

The Ivy Vine January 2021



a just world for all

Encourage Each Other



Dan Wilson, Pastor
pastordan@ivy-chapel.org

As I write this, it is mid-December. Once these words reach you, it may be the end of December or later.

...soon it will be “*New Year’s Day!*” We can safely say that 2020 was a highly peculiar and unpleasant year. Indeed, 2020 brought many surprises. It was quite likely the most unusual calendar year of our lifetime.

No doubt, most people are bidding “good riddance” to 2020. With an eagerness and an urgency never before displayed, the singing of “Auld Lang Syne” fills the air as the Year 2020 concludes. All cheer, “Thank God, it’s over! Hooray!”

The world definitely is ready to breathe a collective sigh of relief. Of course, we realize that humankind’s setbacks, difficulties and challenges are not going to magically disappear simply because the date changes! Much energy and special effort will continue to be required of us in 2021. In the coming year, may we truly resolve to put into practice our Savior’s teaching, “For who is greater, the one who is at the table, or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.” (Luke 22:27) Let each of us display genuine consideration for others and joyously serve others. As Paul writes, “If then there is any *encouragement* in Christ,.... Do nothing from

selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as of more value than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:1, 3-4)

True, we must be realistic; and yet we can be optimistic. Above all, it is so good to be alive. By the grace of God, we are alive! Our opportunity to begin a fresh, new calendar year is a gift; a blessing from God. May we not be discouraged. May we serve as God’s ***encouragers***.

Consider the Letter to the Romans 15:4-6: “For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and *encouragement* grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God of our Savior Jesus Christ.” Let us offer others joy and *encouragement*. As did Barnabas, whose name means “*son of encouragement*” (Acts 4:36-37); may you and I live as ***uplifting encouragers!*** With God’s help, we can. One truth which God’s Word teaches again and again is that we’re not in this alone. Christ reveals ‘God with us’ Immanuel! (Isaiah 7:14)

Claim with me the sacred mantra rhythmically
(*Encourage Each Other* continued on page 2)

(Encourage Each Other continued from page 2)

repeated by the psalmist 26 times in Psalm 136: "God's steadfast love endures forever."

I must concede that this is a tremendously difficult time in which we are living. My sense is that everyone everywhere is experiencing some degree of "pandemic fatigue." Partners in Christ, I miss each of you. I miss interacting with you in Bible study, in worship, in Christian outreach, and more. I believe that we will engage together in these activities once again at some point. Patience, grasshopper. For now, draw *encouragement* from God in Christ Jesus who always uplifts and loves: "Take heart. Fear not." (Matthew 14:27)

Encourage each other.

*A Blessed New Year to you,
Pastor Dan*



"God is love; and whoever remains in love remains in God, and God remains in them... There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear."

1 John 4:18



Thank You...

...to our family and friends at Ivy Chapel, we express our deepest thanks for all your expressions of sympathy over **Ronn's** passing. Your cards, notes, calls, food and presence at the visitation were deeply appreciated. Our family is blessed by your caring support.

Wishing you peace, hope and love this coming year,

Dottie, Mark and Deb, Cindy and Matt, Trish and Mark,
grandchildren and great-grandchildren

GENEROUS GIVING STRATEGY

Did you know that you can donate appreciated stock and mutual fund holdings to Ivy Chapel? Such a donation, whether to cover a 2020 or 2021 pledge, or as an extra donation, is not only a potential income tax deduction, but also eliminates a sale of assets which would be subject to capital gains taxation. This is a sound tax strategy which benefits your personal income taxes and also helps Ivy Chapel fulfill its mission. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact **Tom Glenn**, Investment Chair, at thomglenn@sbcglobal.net

ENHANCING VIRTUAL WORSHIP

The Deacons are placing hymnals and supplemental worship booklets on a table in the Narthex. Please sign up and take them home to enhance your virtual worship. If you've any questions, call 314-576-0091 or email gail.thoele@gmail.com, **Gail Thoele**.

