Proverbs 4:6-7 cautions: “Never walk away from Wisdom - she guards your life; love her - she keeps her eye on you. Above all and before all, do this: Get Wisdom! Write this at the top of your list: Get Understanding!” (Published by permission. Originally published by NavPress in English as THE MESSAGE: The Bible in Contemporary Language copyright 2002 by Eugene Peterson. All rights reserved.)

In the 14 days ending August 18 there were 748 NEW, CONFIRMED cases of COVID 19 in the City of St. Louis and 3,393 in St. Louis County. In light of the continuing struggle with this virus we have decided to keep the breakfast ministry closed – providing Grab&Go breakfast bags on the sidewalk rather than the hot, sit-down breakfast we would prefer to provide our dear guests. We simply can’t provide the level of protection to our guests and volunteers that we expect of ourselves.

After that decision was made, the wisdom of our position was highlighted when two of our members faced a potential exposure from our carpet vendor’s installation team who came in unmasked, and, it was later discovered unvaccinated. (Continued on page 2.)
I was, and am, furious at the level of irresponsibility and thoughtlessness of this action. From this moment forward it will be our policy to require vendors and contractors to be vaccinated and/or masked in our facility. I have said since the beginning of this crisis that I am unwilling to risk even one life in Epiphany’s sphere of care to a lack of prevention.

I am certain that you all know the current wisdom – wash hands often, use masks and distance to protect yourself from airborne particles, and get vaccinated if it is safe for you to do so – including the booster when it is offered and your flu shot this month or next.

Again, when it is safe to do so, spread truth and squash disinformation. Clearly, disinformation is a killer when faced with a global pandemic. On some social media there are mechanisms to report disinformation, please use them.

At this time we are going to continue to do hybrid worship and we are making every effort to correct the sound issues our online worshippers have been experiencing the last several weeks. We are going to make a modification to the way we do Communion in person. We will be asking that worshippers cup their hands and the usher will serve a piece of the bread using tongs – this way we aren’t all putting our fingers into the plate of bread.

Be well, do good, don’t quit.

Pastor Knis
CELEBRATION FOR THE LIFE OF REV. DEL MILLER
SEPT. 18
A service of celebration for the life of Rev. Del Miller will be held on Saturday, Sept. 18, at 11 a.m. at Epiphany UCC in the sanctuary. You are asked to wear colorful clothing (no black).

NEWS FROM THE CONFERENCE

The United Church of Christ held its first virtual General Synod July 11-18, 2021. Epiphany's Rev. Dr. Bella Winters is among delegates sharing their reflections about participation on the Missouri Mid-South Conference website. See those stories, read the resolutions, and read more news from General Synod 2021 at this link.

Haiti Earthquake Appeal: The UCC has issued a $100,000 appeal for Haiti after the recent 7.2 earthquake and subsequent tropical storm. Through the Global H.O.P.E. team, raised funds will assist Haiti with both short-term and long-term recovery needs. You can donate online or mail a check payable to the United Church of Christ, to 700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115. Please note “Haiti Appeal” on your check or enclosed letter. The donation link is: www.ucc.org/giving/donate-now/general-donation/

Save the Date: The St. Louis Association Fall Meeting is September 18.
FALL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES

COME JOIN US!

The Christian Education Team met on Monday, Aug. 23, to plan the schedule for autumn and early winter. We are excited about the variety of topics listed below, and we hope you will join us 9:15-10:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Here is the schedule:

**Sept. 5** – Labor Sunday session on the church and workers’ rights - using MO Jobs with Justice resources, led by J-MO.

**Sept. 12, 19, 26, and Oct. 3** – Discussion of the book The Making of Biblical Womanhood: How the Subjugation of Women Became Gospel Truth by Beth Allison Barr, various facilitators from within the class.

**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.

**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.*
CHANGES TO SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM MOVE PROGRAM CLOSER TO REALITY, WILL REDUCE HUNGER

BY JEANETTE MOTT OXFORD

On August 16, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced an update to the Thrifty Food Plan, which is used to set benefit levels for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). This is good news for the many workers with low wages, people living with disabilities, and elders who depend on SNAP to supplement their food budgets.

The revised plan will result in a modest but very helpful increase in benefits. The maximum SNAP benefit will rise by 21 percent (and a regular inflation adjustment of about 1.5 percent is also expected). That should bring the average benefit in Missouri of around $1.35 per person per meal up to about $5.45 per day.

Advocates have long called for SNAP benefits to be based on standards that reflect the real cost of healthy meals. Since the 1970s, the Thrifty Food Plan that the USDA uses to calculate SNAP had been adjusted only for inflation. That meant that SNAP benefits were badly out of line with recent dietary recommendations and the cost of purchasing healthy foods. About half of households receiving SNAP benefits are “food insecure,” a government designation that means their SNAP benefits combined with their income aren’t enough to afford all the food that is needed. (Continued on page 6.)
According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities: “Increased SNAP benefits will help address the disproportionate impacts of benefit inadequacy on people of color. Poverty and food insecurity rates are higher among Black and Latino households due to racism and other structural factors, including unequal education, job, and housing opportunities, that contribute to income disparities. Because of SNAP’s role in addressing higher food insecurity among people of color, ensuring benefits are adequate is especially important in these communities.”

To learn more about the changes to SNAP and how SNAP is calculated, go to this [LINK](#). I invite Epiphany members who would like to become advocates for food security to join me in volunteering in two ways:

1. Join the Advocacy Committee at Isaiah 58 Ministries. Email Rev. Meredith Jackson for details, meredith@i58ministries.org.
2. Let Zach Schmidt, Bread for the World organizer for Missouri, know of your interest by emailing him at zschmidt@bread.org.

