

The Ivy Vine

July²⁰²¹



Dan Wilson, Pastor
pastordan@ivychapel.org

Joy Beyond Measure!

The Lamb of God is humankind's Deliverer! Jesus delivers people from anything and everything which would hold us captive. How remarkable that our Savior pays the ransom for the sins of the world by taking our guilt upon himself and dying in our place. "Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace."

The Apostle Paul grasps the enormity of Christ's sacrifice: "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For **you were bought with a price**; therefore glorify God in your body... For whoever was called in the Lord as a slave is a freed person belonging to the Lord, just as whoever was free when called is a slave of Christ. **You were bought with a price**; do not become slaves of human masters." (1 Corinthians 6:19-20 and 7:22-23) Yes, my friends, we all have been ransomed. Jesus Christ has paid in full on our behalf. The moment that we appreciate the immensity of this gift, we are overwhelmed with *joy beyond measure!*

Truly, Jesus of Nazareth is a wholehearted Savior. Jesus leads by example. In his own life, Jesus himself does not skimp. He does not take the easy way. No, instead Jesus devotes himself to taking the *faithful* way. In the end, we witness that this is not at all an

"easy way out." Jesus' manner of living is the way to the cross.

Near the conclusion of his celebrated Sermon on the Mount, Jesus proclaims: "Enter through the narrow gate, for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it." (Matthew 7:13-14) Living as a faithful follower of Jesus Christ is difficult.

I inadvertently ran across this anonymous tidbit. It is a list of actions that are not easy to do. Take a look.

Difficult things to do...

- To break a bad habit,***
- To love an enemy,***
- To admit a mistake,***
- To ask for forgiveness,***
- To accept forgiveness,***
- To withhold judgment,***
- To grow old gracefully,***
- To persevere without haste,***
- To wait without impatience,***
- To suffer without complaint,***
- To know when to keep silent,***
- To be indifferent to ridicule,***
- To concentrate in the midst of strife,***
- To endure hatred without resentment,***
- To serve without recognition.***

(Continued on page 2.)

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Now, let's consider which of these actions are in harmony with Christ's Gospel. Well, what do you know?! All of them are. Our Savior exhorts, "Go and do likewise." (Luke 10:37) Jesus is well aware that this is a tall order. Yet he is candid with us, announcing up front that discipleship in his name will be difficult.

Thanks to the self-giving, extravagant love of Christ Jesus, souls ultimately are delivered from all anguish. As the psalmist rejoices, "Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days!" (Psalm 90:14) Just imagine! You and I and all people have been ransomed!

Our Savior wants us to pay it forward. Our Savior wants us to turn right around and love everyone else with the very same lavish, exuberant love! "Go and do likewise," coaches Jesus.

Through Christ Jesus, all are given *joy beyond measure!*
Pastor Dan

"I have said these things to you so that my joy will be in you and your joy will be complete," says Jesus.
(John 15:11)

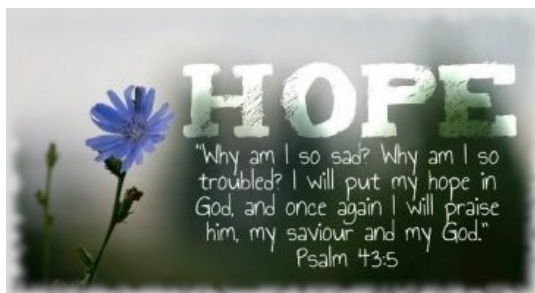
An excerpt from More Daily Prayers for Busy People by William O'Malley, SJ (Saint Mary's Press, Winona, MN, 1999):

Psalm 42

As the doe sniffs the air for running waters, so my soul longs for you, God of life. I'm tired of tasting tears all day and night, while quiet voices whisper, "Where's your God?"

Then with a stab of knowing I remember how we've walked together side by side before. Your faithfulness and friendship are forever. The soul within me melts with joy and hope. Why should a soul so blessed be downcast? I sigh no more in sorrow but in release. I trust and hope in you, my Savior and my God.

Living God, the night comes on, and I could use a dose of hope. Help me let go of the day with grace. Amen.



Update on *In-Person* Worship

We would like to inform our church membership of a new change in our in-person worship protocols, which will become effective moving forward.



**NO reservations needed!
BUT—We ask you to please wear a Mask.**

While we have been requesting that those who plan to attend worship contact **Gail Thoele** to place a reservation prior to noon on the Saturday before worship, reservations will now, no longer be required to attend worship on Sundays.

