

A Season of Cleansing

Dan Wilson, Pastor pastordan@ivychapel.org

In most of the places where the Scriptures speak of "a spring," they are speaking of a natural spring of water. As I am composing words now for the March issue of the Ivy Vine, a thought has come to me that (in the Northern Hemisphere) the month of March will include the first days of Spring 2021. Technically, Spring begins here on March 20. Many times, the arrival of warmer weather is an occasion when folks do some "spring cleaning" at home. When milder weather truly settles in, we can open some windows and wash up the house a bit. This lets in some fresh air and gives our homes a bright, clean appearance. Please don't get too excited about this just yet, though. It's going to be awhile before we truly put this winter behind us. However, spring will come.

Well, friends, I believe that this notion of "spring cleaning" came to me because it fits in with a central theme of Lent. A primary focus during Lent is an appeal to God for "cleansing" from sin. It was fairly recently that God's Church began this Lenten Season. The season is 40 days long. Lent recalls the fasts of Moses, Elijah and Jesus; each of which lasted for 40 days. In connection with this and for many additional reasons, the number 40 is considered a sacred, biblical number.

The name for our current Christian Church Season

is derived from Anglo-Saxon words "lencten" meaning "spring", and "lenctentid" meaning "spring-tide" (which also was the name of the month of March). There are 7 Sundays between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday. These Sundays are not counted as official days of Lent. As a result, the season lasting from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday (the day before Easter) adds up to a total of 40 days.

The psalm traditionally read on Ash Wednesday is Psalm 51. This psalm abounds with "cleansing" imagery. "Have mercy...blot out my transgressions... wash me...cleanse me...purge me with hyssop, then I shall be clean...wash me...create in me a clean heart, O God." All of this and more appears in Psalm 51.

We make things overly complicated much of the time. How about Lent? Yes, we tend to make Lent too complicated. The simple basis for the Lenten Season is repentance. Yet we must be careful not to get it backwards. The order is not (1) repent, and (2) we will be forgiven. If there is an "order" at all, it is (1) we are forgiven, we are cleansed already; therefore, (2) we repent.

We repent, <u>not</u> "in order to be forgiven;" we repent "out of" gratitude that God already has

(A Season of Cleansing continued on page 2)

(A Season of Cleansing continued.)

offered us forgiveness. Crucial to the whole picture is God's grace. This ties in closely with Christ's petition from the Cross: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34)

A basic approach will do. Boil it down. Plain and simple. You are cleansed. Repent.

Streamline. God wants to cleanse you. Actually, God already has! Simple, uncomplicated truth. "Cleansing" is a gift from God. Just accept it.

On the road to Calvary, Jesus paused to teach. On the road with Jesus, determined people of faith let nothing impede Christ's Mission—not a huge crowd, not even a high roof! (Luke 5:17-26) Jesus astounded people with his authority and love when he forgave the sins and healed the limbs of a paralyzed man. Jesus' authority and love are inseparable. Like the paralytic, we are forgiven and healed. Like the crowd watching, we praise the miraculous power of Christ.



God is inviting us to approach Lent 2021 in this spirit. Indeed, there are aspects to Lent which are not attractive. Honest self-examination is necessary, but

this can be

enormously difficult to engage in. Taking a genuine look at ourselves reveals truths that we may prefer not to see. However, we cannot merely brush this off and take these forty sacred days lightly. Lent cannot be all goodness and light; for then it would not be truly Lent. There is a degree of unpleasantness and struggle involved in every genuine, spiritual pilgrimage. But don't despair. Personal faith struggles often lead to growth. Ultimately, each Lenten Season leads to some version of this astonishing joy: *God loves me, flaws and all. Alleluia!*

Simplify. This Lent, try a basic approach. "Un-complicate." Receive God's cleansing. The rest is excess. Streamline. Boil it down. "Cleansing."

Now is the time for you and me to begin. During Lent, we can make our way toward Resurrection Joy by engaging in "a spring cleaning of the soul." This will take far

(A Season of Cleansing continued on page 7)

WORSHIP BY RESERVATION

THE DEACONS HAVE PREPARED IVY Chapel and it's Sanctuary for Worship BY RESERVATIONS.

SEE PAGE 3

GIVING IN LENT

IVY IN ACTION ON PAGE 6
LENTEN OFFERING ON PAGE 7

MEETING DATES CHANGED

2021 Council Meetings will now be on the second Monday of every month at 7 o'clock p. m.



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 Burton (314-956-6916) or
Sarah Heend (314-283-5215).

