

# The Ivy Vine

## February 2021



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## Turning

Walking the Christian walk is a discipline that perpetually requires starting over. Words of a praise response which we sing in worship are ever relevant. "Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me. Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me. Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me. Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me." (Daniel Iverson) The repetition lends this song a very "mantra"-like character. This is altogether fitting for the character of the Christian journey. Again and again, God calls on Christ's followers to begin anew, to make a fresh start.

We speak on occasion of circumstances "taking a turn for the better" or "taking a turn for the worse." We made an all-time high number of references to this in 2020, didn't we?! This is a figurative use of the word "**turn**." Also, notice that in expressions such as these, the word "turn" is a noun.

There are prevalent biblical uses of words meaning "**turn**." The Old Testament Hebrew word "shub" is a verb, which means "to **turn**." The New Testament Greek word "metanoia" frequently is translated "repentance." The Greek verb of the same root word is "metaneo," which means "to **turn** around" or "to do an about-face." Literally, "metanoia" means "a change of mind" or "a turnaround."

The 2021 Season of Lent will begin this month. The season which extends from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday is an intentional time for acknowledging our sin and asking God for forgiveness. But let's keep this in mind. An insincere plea to God for forgiveness—that is, a stark request which does not display any action or change on our part—will not result in us receiving God's grace. That would be what world-renowned, 20th century theologian Rev. Dr. Dietrich Bonhoeffer termed a play for "cheap grace." In other words, that would be an attempt to receive God's gift without offering God any sincere gesture of repentance ourselves. A cheap attempt on our part won't cut it when it comes to receiving the "costly grace of Christ." Our appeal for God's grace must be connected to a genuine act of repentance, that is, an evident "change" or "**turning**" on our part.

There are two faithful images of biblical "**turning**." The first is "turning away from" evil. The second is "turning towards" God. Both of these are significant, genuine acts of "turning" on the part of human beings which are legitimate displays of commitment to live differently from now on.

(**Turning** continued on page 2)

(Turning continued.)

Scripture also sometimes uses the word “**return**.” The idea is for a person to “make a 180-degree turn”—in other words, “to turn around.” This is different from turning in a complete circle. Let’s say we are facing some sort of evil. Then “**returning**,” in a biblical sense, effectively is “to turn our backs on evil, and to face God.” This is turning toward God, facing and heading in the direction of good. This is following Christ. This is genuine, costly, Christian repentance. Giving up our former orientation, our former direction, our “old ways”; frees people to follow the One who declares, “I am the Way.” (John 14:6)

Long ago, Everlasting God announced to Israel, “**Return** to the Lord your God, and you and your children obey God with all your heart and with all your soul, just as I am commanding you today.... For God will again take delight in prospering you, just as God delighted in prospering your ancestors, when you obey the Lord your God by observing God’s commandments and decrees that were written in this book of the law, because you **turn** to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.” (Deuteronomy 30:2, 9-10)

“Therefore, thus says the LORD: If you **turn** back, I will take you back, and you will stand before me...for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD. I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.” (Jeremiah 15:19-21) This is the spirit of wording on the banner which customarily hangs in Ivy Chapel UCC’s entryway throughout the Lenten Season. The banner reads: “**Return to the Lord with all your heart.**” These words are a portion of Joel 2:12. This is an eternally stirring Scripture verse! It is synonymous with “repent”; “turn your life around”; “turn back to face God and to follow Christ.”

Together, as we continue growing in Christian faith, may Ivy Chapel United Church of Christ come to treasure dearly the opening words of the sacred hymn **Great Is Thy Faithfulness**: “Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father. There is no shadow of **turning** with Thee. Thou changest not; Thy compassions they fail not. As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.” The meaning is that God never turns away from goodness or from compassion or from humankind.

Through the Prophet Jeremiah, God proclaims, “Go and say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, Can you not learn a lesson and obey my words?.... I have sent to you all my servants the

(Turning continued on page 5)

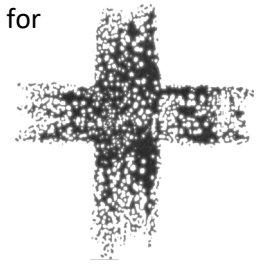
## LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

2021 Lenten Season begins with

**Ash Wednesday, this February the 17th.**

2021 Lenten Devotion Packets are being assembled by the Deacons and distributed by Ash Wednesday.

Each packet will contain an object for each week. Details to follow.



