

Cleansing Breath

"Cleansing" is a central metaphor of Christianity.

I have participated in guided spiritual meditations which included the leader inviting participants to inhale deeply and then to exhale fully. This action is called "a cleansing breath." Initially, our leader taught us this term and led us through one such breath. Later, as the meditation continued, the leader would invite everyone to do it again with the simple prompt, "Cleansing breath. Breathe in. Hold it. Breathe out."

The psalm traditionally read on Ash Wednesday is Psalm 51. This well-known psalm abounds with "cleansing" imagery. "Have mercy... blot out my transgressions... wash me... cleanse me... purge me with hyssop, then I shall be clean... wash me... create in me a clean heart, O God." All of this and more is in Psalm 51.

I suspect that we make things overly complicated much of the time. How about Lent? Yes, we tend to make Lent too complicated.

The simple basis for the Lenten Season is repentance. Yet we must be careful not to get it backwards. The order is not (1) repent, and (2) we will be forgiven. If there is an "order" at all, it is (1) we are forgiven, we are cleansed already; therefore, (2) we repent.

We repent, not "in order to be forgiven;" we repent

"out of" gratitude that God already has offered us forgiveness. Crucial to the whole picture is God's grace. This ties in closely with Christ's petition from the Cross: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34)

A basic approach will do. Boil it down. Plain and simple. You are cleansed. Repent.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a World-War-Two-era Lutheran pastor in Germany, identified this in his 1933 lectures at the University of Berlin. Years later, these lectures were re-created from his students' notes and eventually published under the English title Christ the Center. The basis of '**discipleship—costly and joyful**' is Christ. As our Savior declares, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." (Matthew 16:24; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23) Christ cleanses. That's all there is to it. Cleansing.

Streamline. God wants to cleanse you. Actually, God already has! Simple, uncomplicated truth. It's a gift. Just accept it. Accept God's cleansing.

God is inviting us to approach Lent 2017 in this spirit. Yes, there are aspects to Lent which are not pleasant. Honest self-examination is necessary, and this can be very difficult. Taking a genuine look at ourselves may reveal disappointing truths. We cannot merely brush this off and take these forty sacred

(Continued on page 2)

days lightly. Lent cannot be all goodness and light. This would not be truly Lent. There must be some degree of unpleasantness, some struggle involved in every genuine, spiritual pilgrimage. But don't despair. Personal faith struggles often lead to growth. Ultimately, each Lenten Season concludes at Resurrection Joy. In the end, every Lenten Season leads to some version of this astonishing joy: **God loves me, flaws and all. Alleluia!**

Simplify. This Lent, try a basic approach. "Un-complicate." Receive God's cleansing. The rest is excess. Streamline. Boil it down. Cleansing. Christ the Center.

Make your way toward Resurrection Joy by seeking to make "Christ the Center" of your life. Get started this Lent. It will take far longer than forty days. We'll need to work at it for the rest of our earthly days...breath by breath.

Cleansing breath. Breathe in. Hold it. Breathe out.

Christ the Center.

Breathe on us, Cleansing Breath of God,
Pastor Dan

Ash Wednesday, March 1

Wilderness

by Emily Heath; The Congregational Church; Exeter, New Hampshire

"And just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days." Mark 1:10-13

Have you ever had an incredible spiritual experience? One where you felt the presence of God so close to you? One where you just knew that God had a plan for your life, and God was walking with you?

And then, has that feeling ever left just as soon as it came? And have you ever felt as though you are lost in the wilderness?

Jesus knew what that was like. He knew what it was to emerge from the waters of baptism to the voice of God proclaiming that God was "well pleased" with him. And he knew what it was to then immediately be sent into the wilderness for forty hard days.

(Ash Wednesday...continued on page 5)

LENTEN OFFERINGS

Creve Coeur Meals on Wheels delivers about 800 meals each month to the community's residents. About 10% can't afford to pay for the food so a 'scholarship fund' has been established to assist them. Your donations in colored envelopes for the first three Sundays in Lent will help those folks and support some operational costs like replacing damaged transport containers. Thanks for reaching out through these special offerings. Your Christian Action Board.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING®



"Words cannot capture the anguish of people when they lose everything in a disaster or have to leave it behind while fleeing war or conflict. Through One Great Hour of Sharing, lives are literally changed daily. Your support provides clean water, food, medicines, shelter, healthcare, education and so much more...."

