

The Ivy Vine



July 2020



Dan Wilson, Pastor
pastordan@ivy-chapel.org

ON A NEW FRONTIER

The first half of the year 2020 has brought enormous change. While we may not like this, change has arrived. It is here.

Consider what spiritual leader Henri Nouwen has to say, “Let us not underestimate how hard it is to be compassionate. Compassion is hard because it requires the inner disposition to go with others to places where they are weak, vulnerable, lonely, and broken. But this is not our spontaneous response to suffering. What we desire most is to do away with suffering by fleeing from it or finding a quick cure for it.” Yes, living with compassion for the suffering of others is extremely difficult. Living a caring, unselfish life is our eternal calling as God’s people.

In this day and age, people everywhere are being confronted with the necessities of change. Many times, our first inclination with regard to change is also to flee or to find a quick fix. Yet this will no longer work. Change is here, and it is here to stay.

How is it that the Book of Genesis opens? “In the beginning,....”

How is it that the Gospel of John opens? “In the beginning,....”

This is where you and I find ourselves now. We are familiar with the tagline—[#InThisTogether](#).

This very day, the world is in a position where every

human being is being called on to live differently than we lived before the COVID-19 Pandemic. Together, we are “in the beginning” phase of a different and new future. We are in this for the long haul. Yes, we are in this together.

A highly influential figure of his day, Nicodemus approached Jesus for answers. Jesus blew Nicodemus’ mind telling him, “Truly, truly, I tell you, no one can see the Realm of God without being born anew... What is born of flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born anew.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” (John 3:3, 6-8)

What then are we to do in 2020? As Scripture conveys, people down through history have asked God, “What are we to do?” Human beings have been beside themselves in trying moments before. The faithful and wise ones appealed to God for guidance. So may we.

My friends, the potential is here for us to perceive these as overwhelming times which dis-courage us. But guess what? We can look at this another way. You and I may regard these as new and exciting

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times which encourage us!

Through a Spirit-borne prophet, God says, "See, I am doing a new thing!" (Isaiah 43:19)

Over the course of my personal lifetime, again and again, I have heard, "The Church needs renewal." I suspect something similar is true for you. God's Church (with a capital 'C') does need to change. You and I have been aware of this need for decades. Formerly, taking the initiative was largely up to us. Now, this is no longer true. In a sense, events of 2020 already have done this. The present condition of the world is the initiative! Today, instead of having an option to change, we are being compelled to change! In some ways, this feels unexpected and unwelcome, frightening and daunting. However, this global shift truly is... 'a gift.'

There's no need for us to get into a debate about whether or not God caused this to happen. The present-day world is living a new reality. That's a fact.

As sacred Scripture informs us, "**You have been born anew**, not of perishable seed but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God." (1 Peter 1:23)

Begin. And begin. And begin **anew**...

We may have moments when we despair that we cannot start over. We can come up with unlimited excuses, such as: my plate is already full; not now; I'm too tired; I'm too frustrated; I just can't at this stage of my life; this is all way too much; etc.

And yet, my friends, remember this. We can. You and I and every human being alive can begin anew.

How can I say this?

God gives us repeated examples throughout the Holy Scriptures of people feeling forlorn, exhausted, hopeless. They take their dilemmas to God. *With God's help*, these very same people rise up and carry on into a promising, new day. How? *With God's help*. That's it? That can't be all, can it?! We need more.

Nope. Nothing more is needed. *God's help*. That's all you need. The People Israel have a Hebrew word acknowledging this: "Dayenu." This simply means, "Enough." Even when it feels as though there is no possible way; especially when it feels as though there is no possible way—*with God's help*, we can. "Dayenu." God's help is enough.

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Our Sympathies...

...to the family and friends of *Pauline Harris*, a resident of Seven Pines, who passed on to life eternal in March. Pauline's gentle smile was always a welcome sight in the sanctuary. Her death was not the result of COVID-19 but other residents and staff there are struggling with their new normal. Please include our Emmaus friends in your prayers.