### COVID CAUTION

**THE DEACONS ARE CAREFULLY** watching the curve and hospitalizations in the area. When they consistently show positive numbers we hope to be able to again worship in person at Ivy. Our prayers are that we will all be together safely soon.

## Jan. Council Lifted Up:

- ♥ **Peter LaSalle** for preparing and submitting the paperwork to the bank needed for full forgiveness of the Cares Act-PPP loan Ivy Chapel received last May. We initially thought a portion would need to be repaid.
- ♥ **Tara Lowry** for pulling together Ivy Chapel’s December fellowship activities and virtual Christmas Pageant.
- ♥ **Frank Purviance** for managing the recent roof replacement by John Beal and oversight of other Trustee efforts such as the water pipe replacement.

# FEBRUARY Youth News

Even though we can't gather in person right now, we can still have our Souper Bowl of Caring. Food pantries need assistance more than ever to serve people who are in need.



We won't be able to collect cash donations in soup pots this year, but we are asking for donations to support Circle of Concern and Isaiah 58.

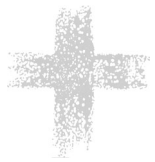
*Super Bowl Sunday is February 7*, but we will take donations any time. Make your checks out to Ivy Chapel and note Souper Bowl of Caring on the memo line.

You can mail checks to **Peter LaSalle**, 2015 Wilson Ridge Lane, Chesterfield, 63005.

## Did you Know?

Food pantries always welcome monetary donations of any amount. They can buy items in bulk and at discounts, so they stretch each dollar further than we can at our local grocery stores.

## Lenten Food Drive



Lent this year is from February 17-April 4. Once again, we are going to collect food for area food pantries for the entire Lenten season. Food pantries have had an increase in people who need services. One way we can help is to donate healthy, non-perishable food and personal care items. You can drop off your donations in the giant soup can in the narthex at Ivy Chapel. Monetary donations are also always welcome.



*For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink,  
I was a stranger and you welcomed me.*

Matthew 25:35

## Children's Message Opportunity

The Christian Education board is asking for volunteers to deliver the children's message for Sunday morning worship. There is an opportunity for everyone to share God's word with Ivy Chapel's young people during worship. Right now the services are virtual, and are streamed and recorded from the sanctuary each Sunday morning. Please consider signing up for one Sunday, or one Sunday a month. We have many print and online sources available if you need ideas or inspiration. Any time you can give is appreciated.

Contact **Sarah Heend** 636-398-4115 to reserve your date.



## Search Committee Forming

The Ivy Chapel Church Council is in the process of forming a search committee to fill the vacant Youth Program Coordinator position. The search committee will need to update the YPC job description before a search process can begin. We would like committee members to reflect the whole congregation, including parents of some of the children of the church.



If you are interested in serving on the search committee, contact:

**John Weiland** (636-398-4115), **Ashton Wilson** (314-956-6916) or **Sarah Heend** (314-283-5215).

*Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.*

*Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.*

1 John 4:7

# The Note

Hard to believe that it is nearly February. We've been in pandemic mode for nearly 11 months. Holy cow! Charlie is officially seven years old, which seems impossible. I've found myself thinking of things that I did last year. At this time last year, we were selling our house and going into a panic when we didn't have a place to move into. Hard to believe that that was a year ago. I find myself becoming sad thinking of the things we did last year. I'll find a receipt (yay tax time), and I'll think oh so cute. Remember, when we went places. This is so hard. I have no idea what my spring will look like this year. Typically, I am starting to see the solo and ensemble students start to come in, but I don't think there will be any solo & ensembles this year. I guess we were lucky to fit it in last year. I'm not sure if summer shows will even be a thing. I know that we are all struggling with finding how to adapt to this new normal. I hope that we are able to congregate soon as I miss seeing all of you. My fervent hope is that once we are able to congregate together that we will not take small things for granted. It never really occurred to me how fortunate we all were to be able to see each other and share things like food. Now, it seems such a strange thing to think about sharing food. Watching videos of performances in the "before" times, I am uncomfortable with how close people are standing. It just seems odd. However, I am hopeful. I am hopeful that we will be together sooner rather than later, and I am grateful. I am grateful for all of you. Even apart, I know that you are all here with me.

