail with check to: Epiphany UCC, 2911 McNair, St. Louis, MO 63118. Mail orders should be postmarked by Sept. 27 due to delays common in postal delivery. For more information: call 314-775-3261.
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PARISH: OPEN HOUSE

Starting in prayer circle, tour and/or Environmental Justice Activity, Even Bring Your Bag for Seeds

LAUDATO SI: CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

Saturday, October 16th
9am to 10:30 unless picnicking
Return or New Visitors
Welcome
Email Your RSVP to savemystl@gmail.com

8115 Church Road, St. Louis MO 63147
Our Lady of the Holy Cross Catholic Church

INVITE MORE TO THE CIRCLE

MCU will be Canvassing Soon in STL to Talk EJ
You may contact Pastor Kris at pastorkris@epiphanyucc.org for an invitation to the Zoom internet prayer group, adult discussion and worship services.

October 1 - Friday
  8 p.m. Wine and Theology on Zoom

October 2 - Saturday
  5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Street Concert at Epiphany
  Featuring Pete Ruthenburg and Friends

October 3 - Sunday
  9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion
  10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion

October 4 - Monday

October 5 - Tuesday
  8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours

October 6 - Wednesday
  6 p.m. Centering Prayer Group
  7 p.m. Fellowship Time on Zoom

October 7 - Thursday
  8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours

October 8 - Friday
  8 p.m. Wine and Theology on Zoom

October 9 - Saturday

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

October 11 - Monday

October 12 - Tuesday
  8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours
  6:30 p.m. Fundraising Committee on Zoom

October 13 - Wednesday
  7 p.m. Fellowship Time on Zoom

October 14 - Thursday
  8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours

October 15 - Friday
  8 p.m. Wine and Theology on Zoom

October 16 - Saturday

October 17 - Sunday
  9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion
  10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion

October 18 - Monday
  6:30 p.m. Church Council

October 19 - Tuesday
  8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours

October 20 - Wednesday
  6 p.m. Centering Prayer Group
  7 p.m. Fellowship Time on Zoom

October 21 - Thursday
  8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours

October 22 - Friday
  8 p.m. Wine and Theology on Zoom

October 23 - Saturday

October 24 - Sunday
  9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion
  10:30 a.m. Worship

October 25 - Monday

October 26 - Tuesday
  8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours

October 27 - Wednesday
  7 p.m. Fellowship Time on Zoom

October 28 - Thursday
  8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours

October 29 - Friday
  8 p.m. Wine and Theology on Zoom

October 30 - Saturday

October 31 - Sunday
  9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion
  10:30 a.m. Worship
### Stewardship Update

**For August 2021 Actual & Budgeted YTD**

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<th>Income</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Budget</th>
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<td></td>
<td>August</td>
<td>YTD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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**Net Income**

- **$10,178**
- **$15,424**

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**MEMORIAL DONATIONS**

Memorial donations have been received from:
- Paul and Karen Litzsinger
- Dorothy Gannon & Jeanette Mott Oxford

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**October Birthdays**

- Donna Schaeffer 10/5
- Christopher May 10/7
- David Hon 10/8
- Larry Gaines 10/31

**Anniversaries**

- Wes Buchek & Amanda Verbeck 10/10
- Fred Hudson & John Scott 10/30
FELLOWSHIP TIME—WEDNESDAYS AT 7 P.M.
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/809598098?
pwd=RWFxWmRRQjMxR0owVFArL0RrR2hNUT09

WINE AND THEOLOGY—FRIDAYS AT 8 P.M.
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/142820045?
pwd=UkkvSkN4LzJTYkEwM01CK2VES3BtQT09

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.
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

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

Telephone:
314-772-0263

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

Website:
www.epiphanyucc.org