...to his wife, Rosalie, family and friends of Ray Buente, who departed this life to life eternal June 22, 2020. He and Rosalie were members at Ivy Chapel and moved to Texas to be closer to their son. Many Ivy Chapel members stayed in touch over the years after they moved.

UPDATE ON IVY CHAPEL UCC RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

At the June 15 Council meeting, the Board of Deacons reported on their June 8 and June 10 meetings in which the primary focus was identifying factors we must address prior to implementing any re-opening of Ivy Chapel UCC for in person gatherings or activities. These two meetings encompassed in-depth, thorough discussion of health concerns which must be addressed in advance to make the church facility safe for even our most vulnerable as we once again welcome people inside our doors for church functions. Among the topics included were cleaning and sanitizing the physical facilities, hand sanitizing stations, mandatory wearing of face masks, travel paths, alternative methods of offering collection and celebration of Holy Communion, and what method we will use to continue online "broadcasts" to those who are not comfortable/able to join the congregation at Ivy Chapel UCC.

The Deacons will observe as St. Louis County opens and see where the Coronavirus curve goes. The Deacons will evaluate the curve, current CDC and STL County recommendations and revisit a soft opening date at their July 6 meeting. On July 20, the Board of Deacons

(Update...Response to COVID-19 Pandemic continued on page 6)



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



SUNDAY SCHOOL RESOURCES AND YOUTH DEVOTIONS

I hope you have all been receiving the Sunday School resources and devotions that I have been sending. Even though we can't get together, I like to keep in touch with you in this way weekly to help you to maintain a link to our Ivy Chapel community and for you to grow in your faith. I want you to know that we are thinking of you, that we miss being with you and that we care about you.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL UPDATE

With the uncertainty during this time, our VBS program is all speculation at this point. More information will be coming as available.

LOOKING AHEAD: At this point we don't know what the future holds for resuming in-person worship at Ivy Chapel. When the Council has made a decision to safely reestablish in-person worship with appropriate safeguards, the Children's Message and Sunday School program will change accordingly. Several options are being considered such as: children remaining with their families during worship, Children's Message with children remaining in the pews, social distancing Sunday School in Fellowship Hall. These things will be discussed and decided as we progress in our reopening schedule.

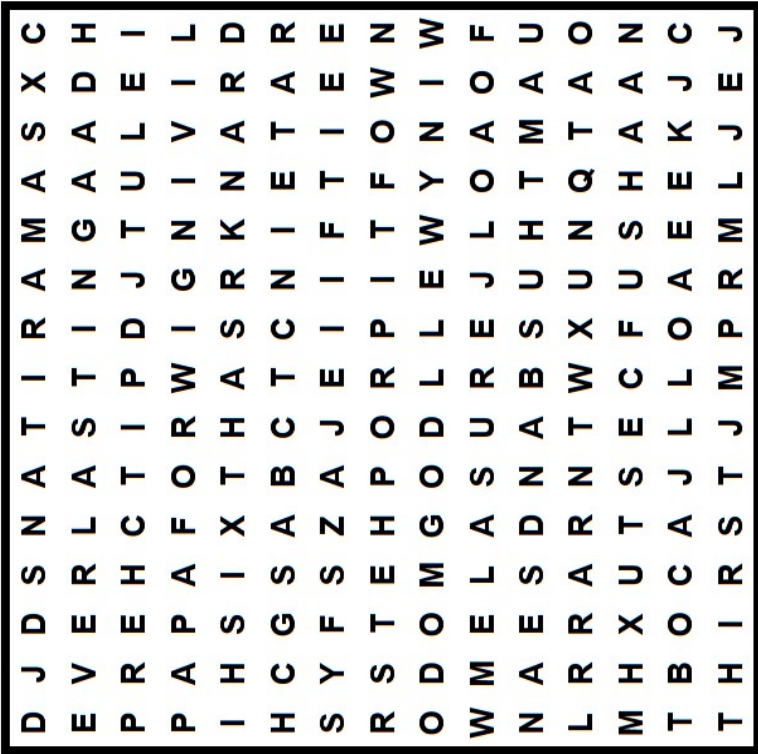
The Youth Program will also be changing based on pandemic conditions. We ask for your patience during this time of gathering information as well as ongoing discussion and discovery.

