PK's Little Epiphanies

Epiphany Friends,

It is hard to write a column for December and January, so much goes on. We have started Advent and lit the candle of Hope; the devotional should be out by the time you get this. We still have Peace, Joy, and Love candles to light, and the coming of the Christ Child. We will be sharing worship both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day (a Sunday). Then it is the new year and epiphany season.

As we move through this season of waiting and preparation and into the seasons of joy, I pray you will be blessed by our worship whether in person or online.

As covid and other viruses spread, we encourage all to wear masks when gathering at Epiphany. I’ll be wearing mine again starting immediately.

If you are in need of a visit, or call for pastoral care, or home communion from me, please call or text 618-540-7439.

As we enter the dark and cold months of winter, take care of your mental health and ask for help if you need it!

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Kris
The worship committee has selected “Blossoms in the Desert” as our theme for Advent 2022. How God comes to us in surprises like flowers in unexpected places? We also are invited to envision all that God has promised in the time when God’s commonwealth is realized.

The theme is drawn from Isaiah 35:1-2a, one of the readings for the Third Sunday of Advent: “The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.”

Epiphany United Church of Christ has produced an Advent Daily Reflection booklet since 2013. This year we will collaboratively work with Friends Peace UCC in New Melle on this project, utilizing the “Blossoms in the Desert” theme.

Get the devotional here.
Christmas Holiday Plants

Order now thru Sunday, Dec. 4

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 314-818-9942.
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

As we prepare ourselves for the celebration of Christ’s birth on December 24/25, we gather on Sunday mornings to reflect on the scripture readings for the season. Our Advent meditation booklet, written jointly by members of our church and of Lauren Verseman’s church, Friendship Peace UCC, will serve as an aid. Our thoughtful time of sharing is a helpful antidote to the frantic rush of present buying and Christmas cooking. Join us in person or on zoom at 9:15 each Sunday before Christmas.

In January, we begin a highly stimulating series taught by eminent Biblical scholars John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg on "Jesus and the Kingdom of God.” The lectures will be presented on DVD followed by class discussion. This is an exceptional opportunity to grow in our understanding of what Christianity is all about. This series will begin on Sunday, Jan. 7, 2023, 9:15 a.m. in the church classroom. Arrangements can be made to view the DVD’s at another time. See Lois Yatzeck if you have any questions.
Sunday worship at Epiphany is facilitated by many people with varied gifts. At the front of the sanctuary, preachers and liturgists walk us through the service in an effort to help us open ourselves to the gifts God is bringing on any given Sunday. Musicians grace us with their gifts. Many people make announcements to keep us current of the work of the body at Epiphany and in the world. So many blessings.... And then, quietly, Sunday after Sunday, our ushers fill a host of gaps. They greet us as we arrive, help set up and turn on lights, hand out hymnals and bulletins, light the Christ candle and ring the bell at the beginning of worship, collect the offerings, distribute communion and so much more. Wes Buchek and Amanda Verbeck have covered the usher job for us almost every week for several years now. They stepped up when others did not, and they have been gracious and faithful, and we are grateful.

You are cordially invited to sign up for an occasional Sunday to share the work and the blessing of such a vital role in our worship. If enough of us join a rotating schedule, as our liturgists do, any individual's turn could come up every second or third month. Please prayerfully consider whether you could serve occasionally. If you are inclined to try it once, or to join a rotation, please contact Dorothy Gannon at 314-791-5904 or at dorothygannon2@gmail.com.

"Many hands make light work." Please lend a hand.
NEW ADDITION TO EPIPHANY

If you've been through the church halls lately, you may have noticed a new decoration just inside the church entrance. Epiphany's John DeClue made the ship pictured below by hand.

If can be viewed in the lobby between the entrance and the fellowship hall.

If you'd like to write John, his address is always listed on the second-to-last page of the newsletter.

Thank you so much, John, for sharing your talents!
THANK YOU NOTES

CHICAGO UNITED EDEN

We are so grateful for your generous gift to the CUE seminaries of Chicago, United and Eden, and for your continued support for seminary education in our region. We lift up the resilience and commitment of all our seminarians who have persevered in their theological education through the pandemic era--especially the 130 graduates who will go out to service a world forever changed by these past few years.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Thank you for your generous support of the United Church of Christ as we expand our work of love and compassion. Your contribution of $1,395.06 to Neighbors in Need, received on 6/3/2022, will provide grants to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. Through your generosity and God's grace, we will continue to build a just world for all.

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff of Eden Theological Seminary, thank you for your missions gift of $150 on 7/12/2022 in support of the Annual Fund. Your financial gifts help us continue to innovate and thrive during current shifts in the Church and the world.

Your support and encouragement mean a lot!