We appreciate everyone's cooperation in implementing our health and safety guidelines to maintain a safe and welcoming worship environment.

~John Weiland, Moderator

Fund the Facility

Fund the Facility—just a reminder that this is year three of IVY CHAPEL's Fund the Facility campaign. Fund the Facility monies are used to cover significant building and grounds and related costs, such as the roof repair, parking lot water pipe repair and audio/visual improvements in the Sanctuary, accomplished the past two years.

If you are able, please consider using some of your stimulus money to help us meet our goal.

June Council Lifted Up:

- ♥ Sarah Wilson and Steve Lowry for volunteering for and performing the audio/visual responsibilities during in-person worship when the A/V team was on vacation.
- ♥ Dottie Foster and Gail Thoele for anchoring the in-person worship usher duties the past many weeks.
- ♥ Jo Ann Moody for volunteering in many capacities around Ivy Chapel.

Youth JULY News

Thank you for
wearing your
masks!



Children under 12 are not able to receive Covid-19 vaccines at this time. We hope that will change in the future. Until that happens, we can all help protect the young ones of our congregation by continuing to wear face masks when in the church building.

Thank you for keeping our church safe for all ages!

Search

YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR SEARCH

As part of their work to fill our vacant youth program coordinator position, the search committee has changed the name of the position to Youth Ministry Coordinator. This new title aligns with the language used by other UCC churches. The job opening has been posted on the Mid-Missouri Mid-South Conference UCC website, Ivy Chapel's website and social media accounts, and on various employment sites. We hope to conduct interviews later in the summer.

YOU CAN HELP US FIND A YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR

We need help getting the word out about our open position at Ivy Chapel. Find the Ivy Chapel Facebook page and share the post about our new job opening. You can share it on all your social media accounts. Not on social media? Word-of-mouth is always a great way to help us advertise—tell your friends, family and neighbors about our Youth Ministry Coordinator job opening.

*There are opportunities to connect with the children of Ivy Chapel!
Here are some things you can do:*

During the pandemic the children of Ivy Chapel do not have the opportunity to do most of their “normal” church activities. One thing we have continued to do is have a children’s message as part of our Sunday worship service. A small, but mighty, group has been offering children’s messages since last fall. We are looking for a little more help. Please prayerfully consider if you could share God’s word with the children on one Sunday.

Contact **Sarah Heend**, 314-283-5215, skheend@gmail.com to help,
or if you have any questions.

Plan Sunday School Lessons

We are always looking for people to share their talents with Ivy’s children. Right now we need help assembling Sunday School lessons. You can do online lessons or use some of our many lesson books to make copies and mail packets to the kids.

Please contact **Sarah Heend**, 314-283-5215, skheend@gmail.com if you can help.

Homegrown Mission Opportunity

The dedicated gardeners who work on Ivy Chapel’s garden always welcome help from people of all ages. The produce from Ivy Chapel’s garden goes to local food pantries. If you would like to help in the garden in any way, please contact **Russ Washburn** or **Tom Glenn**.



The Note

This summer is already flying by. We've been quite busy in the DiVesta household. We signed the boys up for swim team which is everyday. It is kind of a lot, but it is nice to get up and get going. However, I am quite tired! We are soon going up to visit my sister as it is my niece's birthday which means the lovely Julie McAllister will be in subbing for me on the 4th. I do hope everyone has a wonderful holiday. I am so very thankful that this summer is more normal even if it is not quite back to what we were expecting. Speaking of being back to some semblance of normal, it has been amazing seeing so many of you back in church. I cannot wait for the day until we are all able to be together worshipping in the sanctuary again. You are missed.

In the music world at Ivy Chapel, I am still looking for instrumentalists and vocalists who feel comfortable joining me in worship. If you are interested, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at any time. I am not sure when choir will start, but look for an email from gauging interest in returning. We might do some smaller group stuff while we wait until more are more comfortable returning. Please reach out if you have any ideas or if you are interested in joining/returning to choir. I am so looking forward to the day when we can all sing together again.

*Psalm 96:1 Sing a new song to the Lord.
Let the whole earth sing to the Lord.*

Until next time, Happy 4th!

Until next time...Smiles,

Anna DiVesta

314-609-0865

www.AnnadiVesta.com



Anna DiVesta-Minister of Music

music@ivy chapel.org

Fellowship

Event Opportunities

Did you miss Ivy Chapel's picnic fellowship event Saturday, June 12th? If so, we missed you! Although it was a hot day, around 20+ people found fun and fellowship, and a breeze in the shade under the trees.