***Join us for Ivy Chapel UCC Virtual Worship
each Sunday on YouTube.***



The Woman at the Well

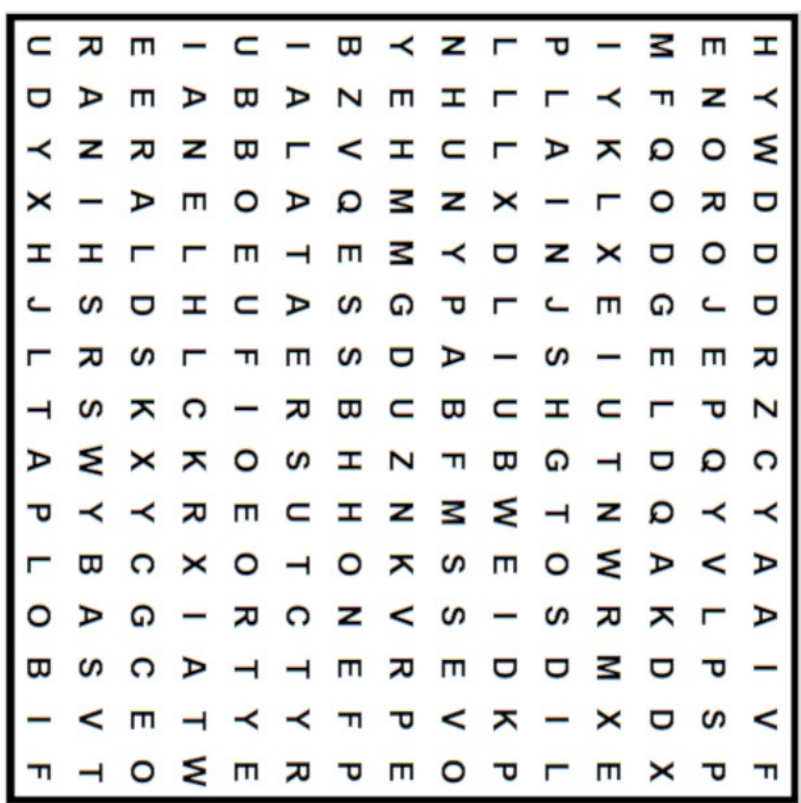
<https://biblepuzzles.com>



- CATTLE HOUR PROPHET
- CHILDREN HUSBANDS SALVATION
- CHRIST JACOB SAMARITAN
- CITY JERUSALEM SAT
- DEEP JESUS SIXTH
- DISCIPLES JEWS SPIRIT
- DRANK LIFE SYCHAR
- DRINK LIVING THIRST
- EVERLASTING MEAT WATER
- FATHER MESSIAH WEARIED
- GIFT MOUNTAIN WELL
- GOD PITCHER WOMAN

The Tower of Babel

<https://biblepuzzles.com>



- Babel Lord
- Bricks One
- Build People
- City Plain
- Confused Scattered
- Earth Settled
- God Shinar
- Heaven Stone
- Land Tower
- Language Words

The Note

Who would have known three months ago that we would still be socially distancing from each other? I am eagerly anticipating the day when we gather together again. I know we are all walking down the same path, but I am finding people to be easier agitated and angry with each other. I think these three months in the times of social distancing is making us all socially awkward. Please remember, we are all going through this together. Before casting judgement on others, reach out to them.

The DiVesta clan is doing alright. Aaron and I are very much missing our summer shows and concerts. The boys are nervous about next school year and missing their friends. Our neighborhood pool is opening with an abundance of precautions. So, I'm hopeful the boys will be able to make some neighborhood friends this summer to ease their loneliness. The boys and I have already made a couple trips to my parents' house in the Ozarks. Don't worry! No pool parties for me! Aaron is back to work mostly working with tubas so he's been a little sore.

Do you usually perform a solo for worship during the summer? Are you interested in playing or singing? If so, please let me know. We would love to have you. I am happy to work with you to make it happen. I can send a recording and you can sing with it. You can perform solo and send in a video. Or, we can meet at church to record. Let me know your thoughts! I look forward to working with you all again, and I am 100% ok with any precautions you want to take.

