



Dan Wilson, Pastor
pastordan@ivy-chapel.org

Trust in a Merciful God

Our Savior Jesus teaches many parables. One classic is the Parable of the Good Samaritan. This is one of the rare Gospel passages that occurs only once in all of Holy Scripture. It is told by Christ in Luke 10:25-37. This parable is a response to a lawyer's two test questions:

- (1) "Teacher, what must I do to inherit life eternal?"
- (2) "And who is my neighbor?"

Christ tells his parable and concludes by asking the lawyer, "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the one who fell into the hands of the robbers?"

The lawyer replies, "The one who showed **mercy**."

At last, Christ sends the lawyer off with this command, "Go, and do likewise."

The character of God is **merciful**. The calling of our Savior Jesus Christ is for all people to live as reflections of God: "Love your enemies; do good; and lend, expecting nothing in return... and you will be children of the Most High; for God is kind even to the ungrateful and the wicked. **Be merciful, just as your God is merciful.**" (Luke 6:36)

In your impatience and in your fatigue, be merciful.
 Be merciful,
 just as your God is merciful.
 God will guide us.
 God's magnificence is far, far greater than we are!

Jane E. Vennard writes, "Usually the word discern is a verb.... However, if it is a noun, discernment becomes a gift that we receive. Praying for discernment becomes a stance in life, a way of being, a readiness of heart that calls us to live with all senses awake, heart open, and hands unclenched ready to receive. Living our prayers for discernment calls us to humility. Humility does not come from being humiliated by others or from focus on our faults, wounds and sins. True

humility develops as we draw closer to God, for God's greatness illuminates our smallness, and in God's wholeness we sense our incompleteness. Recognizing our smallness and our dependence on God, we are open to guidance. As the psalmist wrote: God 'leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble God's way' (Psalm 25:9).

Humility is necessary for discernment because to be humble in heart means that we will recognize the limits of our own knowledge and turn to God for guidance.... When we are hopeful and **trust in a merciful God**, we can wait for God's love to guide us.... Mistakes, uncertainty, ambiguity, and

personal desires are all part of discerning the will of God.... The most we can do is take a first hesitant step in a direction that feels right, then pause and ask ourselves if this movement is from love, with love, toward love. God's love for us and our love for God, for ourselves, for our neighbors, and for the world are at the heart of discernment." (Embracing the World: Praying for Justice and Peace, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 2003)

Look at the current state of the world, my friends. So much has gone off track in recent months. Mercy me! These days, the extent of our human limitations is thoroughly frustrating. But let's consider the following. Could we possibly welcome our present-day limitations as indicators of a larger, precious truth? God's magnificence is far, far greater than we are!

An anthology called Bits and Pieces quotes Sylvia Robinson: "Some think it's holding on that makes one strong; sometimes it's letting go."

Presently, you and I and every human being on Earth are forging ahead on this expansive, new frontier of the COVID-19 pandemic. There is much that we do not yet know. However, we do know this: God or Maker dearly loves and cares for all creation. From generation to generation, God Most High creates and blesses new life! (Exodus 3:15; Psalm 79:13; Daniel 4:3; Isaiah 34:17; Lamentations 5:19; Luke 1:50)

Hard to believe, isn't it?! After months' of dedicated, global effort to rein in COVID-19, untold aspects of our everyday lives are still up in the air. With so much of life in flux, we have come to value simple things more than ever. For the time being, there remain so many parts of our lives that we cannot resume. And yet—now, as always—you and I are able to claim the foundation of our faith.

What is this foundation? Holy Scripture declares, "For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 3:11 NRSV) Yes, as the time-honored hymn celebrates, "The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord." Not only is this the 'institutional' Church's foundation, but Jesus Christ is the foundation of each one of our individual lives. Thank God for this bedrock!

We have a sure foundation. May this be the gift that we receive. Pray for discernment, and God will bless you with readiness to receive. Take some pressure off of yourself. We do not need to serve as our own foundation. We already have a foundation—Jesus Christ.