(Continued from page 5.)

KLEMMES TO RAISE MONEY TO CELEBRATE THEIR 90TH BIRTHDAYS

Armin and Norma Klemme, friends of and contributors to Epiphany UCC for many years, have big plans for participating in this year's CROP Hunger Walk, Oct. 10 in Union, Mo. for Franklin County. The Klemmes plan to raise $9,000 (in honor of each of their 90 years) to benefit four chosen charities, including OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) and Eden Seminary, from which Armin graduated 71 years ago. The other two are Hope Ranch of Missouri, a residential center and on-site alternative therapeutic school for at-risk children in Union, and Church World Service's CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty). To help the Klemmes meet their $9,000 goal, you can mail a check made out to CROP Hunger Walk to Armin and Norma Klemme, 724 S. Oak St., Union, MO 63084.
NEEDED ITEMS FOR AFGHAN FAMILIES

For those who want to donate items for families being resettled in the St. Louis area, the International Institute of St. Louis has a “New American Wish List” of the most needed home basics. Prior to dropping off any items or to inquire, please call the institute at 314-773-9090, ext. 182.

These are some of the biggest needs:

- **Kitchen Items (must be clean):** cereal bowls, rice cookers, teapots, can openers, cooking utensils and working microwaves.
- **Cleaning Products:** laundry detergent, brooms and dustpans, mops and buckets, kitchen and bathroom trash cans, working vacuums.
- **Personal Items:** new and unopened toothpaste and toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, combs, new socks and underwear, diapers.
- **General Use Items:** box fans, space heaters, working alarm clocks, umbrellas, 2021 calendars, new school supplies, flashlights, irons.
- **Linens (must be unstained):** blankets, sheet sets, new pillows, bath towels.
- **Furniture:** small living room chairs, cribs, bassinets, strollers, car seats that are clean, unexpired and haven’t been in an accident.

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.
PAY THE PIPER

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!

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!
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.
TO FEED THE WORLD, START WITH FAMILY FARMS, POPE SAYS

From Cruxnow.com, July 27, 2021

By Cindy Wooden

ROME — Restarting local economies with a focus on providing adequate food for all the world’s people means governments must involve and listen to small farmers and farming families, Pope Francis said.

“Closed and conflicting — but powerful — economic interests have prevented us from designing a food system that responds to the values of the common good, solidarity and the ‘culture of encounter,’” the pope said in a message read July 26 at a preparatory meeting in Rome for the U.N. Food Systems Summit in September.

“Our poorest brothers and sisters, and the earth, our common home that ‘cries out for the damage we inflict on it through irresponsible use and abuse of the goods God has placed in it,’ demand radical change,” the pope said. Family farms and other small farming operations are a place to start.

The rural sector of the local and global economy provides so much of the food people consume, but people living in rural areas and working the land are rarely a priority in political and economic decision making, he said in the message read by Archbishop Paul R. Gallagher, the Vatican foreign minister.

In “the post-pandemic ‘restart’ process that is being built,” the pope said, “small farmers and farming families must be considered privileged actors. Their traditional knowledge should not be overlooked or ignored, while their direct participation allows for a better understanding of their priorities and real needs.”

(Continued on page 11.)
In addition, he said, “it is important to facilitate the access of small farmers and farming families to the services needed for the production, marketing and use of agricultural resources.”

Pope Francis also asked governments to promote “policies and initiatives that fully meet the needs of rural women, promote youth employment and improve the work of farmers in the poorest and most remote areas.” A fundamental shift is necessary, he said.

The world continues to develop new technologies that increase the capacity to produce food, “yet we continue to exploit nature to the point of sterilizing it, thus enlarging not only external deserts but also internal spiritual deserts,” he said. “We produce enough food for all people, but many go without their daily bread. This ‘constitutes a real scandal,’ a crime that violates basic human rights.

“The careful and correct transformation” of systems of producing and distributing food must “increase resilience, strengthen local economies, improve nutrition, reduce food waste, provide healthy diets accessible to all, and be environmentally sustainable and respectful of local cultures,” the pope said.

“We have a responsibility to realize the dream of a world where bread, water, medicine and work flow in abundance and reach the most needy first,” Pope Francis wrote. “The Holy See and the Catholic Church will place themselves at the service of this noble goal, offering their contribution, joining forces and wills, actions and wise decisions.”
You may contact Pastor Kris at pastorkris@epiphanyucc.org for an invitation to the Zoom internet prayer group, adult discussion and worship services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>8 p.m. Centering Prayer 7 p.m. Fellowship Time on Zoom</td>
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<td>September 2</td>
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<td>September 4</td>
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Save the date
Oct. 2
Pay the Piper Concert
**Stewardship Update**
For July 2021 Actual & Budgeted

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<th>Actual</th>
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<td>Fundraiser</td>
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<td>E-Script</td>
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<td>Comm/Evangism.</td>
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<td>Utilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Expenses</th>
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<tr>
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<td>$2,711</td>
<td>$7,717</td>
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| Net Income                   | $9,870        | $-2,309|

**September Birthdays**
Bella Winters - 9/2
Adelle Bellamy 9/13
Kristian Avise-Rouse - 9/14
Dante Couch - 9/15
Dorothy Gannon - 9/23
Mark Carlson - 9/28

**Anniversaries**
Kris & Nicole Avise-Rouse - 9/28
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
Musician, 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