I wanted to send a reminder that I am still accepting congregation choice hymns. Feel free to shoot me an email with your favorite hymn! I'd love to record it for you. Feel free to shoot me an email even if you don't

have a favorite hymn. I sure do miss talking with you guys. Also, if you have any request or thing to chat with me about, please send me an email. I am still teaching the majority of my lessons so I am often unavailable in the evenings



Anna DiVesta-Minister of Music
music@ivy Chapel.org



Christian Education VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Ivy Chapel's Vacation Bible School is "on hold" at this time. As we move forward and look into resuming in person activities at Ivy Chapel, we will make decisions accordingly. In the event that we are able to put together a VBS, the format will change. More details will follow if and when we decide to hold Vacation Bible School at all this year.



June Council Lifted Up:

- ♥ **Gary Lindhorst** and **Pastor Dan** for working with the Juniper Root Preschool Director toward getting their re-occupancy permit approved.
- ♥ **Frank Purviance** for all of his work with the insurance company to finally get the burglary claim resolved.

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN CHOICE

Have a favorite hymn? Want to hear it at church? Feel free to e-mail your suggestions to Anna DiVesta at music@ivy Chapel.org and she will try to use them in an upcoming worship service.

or Saturdays. However, if you send me an email, we can talk on the phone, schedule a zoom meeting or just chat over email. My "virtual" door is always open. Man, I have missed you all so much.

Until next time.. Love is love and black lives matter.

Anna DiVesta
314-609-0865

www.AnnaDiVesta.com

Fellowship

Ivy Chapel is having a **Church Social Distancing Tailgate** July 26, from 5 pm to 7 pm. Staying home for so long can be difficult, and we'd love to offer a safe way for you to reconnect with your friends and family at church. Please join us at the church parking lot for some mingling and snacks! Individually packaged drinks and snacks will be provided at the pavilion, but of course feel free to bring your beverage and food of choice!

Masks are required (and bandanas and/or masks can be supplies if you don't have one) unless you are eating or drinking. The bathrooms at church will be open for use with hand sanitizing stations to use on your way in. We ask everyone who attends to stay at least six feet away from anyone who isn't a part of your social distancing circle. Many members of the church are vulnerable during the pandemic, so we'd like to be as responsible as we can in looking out for their safety while also providing a fun social experience!

If you have any questions please email **Tara Lowry** (taralowry96@gmail.com). We hope to see you there!

(On A New Frontier continued from page 2)

So here we go. Together, we are off into the wild, blue yonder! Off into a great unknown, an exciting, new frontier!

What will the future look like? Who can God's Church become? How is God calling you and me to live as Christ's followers in the frontier ahead?

Let this biblical promise encourage us for the journey ahead. "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything from before has passed away; see, everything has become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

My friends, we can be born anew.

Thanks be to God, **we are born anew!**

A new frontier is ahead,
Pastor Dan

Mary ^{plus} Martha Womens Group

The **Mary and Martha Women's Group** did not meet in June since Ivy Chapel Activities were closed due to the Corona virus. We hope to be able to meet in July.

We are considering how we might have a Dessert for A Dollar Bake Sale in August following the Covid 19 Guide lines. We will have to evaluate that later.

TEAM LEADERS WANTED

AFTER THREE YEARS OF ORGANIZING THE FEBRUARY FUNDRAISERS, BRUCE AND JANET WILKING ARE STEPPING DOWN.

If you think you would be interested in organizing a 2021 Spaghetti Dinner, they will be happy to discuss it with you and supply you with all the information you would need to have a successful event (including secret recipes). *Feel free to give **Bruce and Janet Wilking** a call.*



(Update...Response to COVID-19 Pandemic continued from page 2)

recommendations will be presented to Council.

In the coming weeks, the worship leaders who have been working together to provide the virtual worship services will be exploring how to continue providing a virtual worship experience to those folks who will not be physically present at church to participate in worship.

Your patience and support are appreciated as we continue on this journey together.

