



Dan Wilson, Pastor

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God's blessings to you, friends. As I compose these lines, I am praying that you are staying healthy as God's world, including our nation, perseveres during the COVID-19 pandemic. You remain in my personal prayers, and our Ivy Chapel United Church of Christ Staff is here to serve your needs. We are working. Currently, none of our staff are working in the physical Church Office on a regular basis. Please contact us at our individual email addresses or cell phone numbers. We gladly will do all that we are able to serve you.

This experience definitely is reinforcing our awareness of the limited control which humankind has over the universe. Yes, much about this guarantine to restrict spread of the virus is frustrating, exhausting, and more. However, as we self-quarantine with genuine consideration for the health and well-being of other people, there are occasions when we find ourselves refreshingly surprised by beautiful, heart-warming gifts of God, such as, learning humility, engaging in spiritual solitude, and discovering astonishing levels of human goodness. Praise God! (We remember that the Hebrew compound word for this is "Halle-lu-jah!")

One of the words of encouragement which Jesus offers his followers is, "Take heart!" This is a

message which Jesus repeatedly shares to boost the spirits of those who are discouraged, sick, exhausted, sorrowful, frightened or overwhelmed. What Jesus said to others, he is saying to us now in our distress. "Take heart, child. Your sins are forgiven," cleanses Jesus. (Matthew 9:2) "Take heart, daughter. Your faith has healed you," blesses Jesus. (Matthew 9:22) "Take heart. I am. Do not fear," reassures Jesus. (Matthew 14:27 and Mark 6:50)

In 2017, a highly personal, small book was published. This work is an autobiographical exploration of mercy by Author Anne Lamott. The book title is: Hallelujah Anyway (Rediscovering Mercy). At the outset, Anne begins writing on the pretext, "I'm not sure I even recognize the everpresence of mercy anymore, the divine and the human: the messy, crippled, transforming, heartbreaking, lovely, devastating presence of mercy. But I have come to believe that I am starving for it, and my world is, too."

As this mini-autobiography progresses, Anne discovers herself unexpectedly becoming more and more positive. Her personal nature tends to be that of a skeptic. But this is not so in her self-disclosing, precious, little book. Instead, one might say that she behaves out of character here;

(Continued from page 1)

and isn't this moment in our lives precisely an opportunity for each one of us to do the same?

Consider how marvelously God's could be transformed, would be changed, by people becoming hopeful and living hopefully. The sky's the limit! By the conclusion of her book, Anne is wondrously optimistic! "Someone said, the softest things in the world overcome the hardest... A baby feels and smells like God. You can get information from any point on a baby's body, the toes, the soft spot, and this information is life, merciful energy, unruined radiance.... Images of tiny things, babies, yeast and mustard seeds can guide us; things that grow are what change everything. Moments of compassion, giving, grief, and wonder shift our behavior, get inside us, and change realms we might not have agreed to have changed. Each field is weeds and wheat, but mix the wheat with yeast, the most ordinary of elements, and it starts changing the flour. It becomes bread and so do we, bread to eat and to offer. The world keeps going on. You can have yet another cup of coffee and keep working on your plans. Or you can take the risk to be changed, surrounded, and indwelled by this strange yeasty mash called mercy, there for the asking at the frog pond, the River Jordan, the channel that flows between the lagoon and the sea." (pp. 174-176)

How prophetic are Anne Lamott's words!

There are countless ways in which small things of our present-day reality may grow. And gloriously impact God's future!

This very day, Christ Jesus is encouraging you and me, "Take heart."

We could make a pact, you and I and all humankind. We could promise one another that we will strive to remain open to all that God provides next. Together, let's rediscover mercy. And then, joyously sing, "Hallelujah anyway!"

God, let me be an instrument of your mercy, *Pastor Dan*



Thank You...

We offer heartfelt thanks to church staff and lay leaders who have worked together so creatively and cooperatively to provide "virtual worship" which is enabling our congregation to remain connected during this extended time of separation. We are deeply grateful to: Anna DiVesta, Aaron DiVesta, Linda Lowry, Frieda Clark, Marsha Fix, Rich Heend, Colton Burton, Ashton Wilson, Sarah Wilson and Sue Wilson. Thank you for joyfully giving of yourselves to make worship possible! Our church is enormously blessed.