(Continued on page 8.)
Thanks to you, children in UP’s summer camps have enjoyed a summer filled with fun and discovery. The children enthusiastically shared all of the interesting things they have learned with family and friends at UP’s culminating events held last week.

None of this is possible without you. Thus, it is with heartfelt gratitude that we acknowledge your generosity and shower you with appreciation for believing in and supporting our children. Again, thank you for helping our children see well beyond their zip codes and imagine a future where they can be what they never thought they could be.

Because of your gift, the staff at ECH is able to provide the young people in our care with the tools they need to feel good about themselves and be prepared to learn and thrive.

So, thank you for being a part of the healing process for all the young people we work with. Your donation is truly appreciated.
FEB. 4 CONCERT OFFERS OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE VISIONING GOALS

By Jeanette Mott Oxford (J-MO)

In our visioning sessions this past summer, our congregation stated clearly that we wish to use our building to its fullest potential. We want to provide events that match our values and that nurture our congregation and our community.

Our series of neighborhood concerts are a way to do this, and the Miles Brenton concert on Saturday, Feb. 4, is our next opportunity to fill our pews with people having a good time and enjoying each other. Miles Wadlington, artistically known as Miles Brenton, has been recognized for his vocal artistry by the Illinois Music Education Association (All-State Honor Choir Vocalist), the Illinois High School Association (State Championship Vocalist), the National Association for Music Education (Honors Mixed-Choir Vocalist), the National Association of Teachers of Singing (Central Region), NAACP ACT-SO (National Bronze Medal Winner), and Opera Theater St. Louis (Artist-in-Training) with the coveted 2018 Monsanto Award.

Recent performances include: Pinocchio (Wolf), Amahl and the Night Visitors (King Melchior), Ragtime (Coalhouse Walker), Chicago, Variety Theatre’s The Little Mermaid, and OTSL’s world premiere of An American Soldier (Supernumerary). He currently plans to pursue a career as a vocalist, conductor, and entrepreneur.
Miles has performed at The Sheldon Concert Hall, The Touhill, Union Avenue Opera, Opera Theater of St. Louis, The Wildey Theater, The Peoria Civic Center, BB’s Jazz, Blues & Soups, Atomic Cowboy, The Ethical Society of St. Louis, Steinway Piano Gallery and Disney World Orlando, Florida.

As a professional vocalist and musician, Miles performs in intimate venues and festivals across the St. Louis metropolitan area. In the midst of the pandemic, Miles released his first original song, “Nostalgia” on Spotify and Apple Music in November 2020. His second release, “Need You” was released in the spring of 2021. You can get a preview of Miles’ music by going to his YouTube channel here.

Concerts that are well-attended are encouraging for the artist and for Epiphany too. They have a kind of spirit that is not present when only 20-30 people are present. YOU are the key to the success of this event – as we find repeatedly that what works is personal invitations.

Please invite one or more friends to come with you to enjoy Miles Brenton. Perhaps you will want to invite friends to join you for the concert and then go to dinner together. Let’s showcase Epiphany as a wonderful concert venue, and let’s showcase Miles as an up and coming artist.
VISIONING

Thanks to everyone who attended our November visioning building potluck and discussion! Your questions, concerns, and ideas are all appreciated. Please review the items shared at the meeting and come ready to continue our discussion at the next potluck on January 15 following the service. If you would like a copy of the info emailed to you, please reach out to Amanda Verbeck at amandany530@yahoo.com.

Next Building Visioning Meeting:
Sunday, Jan. 15, after worship—Potluck lunch
LECTIONARY READINGS FOR DECEMBER 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.

December 4
Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

December 11
Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

December 18
Isaiah 7:7-10
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

December 25
Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98
Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12)
John 1:1-14

On Black Friday, Nov. 25, St. Louis area unions and friends joined to support striking Amazon warehouse workers at the STL8 facility in St. Peters who are organizing for better wages, better hours and safer working conditions. Speakers cited poverty wages, mandatory 10-11 hour days, 50+ hour work weeks, workplace injuries from unsafe conditions, and policies that treat workers as disposable. The campaign was part of a global effort to bring accountability to Amazon and is ongoing. To learn more and support the workers visit https://www.moworkers.org/

Thank you, Kat Logan Smith, for your report and presence at the event!
You may contact Pastor Kris at pastorkris@epiphanyucc.org for an invitation to the Zoom internet groups.