Submitted on behalf of Ivy Chapel UCC Council,
Sue Wilson, Board of Deacons Council Rep.

Scripture & Worship

JULY 5~FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45:10-17,
Solomon: 2:8-13, Zechariah 9:9-12, Psalm 145:8-14,
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

JULY 12~SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Genesis 25:19-34, Psalm 119:105-112,
Isaiah 55:10-13, Psalm 65:1-13, Romans 8:1-11,
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

JULY 19~SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Genesis 28:1-19a, Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24,
Solomon 12:13, 16-19 or Isaiah 44:6-8,
Romans 8:12-25, Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

JULY 26 EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Genesis 29:15-28, Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or Psalm 128,
1 Kings 3:5-12, Psalm 119:129-136, Romans 8:26-39,
Matthew 13:31-34-52

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

DID YOU KNOW?

“TOWER OF BABEL” IS NOT IN THE BIBLE?

The phrase *Tower of Babel* was not recorded anywhere in the Bible. Rather, in Genesis 11:4-5 “...let us build us a **city** and a **tower**, whose top may reach unto the heaven, that we may get us a name, lest we be scattered upon the whole earth. But the Lord came down, to see the **city** and **tower** which the sons of men built.”

The word, “Babel” (translated from Hebrew) is in Genesis 11:9 “Therefore the name of it was called **Babel**, because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth: from thence then did the Lord scatter them upon all the earth.”

It is believed that king Nimrod ruled the land that was at first called Shinar. The area has had many names; Assyria, Babylonia and Mesopotamia. It covered land from the shores of the Gulf of Omar to the shores of the Mediterranean Sea; which are now countries such as Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon. Nimrod was the great grand-son of Noah, through his grand-father Ham, and father Chush. “And Cush begat Nimrod, who began to be mighty in the earth.” 1 Chronicles 1:10.

Learn more by reading Genesis chapters 10-11, Micah 5:6.
<http://jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/13582-shinar>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tower_of_Babel
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nimrod>

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

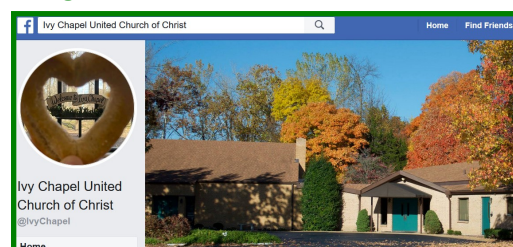
2015 Wilson Ridge Lane

Chesterfield, MO 63005




HOW ARE YOU CONNECTING WITH YOUR IVY CHAPEL FAMILY?

From phone calls to zoom meetings and other online connections (including of course, the weekly virtual worship), it has been an unusual challenge to keep in touch over the past few months. How have you been keeping in touch? It might be fun to share your thoughts, ideas and yes, photos, as part of the annual slideshow, perhaps on the Ivy Facebook page or in the Ivy Vine. Snap a photo or selfie of yourself in a meeting or watching virtual worship and send it to Rich Heend, rhend@gmail.com. Feel free to be creative!






With God's Blessings

Happy Anniversary to... 

7/23/2000 Robert and Diane Droege

Happy Birthday to... 

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1 | Ronn Foster | 23 | Tyler Ray |
| 10 | Ashwath Sampath | | Elizabeth Schurwan |
| 12 | Bob De Fer | 24 | Jessica Kempa |
| 14 | Malvika Sampath | 28 | Bill Pasia |
| 18 | Stephen Lowry | 30 | Jack Litzinger |
| 20 | Jim Sheahan | 31 | Cole Winship |
| 21 | Christopher Moody | | |

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: ivychapelucc@ivychapel.org

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

➤ **NEED GIVING STATEMENT:** Peter LaSalle 636-519-0823. ➤ **BORROW** Chairs/Tables: Ralph Weiland 314-878-3230.

