

Where do we go from here?

We come to the Season of Easter filled with humility and joy. Merely attempting to appreciate the enormity of God's sacrifice humbles us. Receiving God's extravagant forgiveness makes us joyful.

The Crucifixion of Christ and the Resurrection of Christ are of one piece. These are two distinctive, definitive actions of God. The two are conjoined. The two cannot be disconnected from one another. The death of Jesus Christ and the life of Jesus Christ are two parts of one whole, two characteristics of One God. As Jesus of Nazareth, God is crucified to death. As Jesus of Nazareth, God is resurrected to life.

"Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The strife is o'er, the battle done;

The victory of life is won;

The song of triumph has begun: Alleluia!"

(Translated from 17th century Latin by Francis Pott)

Where do we go from here?

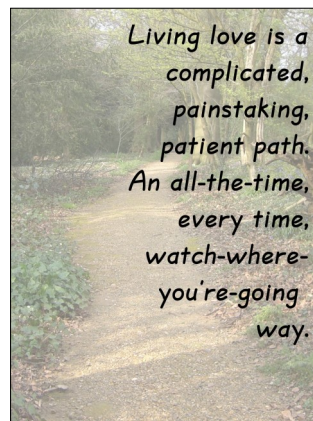
This is an emotion that people of God routinely experience following Easter Sunday. It's normal. Easter is the pinnacle of our faith. There's no way to top it. So, now what? Where to next?

At the root of all this is the issue: What is my relationship with Christ?

Do you remember the keepsake tokens that you

and I received in worship this Ash Wednesday? They are three intertwined circles. Each two-sided token bears a total of 6 sayings: **Christ around me. Christ below me. Christ within me. Christ above me. Christ beside me. Christ before me.**

Let's zero in on one for now. Let's focus on the saying, "Christ is **before** me."



This preposition "**before**" is a significant word. Recall that John the Baptist proclaims, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was **before** me." (John 1:30) Later, a messenger of God tells the women at the Empty Tomb on Resurrection Day, "Fear not. I know you are looking for Jesus who was

crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised!... Come, see... then go, tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and he is going **before** you to Galilee. There you will see him.'" (Matthew 28:5-7)

Each and every Christian disciple may celebrate this breathtaking announcement that Jesus has gone **before** us to Galilee. This is exhilarating news of 'motion'! This astonishing movement of Jesus coming alive and vacating the tomb is accompanied by the welcome promise that we will see Jesus in Galilee. This conveys (Where do we go...continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

that we too must move into new life.

If any of us are going to see Jesus, to encounter the Risen Christ, we cannot sit comfortably where we are. We must go out into God's world, where we are promised we will see Jesus.

What is it to see Jesus in our own communities? in our own 'Galilees'?...

Author Ann Weems describes this as "*Living Love*." In her work, From Advent's Alleluia to Easter's Morning Light, Weems writes:

"Jesus said he was the Way, the truth, the Life.
And he said, Follow me.
Follow me and live the Way I showed you.
Follow me and live the Truth I showed you.
Follow me and live the Life I showed you.
The Way, the Truth, the Life he showed us was Love.
Live the Way of Love.
Live the Truth of Love.
Live the Life of Love.

Living love is a complicated, painstaking, patient path. An all-the-time, every time, watch-where-you're-going way.

Living love means making decisions all day long to love; *Living love* means patience with those who don't care about living love; *Living love* means watching our words as well as our actions; *Living love* means treating others as we ourselves want to be treated.

Living love means not hitting back; *Living love* means loving our enemies; *Living love* means loving those who speak all manner of evil against us; And these things are just the beginnings of *living Love*.

Living love means forgiving, means forgetting; *Living love* means there is no room for self-righteousness; *Living love* means being the people of God together, a community of those who love one another and who love all the *one another's* that God created...

Living love means going into all the world and telling God's story.

He said God is Love.
He said I am the Way.
He said I am the Truth.
He said I am the Life.
He said Follow me.
If we have the eyes to see
And the ears to hear
Life Abundant is ours."

