Dear Epiphany Friends,

Our Sunday morning adult discussion group recently started a study of the parables of Jesus. So far it is quite rich and thought provoking – as the parables are intended. A parable is a short memorable story drawn from everyday life that is either familiar enough to suck you in and make you think you know the story, or strange enough to pull you in through wonder; which through a twist or subversion makes you think differently about the world. They are not fables with morals to be learned. Usually, in spite of their apparent simplicity, parables are multilayered or multifaceted and not easily “solved.”

I saw a Disney movie the other day called *Ron’s Gone Wrong* and I want to encourage you to see it. Without giving too much away, the story revolves around Barney, a middle school-aged boy, and his peers and their interactions with an evil tech company and its social media connected robots. The robots are sold as a tool for making friends. They are OF COURSE data-harvesting spy devices designed to let the company personalize marketing to the kids.

(Continued on page 2.)
The parable in the film is the person of Ron, a bot that was dropped, damaged, and then sold in an alley. Missing both the core programming and connection to the network, Ron must learn how to be a friend. As he does learn to be a friend, Ron makes the kids and us think differently about what that means. Barney figures out that he has been selfish, thinking about me instead of we, which is exactly the way our culture teaches us (especially boys and men) to be.

As a countercultural, anti-imperialist, anti-capitalist community, the followers of Jesus focused on we. The Acts of the Apostles tells us, “Now the entire group of those who believed were of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but instead they held everything in common.” Acts 4:32

We Epiphany folks don’t take it quite that far, but we are focused on the we, and it is a we so much bigger than those who are members, those who come through the doors, those who stream us online, those in the neighborhood, or even those who are Christians. Yes, our Acts 4 fund helps those with connection to the church or in the neighborhood; but our hygiene kits might go anywhere! Yes, breakfast ministry serves those who come through the door; but our support of OCWM (Our Church’s Wider Mission) and Neighbors in Need ensures people are fed anywhere there is need! The air quality monitor is measuring the air in our neighborhood so that we can work to make the air cleaner in all the neighborhoods, and even the whole state! Our support of union folks in St. Louis strengthens the position of workers everywhere. And on and on the ripples spread.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Kris

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. Acts 4:32
WE'RE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE

The Council is pleased to announce the first MicroEnterprise grant has been awarded to Clye James Verde for his Little Seeds of Faith project linking waste reduction, art, and environmental education. In June the Congregation gave the Council authority to issue grants up to $1000 from its designated MicroEnterprise budget line item. Verde's Little Seeds of Faith project aims to recover textile waste destined for the landfill and divert it into new creations of art and fashion— an activity often known as "upcycling". Verde creates works of art in multimedia and brings an inspired eye to what others have discarded.

The grant will enable Verde to purchase tools to bring his artistic visions to life.

Verde will also teach families how to create effective, affordable, and non-toxic cleaners to keep their homes safe from products that can cause respiratory problems. With personal experience from chemical sensitivity and children living with asthma, Verde knows that toxic cleaners can trigger effects that are costly to one's health and one's budget.

"I would like to thank the council and the congregation of Epiphany United Church of Christ for their recognition and also for their financial assistance," said James Verde, Little Seeds of Faith Mission Facilitator.
GOD IS LOVE
A Devotion by Anne Little

Someone mentioned, in my presence, that they didn’t have a very well-formed personal theology. This got me thinking about my own theology. My theology is based on the belief that God is love.

First, I want to briefly discuss the various forms of love. In English we use the word love with various meanings. The ancient Greeks had several words for different aspects of love. To clarify, the specific kind of love I am talking about, let’s review the six terms for love from the ancient Greeks:

1. Eros, or sexual passion - The first kind of love was eros, named after the Greek god of fertility, and it represented the idea of sexual passion and desire.

2. Philia, or deep friendship - It was about showing loyalty to your friends, sacrificing for them, as well as sharing your emotions with them.

3. Ludus, or playful love - Concerns the playful affection between children or casual lovers.

4. Agape, or love for everyone - The fourth love, and perhaps the most radical, was agape or selfless love. This was a love that you extended to all people, whether family members or distant strangers.