Feb. Council Lifted Up:

- Steve Lowry, Don Wolff, Jo Ann Moody, and Peter LaSalle for providing, compiling and submitting information to the bank, to support a second CARES PPP loan for Ivy Chapel UCC.
- Ashton Burton for serving as Acting Moderator the past several months and helping John Weiland in his transition to current Moderator.

IVY CHAPEL WILL OPEN FOR SANCTUARY WORSHIP MARCH 7, 2021 RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE FOR ENTERING SERVICES!!!

Please notify **Gail Thoele** by phone (H 314-576-0091) or (C 314-591-0057) or by email (gail.thoele@gmail.com) for your reservation by Saturday at 12:00 noon.

HERE IS WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU COME TO WORSHIP:

- 1. Virtual services will continue.
- 2. Masks MUST be worn inside the building; masks will be provided, if needed.
- 3. Hand sanitizer will be provided in several areas.
- 4. Sign-in is required for contact tracing.
- 5. White dry erase boards will give directions to those entering the sanctuary.
- 6. The floor will be marked for 6' social distancing.
- 7. Ushers will seat each individual or family group (from front to back.)
- 8. Children will be seated and should remain with their family throughout the entire worship service. (There will be no Sunday School or nursery.)
- 9. Communion will not be served at this time.
- 10. There will be no congregational singing at this time.
- 11. Ushers will dismiss the congregation from the pews after the service (from back to front.)
- 12. Worshipers will leave the sanctuary by the outside door with safe social distancing.
- 13. There will be no gathering in Fellowship Hall before or after services.
- 14. Those who are sick, at risk or don't feel safe are requested to stay at home and worship virtually.
- 15. Announcements and prayer requests should be emailed to Pastor Dan at his direct email.
- 16. At the present time, there will be no use of fluorescent lights or sound system in the sanctuary, because these interfere with the sound quality of our live stream worship service.
- 17. Offering Gifts: A stationary offering plate will be located at the back of the sanctuary for people to offer a gift in person. [Anyone who prefers continuing to give church offering gifts as they have been doing up to now during the pandemic is welcome to continue.] Thank you for giving to support Ivy Chapel UCC ministries.

Revised: 2/24/2021

March Youth News



Thank You to the Helpers

This past year has been a year like no other. Without in-person worship and Sunday School, the Christian Education Board and many helpers have been working hard to stay connected with the young people of Ivy Chapel.

We have mailed and emailed Sunday school lessons.

We have hand-delivered activity kits and treats for special church holidays and seasons.

We have given a children's message during each virtual worship service.

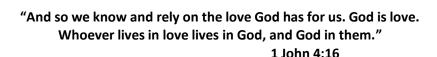
Tara Lowry

A large group of volunteers has helped to deliver God's love to the children and young people while we have to be apart.

The kids made thank you notes that the board is mailing to the volunteers as a small token of appreciation.

A big thank you everyone who helped and is continuing to help!

Ashton Burton	Jo Ann Moody
Anna DiVesta	Julie McCalliste
Diane Droege	Liz Schurwan
Dottie Foster	Bruce Wilking
Donna Grote	Janet Wilking
Marilyn Gulotta	Dan Wilson
Stuart Kirk	Sarah Wilson
Linda Lowry	Sue Wilson



Lenten Food Drive

The food drive is a great way to help so many people in our community. Pick up a few extra items when you go to the store. Or donate money to help the food pantries buy supplies for their clients. Every little bit helps!

The food drive continues through Easter.

You can drop off your donations in the giant soup can in the narthex at Ivy Chapel, or you can send monetary donations to **Peter LaSalle**. Make checks out to Ivy Chapel and write Lenten Food Drive on the memo line.





My dad likes to say If it wasn't for bad luck, we'd have no luck at all. I think I have written about how we are not lucky people. It seems that things just aren't easy for us. I'm often jealous of those that seem to



music@ivychapel.org

just have things go right for them while we are working hard and just trying to survive. However, I forever an optimist, do not need to look far to see how fortunate we are. I am so thankful for our family. Even though we do not live close, we are so fortunate to have a large extended family who loves us very much. While playing Ash Wednesday services, it occurred to me that 10 years ago, was my very first Ash Wednesday service at Ivy Chapel. So many things have happened in those 10 years, but it reminded me that I am thankful for you. It makes me think that perhaps others look at us and wonder why we have it so easy. It reminds me to just be nice to others, you might not know what they are going through. While writing this, I found myself singing the lyrics to I Then Shall Live:

I then shall live as one who's learned compassion; I've been so loved that I'll risk loving too.
I know how fear builds walls instead of bridges;
I dare to see another's point of view.
And when relationships demand commitment,
Then I'll be there to care and follow through.