IVY CHAPEL'S FINANCES

Thanks to those of you that have been sending your contributions by mail to either the Church or directly to our Financial Secretary; your contributions are greatly appreciated during the Covid 19 crisis as we continue to pay our bills and our dedicated staff.

Checks can be sent directly to:

Peter LaSalle 2015 Wilson Ridge Lane Chesterfield, MO 63005

Apr. Council Lifted Up:

- Pastor Dan, Anna and Aaron DiVesta, Marsha Fix, Colton Burton and Ashton Wilson, Linda Lowry, Sarah Wilson, Sue Wilson, Frieda Clark and Rich Heend for their creativity and talents shared in Ivy Chapel's virtual worship experiences during this time of social distancing.
- Bruce and Janet Wilking for chairing the wonderful February Chili Supper.
- Jan Wirtz for her valiant effort and work to fulfill the Treasurer's responsibilities.







To all of our Ivy Chapel UCC youth. I miss you all. I hope that you and your families are well. I will be keeping you all in my thoughts and prayers over the coming days. Here is an update on our Ivy Chapel youth programs. I look forward to the time when we can get together again. Love, Mrs. Lowry



YOUTH SUNDAY - 2020

Youth Sunday originally scheduled for May 3 is on presently "on hold". We will reschedule sometime in the future. Tara Lowry had been working with some our youth on this special worship service and planning will resume when feasible.

"LENTEN" CANNED FOOD OFFERING



This date will be extended indefinitely due to current circumstances.

Consider contributing in a different way during this time.

Especially during this difficult time, Food Pantries are in need of donations of food and money. Consider donating to these organizations as we wait for the time we can get together and take part in our annual "Lenten" Food Drive.

Even now: We "can" help feed the hungry.







SOUPER BOWL OF CARING UPDATE:

Since we were unable to get together to spend the funds from our Souper Bowl of Caring offering to purchase food for those in need at Circle of Concern and Isaiah 58 Ministries, I have sent our offering money to those mission agencies to be used to purchase needed items during this time.

Together we are helping to feed those in need.

The Ivy Vine, May 2020 www.ivychapel.org

SUMMER

ST. LOUIS AREA DIAPER BANK ALL CHURCH SERVICE ACTIVITY

After discussion between the Christian Action Board and myself, the

scheduled April 25 trip to the St. Louis Area Diaper Bank was cancelled and will be rescheduled in the future. As an alternative to going to the Diaper Bank, I sent a check using some of the proceeds from the Chili Supper youth-led raffle to donate to the Diaper Bank so that they can use it now. The need is especially great during this time. Consider supporting this organization, providing parents with diapers.

TAKE A LOOK AT POSSIBLE SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

Hopefully we will be able to participate in our normal summer activities! Church camp is a great way to spend a part of your vacation. Information is on the table in the Narthex and the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall about Camp MoVal in

Union, Missouri and Camp DuBois in DuBois, Illinois. Or you can take a look at their websites The Christian Education Board has scholarships available for youth attending church camps. See **Sarah Heend**.

YOUTH SUMMER MISSION TRIP UPDATE And an alternative trip opportunity through the Missouri Mid-South Conference

Unfortunately, after a great initial response to our **Urban Mission Experience** suggestion, we were unable to get any commitments from youth. Therefore, the Summer 2020 Youth Mission Trip has been cancelled.

However, the Missouri Mid-South Conference is putting together a Conference wide mission trip for Jr. & Sr. High Youth.

Dates of the trip will be Sunday, July 19– Thursday, July 23 $\,$

The group will be doing Mission Work at Saron UCC in Linto, IN (about 4 hours away) & the surrounding communities. Mission Projects could include building ramps, helping out the community thrift shop/food pantry, volunteering at rural Children's Homes nearby or helping out at Merom Camp.

The Conference mission trip group will gather at St. Paul's UCC in Oakville, MO (South St. Louis) on Sunday, July 19th and head back on Thursday, returning around 2 p.m. Total cost will be \$125 per participant and will include transportation, housing and meals. For more info contact **Linda Lowry**.









Well friends, I'm not even sure where to start. What an odd month it has been! I am hoping you are all staying safe and sane with the stay at home orders. We're doing ok here. Aaron has been



furloughed, so May is looking to be a little rough for the DiVestas. I am just hopeful that he can get back to work sooner rather than later. He works in a small shop where he could social distance. His coworkers would be happy to work all different shifts so there is only one person in the shop at a time. But, alas, his work is not considered "essential." It's hard since so many "essential" businesses are not that essential either. Thankfully, the overwhelming majority of my students have switched to an online format for lessons. As I've been telling many friends I'm feeling so many different emotions every minute of every hour of every day, and it is quite exhausting. Also exhausting, homeschooling two boys! Regardless, we are very grateful that we are all ::knock on wood:: healthy. I hope the same for you all.