It seems like we have been in Lent for the past year, but Lent actually begins February 17th. I always view Lent as a journey. A journey within myself. It is a reflective time. However, I feel like I've been reflecting for the majority of the past year. I've been giving up my literal favorite things; live music, family, friends, theater, eating out etc... It feels hard for me to begin Lent again. Maybe you feel the same way. I know that I will need to dig deep, and maybe this reflection will not be something that I can put into words. As Hans Christian Andersen said, "where words fail, music speaks." If there is some piece of music that will help your Lenten reflection, please let me know. I am happy to input it into a worship service. In the end, I



Anna DiVesta-Minister of Music

[music@ivychapel.org](mailto:music@ivychapel.org)

## HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

Please consider helping picking up trash along a designated section of North Woods Mill Road in the this year. Tentative dates are set for the Woods Mill Highway Clean-Up: 3/14, 5/23, 8/29, and 11/7. Contact Bruce Wilking, 314-640-4902, to let him know you want to help.



## ZOOM COFFEE HOUR

We will be trying ZOOM coffee hour (for real, this time) beginning the first Sunday February 7.  
Time-11:30?? Duration to 30-60 minutes.  
More to come.

## CELEBRATING EASTER

**STARTING IN MARCH**, Deacons will be **SELLING LILIES** to brighten the sanctuary for the Easter.  
Watch for more to come.

*Lilies for Easter*



## 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.

hope that we find love. After all, it is our greatest commandment. John 15:12 This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you.

—Smiles,

**Anna DiVesta**

314-609-0865

[www.AnnaDiVesta.com](http://www.AnnaDiVesta.com)



# Scripture & Worship

## 7 February, Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31, Psalm 147:1-11, 20c;  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23, Mark 1:29-39

## 14 February, Transfiguration Sunday

Isaiah 43:18-25, Psalm 41, 2 Corinthians 1:18-22,  
Mark 2:1-12

## 17 February, Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12, Psalm 51:1-17,  
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

## 21 February, First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17, Psalm 25:1-10, 1 Peter 3:18-22,  
Mark 1:9-15

## 28 February, Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, Psalm 22:23-31,  
Romans 4:13-25, Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9

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

## TRANSFIGURATION

In Luke 9, we read of the twelve being sent to preach and heal; feeding the “Five Thousand”, Peter professes that Jesus is “The Messiah of God”.... Halfway into the chapter we read about Jesus, Peter, James and John go up a mountain to pray. This is one time many of us may wish we could be there too.

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed

awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him.

Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here;

let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not knowing

what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.” Luke 9:28-36



# Trustees

It has been nearly two years since John Beal Roofing was hired to fix the leak over Fellowship Hall. They finished the third roofing attempt on January 13.

The shingles were attached to a new plywood base which should be a permanent solution. A few ceiling



tiles need to be replaced and the roofing project will hopefully be complete.

In addition to returning the Christmas decorations to the attic, the Trustees took advantage of a warmer day to pick up the trash along Woods Mill that has accumulated since August 2020.

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

*Please be careful on the slippery surfaces!*



*(Turning continued from page 2)*

prophets, sending them persistently, saying, ‘**Turn** now every one of you from your evil way, and amend your doings, and do not go after other gods to serve them, and then you will live in the land that I gave to you and your ancestors.’” (Jeremiah 35:13, 15)

Through the Prophet Isaiah, God declares, “There is no other god besides me, a righteous God and Savior! There is no one besides me. **Turn** to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth!” (Isaiah 45:21-22)

As the Lenten Season begins, let each of us seek to turn over a new leaf by **turning toward God** in fresh, new ways.

