

The Ivy Vine

April 2021



a just world for all



Dan Wilson, Pastor
pastordan@ivy-chapel.org

Self-Sacrifice

Jesus Christ gives his life for others.

In biblical Palestine, crucifixion was the Roman Empire's method of capital punishment. It was a power statement. At that time, a cross was a symbol of imperial dominance. This shape, which has become a central symbol of Christianity, originated as a symbol which was intended to send the message that no one could successfully challenge the power of the Holy Roman Emperor. This stemmed from the empire's claim that the emperor was god.

We today are aware of True God's ultimate victory. Yet we must not rush ahead or skip to the end. The reason that we must not is that "fast-forwarding" to Resurrection Day would lessen the joy.

Christ Crucified... *Christ Risen!* This is the overview. There is no shortcut. Holy Week must be "lived through" in its entirety. If not, one misses out on the full impact, the Total Joy of Christ's Resurrection. Come Easter Sunday, one cannot experience *fullness of joy* if there has been no sorrow. God's Prophet Isaiah proclaims, "Out of his anguish he will see light; he will find satisfaction through his knowledge. The Righteous One, my Servant, will make many righteous, and he will bear their iniquities. Therefore, I will allot him a portion

with the great, and he will divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors." (Isaiah 53:11-12) One cannot fully appreciate Christ's Resurrection if one has not genuinely entered into Christ's Crucifixion.

Christ Crucified is a disturbing event, a troubling image. Yet we may discover ourselves strangely, marvelously comforted by it. Henri Nouwen names Jesus Christ, "The Wounded Healer." Think of the miniature Crown of Thorns (John 19:2, 5-6 and Matthew 27:39-43), which we received in our Lenten Devotion Packets this year. Imagine! God loves you so dearly that God is willing to die for you. This is extreme love! "While we were still weak, at the right moment, Christ died for ungodly people. Rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though maybe someone might dare to die for a good person. But God shows God's love for us, because while we were still sinners Christ died for us." (Romans 5:6-8) God chooses to do this? For us?! As Thomas exclaims, "Oh, my God!" (John 20:28) The Crucifixion—Jesus' graphic death on the Cross—is God's Self-Sacrifice. This is the ultimate act of God's distinctive "agapé love," Self-Giving Love.

(Continued on page 2)

(Self-Sacrifice continued.)

It is astonishing to realize that Christ suffered and died for us! God's Self-Sacrifice on the Cross at Calvary is an eternal gift to humankind; indeed, this profound gesture is an expression of God's universal love for all life! Christ Jesus "...emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a Cross." (Philippians 2:7-8) Once we appreciate the depth of Christ's Self-Sacrifice, then (and only then) are we able to celebrate the resplendent Joy of Christ's Resurrection.

There's an ancient, Christian litany for forgiveness of sin connected with a theology of Atonement. (This is the belief that through his suffering and death Jesus Christ atones for all sin.) The litany declares: "Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. Lord, have mercy. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. Christ, have mercy. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. Lord, have mercy." This litany is named the "*Agnus Dei*," from its opening words in Latin: *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God). The Christ, God's Anointed One, is the ultimate Sacrificial Lamb. Christ intervenes for us. Although we are sinners and he is not, although we are guilty and he is not; Christ takes our place and gives his life, dying on the Cross.

As imminent, sacred occasions in the life of God's Church transpire, let us faithfully walk the path of Holy Week. Consider this vital message of one poignant anthem: "The only road to resurrection will pass a hill called Calvary. The lonely road to resurrection is dark as any road can be. The only road to Alleluia is through a cry of grief and pain. The lonely road to Alleluia is through the sound of death's refrain..." (*The Only Road to Easter Morning*, words by Mary Kay Beall).

Christ Crucified...*Christ Risen!* Once again, Christian High Holy Days are near. In ever-new ways, let all people be astonished by God's Self-Sacrifice.

God enormously, tremendously loves you! Rejoice!
Share this love with everyone!

May this upcoming Holy Week deepen
your faith and your joy!