Jesus has gone **before** us and *is going before* us.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS UPDATE

In Pastor Dan's Easter sermon, he asked why we're usually so glad Lent is over. Are we looking forward to eating chocolate again? Are we worn out from all those extra giving efforts: canned food collection, One Great Hour of Sharing, special plate offerings for Meals on Wheels and Baby Blue Pantry? Actually, Lent at Ivy Chapel UCC this year has been an unusually generous outpouring of compassion and support, especially for the two local agencies that serve very diverse populations: older adults in Creve Coeur and families with young children in the Festus area. More than \$1,000 was donated for these ministries and both were overwhelmed with our generosity. Our using the colored envelopes affirmed the value of these outreach programs to those committed to continuing them. Our gifts also demonstrated our congregation's faithful testimony to Jesus' teaching that helping others is the way we serve Him. So, yes, Lent is over. But the joy of Easter and gratitude of our beneficiaries is very much present.

Posted on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board is a thank you note from the staff at Meals on Wheels:

"Dear Ivy Chapel Friends, Thank you so much for your generous gift. All our Meals on Wheels recipients appreciate your support. Your donation will guarantee that we will be able to serve some of our neediest clients."

Sincerely, *Ivette, Julie, Susan and Gail*

Mark Zimmermann offers this guidance, "Our goal as Christians is that the cross of Christ be 'facing out' in how we love, forgive, and care for others as Christ did for us." This is seeing Jesus in our own 'Galilees.'

Where do we go from here?

Come, see.

All our lives may we rejoice that Jesus is going **before** us,
Pastor Dan

"Go, therefore, and make disciples...
baptizing...

and teaching... everything that I have commanded you.
And remember I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- Jesus of Nazareth -

(The Gospel of Matthew 28:19-20)



MAY 2017

MAY 7: YOUTH SUNDAY
"GROUNDED IN GOD"



**A worship service written and led
by the 7th – 12th Grade Youth of Ivy Chapel UCC**

Including Children's Message by our Multi-Age Class, special music from youth of all ages,
and a skit written and presented by the older youth.

GRADUATION SUNDAY:

If you know of any Ivy graduates, please let Linda Lowry know
so that we may celebrate their accomplishments.

ARK & ALPHA-OMEGA END OF YEAR LUNCH:

7th – 12th grade youth will gather for our "End of the Year" lunch
following worship and the plant sale! Gather to eat with your friends
and celebrate our Youth Sunday worship service. Youth group funds will pay for the lunch
for the youth. Parents are welcome.

Youth Sunday practice will be Saturday, May 6 at 4:00.

***Then join us for our May Fellowship Activity,
our All Church "Pot Luck In The Pavilion" at 5:30!***

Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God

**Mark your calendars now for Vacation Bible School - July 24 - 28
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! We need LOTS of help!**

Without our volunteers we won't be able to put together a
Vacation Bible School program this summer to share God's love and
word with our children and the children of the community!

To volunteer see Sarah Heend or Linda Lowry.



Mothers Day Word Search

Find the hidden words.

F R C B Y Y H C L Y L I M A F
G S E T H O U E V U U O G I M
N O N S N P G L F K M V M O X
I U E O P W S T W M D P T X U
V R R M I E H E Y O D H M E B
I F D T C G C W I W E E K K A
G R L A U G H T E R V H I Z Y
Z C I O R R W O R O O E S L J
Y Z H S W E E T L A T M S Q P
H T C T J E P O Z I E O E Q W
V W M G N I R A C H D H S M H
V L A I C E P S M W A A K N T
T I R F Q D R D S K N I Y K T
K W E T N J X A Z T T O N N H
L P R S L U P T P C J R O S G


CARING
CHILDREN
DEVOTED
FAMILY
FLOWERS
GIFTS

GIVING
HEART
HOLIDAY
HOME
HONOR
HUGS

KISSES
LAUGHTER
LOVE
MEMORIES
MOMMY
MOTHER

NURTURE
PARENT
RESPECT
SPECIAL
SWEET
THOUGHTFUL

© Crafting The Word Of God

 Mother's Day May 14

The Note

Hi guys! I. Am. Exhausted. Holy week is certainly hard, but I hope all the congregants enjoyed the many special music offerings we had. The choir works so hard for you with the special services and special music. I am so proud and so incredibly thankful for the opportunity to work with so many amazing musicians. So, my utmost thanks to every single member of the choir as well as our special guest musicians; Abby Foerhkolb, Jordan Kersten and, of course, Aaron DiVesta. Finally, a special shout out to Valerie Waterman for stepping in to sing "Tis Finished" on Good Friday. Did you like the change of pace for Easter? Did you like the band? Let me know. I want to hear about it. I want our music ministry to speak to you. As we know, "God is still speaking." He is speaking through you, and he is speaking through me. We only need to listen.

