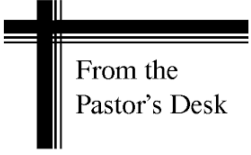




The Crier

December 2021

St. Philip's United Church of Christ



From the
Pastor's Desk

Human Nature

How long is it appropriate to grieve about new awareness of human behavior? Is it healthy to rehearse our grief? Does continuing to be upset - hinder accepting the new facts and beginning to strategize what God might be calling us to do in light of them?

People should not lie for personal gain. But many people do. The percentage of people who do so often - is dramatically higher than I previously believed. Some people may be reciting lies unaware, but it is impossible to know the percentage of that behavior as well.

This pattern of wanton lying and unaware misinformation could be the death knell of our democracy and civilization. Is God calling some of us, all of us, me, to do something?

While these questions seem compelling and important, they also create a state of unease and grief that can at times be overwhelming.

Throughout my career as a Pastor, I have advised people to tolerate and live with their grief for a time rather than quickly dismissing it and getting back to a familiar more joyful daily rhythm. This advice might be appropriate for the situation now in place regarding misinformation.

Jesus said: "The truth will set you free". Jesus asked the disciples to endure discomfort and even persecution in service of the truth. Jesus challenged us to be aware of the signs of the times so we can be ready and strong when we stand before God. (Luke 21:30-36)

Advent and Christmas challenge us to embrace a new relationship between humans and God. This new relationship should be based on truth - rather than preference. I prefer that fewer humans were duped and fewer were liars. But if my preference is hindering my acceptance of truth and therefore my effectiveness in the task of battling misinformation, I will stop focusing on my preference and reluctantly acknowledge the truth which will then allow my strategies to be more factually based.

Usually, December is a time to seek inner peace so that the celebration of the coming of Jesus can be most helpful. But perhaps this year, truth is more important than inner peace.

Pastor Mike Krewson



St. Philip's Mission Statement

*St. Philip's United Church of Christ is a loving
Christian community believing in
Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit*



St. Philip's Vision Statement

**Our
Vision
Statement**

We are called to the body of Jesus Christ, with:

Minds to study God's word,
Mouths to proclaim the Gospel,
Eyes to see the needs of others,
Arms to welcome all,

Hearts big enough to share God's love with all God's children.

December Birthdays

Happy Birthday to our members who will be celebrating a birthday in December.

The following words will be heard on the 1st Sunday of each month....

*"Happy Birthday to You!,
Happy Birthday to You!,
Happy Birthday Everybody!,
and God Bless you!"*

Linda Kotthoff	5
Kim Tangeman	7
Sarah Witte	9
Carla Moran	11
Robyn Mikusch	15
Markus Brooks	19
Devin Coleman	21
Chloe Armistead	24
Karen Nickel	26
Katie Eason	28
Ashley Henson	30
Scott Stevenson	30



Contact the Pastor



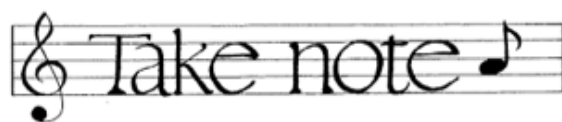
Feel free to call Pastor Mike anytime:

Cell (618) 789-2203

Office (314) 843-5100

or email

pastormike@stphilipsucc.com



Choir Rehearsals

We will notify you when Rehearsals resume

The Choir rehearses the Anthem and Hymns for the upcoming Sunday worship service, however, are not meeting in person at this time. New members are always welcome. There is no audition – anyone with a love for music and a desire to sing is invited to join. Rehearsal lasts usually about an hour and we always have fun! Contact Mike Orzel, our Music Director, for more information.

Judy Hickman
Russ Hickman
Deb Hudson
Harry Jennings
Pam Kelly
Brian Malin
Marilyn Milne
Jered Nagle
Janet Remmers
Wendy Remmers
Paul Shrout
Dottie Vinyard
Paula Williams

LITURGISTS (in-person worship)

The Liturgist reads the scriptures during worship. We will provide the reader with the scriptures via email or USPS mail several days prior to the service allowing you time to become comfortable in reading to the congregation.



If you are interested in serving as a liturgist, see the RED signup sheet on the bulletin board, or let Tammy, the Office, or Pastor know and indicate the method of receiving the readings.