Pastor Dan

"This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." John 6:50-51



WORSHIP FOR GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2

will be both in-person and live stream at 7pm. (Just as we are doing for Sunday worship, Good Friday in-person participation will be by advance reservation only.)

Please contact **GAIL THOELE**, 314-576-0091, to make a reservation before **12-Noon Thursday, April 1** for Good Friday In-Person Worship.

LENTEN OFFERING



Christian Action designated

Baby Blue Pantry as the recipient of our special Lenten Offering. Located outside of the Wee Care Learning Center in Festus, it provides diapers, formula and other baby supplies to families in need. Please help support this ministry by making checks payable to Ivy Chapel UCC, note BPP on the memo line.

Lilies for Easter

The Deacons wish to thank
all those who helped to beautify the Ivy Chapel
Sanctuary for Easter Sunday.

Wilson	2	
Foster	1	Happy Easter
Litzinger	1	In Honor of Ginny Brown Daniels
LaSalle/Dodge	1	
Moody	1	
Gail Thoele	1	He Is Risen



Mar. Council Lifted Up:

- ♥ **Steve Lowry** for continuing in his role as Acting Treasurer.
- ♥ The "Dynamic Duo"—**Aaron DiVesta** for his amazing work acquiring and setting up the new audio-visual equipment, and **Rich Heend** for successfully transitioning Ivy Chapel's live streaming worship services to YouTube, from Facebook.



Virtual Sunday School Continues

The Christian Education Board will continue to send Sunday School lessons to the children through the mail or electronically.

The MMSUCC conference recommends that churches wait to begin in-person Sunday school. We will continue to monitor the situation and will keep everyone updated about future plans. We miss getting the children together in person, but we want to keep everyone as safe and healthy as possible. Please reach out to Sarah Heend if you have any questions or concerns.

Souper Bowl of Caring Update

Our Souper Bowl of Caring collection gathered \$194 dollars! We will be dividing the money between Circle of Concern and Isaiah 58. Thank you for your contributions to help feed hungry people in our area. Every dollar helps!



Easter Packages

We can't gather together for some of our regular Lenten and Easter activities, but the CE Board is working to bring some of the season to the Sunday School families.

Be watching for a special delivery of Easter crafts and activities in the days leading up to Easter.



Search Committee Forming

The search committee for a new Youth Program Coordinator is coming together. We will begin work this spring to find a new YPC to lead the young people and families of our church. Please pray for the committee as they work to fulfill this important task in the coming months.

Opportunities Abound

There are many ways you can help our church connect with our young people. We are always looking for people to use their talents to share God's love with the children. Can you give time one Sunday morning to give a short children's message during worship?

Can you help assemble Sunday school lessons?

Are there other ways you could assist our small, but mighty, Christian Education Board?

Reach out to **SARAH HEEND**, 314-283-5215, if you would like to help.

The Note

We've just past our anniversary of being in some form quarantined, isolated, locked down due the COVID-19 pandemic. An entire year. I don't know about you, but I think I've aged 10 years (and gained about 10 pounds 😞.)

I am so thankful for all we have, because the pandemic has definitely shown us how it can just all go away in the blink of an eye. I am so glad to see the light at the end of the tunnel (a very loooong tunnel.) I know we are so blessed, but I still feel like we need to process the tragedy we have all experienced; the stress, the anxiety. I am just so tired. Regardless, time keeps on moving forward. It's nearly Easter. Some of us are celebrating this holiday without their loved ones for the first time. Some of us are celebrating with our extended families for the first time in a year. There is a large range of emotions; however, one thing remains the same. God sent his Son to redeem us. Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Jesus rose from the dead.

Hallelujah.

I am thrilled that so many of you are receiving your vaccination. I am anxiously awaiting my vaccine and looking forward to returning to some semblance of normalcy. As you become vaccinated, you may feel more comfortable participating in some sort of music ministry. I would absolutely love to have you! It will be so great to work with many of you again. Thank you to all of you who have participated in the music ministry at Ivy Chapel. If you are interested in joining us, feel free to message me at any time.

Happy Easter!

He is Lord. He is Lord. He is risen from the dead, and He is Lord.