- At Ivy Chapel, watch for posters, bulletin inserts on Sundays of March 19, 26, and offering envelopes Sunday, March 26.

...One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Churches Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation...."

www.ucc.org/oghs_resources_frequently-asked-questions



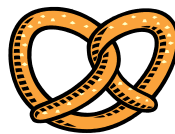
MARCH 2017



If anyone would like to coordinate a fun fellowship youth activity for March, please contact Linda Lowry! I'll help you with the planning!

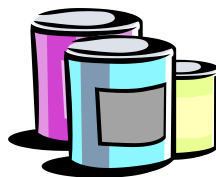


Ash Wednesday is March 1. Lenten Resources for children and youth will be handed out during our First Sunday activities on March 5. Resources for Children, Teens, and Adults will be available on the table in the Narthex or see Linda Lowry.



Our First Sunday of the Month Activity – March 5

All Sunday School youth: be sure to join us on Sunday, March 5 in Fellowship Hall for a special First Sunday of the Month activity for the season of Lent. Can you guess what it is? Come and hear the story of why the pretzel is associated with Lent.

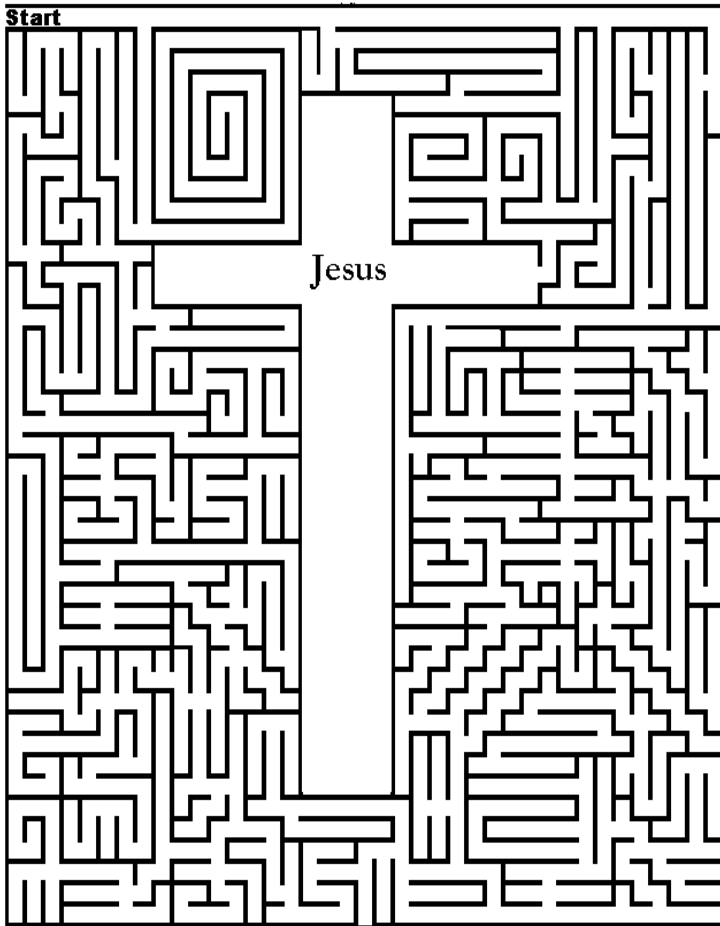


LENTEN CANNED FOOD OFFERING

March 1 – April 16

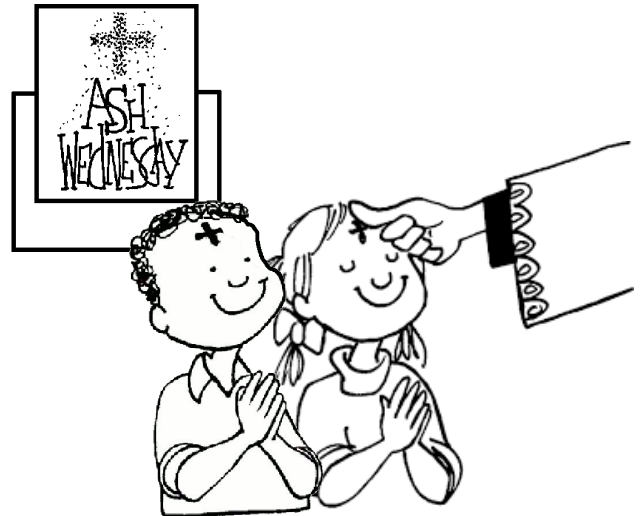
We “can” help feed the hungry.