(Trust in a merciful God continued on page 6)

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

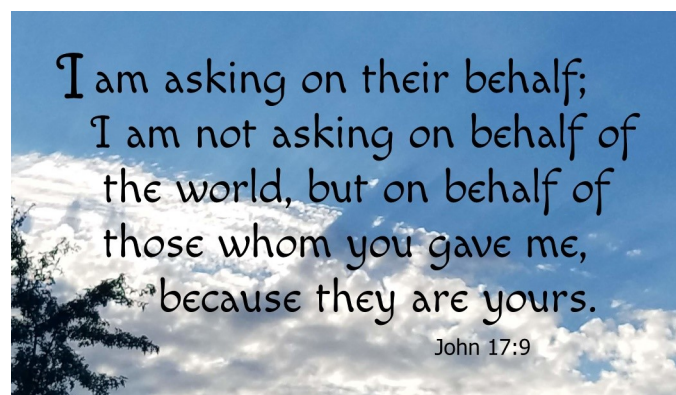
**2015 Wilson Ridge Lane
Chesterfield, MO 63005**

'POSTPONED' BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Our annual Ivy Chapel UCC Blessing of the Animals is postponed. This event will not take place in September. We will consider celebrating a Blessing of the Animals at a future date. This is yet to be determined. We may or may not reschedule at a later, more favorable, safe date. Thank you for your understanding and your support.

Aug Council Lifted Up:

- ♥ **Everyone** who contributed to the successful Isaiah 58 Back-to-School event.
- ♥ **Don Wolf's** and **Rich Heend's** work to boost the internet signal to support future live streaming worship services.
- ♥ **Linda Lowry** for her continued and consistent contact with Ivy Chapel's youth throughout these social distancing times.
- ♥ **Nancy Marston** for her efforts to check in with congregation members during this time.





To all of our Ivy Chapel UCC youth. It's a time of new beginnings. I wish for all of you a safe and successful 2020-21 school year. As you begin a new school year, in a different and challenging way, I am keeping you and your families in my thoughts and prayers. I miss you all.

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



RALLY DAY 2020

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

We were unable to have our traditional "Rally Day" celebration at Ivy Chapel this year. But we wanted to acknowledge that all of you have reached a new milestone in your lives – a new school year. Our theme this year reminds us that God is with us always, whether we are in an actual school building, in our homes, worshipping in our sanctuary or worshipping in our family rooms. God is with us. Be not afraid, be strong!

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. Please keep in touch!

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.

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 Virtual Worship with Children's Message each Sunday on YouTube.

A WORDS

contributed by Amanda Deleanu

A A C E L D A M A H A R B A
N R E D N A X E L A A A A M
O A H N E A L S R L A B B L O
I M P O L B E E P A B R S P L
N A O M I O B T X B E A A H A
T I H L B M A I T A D M L A H
L C T A A I D K S S N A O E S
I A I M B N U E Y T E D M U I
A B H I Y A L L H E G L R S B
G I A A C T L A T R O E A I A
I A G R S I A M E N U K L P A
B T A O S O M A M S A R O N
A H P D T N R B A D A N I B A
E A E A C K S H T N A M A D A
O R E T A G A B I M E L E C H

Aaron Abinadab Adoraim Alabaster Amen
Abednego Abishalom Adullam Alexander Amethyst
Abel Abomination Agape Alexandria Amos
Abiathar Abraham Agate Almond Anoint
Abigail Absalom Alphaeus Apostles
Abilene Acel dama Ahab Amalekites Aramaic
Abimelech Acts Ahasuerus Ark
Adamant Ahithophel Akeldama

GIVING THE LORD MORE OF MY TIME

contributed by Debbie

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

Calling Friends Matthew Sing
Commitment Greeting Minister Solider
Communing Help others More time Studying
Corinthians Home studies Obey Tithe
Encourage Joyful Offering Unity
Evangelize Leadership Scriptures Vineyard
Faithful Light shine Send cards Worship
Fellowship Lord Serving

MYSTERY WORD PUZZLE Find and mark out or circle each word. After you've found all words, find the leftover letters to form the mystery word. Find mystery words on page 8.

(borrowed from <https://www.christianbiblereference.org/wordsearch.htm>)

The Note

Time for being during the Coronavirus pandemic seems to be moving at warp speed. In my research, it shows I am not alone. However, it also says that some people experience the opposite. It reminds me of one of my all time favorite lines from "Matilda" the musical:

Have you ever wondered, well I have.

About how when I say, say red, for example.