Well, it is May, and do you know what that means? Summer is almost here. With summer approaching, we need to start thinking about summer music. As you all know, the choir takes a well deserved vacation over the summer so we need to fill our anthem slot with special music. Looks like June is already almost full, but I still have tons of slots for July and August special music. Do you have any ideas? Would you like to present something? Let me know! I look forward to hearing from you!

Until next time my friends...

Smiles,

Anna DiVesta



Wild—Flower Garden—Fauna



We've all seen the Black-eyed Susan flowers in the wild flower patch down by the vegetable garden. Did you know that in the patch we also have a native Missouri plant? The *Podophyllum peltatum*, commonly called Mayapple. Our patch is ideal since the plant likes to grow in both moist and dry (usually woodland) areas. The one or two umbrella-like leaf pattern is known as palmately-lobed.

The white to pinkish flower is hidden under the two-leafed (one leaf plant will not flower) plants at the fork of the leaf stems. Each flower produces an *edible*, fleshy, greenish *fruit* (mayapple) that ripens to golden and are good for preserves and jellies. *However*, the leaves and roots are *poisonous*.



<https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/field-guide/mayapple>



Scripture & Worship

May 7~Fourth Sunday of Easter: Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 23,
1 Peter 2:19-25, John 10:1-10

May 14~Fifth Sunday of Easter: Acts 7:55-60,
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-14

May 21~Sixth Sunday of Easter: Acts 17:22-31,
Psalm 66:8-20, 1 Peter 3:13-22, John 14:15-21

May 28~Seventh Sunday of Easter: Acts 1:6-14,
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11,
John 17:1-11

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

SUFFERING AS A CHRISTIAN

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:7-9



All-Church Hwy Clean-up Dates

Please plan to join us the following Sundays to help with highway clean-up after Coffee Fellowship:

June 4 August 27 October 1

Be sure to bring your gloves and a change of clothes.

POT LUCK IN THE PAVILION

Saturday, May 6, 5:30 pm

Mark your calendars now for our next Fellowship Activity! "Pot Luck in the Pavilion" Bring your favorite pot luck items (main dishes, salads, sides and desserts) and meet in the pavilion for a great time of food, friends and fellowship!

Saturday, May 6 at 5:30 p.m.

Drinks will be provided.

This is an "all church" fellowship activity!
We hope to see you all there!



Christian Action

Every Child's Hope (ECH) Pool Toy Collection Drive 2017

The annual Every Child's Hope (ECH) Pool Toy Drive will kick off Sunday May 7, 2017. We will be collecting items during the month of May until May 28, 2017. Suggested items include: goggles, nose plugs, water toys, noodles, towels, rafts, masks, and sunscreen, etc. If you have any questions, please contact Janet Wilking.



Mary and Martha Group

Ivy Chapel Member heads foundation project.

The Mary and Martha Women's Group met Apr. 18th with our own **Beth Noonan**, Project Manager for \$8,800,000 Deaconess Foundation Building being built at 1000 Vandeventer in St. Louis City. The Deaconess Foundation was formed with the money from the sale of Deaconess Hospital. The focus of the Foundation is Advocacy for Children at Risk. The building will have administrative offices for Neighborhood Houses and for the Vision for Children at Risk Organization as well as Conference Facilities for groups. Every effort is being made to make the building ecologically and financially sustainable and site construction is to begin next week. It is expected to be completed in about eight months. Incidentally, this building is next to the Juvenile Justice Center. Thank you, Beth, for taking time to tell us about this project.

We finalized plans for the Plant Sale on May 7th. See the KYP for additional information.