Thank you for your consideration,
Tammy Knoll

★
For
unto
you is
born this
day in the
city of David
a Savior, which
is Christ the Lord
Luke
2:11

OUTREACH MINISTRY NEWS

We are again participating in the "Adopt a Family" program through Feed My People. Because of Covid, Feed My People has requested Gift cards instead of food baskets and gift items. Contributions can be made in the Church Offering plate or by mail. Please specify funds are for "Adopt a Family". The gift cards allow family members to shop for Christmas presents for each other. Our contributions truly make a difference!



Our Traditional Cap, Mitten and Scarf tree is set up in the Gathering Area. Please help us "decorate" it during Advent. Items donated will go to Caroline Mission.

Thanks in advance for your generosity.

Outreach Ministry

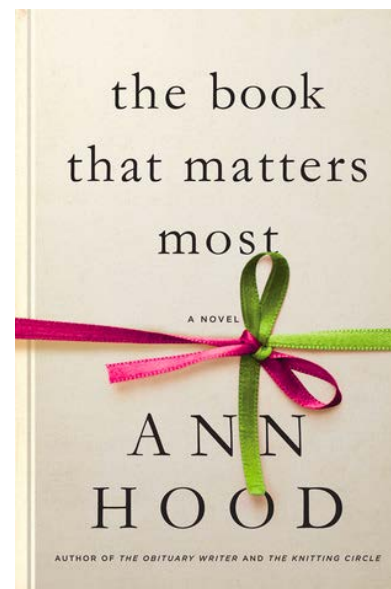


Sunday
December 19
10:15am

On December 19 after Church, we will discuss *The Book That Matters Most*.

Our next selection, *Behold the Dreamers* by Imbolo Mbue will be discussed on Sunday January 16. It explores the experiences of immigrant families in their quests for the American Dream.

Consider joining book club! Books come in kits from St. Louis County Library, and are available for pick up on the Sundays that Book Club meets, or at other times by contacting Barbara Barnes. We meet after church, share a potluck lunch, and always have a good time.



CONFERENCE CALL

BIBLE STUDY - MONDAYS in December 10:00am

Each week on Monday at 10:00am you are invited to Bible Study and conversation. You may join online (Zoom) or by phone. Call any of the numbers below ahead of time for help in joining.

We will study scriptures for the next Sunday, and check in with each other. You don't have to read ahead.

Pastor Mike Krewson 618-789-2203 or 314-843-5100

Pam Henson 314-520-3663

Please consider joining us to keep in touch with other members.

LOGOS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The youth from our LOGOS program are presenting the Christmas Story on Wednesday, December 15. ALL ARE WELCOME! We would love to have you join us!

We plan to share a meal and Christmas themed games at 5:30. The children will present their nativity play at 6:30 and we will end the evening with a craft and dessert.

If you plan on attending, please RSVP to Andrea Tukin at 314-566-8633 or andreatukin@gmail.com.

We hope to see you there!

Peace & Blessings,
The LOGOS Team Christmas Program



Cookies WITH Santa

Contact ECC for
Reservations
314-843-2114

\$10.00/child

Photo with Santa, crafts,
games, letter to Santa, PJs
and cookies with milk to go



Dec. 3rd
6:30-8:00 PM



Sunday School

Every Sunday in December we plan on having lots of Christmas fun learning about the Christmas Season. Make sure to join us for some special crafts and treats!





Lunch Bunch

The December Lunch Bunch will be at Sandy's on Wednesday, December 8 at noon. Please sign up on the bulletin board or let Sandy know you're coming.

We're having Kenrick roast beef sandwiches and you're invited to bring a food item to share if you like. As usual, we'll eat, visit and play the much cherished (?) rob your neighbor game.

Be sure to bring a wrapped white elephant present! All who are fully vaccinated are welcome to come. Hope to see you then.

OPPORTUNITY TO HELP

Paul Shrout of Art & Paul has recently undergone the amputation of his second leg. His medical needs are high and equipment and care have been expensive. A GoFundMe Page has been set up. You can access it at:

https://www.gofundme.com/f/helping-hands-for-paul-shrout?utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=customer

Or go to:

[gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com)

Click Search in the upper left

In the blue box, type Paul Shrout

Select "Helping Hands for Paul Shrout
by Lindsey Rawlings"

If you would like to contribute without going on-line, you can give or sent a check to church, with Paul Shrout written on the subject line.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY ST. LOUIS - 2021

An update from Terri Karcher

After taking 2020 off due to the pandemic, Habitat resumed allowing volunteers on the build sites in 2021. I recently had the opportunity to represent St. Philip's on a Saturday work crew and wanted to share an update.