Music wise, any concerts or shows that Aaron and I would have played are obviously cancelled. The Chancel Choir as well as my Tremble Clefs Choir are both on hiatus. It is absolutely heartbreaking to not be able to do what we love to do. However, I am so thankful for the opportunity to continue my music ministry online, and I hope you all are enjoying the videos we have been working on each week. All of us were kind of thrown into the whole online worship so it's still a little new so bare with us. Also, I want to thank Aaron, Ashton, Colton and Marsha, for their help with the music ministry this past few months. Their additions to our music ministry have been phenomenal, and I so appreciate their help. If you think about it, make sure you let them know how much they are appreciated.

I miss you all so much. I cannot wait until we can be together again. Until then, keep on smiling!!

Smiles, Anna DiVesta 314-609-0865 www.AnnaDiVesta.com ove divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down; Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, All Thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love Thou art; Visit us with Thy salvation; Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit Into every troubled breast! Let us all in Thee inherit, Let us find that second rest. Take away the love of sinning, Alpha and Omega be; End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, Let us all Thy life receive; Suddenly return, and never, Nevermore Thy temples leave: Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts above, Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish then Thy new creation, Pure and spotless let us be; Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee: Changed from glory into glory, Till in heaven we take our place, Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise. Amen.

Charles Wesley

Scripture References: st. 1: Revelation 21:3, John 3:16, John 15:9 st. 2: Malachi 3:1 st. 3: 2 Corinthians 3:18,5:17, 2 Peter 3:14 st. 4: prayer for sanctification, for consistently holy lives

See Aaron and Anna DiVesta perform on Ivy Chapel's Facebook page (How Great Thou Art featuring Aaron & Anna DiVesta)

https://www.facebook.com/watch/lvyChapel/

Christian Education Trustees

A New Kind of Vacation Bible School Coming THIS SUMMER

The Christian Education Board is exploring a different format for Vacation Bible School this year. We will have VBS in the evening instead of during the day. And we are planning to include all ages in the experiencechildren through adults. The new format will be one or two evenings, and will include the usual crafts, Bible stories, music and snacks. It should be a fun and new way for all of us to explore our faith. Right now, we are in the planning stages and we need a person, or two, to direct the experience.

Please contact Sarah Heend or Linda Lowry if you have questions or would like to volunteer to direct.



YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE STILL AVAILABLE

The Christian Education Board has several scholarships available for youth of all ages. The scholarships can be used for church related summer camps, workshops or other programs. Please contact Sarah Heend at 314-283-5215 or skheend@gmail.com for an application.

SUMMER SCHOOL TEACHER SUMMER BREAKS

Believe it or not, summer is coming. We have just entered spring, but it isn't too early to think about summer Sunday School. The Christian Education Board is looking for a few substitutes to give our regular teachers a break. We are only asking for a commitment of one Sunday. The preparation and planning are already done for each Sunday. We will have the lesson and activities for each week ready to go in packets that teachers can pick up ahead of time. Please consider covering one Sunday in June, July or August. Contact Sarah Heend (314-283-5215 or skheend@gmail.com)

RUMMAGE SALE POSTPONED

Thank you to everyone who expressed interest in helping with a rummage sale in early June.

Unfortunately, with the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 and current social distancing rules, the rummage sale is postponed to a future date, likely late summer or early fall. Once the new date is known, it will be communicated. Hopefully, the volunteers needed for sorting, set-up, during the sale and for post-sale cleanup will still be available. Stay safe until then!

Maintenance of the Church grounds continues, but, all other Trustee projects, including the May 9 work day and May 31 Highway Clean-Up, are on hold until is it deemed safe to resume activities.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION POSTPONED



The Ivy Chapel birthday celebration which was to be held on Sunday, May 17th in Fellowship Hall following the worship service will be postponed.

The Deacon's plan to host an even bigger celebration for "THANK GOODNESS WE SURVIVED THIS" as soon as we are able to gather together once again.

Stay healthy and safe!

Please see **Fellowship** message in calendar (last) page.