Christ’s followers continue turning toward God,

**Pastor Dan**



# *Transfiguration*

**Luke 9:28-36**

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

APPEARED  
BELOVED SON  
CLOUD  
ELIAS  
HEAR HIM  
JAMES

JESUS  
JOHN  
MOSES  
MOUNTAIN  
OVER SHADOW  
PETER

RAIMENT  
TABERNACLES  
TRANSFIGURE  
VOICE  
WHITE AS SNOW  
WRITTEN



# With God's Blessings

Happy Anniversary to... 

None in February

Happy Birthday to... 

- |                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 2 Isabella Del Carmen  | 20 Joe Del Carmen  |
| 3 Carol Faust          | Marg Ivey          |
| Gregory Scott          | Rich Marston       |
| 14 Diann Marie Sheahan | 23 Betty Lindhorst |
| 15 Nancy Marston       | Kate Mc Neal       |
| 16 Paul Farrell        | 27 Taylor Cox      |
| 17 Dan Wilson, Pastor  |                    |

## 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](mailto:pastordan@ivychapel.org) 314-580-4564

Anna DiVesta: [music@ivychapel.org](mailto:music@ivychapel.org)

Frieda Clark: [ivychapellucc@ivychapel.org](mailto: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

**FEB Care Corps LDR-Sue Wilson 314-324-3465**  
**MAR Care Corps LDR-Sarah Heend 314-283-5215**

**CO-LDR-Ashton Wilson 314-956-6919**  
**CO-LDR-Kay Kreder 314-878-5296**

ASSISTING IN LAY MINISTRY		Please find YOUR Name.		Reminders are sent each Tuesday.		
DATE	NURSERY	ACOLYTE/	GREETERS	USHERS	LITURGIST	COFFEE
<p><b>"Until further notice, all Ivy Chapel United Church of Christ "in-person" activities, events, gatherings and "in-person" worship services are suspended..."</b></p> <p>For daily spiritual nourishment; we invite you to subscribe free of charge to our United Church of Christ StillSpeaking Daily Devotional at <a href="http://www.ucc.org/daily_devotional">www.ucc.org/daily_devotional</a></p>						
				 <b>DAILY DEVOTIONAL</b> <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](http://www.shoecrewwater.org)



**INSTITUTO EL REY:** Explore the website how YOU can help students in rural northern Honduras pursue their dreams. [www.ierschool.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.i58ministries.org)



**RITENOUR CO-CARE FOOD PANTRY** Collects food and personal care items. [www.ritenourcocare.org](http://www.ritenourcocare.org)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 AA 1pm	2 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm	3 CC Rehearsal 7pm no other reservations	4 AA 12pm Christian Ed. Mtg 7pm	5	6 AA 10:30am
7 5th S aft Epiphany-grn 9am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship w/LS/SS	8 AA 1pm	9 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm	10 CC Rehearsal 7pm no other reservations	11 AA 12pm	12	13 AA 10:30am
14 TRANSFIGURATION -wht 9am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship SS Aft wrshp-Board Mtgs-CA/Deacons/Trustee's	15 AA 1pm The Ivy Vine articles due Council Meeting 7pm	16 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm	17 ASH WEDNESDAY Men's Luncheon 11:30am Duffy's Pub and Grill 1024 Schnucks Woods Mill Plaza, 636-394-8855 CC Rehearsal ASH WEDNESDAY ZOOM virtual WORSHIP 7pm Details to come.	18 AA 12pm	19	20 AA 10:30am
Lenten Food Drive Feb 17-Apr 4						
21 1st S in Lent-prpl 9am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship SS	22 AA 1pm	23 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm	24 CC Rehearsal 7pm no other reservations	25 AA 12pm	26	27 AA 10:30am
Lenten Food Drive Feb 17-Apr 4						
28 2d S in Lent-prpl 9am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship/SS	1 AA 1pm	2 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm	3 CC Rehearsal 7pm no other reservations	4 AA 12pm Christian Ed. Mtg 7pm	5	6 AA 10:30am
Lenten Food Drive Feb 17-Apr 4						

**IN MARCH:** 4th Christian Ed. Mtg 14th Highway Clean-Up  
15th COUNCIL MTG 16th Mary & Martha Wms Group  
28 PALM SUNDAY

15th The Ivy Vine articles due  
17th Men's Luncheon

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			