➤At our May meeting we will be planning for a Summer Women's Luncheon on June 20th. *Save the Date.* ☞

Trustees

Trustees hosted an "Outdoor Workday" on Sat. April 8th. Due to the turn out, and hard work of all the participants we were able to complete a great deal of work! Focus was on both the upper and lower level of Ivy Chapel's grounds. The Church front gardens and islands were cleaned and raked. Memorial Garden was brought back to life for another season of beauty. Much needed attention was paid to the youth playground. We thank everyone for volunteering your time and talents!

Some additional items completed by your trustees in April included:

- Install new toilet paper holders in lower level restrooms
- Repair drywall in lower level restrooms
- Install new towel dispensers and toilet paper holders in lower level bathrooms and kitchen
- Replaced inoperable power roof exhaust fan motor
- Installed new exhaust grills in lower level restrooms
- Paint entrance wall and north wall in boys lower level restroom
- Re-glued all loose vinyl cove base in Fellowship Hall and Lower Level
- Spray painted Kilz® in all stained ceiling tile in Lower Level
- Replaced storm damaged gutter on west side of garage
- Replaced toilet paper holders in upper level women's restroom
- Replace bad boards on playhouse in playground
- Demo rotted storage shed, cut into dumpster size pieces and haul to dumpster
- Remove trash pile outside playground fence. Cut to size and haul to dumpster
- Replaced missing rails on playground fence

A special **Thank-You** to those, who wish to remain unnamed, for taking on the cleaning of the nursery including cleaning the carpet! Toys to be power washed later as weather permits. ☺



VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are planning for Vacation Bible School 2017, which will be **July 24-28**. Can you help? This year the theme is **Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God**. Whatever **your** strengths, we could use them to share God's word with the young people of Ivy Chapel and the community. Specifically we need one or two people to organize VBS, we need someone to lead the opening and closing times during VBS week and we need someone to organize the decorating. We also can always use new crew leaders and station leaders.



Feel free to contact Sarah Heend (skheend@gmail.com) or Linda Lowry (linda@ivychapel.org) with questions.

Did You Know?

There is an earthquake fault line in Israel in the vicinity of the Mount of Olives. (Also called "Ascent of Mount Olivet" and "Olivet.")

This is actually a range of hills on the east side of Jerusalem.

The Mount is mentioned in both Old and New Testaments. In the book of Zechariah, as a prophecy.

Read about it in: Zechariah 14:4, 2 Samuel 15:30, Mark 11:1, 13:3, Luke 21:37, John 8:1.

Learn about the fault line at:

<https://dutchsinse.com/6272015-rare-m5-2-earthquake-strikes-egypt-israel-dead-sea-fault-system/>

www.nbcnews.com/id/3980139/ns/technology_and_science-science/t/jeruselems-old-city-risk-earthquake/#.WOfKgqK1u70





God's Blessings and... Happy Birthday



Happy Anniversary to...



5/5/1967 Frank and Marg Ivey
5/26/1962 Rudolph and Heidi Lauer
5/26/2007 Shannon and Paul Farrell
5/28/1997 Dan and Stacey Hilton
5/28/1988 Mike and Celeste Tichy

1 Ann Molyneaux	14 Alex Kuntzman	25 Trish Baker
Bill Wirtz	Carl Ramey	25 Sarah Wilson
2 Rosalie Buente	16 Dixie Wieser	27 Marsha Ramey
9 Pat Winship	18 Nancy Gerdes	
10 Jamie Del Carmen	Amanda Gerdes	
Bradley Kuntzman	21 Tom Glenn	
12 Rick Lindenberger	24 William La Salle	

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@ivy chapel.org 314-580-4564 Linda Lowry: linda@ivy chapel.org
Anna DiVesta: music@ivy chapel.org Frieda Clark: ivy chapelucc@ivy chapel.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 (PLEASE PLACE ON LOWEST SHELF OR MARK FOR CIRCLE OF CONCERN)



NEEDED: Jelly/Jam sizes 5, 6 Diapers
Baby Wipes

CRITICALLY NEEDED: Cereal Tomato products Pasta Sauce
Canned Chicken Tampons

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 May: Leader Nancy Marston 314-878-1317 Co-Leader Pat Winship 636-394-5991

Care Corps June: Leader Diane Droege 314-369-6349 Co-Leader Nancy Marston 314-878-1317