Thanks for the wonderful response we have had in the past two years during our Lenten Food Drive. The youth of Ivy Chapel and the Christian Action Board are sponsoring our 4th Annual Lenten Canned Food drive during the weeks leading up to Easter. Let's help fill the shelves this Lent. During the Sundays in Lent we will be collecting canned goods for Circle of Concern and Joint Neighborhood Ministries. Collection runs through Easter, April 16.



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Daylight Saving Time Begins
Sunday March 12 at 2am.
 Be sure to set your clocks one hour
ahead when you go to bed Saturday



ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH

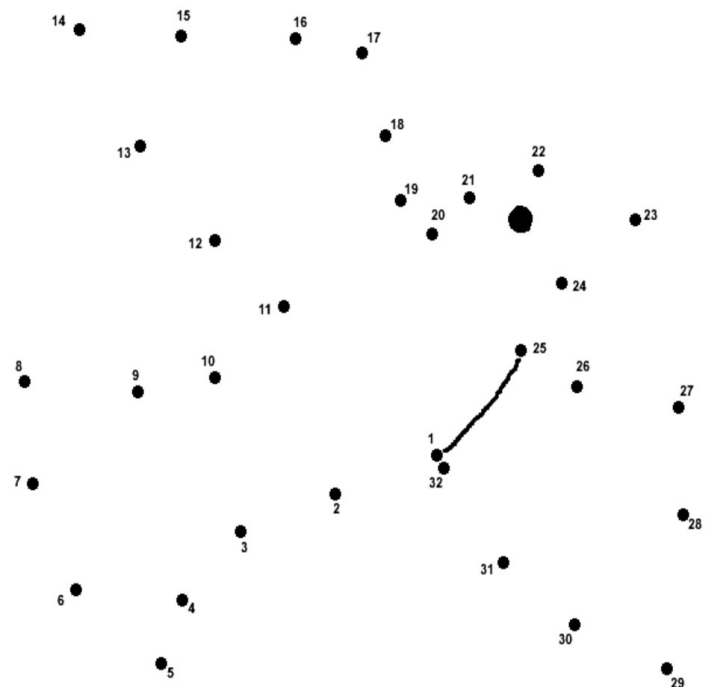


Ash	Holy Week	Palm Branch
Wednesday	Holy Thursday	Forty Days
Sacrifice	Good Friday	Jesus
Almsgiving	Holy Saturday	Passover
Prayer	Easter	Foot Washing
Fasting	Palm Sunday	Resurrection
Lent	Purple	Love



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Connect the Dots



The Spirit of God descending like a dove.
 Matthew 3:16, Mark 1:10, Luke 3:22

The Note

I love our greater church's motto, "No Matter Who You Are Or Where You Are On Life's Journey, You Are Welcome Here." In fact, that motto is one of the reasons I am so glad we are a part of the UCC church. I know our church is small, but I also know it is mighty. We have so many people from so many different parts of life's journey. I feel we are so fortunate to have each other. We have so much to learn from each other. I know that I need help from the more experienced moms as I shuffle through the throes of motherhood. I am so thankful to the many who have reached out to me when I needed childcare. I am thankful to each of you for helping to grow my children in the love of Christ. I hope I have much to offer you, but often, you are unaware of the benefits of others. Do you know how good it feels to be complimented to be told you are doing something right? I know that I am not often the one to give compliments. Something I really need to work on, because you know what... it feels good. Jesus wants us to love one another. It is our greatest commandment. So, next time, you are thinking a positive thought about others, share it. Share the love. Share the light. We could all use more happiness in our lives especially as we begin our Lenten journey.

Speaking of Lent, that means that Easter is right around the corner. Would you like to join us as we make an extra special song unto the Lord? I mean it is the holiday that makes us Christians. If you are unable to join us but have an idea, I'd love to hear it. Feel free to speak with me anytime or shoot me an email. Also, after Easter, it's almost summer. I am already thinking of special music offerings in the summer. Do you have a musical offering? Again, feel free to let me know. I like to think I am a pretty approachable person, and I am always up for something new. Hope to hear from you soon :)

Until next time...
Smiles,
Anna DiVesta



LENT

The 2017 Lenten Season will begin
ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1.