Dec. Council Lifted Up:

- ♥ **Tara Lowry**, and the *entire* cast and crew (**children and adults**) for their virtual presentation of the Virtual Attic Christmas Pageant adapted from the children's book, The Attic Christmas.
- ♥ **Anna DiVesta** and all the participants in this season's beautiful and meaningful virtual Cantata.
- ♥ **Frank Purviance** for the many hours spent at Ivy Chapel overseeing the water leak repair under the parking lot.
- ♥ The **Deacons, Trustees** and **many individuals** who helped decorate Ivy Chapel for the Christmas season to be special for our virtual services.

JANUARY

Youth News

Christmas Pageant Thank YOU

Thank you so much to Tara Lowry, Anna DiVesta and Linda Lowry! Tara planned and pulled together a beautiful virtual pageant. Linda provided support and advice from her past experience putting on many children's pageants. Anna provided the music that made the pageant come alive. There were many challenges in this pandemic year, but they organized the children of Ivy Chapel, plus a few willing adults, to come up with a fun new way to celebrate the Christmas story.



If you haven't had a chance to see the virtual pageant, you can find a link to the video on our website, ivychapel.org

ADVENT STORYTELLING AND HOT COCOA PARTY

The pandemic kept us from gathering in person for Advent Storytelling, but it did not stop us from celebrating. Over 20 people gathered together virtually from the warm comfort of their own homes to share books and stories, eat snacks and spend time together. We had several books telling the Christmas story in different ways. Cookies were the favored snack, with one family eating their decorated gingerbread house (overheard, "I'm not eating a cookie, it's a wall!"). Hot cocoa and coffee had their places too.



COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

Thank you to all who donated supplies for our college care packages. A few elves put the packages together and delivered them to the college students when they were home for winter break. The college students appreciate the thoughts and treats from Ivy. They can take a little bit of Ivy with them when they return to college. This is a great way for our congregation to reach out to our college students while they are away from home.

Online Sunday School Resources

Our United Church of Christ Conference and some of the member churches have put together a series of online Sunday School lessons. This has been a weird time, to say the least, and the lessons are designed to help kids deal with some of the emotions they might be feeling. There are 11 stand-alone lessons, and they can be accessed at any time, in any order. Check them out: <https://www.missourimidsouth.org/virtual-sunday-school>



Winter Scavenger Hunt

: January can be a cold, boring month, after all the excitement of December and Christmas. When you are tired of being inside, try out this free winter scavenger hunt: <http://thesciencewomen.com/nature-blog/winter-savenger-hunt-free-download/>



Christian Education Assistance Opportunities

Our Christian Education Board is a little shorthanded this year. Even if you can't serve on the board, there are lots of opportunities for you to support the kids of our church. You can help prepare Sunday School packets for mailing, compile online devotionals for the high school and college youth, recruit volunteers to give children's sermons (or give one yourself) or provide other help to the members of the board. Most of the tasks can be done from the comfort and safety of your own home. Please consider helping to support the children's ministry of our church.

The Note

Reflect. Right? That's what we are supposed to do for the New Year. What if we don't want to? What a year, am I right? Who would have ever thought that this could happen in 2020? Regardless, I encourage you all to reflect on our many blessings. I encourage you to keep a positive outlook. Yes. I know. This is easier said than done when you are thrown the multiple curve balls that 2020 has presented. However, I am thankful. I am thankful for my family (including my church family.) I am thankful to have a job. I am thankful for Aaron's job, but I do hope work picks up for him soon. I am thankful for scientists and the light that they bring in such a dark time. My wishes for the new year are so much more simple this year. I wish for more hugs. I wish for more face to face interaction. I wish for health and safety for us all. I know whenever this pandemic ends, and it will end, that we will all be changed. It is my fervent hope that we are changed for the better and take less for granted. The simple smile of a stranger. The hug of a loved one. The games played around the dining room table. The pandemic may have brought out the worst in us, but perhaps, in the healing, we can all be a little better.