5. Pragma, or longstanding love - Is a mature, realistic love that is commonly found amongst long-established couples.

(Continued on page 5.)
6. Philautia, or love of the self -
Two types. One was an unhealthy variety associated with narcissism, where a person became self-obsessed and focused on personal fame and fortune. A healthier version enhanced one's wider capacity to love.

It is the concept of Agape that fits into my theology. Agape is generally considered to come from the love of God.

There are three parts to my theology that are most important to me. They are among the few things that have taught and still teach me how to live my life. They come from the scriptures. If I put them in order of Importance, I find that:

The first comes from 1 John chapter 4, verse 8 and verse 16. These verses say: "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love" and "...God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them."

In July I turned 67 years old. Now that I'm an older person, I find that I really believe that God is love, and it is probably the most important thing for gauging how I live my life and how I perceive others in my life. If we don't live love, then regardless of what we do, we aren't living up to our potential and are living a life that probably adds pain to the world. That isn't what we're here for. We're here to bring the realm of God into the world and help others find their place within the realm of God. That is a huge job, and it can only be done through love.

(Continued on page 6.)
Two other scriptures seem to be equally important to me. One comes from Micah 6:8. It says:

"..., O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

I believe this scripture begins to tell us what living love is about. We are "to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." That is it. It's not necessarily easy, and especially not easy for young people because they still have so much to learn, but it is how we are to live.

The other most important thing comes from Matthew 25:34-40. Part of it says: "... For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me."

(Continued on page 7.)
The person hearing this asks when he did those things. To paraphrase the scripture: Jesus basically tells him that when he has done this for the least of the others, he did it for Jesus. I believe when we do these things, we are doing what is right, loving mercy, and walking humbly with [our] God.

This is what matters, that I or we live with “God is love” being the most important thing for us. It is our calling.

ACTS 4 FUND

A few weeks ago, Epiphany took a special offering for the Acts 4 Fund. It was a very successful offering, helping increase the fund from $30 to $530, with around $200 left to move to the Acts 4 checking account. That’s the good news! And a giant THANK YOU to all who contributed when it was so desperately needed!

However, the funds that we have will not last long. There are many people with many needs out there—and that is who the funds help. Look for more announcements in the near future about the Acts 4 Fund, who it helps, how it works, and how to contribute. In the meantime, please consider and pray on the idea of making a contribution (or another contribution).
Epiphany UCC

TRIVIA NIGHT

OCTOBER 15, 2022
6:30P DOORS | 7:00P TRIVIA

8 PEOPLE PER TABLE
$200/TABLE ($25/PERSON)
OR
$160/TABLE ($20/PERSON)
WHEN YOU DONATE NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS

Join us for a night of trivia and fun to support Epiphany missions!
Hosted at St. Paul’s UCC in Oakville, 5508 Telegraph Rd. 63129.
Snacks and soda provided, and you are welcome
to bring outside food. No alcohol please.
50/50 raffle, mulligans, silent auction, and more!

Contact Wes Buchek to reserve your table today.
314-200-5334 (text or call) or wbuchek@gmail.com
FUNDRAISING UPDATE

A big thank you to Home Remedy for their lovely concert on Sept. 24. After expenses were deducted and online donations were added, the concert raised more than $1,000! WOW!

Thank you to all who attended, contributed, and helped put the concert together.
EPIPHANY CONCERT SERIES
Up Next: Miles Brenton

Coming Feb. 4 will be the next installment of the Epiphany Concert Series, featuring the music of Miles Brenton. To learn more about Miles, or to listen to some of his music, visit milesbrenton.com.

Mark your calendar right now for Feb. 4!! And start inviting friends to the concert. Flyers, Facebook invites, and more announcements will be posted soon. But it’s never too early to invite people. Let’s pack the sanctuary for Miles!

WE NEED MORE TRIVIA TABLES SIGNED UP!

We still only have a few tables signed up for our trivia night on Oct. 15. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and we need more tables of players signed up. Please do everything you can to get one or two tables to sign up and play. The flyer for the event is on page 8 above, as well as on Facebook and our website—epiphanyucc.org. RSVP to Wes at 314-200-5334 (text or call) or wbuchek@gmail.com.
HEAR FROM YOUR CANDIDATES.
ASK THE QUESTIONS.
GET THE FACTS.