We will mark the beginning of this sacred church season throughout the day with :

Prayer time in God's Sanctuary (6 am – 5:30 pm)

6pm We'll gather in Fellowship Hall for a Bread and Soup Supper then at

7:30pm We will Worship in the Sanctuary



Jesus Tempted in the Wilderness by James Tissot

(Ash Wednesday...continued from page 2)

In Lent we are called into a different sort of wilderness for forty days. After the familiar songs, raised candles, and joy of Christmas only a couple of months before, we are now in a time of stark simplicity, repressed "Alleluias," and a journey toward the cross. In times like this, we Christians must not seem like much fun to be around.

And yet, in Lent, we are reminded that we make this journey because Jesus made it first. Christ went into the wilderness to pray, and to fast, and to ready himself spiritually for what was to come. And in Lent we do the same. We know that we too are journeying to the cross. But we have the luxury of also knowing about the next part of the journey. We have the luxury of knowing about the empty tomb.

And so in Lent we are preparing ourselves to be people of the Resurrection. We are going deeper spiritually, and preparing ourselves to be the people we want to be on Easter morning. Lent isn't something to be endured. Lent is a wilderness journey that will lead us to new life.

Prayer: Jesus, help us to follow you into the wilderness. And in that wilderness, help us to find you in ourselves. Amen.



Trivia Night

????????



Ivy Chapel UCC invites you to a family friendly
Night of Trivia!

All are welcome!

Tables of 8 are \$80 or \$12 per person.

Tea, lemonade, popcorn and pretzels are provided and you are
welcome to bring outside food and drink (beer, wine, soda).

50/50 raffle and cash prize for winning.

To reserve a table, contact Stephen Lowry
lowrys5358@gmail.com or the church office
ivychapelucc@ivychapel.org or 314-434-4991.

March 11, 2017

6:30 - 8:30 pm

Doors open at 6:00 pm

Ivy Chapel UCC
620 North Woods Mill Road
Chesterfield, MO 63017
Fellowship Hall

Scripture & Worship

March 1~Ash Wednesday: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12, Psalm 51:1-17, 2 Corinthians 20b-6:10, Matthew 6:16-21

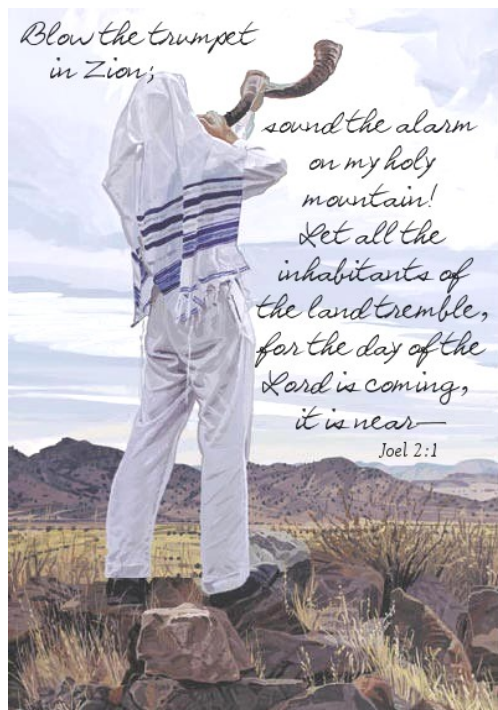
March 5~1st Sunday in Lent: Geneses 2:15-17, 3:1-7
Psalm 32, Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11

March 12~2nd Sunday in Lent: Geneses 12:1-4a,
Psalm 121, Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, John 3:1-17 or
Matthew 17:1-9

March 19~3rd Sunday in Lent: Exodus 17:1-17;
Psalm 95, Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

March 26~4th Sunday in Lent: 1 Samuel 16:1-13,
Psalm 23, Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41

Lectionary readings from: <http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>



Mary^{and} Martha Group

The Mary and Martha Women's Group met on February 21st with **Sally Dodge** who brought her thoughts from a Metropolitan Church Group (mostly UCC) that discussed Race Relations for 3 sessions about a year ago. She brought some examples of "white privilege" and showed two videos, **The Talk** and **The Delmar Divide** which addressed black young men and their relationship with police and then the way in which St. Louis segregation exists.