There's no way of knowing if red

Means the same thing in your head

As red means in my head. When someone says red

Brilliant I tell you. Something that I've never really thought about, but I find myself wondering things like this often during the pandemic. Maybe, it's because I'm removed from people, and I find myself wondering about other people more? Maybe it's because there was a study released this spring that some people do not have an inner dialogue. Maybe, it's because some people say cilantro tastes like soap. Everyone has a different experience in life even regarding simple things like the color red or that cilantro is delicious. This is such a divisive time in our history: our history as a country and our history as humanity. I can preach on and on about being kind, but man, I'm just so sad these days. It hurts to not be near people. It is hurting myself and my children, but more than that, it hurts to see people treat other people so poorly. How did we even get here? Remember, be like Jesus. Jesus didn't need to agree with someone to be kind to them.

Well. It is September. In a normal year (what is normal anymore, right?), choir would be resuming soon. We would already be rehearsing for our first Sunday back in the loft. How I enjoyed that exciting time. I am missing the choir and fellowship even more these days. The feeling of missing something is pretty strong. As you know, the choir usually takes the summer off, so it wasn't so unusual to not have the choir members around. Now, it is a big gaping hole in my life. My feelings aside, the choir will not be able to meet for a while so we will continue on with our special music which means I really need more volunteers for special music. I am up for any ideas. We have been coVid conscience here in the DiVesta household, but I am happy to use whatever precautions



Anna DiVesta-Minister of Music

music@ivy-chapel.org

A NOTE FROM THE BOARD OF DEACONS

The Deacons met twice during August to discuss worship going forward in the pandemic. We met with the worship team and the "tech team" (those folks who video, upload, download, splice and post our worship services) to discuss how we will continue working together toward the time we will be able to worship safely in person at Ivy Chapel. Thank you for your patience as we all navigate the unknown together. We are working together toward the goal of safely gathering for in-person worship.



Almost 6 months of social distancing couldn't stop **IVY CHAPEL** from taking action to support **Isaiah 58 Ministries' Back to School** annual fundraiser!

From online shopping to in-person sales to donations...together we collected more than 400 items for our friends at Isaiah 58.

169 BOXES OF MARKERS

150 PAIRS OF SOCKS

106 PAIRS OF UNDERWEAR

Plus~ \$100+ FOR ADDITIONAL BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPORT!



Students heading back to class – in-school and at home – will benefit from our gifts.

Thank you for **TAKING ACTION!**

Mary and Martha Womens Group

The Mary and Martha Women's Group will not meet in September. One of our group, **Lee Headrick**, will be turning 90 on September 15th and I'm sure would enjoy a card from Church Members.

will make you feel comfortable. Please feel free to email or call at any time with any suggestions. In the meantime, I hope you are enjoying our online virtual worship. I cannot wait until the day we are able to meet in person. All my love to you all.

Until next time, **Anna DiVesta**

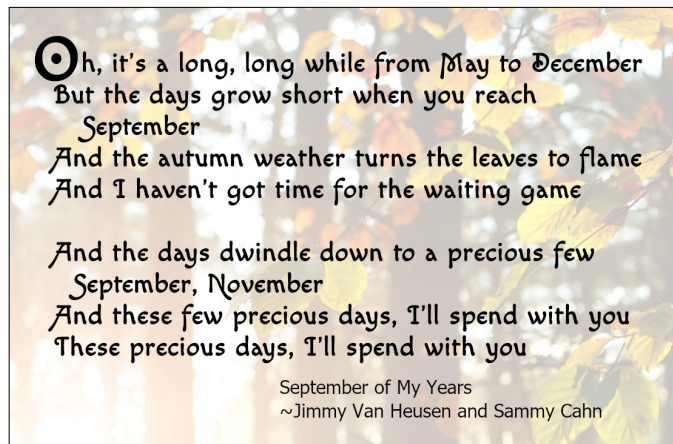
314-609-0865

www.AnnaDiVesta.com

RUMMAGE SALE MOVING TO SPRING 2021

With continued uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 and ongoing social distancing rules, the decision has been made to postpone the intended rummage sale to a future date, most likely spring of 2021. Once the new date is known, it will be communicated and planning recommenced.

I know many people have done "COVID cleaning" the last few months with the intent of donating their treasures to Ivy Chapel's rummage sale. If you cannot hold on to them until spring, several organizations are accepting donations again. Please do not bring your items to Ivy Chapel until advised, as there is not enough room to store the items.