1. Hear from candidates for Senate 24 about issues like the #schooltoprisonpipeline and #environmentaljustice that are important to you and your community
2. Hear candidates answer questions and submit your own!
3. Prepare to hold the next elected Senator of District 24 accountable

UPDATE

NEW DATE: 10.13.22
TIME: 7-8:30PM
LOCATION: ETHICAL SOCIETY 9001 CLAYTON ROAD

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER
OR VISIT: bit.ly/MCUdistrict24

OUR! VALUES & VOTES VOICES

METROPOLITAN CONGREGATIONS UNITED
mcu
LECTIONARY READINGS FOR OCTOBER 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.

October 2
Psalm 137
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

October 9
Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 & Psalm 37:1-9
2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c & Psalm 111
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19

October 16
Jeremiah 31:27-34 & Psalm 119:97-104
Genesis 32:22-31 & Psalm 121
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
Luke 18:1-8

October 23
Joel 2:23-32 & Psalm 65
Jeremiah 14:7-10 & Psalm 84:1-7
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14

October 30
Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4 &
Psalm 119:137-144
Isaiah 1:10-18 & Psalm 32:1-7
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12
Luke 19:1-10

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

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.
You may contact Pastor Kris at pastorkris@epiphanyucc.org for an invitation to the Zoom internet prayer group, adult discussion and worship services.

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>October 31</td>
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- **October 10** - Monday
  - Pastor Kris' day off
- **October 11** - Tuesday
  - 8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours
- **October 12** - Wednesday
  - 8:30 a.m. Breakfast at Epiphany
  - 7 p.m. Fellowship Time on Zoom
- **October 13** - Thursday
  - 8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours
- **October 14** - Friday
  - 8 p.m. Wine and Theology on Zoom
- **October 15** - Saturday
- **October 16** - Sunday
  - 9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion
  - 10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion including Noisy Offering
- **October 17** - Monday
  - Pastor Kris' day off
- **October 18** - Tuesday
  - 8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours
  - 6 p.m. Centering Prayer
- **October 19** - Wednesday
  - 8:30 a.m. Breakfast at Epiphany
  - 7 p.m. Fellowship Time on Zoom
- **October 20** - Thursday
  - 8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours
- **October 21** - Friday
  - 8 p.m. Wine and Theology on Zoom
- **October 22** - Saturday
- **October 23** - Sunday
  - 9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion
  - 10:30 a.m. Worship
- **October 24** - Monday
  - Pastor Kris' day off
- **October 25** - Tuesday
  - 8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours
- **October 26** - Wednesday
  - 8:30 a.m. Breakfast at Epiphany
  - 7 p.m. Fellowship Time on Zoom
- **October 27** - Thursday
  - 8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours
- **October 28** - Friday
  - 8 p.m. Wine and Theology on Zoom
- **October 29** - Saturday
- **October 30** - Sunday
  - 9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion
  - 10:30 a.m. Worship
- **October 31** - Monday
  - Pastor Kris' day off
**Stewardship Update AUGUST 2022**

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**October Birthdays**
Donna Schaeffer 10/5  
David "id" Hon 10/8  
Larry Gaines 10/31

**October Anniversary**
Wes Buchek &  
Amanda Verbeck 10/10  
Fred Hudson &  
John Scott 10/30

---

**CALL 988**
**SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE**
Members who cannot be with us but would love to hear from you!

John DeClue
John DeClue #529925
C/O Digital Mail Center-Missouri DOC,
PO Box 25678, Tampa FL. 33622-5678

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, Lois Yatzeck
Vice President, Karen Sell
Secretary, Amanda Verbeck
Treasurer, Kat Logan Smith
Asst. Treasurer, Anne Little
Financial Secretary, Dorothy Gannon
Accounts Payable, Jeanette Mott Oxford
Council Members: John Scott,
Dorothy Gannon, Larry Gaines, Anne Little

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