JUL Care Corps LDR-Diane Droege 314-369-6349
AUG Care Corps LDR-Diann Sheahan 314-275-2913

CO-LDR-Celeste Tichy 636-391-9096
CO-LDR-Ann Molyneaux 314-878-0966

ASSISTING IN LAY MINISTRY		Please find YOUR Name.			Reminders are sent each Tuesday.	
DATE	NURSERY	ACOLYTE/ASSISTANT	GREETERS	USHERS	LITURGIST	COFFEE
July 5	Jo Ann Moody	Miller DiVesta	Ron, Dottie Foster	Peter LaSalle,	Peter LaSalle	Gail Thoele,
Jul 12	Sally Dodge	Rory Winship Holly Winship		John Weiland		Heend Family
Jul 19	Jo Ann Moody	Gregory	Sally Dodge	Michael Tichy		Lauer Family
Jul 26	Sally Dodge	Charlie DiVesta			Emily Kettler	Foster Family

**Until further notice, all
Ivy Chapel United Church of Christ
"in-person" activities, events, gatherings and
"in-person" worship services**

are suspended. For daily spiritual nourishment; we invite you to subscribe free of charge to our United Church of Christ StillSpeaking Daily Devotional at www.ucc.org/daily_devotional



Created by the StillSpeaking Writers' Group

CHARITIES WE SERVE:

LIONS CLUB recycles old eyeglasses: An orange collection basket in the office or in the wall pocket next to the office door.



SHOECREW PROJECT: Place your unwanted footwear in the white box/bag in the cloak room. www.shoecrewwater.org

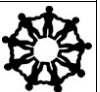


INSTITUTO EL REY: Explore the website how YOU can help students in rural northern Honduras pursue their dreams. www.ierschool.org



Please place items on the designated shelves in the cloak room for these local charities.


CIRCLE OF CONCERN A Shopping and monthly needs List is on Fellowship Hall bulletin board. Call 636-861-2623 or visit www.circleofconcern.org



Isaiah 58 Ministries donations of food, clothing, plastic bags/egg cartons—place in plastic grocery bags on marked shelves in the coatroom. **Mark bags with "Isaiah 58." Bag of Blessings** sheet on Fellowship Hall bulletin board. www.i58ministries.org



RITENOUR CO-CARE FOOD PANTRY Collects food and personal care items. www.ritenourcocare.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 AA 12pm Anna DiVesta 5-9pm no other reservations	3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY AA 10:30am Anna DiVesta 12-2pm no other reservations
<p>Until further notice, all Ivy Chapel United Church of Christ "in-person" activities, events, gatherings and "in-person" worship services are suspended.</p>						
<p>VIRTUAL WORSHIP Please take part and encourage others to participate in Ivy Chapel UCC "virtual worship" options. "Tune in", and invite God to nourish your soul.</p> <p>Simple ways to access them are: Ivy Chapel UCC www.ivychapel.org At Facebook www.facebook.com/ivychapel At YouTube www.youtube.com/channel/UCo4zrr6OBTyPraq-2ATILSQ</p> <p>For daily <i>spiritual nourishment</i>; we invite you to subscribe free of charge to our United Church of Christ</p> <p>STILLSPEAKING DAILY DEVOTIONAL at www.ucc.org/daily_devotional</p> 						
<p>DD DAILY DEVOTIONAL Created by the StillSpeaking Writers' Group</p>						

In August 19th Men's Lunch 11:30am @ Granite City Food and Brewery

30th Highway Clean-up Please consider helping picking up trash along a designated section of North Woods Mill Road in the new year of 2020. Please plan on helping on any or all of the following days after Coffee Hour: November 8. Be sure to bring gloves, a change of cloths and shoes.

AA=Alcoholics Anonymous	CA=Christian Action	FH = Fellowship Hall	KYP=KEEPING YOU POSTED	JRWP=JUNIPER ROOT WOODLAND PRESCHOOL
CC=Chancel Choir	CE=Christian Education	LL=LOWER LEVEL	LS=THE LORD'S SUPPER	NURSERY=NY
EMMP=Eric Moody Memorial Pavilion		M&M GRP=MARY AND MARTHA WOMEN'S GROUP		PP=PURPLE PAGES
	Tuesday JRWP 9am-12pm	Wednesday JRWP 9am-12pm	Thursday JRWP 9am-12pm	SS=SUNDAY SCHOOL