Lee Headrick brought a note from **Rosalie Buente** describing damage to their apartment and building from recent storms and tornadoes in San Antonio. Thankfully, she and Ray did not suffer injury.

We discussed updates on our plans for the upcoming **Plant Sale in May** and the **Summer Luncheon in June**. We are working on **wren houses** for the plant sale and the theme for the June Luncheon will be **Summer Reading**. Check the **Ivy Vine** and **KYP** for upcoming details.

Pastor Dan will bring us a **Lenten Devotion** for our next meeting on **Tuesday, March 21st, 1:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room**.

Daylight Saving Time Begins Sunday March 12 at 2am.



Trustees

All Congregation Workday

Join the Trustees for an **"Inside" All Congregation Workday** after coffee hour **Sunday March 12th**. Bring a change of clothes. If you have some inside cleaning supplies, rags, sponges, etc. that you could bring, that would be great. Our focus is some light maintenance and to go room to room, upstairs and down to get in the corners and places that get missed during routine care.

If you recall, due to budget cuts, the custodian no longer cleans downstairs. **Sally Dodge** has been gracious enough to volunteer her time to take on this challenge. We would love to give her big THANK YOU! We would like to send a crew downstairs to assist and give her a break. We look forward to seeing you on the 12th for some work, fun and fellowship.

We need your help for VBS

The Christian Education Board is working on the planning for Vacation Bible School in the summer. This year the theme is **Hero Quest: Discover Your Strength in God**.

We need one or two people to organize. And we need a few new volunteers for the actual week of VBS. Some of our tireless and "always there" volunteers are unable to help this year. **Can you help?** If you have any questions, please contact **Linda Lowry** linda@ivychapel.org or **Sarah Heend** skheend@gmail.com.





God's Blessings and...

Happy Birthday to...



Happy Anniversary to...

3/4/2000 Bob and Doris De Fer

3/5/2011 Elizabeth and Scott Schurwan

3/27/1982 Mark and Nancy Gerdes

12 Linda Ledbetter

14 Kailen Cox

21 Peter La Salle

22 Wade Wieser

23 Alex Glenn

Deborah Washburn

24 Sue Lindhorst

Bruce Wilking

29 Doris De Fer

30 Jack Molyneaux

Serving God's People

God has called us to our positions, and we rejoice when we are able to serve God in these places of ministry.

If there is some way in which our staff may be of help to you, please contact us at 314-434-4991.

Pastor Dan Wilson: pastordan@ivychapel.org 314-580-4564

Linda Lowry: linda@ivychapel.org

Anna DiVesta: music@ivychapel.org

Frieda Clark: ivychapellucc@ivychapel.org

Monday/Friday 8:30AM-3PM Tuesday/Thursday 8:30AM-2:30PM

➤ **GIVING STATEMENTS** are available from Don Wolff 636-532-5080.

➤ **NEED TO BORROW** Chairs or Tables? Please call Ralph Weiland 314-878-3230.



Place your unwanted shoes and boots in the white box/bag in the cloak room at Ivy Chapel. Every time we fill it, Frieda will call them for a pick-up. www.shoemanwater.org



LIONS CLUB recycles old eyeglasses: We have a collection bag in the office. If the office door is closed you may also leave unwanted glasses in the wall pocket next to the office door or in the cloak room.



CIRCLE OF CONCERN NEEDS

Peanut Butter Jelly/Jam Pasta/Rice Pasta
Sauce Dried Beans Canned Pasta Dinner
Mixes Macaroni & Cheese Soup Canned
Meats/Fish Baking Staples Canned Vegetables/Fruit
Boxed Cereal Ground Coffee Bar Soap Toilet Paper
Shampoo



See the full Shopping List on Fellowship Hall bulletin board.

For other ways to donate call 636-861-2623 or visit

www.circleofconcern.org

CARE CORPS

Care Corps Mar: Leader Sarah Heend 314-283-5215 **Co-Leader** Kay Kreder 314-878-5296

Care Corps Apr: Leader Sue Lindhorst 636-391-9504 **Co-Ldr** Janet Wilking 314-275-8344

ASSISTING IN LAY MINISTRY

Please find YOUR Name.

Reminders are sent each Tuesday.

If you cannot help on your specific day, please switch with someone then inform the church office-314-434-4991.