(Trust in a merciful God continued from page 2)

Receive Jesus Christ. From love, with love, toward love; be merciful. In this time of widespread uncertainties, be merciful. During this deadly, viral pandemic, be merciful. In your highs and in your lows, be merciful. In your doubts and in your fears, be merciful. In your impatience and in your fatigue, be merciful. **Be merciful, just as your God is merciful.** God will guide us. God's magnificence is far, far greater than we are! Live by what Sylvia Robinson contends, "Sometimes what makes one strong is letting go!" Let go, and let God.



***Trust in a merciful God,
Pastor Dan***

"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 3:11 New Living Translation)

TOTENFEST

Sunday, November 1st

You will recall one of the traditions of our forebears in Christian faith is the celebration of "Totenfest" (German for 'The Festival of the Dead'). Ivy Chapel will share together in this sacred ritual. We'll observe "Totenfest" during worship on November 1st by reading the names aloud, of our loved ones, whom we have lost this past year.

➤ ***By Sunday, October 18th***

Mail this to: Dan Wilson

595 McBride Pointe Drive

Wildwood, MO 63011

OR email him: pastordan@ivychapel.org

PLEASE PROVIDE:

(1) The NAME OF LOVED ONE:

(2) YOUR RELATIONSHIP to the deceased:

Thank you.

Scripture & Worship

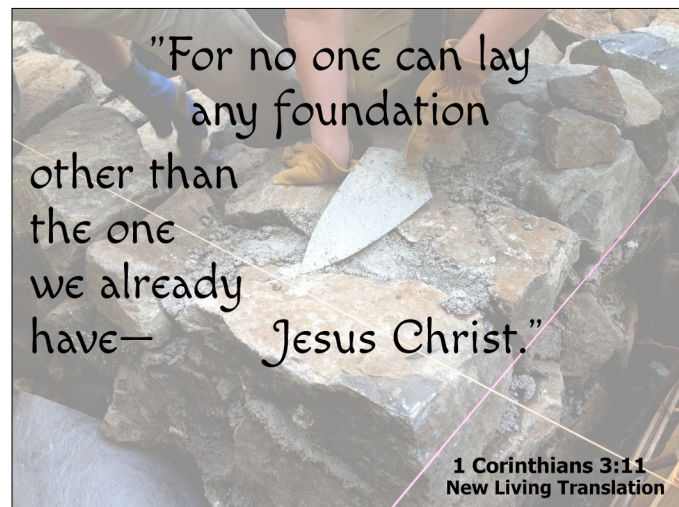
SEPT. 6~14th Sun. aft Pentecost: Exodus 12:1-14,
Psalm 149, Ezekiel 33:7-11, Psalm 119:33-40,
Romans 13:8-14, Matthew 18:15-20

SEPT. 13~15th Sun. aft Pentecost: Exodus 14:19-31,
Psalm 114, Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21,
Genesis 50:15-21, Psalm 103:1-13, Romans 14:1-12,
Matthew 18:21-35

SEPT. 20~16th Sunday aft Pentecost: Exodus 16:2-15,
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45, Jonah 3:10-4:11,
Psalm 145:1-8, Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16

SEPT. 27~17th Sun. aft Pentecost: Exodus 17:1-7,
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16, Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32,
Psalm 25:1-9, Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21:23-32

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



CONNECT WITH YOUR FAMILY, THE IVY CHAPEL FAMILY

It's been a challenge to keep in touch over these past months, from phone calls to zoom meetings and other online connections (even weekly virtual worship). It might be fun to share your thoughts, ideas and yes, photos on the Ivy Chapel 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, rheend@gmail.com.

Trustees

August was a busy month for the Trustees. The Memorial Garden is looking much better after a dead tree was removed and the entire north end of the walk was rebuilt. The Church's exterior appearance has also been improved by cutting out and rebuilding the rusted exterior door frame leading to Sanctuary.

In addition, the following actions have been undertaken by the Trustees:

- Tree branches were removed from playground area
- Brush was removed on the north side of the Lower Parking lot
- The Lower Parking lot was heavily damaged by the recent rainstorm. Inquiries are being made about repairs.
- All the lower level furnaces and hot water tank have new flu pipes. Old ones were rusted out. The chimney has also been lined with a stainless steel pipe. Chimney is going to be tuck pointed with a chimney cap to complete the work.
- Fire Alarm system was inspected by Hackett Security
- Discussions continue with John Beal ref: Roof leak
- Masks and hand sanitizer dispensers have been acquired in anticipation of in-person Sunday services.





POSTPONED

NO BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



With God's Blessings

Happy Anniversary to... 