—Smiles,

Anna DiVesta

314-609-0865

www.AnnaDiVesta.com



Anna DiVesta-Minister of Music

music@ivy chapel.org

Deacons

We have conducted services in March, now that we're open to members.

This is just a reminder that reservations must be made through **Gail Thoele** at 314-591-0057. They must be made by 3 p.m. the Saturday before.

Get your Good Friday and Easter Sunday reservations in early. Social distancing and masks are still required.

Hope to see you soon.

HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

Please consider helping picking up trash along a designated section of North Woods Mill Road.



Tentative dates are set for the **5/23**, **8/29**, and **11/7**.

Contact **Bruce Wilking**, 314-640-4902, to let him know you want to help.

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, May 13 from 2:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Ivy Chapel UCC will be hosting a blood drive for Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center.



They strongly encourage making an appointment, as they are still practicing social distancing and safe COVID protocol. You can go to

www.bloodcenter.org or contact Sue Wilson for an appointment. Thank you for giving the gift of life!

Did You Know?

Generally earthquake insurance is required here, and having a 10% deductible is better than a 15% deductible. Do you have earthquake coverage with 15% deductible? Contact your insurance agent about substituting your homeowner's coverage with a third party carrier for earthquake insurance with a 10% deductible. I switched for less than \$5 more per year. **Peter LaSalle**

Scripture & Worship

2 April, GOOD FRIDAY

Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Psalm 22, Hebrews 10:16-25,
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9, John 18:1-19:42

3 April, HOLY SATURDAY

Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24,
Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16; 1 Peter 4:1-8, Matthew
27:57-66, John 19:38-42



4 April, EASTER DAY

Acts 10:34-43, Isaiah 25:6-9, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24,
1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Acts 10:34-43,
John 20:1-18, Mark 16:1-8

11 April, Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35, Psalm 133, 1 John 1:1-2:2, John
20:19-31



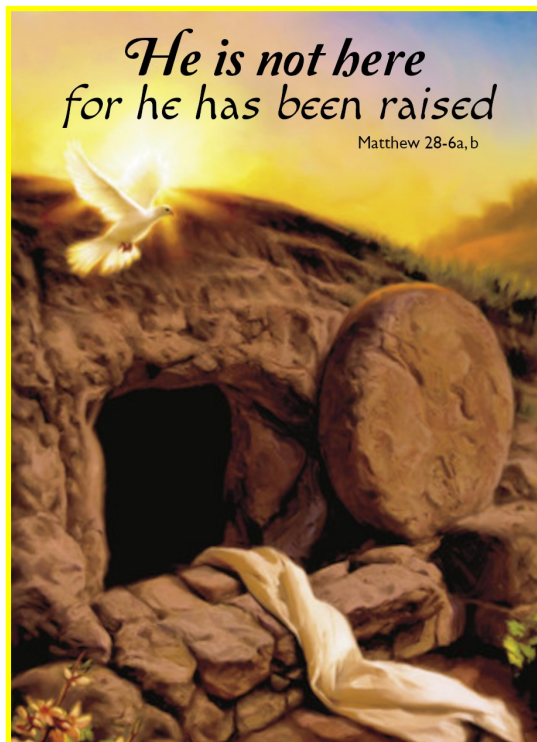
18 April, Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12-19, Psalm 4, 1 John 3:1-7, Luke 24:36b-48

25 April, Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5-12, Psalm 23, 1 John 3:16-24, John 10:11-18

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



Mary and Martha Wmns Grp

May Plant Sale

Mary and Martha members are sponsoring a Plant Sale around the May 2nd date. It will be virtual again this year and Judy Jung of Duever's Nursery has agreed to deliver plants to your home prior to Mother's Day (or if you live close by, you can pick them up at the Nursery). We will also deliver plants that are for sale from Ivy Chapel members.

There will be paper copies of the order forms in the Narthex at Ivy Chapel and you can fill them out and mail them in. If you send them by mail, send one copy to Duever's for nursery orders and one copy to **Pat Winship** (427 Johanna Place Drive, Ballwin, MO 63021) for Ivy Chapel orders (she will deliver these orders). [A copy of all orders will go to **Jo Ann Moody** who is keeping the books.]