December 1 - Thursday
December 2 - Friday
  8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours
December 3 - Saturday
December 4 - Sunday
  9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion
  10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion
December 5 - Monday
  Pastor Kris' day off
December 6 - Tuesday
  7 p.m. Benton Park Neighborhood Association
December 7 - Wednesday
  8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours
  8:30 a.m. Breakfast at Epiphany
  5:30 p.m. Centering Prayer Group
December 8 - Thursday
December 9 - Friday
  8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours
  8 p.m. Wine and Theology on Zoom
December 10 - Saturday
December 11 - Sunday
  9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion
  10:30 a.m. Worship
December 12 - Monday
  Pastor Kris' day off
December 13 - Tuesday
December 14 - Wednesday
  8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours
  8:30 a.m. Breakfast at Epiphany
December 15 - Thursday
December 16 - Friday
  8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours
  8 p.m. Wine and Theology on Zoom
December 17 - Saturday
December 18 - Sunday with NOISY OFFERING
  9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion
  10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion
December 19 - Monday
  Pastor Kris' day off
December 20 - Tuesday
December 21 - Wednesday
  8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours
  8:30 a.m. Breakfast at Epiphany
  5:30 p.m. Centering Prayer Group
December 22 - Thursday
December 23 - Friday
  8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours
  8 p.m. Wine and Theology on Zoom
December 24 - Saturday
  7 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
December 25 - Sunday
  No Christian Education
  10:30 a.m. Christmas Morning Worship
December 26 - Monday
  Pastor Kris' day off
December 27 - Tuesday
December 28 - Wednesday
  8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours
  8:30 a.m. Breakfast at Epiphany
December 29 - Thursday
December 30 - Friday
  8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours
  8 p.m. Wine and Theology on Zoom
December 31 - Saturday
  Happy New Year's Eve
LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JANUARY 2023

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 1
Isaiah 63:7-9
Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10-18
Matthew 2:13-23

January 8
Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

January 15
Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

January 22
Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

January 29
Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You may contact Pastor Kris at pastorkris@epiphanyucc.org for an invitation to the Zoom internet groups.

January 1 - Sunday: Happy New Year!
  9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion
  10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion
January 2 - Monday
  Pastor Kris' day off
January 3 - Tuesday
  7 p.m. Benton Park Neighborhood Association
January 4 - Wednesday
  8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours
  8:30 a.m. Breakfast at Epiphany
  5:30 p.m. Centering Prayer Group
January 5 - Thursday
January 6 - Friday
  8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours
  8 p.m. Wine and Theology on Zoom
January 7 - Saturday
January 8 - Sunday
  9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion
  10:30 a.m. Worship
January 9 - Monday
  Pastor Kris' day off
January 10 - Tuesday

January 11 - Wednesday
  8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours
  8:30 a.m. Breakfast at Epiphany
  9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion
  10:30 a.m. Worship

January 12 - Thursday
January 13 - Friday
  8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours
  8 p.m. Wine and Theology on Zoom

January 14 - Saturday
January 15 - Sunday with NOISY OFFERING
  9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion
  10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion

January 16 - Monday
  Pastor Kris' day off
January 17 - Tuesday
January 18 - Wednesday
  8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours
  8:30 a.m. Breakfast at Epiphany
  5:30 p.m. Centering Prayer Group

January 19 - Thursday
January 20 - Friday
  8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours
  8 p.m. Wine and Theology on Zoom

January 21 - Saturday
January 22 - Sunday
  9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion
  10:30 a.m. Worship

January 23 - Monday
  Pastor Kris' day off
January 24 - Tuesday
January 25 - Wednesday
  8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours
  8:30 a.m. Breakfast at Epiphany

January 26 - Thursday
January 27 - Friday
  8 - 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kris' office hours
  8 p.m. Wine and Theology on Zoom

January 28 - Saturday
January 29 - Sunday
  9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion
  10:30 a.m. Worship

January 30 - Monday
  Pastor Kris' day off
January 31 - Tuesday
## Stewardship Update  OCTOBER 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income:</th>
<th>Actual YTD</th>
<th>Budget YTD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$16,927</td>
<td>$24,167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Education</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorial</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Appeals</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>3,381</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facility Rental</td>
<td>2,700</td>
<td>5,292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Mission Exp.</td>
<td>845</td>
<td>625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Ordinary Income</td>
<td>1,196</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total Income     | $25,366    | $35,062    |

## Expenses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses:</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Member in Discernment</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missions</td>
<td>1,075</td>
<td>4,312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Education</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worship/Leadership</td>
<td>16,390</td>
<td>24,089</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comm/Evangelism</td>
<td>807</td>
<td>1,883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality/Insurance</td>
<td>8,370</td>
<td>6,013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>1,194</td>
<td>4,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Mission Exp.</td>
<td>893</td>
<td>625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ordinary Expense</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passthrough Expense</td>
<td>-484</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total Expenses     | $28,497   | $41,864    |
| Net Income         | $-3,131   | $-6,802    |
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