The 2021 UCC Habitat house is located on Park Avenue just a few blocks from Grand and 44. There are five Habitat houses being built in this neighborhood.

On my workday, we had a hodge-podge group of volunteers -- in addition to me representing St. Philip's, there were people from John's Mehlville, St. Lucas, and Kirkwood UCC churches. There were multiple tasks on the to-do list for the day so we were working in small groups. In total, we were able to do the following tasks in our day:

- put the roof on the back porch
- remove the walk board system and interior wall braces from the outside of the entire first floor
- install the interior wall braces on the second floor and start the installation of the walk board system on the outside of the second floor
- put down the plywood flooring on the base of the front porch and frame in the porch (I guess so the concrete can be poured on top of it?? I forgot to ask.)

I had never heard of a "walkboard system" and, of course, that's what I ended up working on. Everyone knows that scaffolding is a sort of "structure" that you can build from the ground up to allow you to stand next to something else to have easier access for working on that something else. So you could put up scaffolding around the shell of a house in order to more easily work on the outside walls of the house (ex: to install siding). However, in certain situations (the Habitat house being one of them) putting up scaffolding is not possible or practical... in that instance, a "walkboard system" can be used. The walkboard system is not built from the ground up -- rather the whole system basically hangs off of the house... nothing touches the ground! The various metal framework pieces are heavy and shaped in strange ways and awkward to handle -- lots of bruises on my legs and arms as souvenirs. But more importantly, I am just glad that I didn't have to walk on the walkboard system!

The photo of the house was taken at the end of the day and shows the framework of the walkboard system installed outside the second floor -- all that was needed was for someone to go up an extension ladder and place the boards in the framework and then a person could climb off the ladder onto the boards and walk around the perimeter of the house.

Please don't ever underestimate the value of our financial support for Habitat -- a terrific organization that helps people help themselves and also plays a key role in stabilizing/maintaining neighborhoods.

P.S. It was a total mud pit around the house the day we were there. Unfortunately, no one was able to tell us in advance what our tasks would be for the day or what the conditions were at the house so most of us were very unprepared! Quite a workout trying to unstick my feet with every step! I drove home in my socks and threw away my shoes!



October 2021 General Fund Summary

Receipts

Weekly Offering	7,659.25	
Grocery Cards	30.00	
Recycle Income	142.41	
Early Childhood Center	<u>9,500.00</u>	
Total		17,331.66

Expenses

Learning Ministry	173.56	
Financial Ministry	1,216.16	
Outreach Ministry	250.00	
Church Property Ministry	5,687.49	
Personnel	<u>11,230.04</u>	
Total		<u>18,557.25</u>
October Deficit		(1,225.59)
Previous Balance		<u>2,841.62</u>
October 31 Balance		1,616.03 =====

October Building Fund Summary

Beginning Balance	5,066.96
Building Fund Offering	577.50
Capital Improvement Fund	<u>(417.00)</u>
September Ending Balance	5,227.46 =====

October Improvements Offering Summary

Beginning Balance	2,430.37
October Offering	<u>296.00</u>
October Ending Balance	2,726.37 =====

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
DECEMBER						
5 9:30 Sunday Worship In-person & Facebook Stewardship Pledges Due 9:45 Sunday School In-person	6 10:00 Discussion Bible Study Conference Call/Zoom Mtg 7:00 Church Council Zoom Mtg	7	8 noon Lunch Bunch @ Sandy's 5:30 LOGOS	9	10	11
12 9:30 Sunday Worship In-person & Facebook 9:45 Sunday School In-person	13 10:00 Discussion Bible Study Conference Call/Zoom Mtg	14	15 5:30 LOGOS Christmas Program	16	17	18
19 9:30 Sunday Worship In-person & Facebook 9:45 Sunday School In-person 10:15 Book Club Meeting	20 10:00 Discussion Bible Study Conference Call/Zoom Mtg	21 January CRIER Articles Due	22 NO LOGOS	23	24 7:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship	25
26 9:30 Sunday Worship In-person & Facebook 9:45 Sunday School In-person	27 10:00 Discussion Bible Study Conference Call/Zoom Mtg	28	29 NO LOGOS	30	31	