There will also be an e-mail message with copies of the forms that you can send electronically. If you send the order by computer you will need to send one to Jo Ann Moody, jmoodywhc@aol.com and we will print out one for the Nursery since they aren't computerized. For Ivy Chapel orders send them to Pat Winship (427 Johanna Place Drive, Ballwin, MO 63021).

The money raised will go to the Food Pantries that Ivy Chapel supports since it is felt this is an important need arising from the Pandemic. You can send your check with your order or you can wait until you receive your plants. The delivery of the plants by Judy Jung is done after she closes the Nursery for the day and is an extra effort for her. If you would like to include a tip for her indicate that amount on your order and that will be kept for her separate from the other money. We receive 25% of the money collected for Nursery orders and all of the money collected from Ivy Chapel's sales.

Duever's address is on the form, Pat's address and e-mail is on the Ivy Chapel form and Jo Ann is as follows:

Jo Ann Moody

18515 Wild Horse Creek Road
Chesterfield, MO 63005

Or e-mail her at: jmoodywhc@aol.com

We will gratefully accept plant donations. Let **Kay Kreder** know what you can bring by April 1st so we can put them on the Ivy Chapel list.

We celebrate joyfully that spring is here and many people are being vaccinated for Covid. Blessings are ours.

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 to reserve your date.

On The Road To Emmaus

Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him." Luke 24:13-15

P O H H O U N R E C O G N I Z E D B M
J V D K S U G D E Z I N G O C E R M I
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ALIVE
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BREAD
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EYES
JERUSALEM
JESUS
LORD
MILES

MISSING
OPENED
PROPHET
RECOGNIZED
RISEN
ROAD
STAYED
TABLE

TALKING
THIRD DAY
TOMB
TWO
UNRECOGNIZED
VANISHED
VILLAGE
WALKING

With God's Blessings

Happy Anniversary to...

4/11/1987 Tom and Debbie Glenn

4/26/2008 Jason and Kristine Lowry

Happy Birthday to...

6 Marilyn Gulotta

7 Rod Hertenstein

10 Kyle Ray

Ashton Burton

22 Myrna Weiland

26 Annie Sampath

30 Donna Grote

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: ivychapelucc@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

APR Care Corps LDR-Julie Mc Allister 314-576-4946

MAY Care Corps LDR-Valerie Waterman 636-391-9886

CO-LDR-Janet Wilking 314-275-8344

CO-LDR-Pat Winship 636-394-5991

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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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>2021 April</div> 				1 Maundy Thursday AA 12pm Christian Ed. Mtg 7pm	2 GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP 7pm FB & in-person see Page 2	3 AA 10:30am
Lenten Food Drive Through-Apr 4						
4 EASTER DAY  10am Worship FB & in-person Page 4	5 AA 1pm	6 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm	7	8 AA 12pm	9	10 AA 10:30am
11 2d S of Easter-wht 10am Worship FB & in-person Page 4	12 AA 1pm COUNCIL MTG 7PM	13 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm	14	15 The Ivy Vine articles due AA 12pm	16	17 AA 10:30am
18 3d S of Easter-wht 10am Worship FB & in-person Page 4	19 AA 1pm	20 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm Mary & Martha Wms Grp 1pm	21 Men's Lunch 11:30am Harpo's 136 Hilltown Village Center	22 AA 12pm	23	24 AA 10:30am
25 4th S of Easter-wht 10am Worship FB & in-person Page 4	26 AA 1pm	27 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm	28	29 AA 12pm	30	1 AA 10:30am

IN MAY: Plant Sale with M&Ms see page 5

M-10th COUNCIL MTG

TH 13TH-BLOOD DRIVE see page 4

St-15th The Ivy Vine articles due

T-18th Mary & Martha Wms Group

W-19th Men's Lunch

S-23rd HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

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
FB=Facebook				SS=SUNDAY SCHOOL
	Tuesday JRWP 8:30-3:30	Wednesday JRWP 8:30-3:30	Thursday JRWP 8:30-3:30	