We have heard there is interest in organizing more fellowship events to gather people to socialize again in a safe manner. If you have ideas, it is as simple as letting a Council member know, and then getting help to organize the event.

Let's find ways to get together! It is nice to see everyone and catch-up with each other.

Mary^{and}MarthaWmnsGrp

The Mary and Martha Women's Group met on June 22nd with **Social Worker Mary Frei and Chaplain Hashim Seeger from Evelyn's House Hospice Center at Barnes Jewish West**. They presented Power Point Slides and Discussion about the support and care that Hospice and Evelyn's House can provide to a dying person and their family. There were quite a few questions answered and we appreciate the time they took out of their day to present this program.

We have received about \$160 worth of in-kind and cash contributions for Lydia's House. Thank you very much on behalf of the women and children who live there.

We decided to wait to have *Dessert for a Dollar Bake Sale* until we know that it can be done in Fellowship Hall. We also made some plans for a church-wide event to attend an Outdoor Concert on August 8th. Please watch the KYP and the August issue of The Ivy Vine for details.

We wrote cards to some of our church family who have been undergoing medical challenges.

Our next meeting will be at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, August 17th. Janet W., daughter of Mary Mitchell, will come to talk about the Missouri Botanical Garden where she is a docent.

Scripture Worship

4 JULY, SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10, Psalm 48, Ezekiel 2:1-5,
Psalm 123, 2 Corinthians 12:2-10, Mark 6:1-13

11 JULY, SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; Psalm 24, Amos 7:7-15,
Psalm 85:8-13, Ephesians 1:3-14, Mark 6:14-29



18 JULY, EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

2 Samuel 7:1-14a, Psalm 89:20-37, Jeremiah 23:1-6,
Psalm 23, Ephesians 2:11-22, Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

25 JULY, NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

2 Samuel 11:1-15, Psalm 14, 2 Kings 4:42-44,
Psalm 145:10-18, Ephesians 3:14-21, John 6:1-21

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

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to the man of God [Elisha]: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, "Give it to the people and let them eat." But his servant said, "How can I set this before a hundred people?" So he repeated, "Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the LORD, 'They shall eat and have some left.'" He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD. 2 Kings 4:42-44



Now that we are returning to church...*WE NEED HELP!*
We need ushers, children's sermon teachers, and people willing to learn how to use the new AV (audio-visual) equipment.
We surely would appreciate the help.
Board of Deacons



Missouri Mid-South Conference

Learn more about
**Missouri Mid-South
Conference**

<https://www.missourimidsouth.org/>

Learn of current events on the website drop-down
tab named "News & Events"

Trustees

As we move cautiously toward normal operations, custodial services will move back from biweekly to weekly. Water fountains have been turned back on.

However, plumbing woes continue at Ivy Chapel. The sprinkler pipe that waters plants around the flagpole and main sign is broken. The Trustees are still discussing the in-house repair or replacement of the line. **More pressing** is a break in the main sewer line causing a leak in the pre-school playground. Hoffman Plumbing will be digging up the pipe to locate the blockage and repair the line. They will also provide a clean out outside of the building for any future needs.

CONDENSED VERSION OF THE BIBLE

(Shared by an Ivy Chapel UCC member)

God made it. Adam bit.
Noah arked. Abraham split.
Jacob fooled.
Joseph ruled.
Bush talked. Moses balked.
Pharaoh plagued. People walked.
Sea divided. Tablets guided. Promise landed.
Saul freaked.
David peeked.
Prophets warned.
Jesus born.
God walked.
Love talked.
Anger crucified.
Hope died.
Love rose. Spirit flamed.
Word spread. God remained.

HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

Please consider helping picking up trash along a designated section of North Woods Mill Road. Tentative dates are set for 8/29, and 11/7. Contact **Bruce Wilking**, 314-640-4902, to let him know you want to help.





With God's Blessings

Happy Anniversary to... 

7/23/2000 Robert and Diane Droege

Happy Birthday to... 

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 10 Ashwath Sampath | 23 Tyler Ray |
| 12 Bob De Fer | Elizabeth Schurwan |
| 14 Malvika Sampath | 24 Jessica Kempa |
| 18 Stephen Lowry | 28 Bill Pasia |
| 20 Jim Sheahan | 30 Jack Litzinger |
| 21 Christopher Moody | 31 Cole Winship |

SADLY, we can no longer collect shoes for ShoeCrew.
Until further notice, please donate your footwear to the local (accepting) charity.



Because of this, all 100+ footwear you generously donated over the year were taken to the local GOODWILL®.