Jeremiah 29:11. For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Well I am not sure what 2021 will hold. It feels like 2020 barely started, but here we are bringing in a new year. What I do know is that we will be making music in any way that we can. If you would like to join me for a vocal or instrumental solo, please reach out. I hope that you have enjoyed watching our livestream services and that you find the music meaningful. If you have any ideas as to how the music ministry can be more fulfilling, please reach out to me. My proverbial door is always open.

I have *missed you all so very much* during this strange time of separation. I hope to see you in the new year. Sooner, much rather than later. *All my love to you and best wishes for a very happy, healthy new year.*

Anna DiVesta
314-609-0865
www.AnnaDiVesta.com



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



Santa and his sleigh were not available, so the M & M Women's Group's delivered gifts for the ladies at Seven Pines House arrived by a special delivery! The ladies were "de-lighted" and even joined in singing "We Wish You A Merry Christmas." (Looks like Dottie in the jeep, waving.)

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain: O star of wonder,
star of light, star with
royal beauty bright,
westward leading,
still proceeding,
guide us to thy
perfect light.



Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again, King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. *[Refrain]*

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh; prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high. *[Refrain]*

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom; sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *[Refrain]*

Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice: Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies. *[Refrain]*

We Three kings of Orient Are Tune: KINGS OF ORIENT ~John H. Hopkins, 1820-'91
Image from www.livinglutheran.org/2017/01/the-revelation-of-epiphany/
Living Lutheran: The revelation of Epiphany, January 6, 2017

KEEPING YOU POSTED

You're invited to send Frieda Clark messages—by end of any Wednesday—news about you or the family, pets, garden...anything that you want to *share* with the rest of the congregation and she will put it in a *weekly e-Keeping You Posted* to email to all of you every Friday.

Scripture & Worship

3 JANUARY 2021~SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Jeremiah 31:7-14, Psalm 147:12-20, Ephesians 1:3-14,
John 1:1-9:10-18

WEDNESDAY, 6 JANUARY 2021~EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14, Ephesians 3:1-12,
Matthew 2:1-12

10 JANUARY 2021~BAPTISM OF THE LORD/FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 29, Acts 19:1-7, Mark 1:4-11

17 JANUARY 2021~SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

1 Samuel 3:1-20, Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18;
1 Corinthians 6:12-20, John 1:43-51

24 JANUARY 2021~THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12,
1 Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20

31 JANUARY 2021~FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Deuteronomy 18:15-20, Psalm 111,
1 Corinthians 8:1-13, Mark 1:21-28

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

Trustees

No one can say the Trustees are boring. But they did hire Hoffman Brothers to bore a hole from the street to the west parking lot for a new water pipe. The pipe replaces a leaking pipe under the parking lot and this should substantially reduce our water bills.



Meanwhile, the Trustees have replaced most of the parking lot lights with LEDs which are brighter and more cost effective.

For the present time, snow and ice removal will be less frequent unless Sunday services resume.

Please be careful on the slippery surfaces!

THE STAR GUIDING THE WISE MEN

"I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near—a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel..."

Numbers 24:17 (part)

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the East to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

Matthew 2:1-2

"Matthew 2:1 says that they [the maji] came from the East, that is east of Judea. Now Judea was a buffer state between the sprawling Roman Empire in the West, and the fabulous Persian Empire of the Parthian Dynasty in the east. Whenever the Persians and Romans clashed militarily, the Persians almost always won.... The Persian Empire also controlled the Silk Route to India and China. The gifts that the Wise Man brought to Jesus, the gold, the frankincense and myrrh were the very best that world trade could offer from this route." Matthew called them as Magoi. "The Parthian Dynasty was ruled by something equivalent to our houses of Parliament. They called it the Megistanes. ...the Upper House members were called the Magoi or 'Great Ones'. It was these Magoi, the king makers of their empire, that come to visit Jesus. It was not the astrologers—it was the politicians—and there were more than three, even if only three types of gift were given."