OPEN AND AFFIRMING:

No matter who you are, no matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

'Open and Affirming' (ONA) is the United Church of Christ's designation for congregations and other settings of the UCC which make a public covenant of

welcome into their full life and ministry to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, physical abilities and mental abilities.



Begun in 1972, the Open and Affirming Coalition is a national coalition of the UCC which provides resources and support to local congregations.

More information is available at https://openandaffirming.org/ona/

In 2019, Ivy Chapel UCC Council approved the formation of an ad hoc committee to explore the possibility of Ivy Chapel UCC becoming an 'Open and Affirming' congregation. The current committee members are Erin Winship, Sarah Heend, Rod Hertenstein, Ashton Wilson, Sally Dodge, and Sarah Wilson.

The annual Gateway ONA Convocation was held March 7th at Parkway UCC. Several of the committee members plus Judy Hertenstein, Peter LaSalle, Nancy Litzinger, Tara Lowry, Jan Wirtz and Pastor Dan were able to participate in the convocation. Please feel free to contact any of these people to learn more.

Scripture Worship

MAY 3~FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 23, 1 Peter 2:19-25, John 10:1-10



MAY 10~FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 7:55-60, Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16, 1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-14

MAY 17~SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 17:22-31, Psalm 66:8-20, 1 Peter 3:13-22, John 14:15-21

MAY 21 (TH)~ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Acts 1:1-11, Psalm 47/Psalm 93, Ephesians 1:15-23, Luke 24:44-53

MAY 24~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

MAY 31~DAY OF PENTECOST

Acts 2:1-21/Numbers 11:24-30, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13/Acts 2:1-21, John 20:19-23/John 7:37-39



http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/

Given to the glory of God

NAME	# PLANTS
The Litzingers	1
Sue and Dan Wilso	on 1
Ashton Wilson	1
The Foster Family	1
The Moody Family	/ 1
The Lauer Family	1
Frank Purviance	1
Gail Thoele	1
Sally and Peter	1
Jan Wirtz	1
Valerie Watermar	า 1
The Lowry Family	1
The DiVesta Famil	y 1
The Droege Family	y 1

Happy Easter Christ is Risen! Alleluia! He is Risen Indeed! Happy Easter Happy Easter Happy Easter In memory of Carole Alleluia! Happy Easter He is Risen Happy Easter Happy Easter He is Risen

SPECIAL COMMENT

Happy Easter

Easter Lilies for April 12, 2020

Mary Martha Wms Group

There is no meeting for Mary and Martha Women's Group scheduled for May.

We delivered an Easter Basket and Lily to the Seven Pines Emmaus residents on Easter Sunday.

We send greetings and prayers for good health to all of Ivy Chapel's family.

PLANT SALE

We have made the following plans with Duever Nursery for the Plant Sale which was to have been on May 3rd at Ivy Chapel. Judy Yung of Duever Nursery has very generously offered to deliver pre-ordered plants to your home. She will call you to tell you that she is coming and will leave the plants on your front porch or driveway without any contact with you. Some plants will be delivered by Kay Kreder in the same manner. The plants would be delivered around the May 3rd date, possibly a few days before or after. No additional charge for delivery—it's a sign of the times (a tip for Judy is fine if you want).

To order the plants, fill out the forms and e-mail one to JoAnn Moody jmoodywhc@aol.com who is collecting the money and one to Kay Kreder erkreder@gmail.com The form for the Nursery with any special instructions about delivery must be printed out and mailed to:

Duever Nursery 871 N. Mason Rd. Creve Coeur. MO 63141 Attn: Judy Yung

The deadline for pre-orders is April 26th, 2020.

When you receive your plants, a check made out to Ivy Chapel for the total amount (for both the Nursery and Ivy) you have ordered should be sent to:

Jo Ann Moody 18515 Wild Horse Creek Rd. Chesterfield. MO 63005

(you could also send the completed order forms with your check instead of e-mailing to JoAnn if you prefer).

Ivy Chapel's share of the proceeds from the sale will be divided equally between Unleashing Potential (formerly UCC Neighborhood Houses) and Fantastic Finds which raises funds for the St. Louis Assistance League.

We hope everyone is doing well and that growing some plants will give us a sense of normalcy. Any questions about this procedure you can call Kay at 314-878-5296.



Jo Ann Moody Rory Winship Rich, Sarah Heend Julie Mc Allister, HELP NEEDED