Happy Birthday to... 

9/08/2010 Anna and Aaron DiVesta
9/11/1982 Gary and Sue Lindhorst
9/23/2006 Trish and Mark Baker
9/24/1996 Curt and Jennifer Wintrose
9/28/1996 Frank Pfau and Beth Noonan

3 Sarah Heend
Frank Purviance
4 Gail Thoele
6 Danny Faust
7 Stuart Kirk
11 Calvin Heend

15 "Lee" Lelia Headrick
Linda Lowry
17 Holly Doris Winship
28 Richard Heend
Jo Ann Moody
30 Mark Gerdes

From Page 4 Mystery Word Puzzle:

Giving the Lord More of My Time: ATTEND SERVICES
A Words: APOCALYPSE

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.

SEP Care Corps LDR-Kathryn Kuntzman 636-391-8468
OCT Care Corps LDR-Nancy Litzinger 314-434-4162

CO-LDR-Valerie Waterman 636-391-9886
CO-LDR-Jennifer Noonan 314-439-0264

DATE	NURSERY	ACOLYTE/ASSISTANT	GREETERS	USHERS	LITURGIST	COFFEE
<p>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</p>						
				 DAILY DEVOTIONAL <small>Created by the StillSpeaking Writers' Group</small>		

CHARITIES WE SERVE:

LIONS CLUB recycles old eyeglasses: Place frames and lenses (no case) in the orange collection basket in the office or in the wall pocket next to the office door.



SHOECREW PROJECT: Place your unwanted (no holes or loose soles please) 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 AA S.O.S 10-11am	2 CC Rehearsal 7pm no other reservations	3 AA 12pm Anna DiVesta 5-9pm no other reservations CE MTG 7PM	4	5 AA 10:30am
6 14th S aft Pentecost-grn	7 Labor Day Office Closed	8	9	10	11	12
9am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship/SS Shannon Ferrell Girl Scouts 5-7:30pm-no other groups	AA 1pm	AA S.O.S 10-11am	CC Rehearsal 7pm no other reservations	AA 12pm Anna DiVesta 5-9pm no other reservations		AA 10:30am
<p align="center">Until further notice, all Ivy Chapel United Church of Christ "in-person" activities, events, gatherings and "in-person" worship services are suspended.</p> <p align="center">VIRTUAL WORSHIP</p> <p align="center">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 align="center">Simple ways to access them are:</p> <p align="center"> Ivy Chapel UCC At Facebook At YouTube </p> <p align="center"> www.ivychapel.org www.facebook.com/ivychapel www.youtube.com/channel/UCo4zrr6OBTyPra9-2ATILSQ </p> <p align="center">For daily <i>spiritual nourishment</i>; we invite you to subscribe free of charge to our United Church of Christ STILLSPEAKING DAILY DEVOTIONAL at www.ucc.org/daily_devotional</p>						
13 15th S aft Pentecost-grn	14	15 Articles for The Ivy Vine due	16 Men's Lunch 1054 N Woods Mill Rd	17 AA 12pm Anna DiVesta 5-9pm no other reservations	18	19 AA 10:30am NO BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS FH/Outdoor 1-3pm
9am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship/SS Aft wrslp-Board Mtgs-C/Deacons/ Trustees Shannon Ferrell Girl Scouts 5-7:30pm-no other groups	AA 1pm	AA S.O.S 10-11am Mary & Martha Wines Grp 1pm-7pm Council Mtg 7pm	CC Rehearsal 7pm no other reservations	AA 12pm Anna DiVesta 5-9pm no other reservations	24	25
20 16th S aft Pentecost-grn	21	22	23	24	25	26
9am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship/SS Shannon Ferrell Girl Scouts 5-7:30pm-no other groups	AA 1pm	AA S.O.S 10-11am	CC Rehearsal 7pm no other reservations	AA 12pm Anna DiVesta 5-9pm no other reservations		AA 10:30am
27 17th S aft Pentecost-grn	28	29	30	OCTOBER 1	OCTOBER 2	OCTOBER 3
9am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship/SS	AA 1pm	AA S.O.S 10-11am	CC Rehearsal 7pm no other reservations	AA 12pm Anna DiVesta 5-9pm no other reservations		AA 10:30am

IN OCTOBER (subject to change)

18th Totenfest Forms Due see page 6

15th Articles for The Ivy Vine due

25th 4pm Trunk or Treat

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