The Parthian empire was what we know in this time as Iran

Learn more of the Wise Men at the web page, [The Christmas Star](http://www.Idolphin.org/birth.html) by Barry Setterfield
www.Idolphin.org/birth.html and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parthian_Empire



Epiphany-Twelfth Night

Word Search

Find the hidden words associated with January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany
also known as Three Kings Day or Twelfth Night

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

BABY JESUS
BALTHASAR
BETHLEHEM
CASPAR
CHILD
CHRISTMASTIDE
EPIPHANY

FEAST
FRANKINCENSE
GIFTS
GOLD
HOMAGE
KING
LABEFANA



LOSREYES
MAGI
MANGER
MARY
MOTHER
MELCHIOR
MYRRH

NIGHT
OFFERING
QUEEN
STAR
THREE
TREASURE
TWELFTH
WISEMEN



With God's Blessings

Happy Anniversary to... 

1/15/1971 Michael and Donna Grote



Happy Birthday to... 

4 Sue Wilson	21 Charles Eli DiVesta
15 Skylar Droege	23 Judy Hertenstein
17 Tara Lowry	27 Joan Wendt
20 Beth Noonan Janet Wilking	29 Debbie Glenn Alexander Wilking

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

Anna DiVesta: music@ivychapel.org

Frieda Clark: ivychapellucc@ivychapel.org

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

➤ **GIVING STATEMENTS:** Peter LaSalle 636-519-0823


➤ **BORROWING** Chairs/Tables: Ralph Weiland 314-878-3230

JAN Care Corps LDR-Dottie Foster 314-878-4286

FEB Care Corps LDR-Sue Wilson 314-324-3465

CO-LDR-Gail Thoele 314-576-0091

CO-LDR-Ashton Wilson 314-956-6919

ASSISTING IN LAY MINISTRY		Please find YOUR Name.		Reminders are sent each Tuesday.		
DATE	NURSERY	ACOLYTE/	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..."</p> <p>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> <div>  DAILY DEVOTIONAL <small>Created by the StillSpeaking Writers' Group</small> </div>						

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
 <h1>January 2021</h1>					1	2 AA 10:30am
3 2nd S aft Christmas-wht 10am Worship	4 AA 1pm	5 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm	6 Epiphany	7 AA 12pm Annual Reports Due Christian Ed. ZOOM Mtg 7pm	8	9 AA 10:30am
10 The Baptism of our Lord-wht 10am Worship	11 AA 1pm ALL BOARDS MEETING 7PM Old and New Officers	12 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm	13	14 AA 12pm	15 The Ivy Vine articles due	16 AA 10:30am
17 2nd S aft Epiph-Grn 10am Worship	18 AA 1pm COUNCIL MEETING 7PM	19 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm Mary & Martha Wms Grp 1pm	20 Men's Lunch 11:30am Yellowstone Café, 165 Lamp & Lantern Vlg, Town & County	21 AA 12pm	22	23 AA 10:30am
24 3rd S aft Epiph-Grn 10am Worship	25 AA 1pm	26 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm	27	28 AA 12pm	29	30 AA 10:30am
31 4th S aft Epiph-Grn 10am Worship ANNUAL Meeting	February 1 AA 1pm	February 2 AA S.O.S 10-11AM AA 12PM	February 3	February 4	February 5	February 6 AA 10:30am

HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

Please consider helping picking up trash along a designated section of North Woods Mill Road in the new year of 2021. Some years ago Ivy Chapel made an agreement with MODOT to do this four times a year. Watch for dates in future publications.



IN February: 26th ASH WEDNESDAY

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 8:30-3:30	Wednesday JRWP 8:30-3:30	Thursday JRWP 8:30-3:30			