DATE	NURSERY	ACOLYTE	WELCOMER	GREETERS	USHERS	LITURGIST	COFFEE
1 March ☩ Intinction Communion Ash Wednesday 7:30pm (see pg 5 for Ash Wednesday activities)					Lee Headrick, Jan Wirtz	Nancy Litzinger	_____
5 March ☩	Sally Dodge	Nick Wintrode, Rory Winship	Marsha Ramey	Carol Faust	Curt, Jennifer Wintrode	Gloria Wintrode	Donna Grote, Evelyn Stecher
Communion Team 2: Judy Hertenstein, Calvin Heend, Donna Grote, Celeste Tichy							
12 March Daylight saving	Sally Dodge	Matthew Wehling, Audrey Farrell	Nancy Litzinger	Evelyn Stecher, Gail Thoele	Rich, Calvin Heend	Brooke Hilton	Glenn Family
19 March	Jo Ann Moody	Gloria Wintrode	Judy Hertenstein	Earl, Kay Kreder	Mark, Nancy Gerdes	Annie Sampath	Jan Wirtz, Nancy Litzinger
26 March	Sally Dodge	Stuart Kirk, Miller DiVesta	Earl Kreder	Kathryn Kuntzman,	Liz Schurwan, Marsha Ramey	Rod Hertenstein	Jo Ann Moody, Annie Sampath
2 April ☩	Sally Dodge	Skylar Droege, Rory Winship	Kay Kreder	Frank Pfau, Beth Noonan	Bob, Diane Droege	Jan Wirtz	Gerdes Family
Communion team 3: Kathryn Kuntzman, John Weiland, Jan Wirtz, Gary Lindhorst							
9 April Palm Sunday	Sally Dodge	Michael Pfau, Audrey Farrell	Marsha Ramey	Jack, Ann Molyneaux	Bruce, Janet Wilking	Frank Pfau	Evelyn Stecher, Gail Thoele
April 13 - 7:30pm Maundy Thursday	☩ Communion Team 4: Sally Dodge, Rod Hertenstein, Marsha Ramey				Mike, Celeste Tichy	Calvin Heend	_____

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 <div> LENTEN FOOD DRIVE CONTINUES TO APRIL 16 SEE PPS </div>			1 Ash Wednesday Prayer Vigil 6a-5p Soup/bread supper 6pm Worship 7:30pm See pg 5	2	3	4
5 1st S in Lent-Purple 9am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship w/LS SS Pretzel Baking see PPs	6 CE Mtg 6:45pm	7	8 CC Rehearse 7pm	9 Trustee Mtg 7:30pm	10	11 IVY CHAPEL TRIVIA NIGHT  6-8:30pm See flyer
12 2nd S in Lent-Purple Daylight Saving Time Begins 2am 9am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship/SSC Mtgs Aft Worship: •Deacons •Christian Action •Trustee Work day – inside see “Trustees” page 7	13	14	15 The Ivy Vine articles due Men's Lunch 11:30am Satchmo's, 13375 Olive Blvd, Chesterfield, 314-878-3886 CC Rehearse 7pm	16	17	18
19 3rd S in Lent-Purple 9am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship/SS	20 Council Mtg 7pm	21 M&M Wms Grp 1p	22 CC Rehearse 7pm	23	24	25
26 4th S in Lent-Purple 9am Adult Bible Study ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING PG 2 10am Worship/SS	27	28	29 CC Rehearse 7pm	30	31	1 April Youth Pizza Making

APRIL

Lenten Food Drive to April 16 see PPs
 1st Youth Pizza Making
 8th Workday
 8th Riverbend Trivia Night
 9th Palm Sunday / Easter Egg Hunt

AA=Alcoholics Anonymous
CA=Christian Action
CC=Chancel Choir
CE=Christian Education
EMMP=Eric Moody Memorial Pavilion

Monday
AA 10:30a

Tuesday
Anna DiVesta 3:30-8pm

FH = Fellowship Hall
JNM=JOINT NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRIES
KYP=KEEPING YOU POSTED
LS=THE LORD'S SUPPER

Wednesday

Thursday
AA 12:00pm
Anna 7-8pm

LL=LOWER LEVEL
M&M GRP=MARY AND MARTHA WOMENS GROUP
PP=PURPLE PAGES
SS=SUNDAY SCHOOL

Friday

Saturday
AA 10:30am