I am so excited to see you all again. I hope that we will be able to be in person soon (maybe even this month!) I am looking forward to being vaccinated. I am extremely thankful to hear that many of you are currently in the process of receiving the vaccine. On a personal note, my parents have received their vaccine. Yay! Unfortunately, it is still not safe for the chancel choir to return. If you are interested in performing in the music ministry at Ivy Chapel in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am so looking forward to working with you all again soon! In the meantime, do me a favor and quit making it look so easy. All my love to you all.

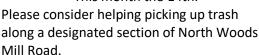
Smiles,

Anna DiVesta
314-609-0865

www.AnnaDiVesta.com

HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

This month the 14th.





Tentative dates also set for the 5/23, 8/29, and 11/7. Contact Bruce Wilking, 314-640-4902, to let him know you want to help.

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.

KEEPING YOU POSTED

You're invited to e-mail your messages to Frieda Clark, ivychapelucc@ivychapel.org
by the 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 (e-KYP). It will be e-mailed to you and posted on the website every Friday.

I uture Mary and Martha Women's Group Meetings will, hopefully, soon be able to resume. Please watch for information in the future weekly KYPs.

CELEBRATING EASTER

STARTING IN MARCH, Deacons will be selling Lilies to brighten the sanctuary for Easter at \$10 each. Please send a check, with "Lilies" in the memo line, and send to Ivy Chapel c/o Peter LaSalle, 2015 Wilson Ridge Lane, Chesterfield, MO 63005.

Lilies for Easter

Are YOU Ready for Action?



1 in 7 Missouri families with children (14%) said that in the most recent week, there was sometimes or always not enough to eat in their household, according to a December 2020 report by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, a decades-long advocate for young people in America.

As Christians, we **MUST** respond — **NOW**, more than ever.

The Christian Education Annual Lenten Food and Personal Care Items Drive starts Sunday, February 21st and continues through Lent. Please Take Action by supporting the two local charities below during this time with a gift of food and/or personal care items.



Serving thousands of people every year in west St. Louis County. Our goal is to provide a variety of resources that empower individuals and families to become self-sufficient.

Current Needs:

- Peanut Butter, Jelly
- Graham Crackers
- Cereal, Cereal Bars, Oatmeal
- Tomato Sauce, Pasta, Mac & Cheese, Hamburger Helper, Tuna Helper
- Canned Tuna and Chicken
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Chili, Soup
- Shampoo, conditioner
- Laundry Detergent



Connecting services and resources to those in need. We facilitate and strengthen partnerships among area churches, restaurants, grocers, businesses, volunteers, and local health providers with residents of south St. Louis.

Current Needs:

- Sardines
- Mac & Cheese
- Spices, Cereal
- Peanut Butter, Jelly
- Razors, Shaving Cream
- Toothbrushes, Toothpaste
- · Toilet Bowl Cleaner, Dish Soap

Place Food and Personal Care items in the large SOUP CAN in the Ivy Chapel Narthex between now and March 28th.

Rather donate cash? Send to Peter LaSalle and make a note of your donation on the memo line of your check: 2015 Wilson Ridge Lane, Chesterfield, MO 63005

Scripture Worship

7 March, Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17, Psalm 19, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, John 2:13-22

14 March, Fourth Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9, Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22, Ephesians 2:1-10, John 3:14-21



21 March, Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16, Hebrews 5:5-10, John 12:20-33

28 March, Palm Sunday

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29, Mark 11:1-11, John 12:12-16, Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16, Philippians 2:5-11, Mark 14:1-15:47/Mark 15:1-39-47

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

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter



and riding on a donkey...

Zechariah 9:9

Trustees

With Spring around the corner, the Trustees and friends will once again be taking on outside projects. Woods Mill highway clean-up is scheduled for March 14.

We will join Juniper Root Preschool in cleaning up the playground area on March 27.