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
May 7 ☩ Youth Sunday	Brooke Hilton, Stacey Hilton	Gloria Wintrode, Audrey Farrell	Nancy Marston	Youth	Youth	Youth	Wintrode Family
May 14	Sally Dodge	Skylar Droege Rory Winship	Debbie Washburn	Liz Schurwan, Carol Faust	Bruce, Janet Wilking	Peter LaSalle	Gerdes Family
May 21	Jo Ann Moody	Stuart Kirk Miller DiVesta	Jan Wirtz	Bob, Diane Droege	Jim, Diann Sheahan	Ann Molyneaux	Washburn Family
May 28	Sally Dodge	Michael Pfau Audrey Farrell	Nancy Litzinger	Trish Baker, Dottie Foster	Frank Pfau, Beth Noonan	John Weiland	De Fer Family
June 4 ☩ Pentecost	Sally Dodge	Ben Wehling Miller DiVesta	Marsha Ramey	Mary Mitchell, Cleo Steffens	Steve Lowry, Rich Heend	Calvin Heend	Nancy Marston, ?? You can help ??
Communion Team 2: Judy Hertenstein, Calvin Heend, Donna Grote, Celeste Tichy							
June 11 Church Picnic	Sally Dodge	Nick Wintrode, Rory Winship	Nancy Marston	Julie Mc Allister, Valerie Waterman	Mark, Trish Baker	Cindy Kettler	_____

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 CE Mtg 6:45pm	2	3 CC Rehearsal 7pm	4 St. Louis Assoc. Mtg. 5-9pm	5 MMSUCC Men's Retreat at Shannondale 10pm to Sunday, May 7th www.missourimidsouth.org/mens-retreat	6 •MMSUCC Men's Retreat at Shannondale •Plant Sale Set-up 2pm •Youth Sunday Practice 4pm •Potluck in the Pavilion 5pm see pg 6
7 4th S of Easter-Whit YOUTH SUNDAY 9am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship w/ LS, SS M&Ms PLANT SALE MMSUCC Men's Retreat at Shannondale	8	9	10 CC Rehearsal 7pm	11	12	13
14 5th S of Easter-Whit Mother's Day 9am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship Mtgs Aft Worship: •Deacons •Christian Action •Trustee	15 The Ivy Vine articles due Council Mtg 7pm	16 M&M Wms Grp 1p BLOOD DRIVE 3-7pm see flyer W/Mississippi Valley Blood Reg'l. Center 	17 Men's Lunch 11:30am The Shack 14810 Clayton Road	18	19	20
21 6th S of Easter-Whit 9am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship/SS Anna DiVesta-Spring Recital 2pm S/FH	22	23	24	25 Ascension Day	26	27
28 7th S of Easter-Whit 9am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship/SS	29 Memorial Day Office Closed	30	31			

JUNE EVENTS

4th All-Church Hwy Clean-up
11th Church Picnic

AA=Alcoholics Anonymous CA=Christian Action CC=Chancel Choir CE=Christian Education EMMP=Eric Moody Memorial Pavilion		FH = Fellowship Hall JNM=JOINT NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRIES KYP=KEEPING YOU POSTED LS=THE LORD'S SUPPER		LL=LOWER LEVEL M&M GRP=MARY AND MARTHA WOMEN'S GROUP PP=PURPLE PAGES SS=SUNDAY SCHOOL	
Monday AA 10:30a	Tuesday Anna DiVesta 3:30-8pm	Wednesday	Thursday AA 12:00pm Anna 7-8pm	Friday	Saturday AA 10:30am

STEP UP TO THE PLATE

Do you bleed **RED** or **BLUE**?

All presenting donors at this drive will receive a voucher for their choice of shirt!

Ivy Chapel

Tuesday, May 16 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Fellowship Hall 620 N Woods Mill Rd

To schedule an appointment,
email Sue Wilson at horsepastor@att.net
or online at www.bloodcenterIMPACT.org

Use group sponsor code 10670 to schedule online.

Please eat & hydrate well before donating

MUST bring photo ID to donate



MISSISSIPPI VALLEY REGIONAL BLOOD CENTER