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

JUL Care Corps LDR-Diane Droege 314-369-6349
AUG Care Corps LDR-Diann Sheahan 314-275-2913

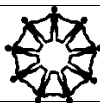
CO-LDR-Nancy Marston 314-878-1317
CO-LDR-Ann Molyneaux 314-878-0966

ASSISTING IN LAY MINISTRY		Please find YOUR Name.		Reminders are sent each Tuesday.		
DATE	NURSERY	ACOLYTE/	GREETERS	USHERS	LITURGIST	COFFEE
<p style="text-align: center;">Come worship with us. NO reservations needed! BUT, We ask you to please wear a Mask.</p> <p>For daily spiritual nourishment; we invite you to subscribe free of charge to our United Church of Christ Still-speaking Daily Devotional at www.ucc.org/daily_devotional</p>						



Charities we serve:

CIRCLE OF CONCERN A Shopping and monthly needs List is on Fellowship Hall bulletin board.
 636-861-2623 <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. <http://i58ministries.org/>



RITENOUR CO-CARE FOOD PANTRY Collects food and personal care items. <http://www.rccfoodpantry.org/>

Please place items on the designated shelves in the cloak room for these local charities.

Every Child's Hope <https://everychildshope.org>

Lydia's House <https://www.lydiashouse.org>

UP—Unleashing Potential <https://upstl.org>


INSTITUTO EL REY: Explore the website how YOU can help students in rural northern Honduras pursue their dreams. www.ierschool.org



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.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Anna DiVesta-Music classes 3:30-9pm Christian Ed. Mtg 7pm	2	3 AA 10:30am Anna DiVesta-Music class 1-3pm
4 6th S aft Pentecost-grn 10am Worship w/LS Anna DiVesta-Music class 11:30am-1pm	5 AA 1pm	6 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm	7	8 Anna DiVesta-Music classes 3:30-9pm	9	10 AA 10:30am Anna DiVesta-Music class 1-3pm
<div> <div>←</div> <div>—Frieda Clark on vacation July 5-16 —</div> <div>—Frieda Clark on vacation July 5-16 —</div> <div>→</div> </div>						
11 7th S aft Pentecost-grn 10am Worship Anna DiVesta-Music class 11:30am-1pm	12 AA 1pm COUNCIL MTG 7PM	13 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm	14	15 The Ivy Vine articles due Anna DiVesta-Music classes 3:30-9pm	16	17 AA 10:30am Anna DiVesta-Music class 1-3pm
<div> <div>←</div> <div>—Frieda Clark on vacation July 5-16 —</div> <div>—Frieda Clark on vacation July 5-16 —</div> <div>→</div> </div>						
18 8th S aft Pentecost-grn 10am Worship Anna DiVesta-Music class 11:30am-1pm	19 AA 1pm	20 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm Mary & Martha Wms Grp 1pm	21 Men's Lunch 11:30am Creve Coeur Lakehouse, 2160 Creve Coeur Mill Rd	22 Anna DiVesta-Music classes 3:30-9pm	23	24 AA 10:30am Anna DiVesta-Music class 1-3pm
25 9th S aft Pentecost-grn 10am Worship Anna DiVesta-Music class 11:30am-1pm	26 AA 1pm	27 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm	28	29 Anna DiVesta-Music classes 3:30-9pm	30	31 AA 10:30am Anna DiVesta-Music class 1-3pm


MEDICAL DEBT RELIEF INITIATIVE Your donations help the non-profit RIP Medical Debt Relief org. and the UCC to buy the a person's medical debt. They'll receive a letter that their debt is gone—No taxes or penalties. Just like that, they're free of medical debt. *No later than August 1, 2021*; please send your donations to the Missouri Mid-South conference office (483 E. Lockwood Ave. Suite 15, St. Louis, MO 63119) and write in check memo "MEDICAL DEBT RELIEF" or donate through the [Missouri Mid-South website](#), at the bottom of the donation list find "MEDICAL DEBT RELIEF".

For more information, please contact Rev. Rob Van Ess at revrobvaness@gmail.com

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 WGS =WOMEN'S GROUP	JRWP =JUNIPER ROOT WOODLAND PRESCHOOL NURSERY=NY SY =SANCTUARY	PP =PURPLE PAGES SS =SUNDAY SCHOOL
Monday JRWP 8:30-3:30	Tuesday JRWP 8:30-3:30	Wednesday JRWP 8:30-3:30	Thursday JRWP 8:30-3:30	Friday JRWP 8:30-3:30	