Spring rains will be the final test for the Fellowship Hall roof. Beal Roofing has completed the re-roof and Ivy Chapel has received the final inspection and approval from St. Louis County.

LENTEN OFFERING

Christian Action is designating 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.

(A Season of Cleansing continued from page 2)

longer than forty days. We'll need to continue working at this for the rest of our earthly days...breath by breath; "cleansing" breath by "cleansing" breath.

Let's get started this Lent, and then keep going. In the wilderness of this 40-day spiritual journey, may we turn toward God. May we accept God's cleansing. May we follow Christ more nearly; day by day by day by day...

Breathe on us, "Cleansing" Breath of God,

Pastor Dan

<u>Lenten Prayer</u>
We offer our praise, our thanksgiving, and our faithfulness to you, Jesus. Amen.

Palm Sunday



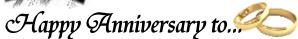
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blessed celebrate Christ colt comes Enter glory Hosanna Jerusalem Jesus leaves Messiah Messiah name of the Lord palms passover praise riding save Savior

sunday worship



With God's Blessings



Happy Birthday to...



3/4/2000 Bob and Doris De Fer

3/5/2011 Elizabeth and Scott Schurwan

3/27/1982 Mark and Nancy Gerdes

3 Jake Del Carmen

12 Linda Ledbetter

Wes Wieser

14 Kaillen Cox

15 Katie Amsler

21 Peter LaSalle

22 Wade Wieser

23 Alex Glenn

23 Deborah Washburn

24 Sue Lindhorst

24 Bruce Wilking

29 Doris De Fer

30 Jack Molyneaux

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

MAR Care Corps LDR-Sarah Heend 314-283-5215 APR Care Corps LDR-Julie Mc Allister 314-576-4946 CO-LDR-Kay Kreder 314-878-5296 CO-LDR-Janet Wilking 314-275-8344

ASSISTING IN LAY MINISTRY Please find YOUR Name.		YOUR Name.	Reminders are sent each Tuesday.			
DATE	Nursery	ACOLYTE/	GREETERS	USHERS	LITURGIST	COFFEE

"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



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

shoeman

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 saiah se Cares 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
2021 March	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
	Lente	en Food	Drive T	hrough-A	pr 4	LENTEN FOOD DRIVE
7 3 rd S Lent-prpl	8 AA 1pm	9 AA S.O.S 10-11am	10 CC Rehearsal	11 AA 12pm	12	13 AA 10:30am
10am Worship see page 3	COUNCIL MTG 7PM	AA 12pm	7pm no other reservations	r		
Lenten Foo	d Drive Th	rough-Apr	4 Len	ten Food D	ive Throug	h-Apr 4
14 4 th S Lent-prpl 10am Worship see page 3 Aft wrshp-Board	15 The Ivy Vine articles due	16 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm	17 Men's Lunch 11:30am Satchmo's 13375 Olive Blvd CC Rehearsal	18 AA 12pm	19	20 AA 10:30am
Mtgs-CA/ Deacons/ Trustee's Hwy Clean-Up see page 5			7pm no other reservations			
Lenten Fo	od Drive Th	rough-Apr	4 Ler	ten Food D	rive Throu	gh-Apr 4
21 5 th S Lent-prpl 10am Worship see page 3	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 Fo	ood Drive F	eb 17-Apr	4 Len	ten Food D	rive Feb 17	-Apr 4
28 PALM SUN-red 10am Worship see page 3	29 AA 1pm	30 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm	31 CC Rehearsal 7pm no other reservations	1 Maundy Thursday AA 12pm NO MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP	2 GOOD FRIDAY Office Closed GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP 7pm on FB	3 AA 10:30am
Lenten I	Food Drive	Feb 17-Ap	r 4 Le	nten Food I	 Prive Feb 1	7-Apr 4





LENTEN FOOD DRIVE TO EASTER 2nd GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP 7pm on Facebook

4th EASTER Sunday 8th COUNCIL MTG 7PM (NOW 2D M) 15th The Ivy Vine articles due

AA=Alcoholics Anonymous CA=Christian Action CC=Chancel Choir CE=Christian Education EMMP=Eric Moody Memorial Pavilion		LS=THE LORD'S SUPPER	 DODLAND PRESCHOOL PP=PURPLE PAGES SS=SUNDAY SCHOOL
Tuesday JRWP 8:30-3:30	Wednesday JRWP 8:30-3:30	Thursday JRWP 8:30-3:30	