

The Ivy Vine

2021 August



Dan Wilson, Pastor
pastordan@ivy-chapel.org

Why am I a Christian?

There are manifold answers to this question. No single answer is “the” correct answer.

We may explore this initial question by posing some additional questions, such as: Why am I a part of the Christian Church? Why am I a member of Ivy Chapel United Church of Christ? Why do I seek to follow Jesus of Nazareth?

Each of us has our own personal answer to such questions. Notice I have said “answer” in the singular. This is because I suspect that, for each individual human being, the way that we respond to one of these questions tends to be the same answer that we give to *all* of these questions.

In no way do I mean to imply that all people share the *same* answer. No, not at all. [This is very “United Church of Christ” when we think about it! Our denomination has no doctrine—that is, no “set, right teaching or position” on any matter. As the UCC, we affirm each person’s personal views and beliefs. There may be no greater challenge than aspiring to live together in this manner—displaying mutual respect for one another. This can be extremely difficult, especially when someone else’s belief blatantly conflicts with my belief. Certain other churches resolve this

quandary by establishing one clear church doctrine to which all church members are required to subscribe. Instead, the UCC chooses to “live with” differences by acknowledging and respecting differing beliefs. A bold approach! This requires depth of faith.] Okay, my friends, that’s all for now concerning my biased editorial singing the praises of our United Church of Christ.

Back to the original topic of answering the above questions. I am suggesting that the way a given individual answers one of these four questions may be exactly how that same person answers *every one* of the questions.

Let’s be clear. There is no “*universal answer*.” Our individual answers will be as varied as we human beings are! Every one of us is unique. Therefore, from one person to the next, our answers are going to vary.

Each single one of us has our own individualized reasoning which informs our personal answer to questions like:

Why am I a Christian?

Why am I a part of the Christian Church?

Why am I a member of Ivy Chapel United Church of Christ?

Why do I seek to follow Jesus of Nazareth?

(Continued on page 2.)

(Creativity and Joy! continued.)

Allow me to offer several for instances. Some people claim that this is what they do because this is how they were “raised;” this is what they were taught. Maybe. Except this sounds a lot like doing something mainly to please your parents or your teachers. And isn’t dedicating yourself to living as a Christ-follower and being an active participant in a faith community highly personal? In other words, doing these things with sincerity goes beyond merely taking action “to please other people.” Declaring that you are living in this manner because this is what you were “trained” to do seems to lack significant personal investment in being a disciple.

Another for instance could be claiming that following Jesus “brings me joy.” While there is joy to be experienced in living as a Christian, the truth is, “joy” is actually a starting place instead of a derivative result of Christian discipleship. Our Savior teaches us this, “God is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As God has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love...I have said these things to you, so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be full.” (John 15:8-9, 11) Discipleship does not “result in” joy so much as discipleship “issues from” God-given joy. Joy begins with God.

Another for instance could be some people have a mentality that being a Christian is the equivalent of “being good.” It is a skewed viewpoint that sees living as a Christian disciple as a means of gaining personal benefit. The motivation of anyone who looks at it this way would be for God to recognize them as “good” and reward them. Even the Son of God balks at this label, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone.” (Mark 10:18 and Luke 18:19) Being a Christian is not about qualifying for or deserving a reward.

Beloved, may we examine ourselves and reflect on our character. As we do, one hopes that we will recognize following Christ is a response to the blessing and forgiveness and love which God first offers to us. You and I are not blessed or forgiven or loved because of our worthiness. You and I do not receive from God because we deserve gifts. You and I are given gifts by God purely because *God is good*. This is who God is. Solely out of God’s goodness and God’s desire to love are we loved.

We have peace with God through our Savior Jesus Christ who provides this grace in which we live. Grace is God’s *free gift*. As the Apostle Paul wrote, “But the *free gift* is not like the trespass... the *free gift* in the grace of the One, Jesus Christ, abounded (Free Gift continued on page 5)

Thank You...

Thanks friends, for all the cards, phone calls, visits, food and prayers while I’m recovering from my surgery. They have been very comforting. Love and peace, **Jan Wirtz**

Mission Moment Sunday, August 8

We are blessed that Darlene Sowell, President/CEO of **UNLEASHING POTENTIAL**, will share with us during Sunday, August 8 Worship at Ivy Chapel UCC. We look forward to receiving the Mission Moment which Darlene will offer highlighting on-going ministries of Unleashing Potential.



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

See page four for an coming Fellowship Event in St. Charles!

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.

Jul. Council Lifted Up:

- ♥ The Youth Ministry Coordinator Search Committee:
Sarah Heend, Diane Droege, Liz Schurwan, Sarah Wilson, Anna DiVesta, Aaron DiVesta
- ♥ Trustees for fixing the sewer problem.

Youth News



2021!

We are looking forward to celebrating **Rally Day** on **Sunday, August 29th**!

We will share a special children's message during worship and then have outdoor Sunday school in the pavilion.

After worship we will share a bring-your-own picnic on the front lawn with the whole congregation.

Things might be a little different this year, but we can still celebrate the beginning of the Sunday school year.

Come join us for food, fun and fellowship!

Watch the **Keeping You Posted** for more details.

Contact **Sarah Heend** 314-283-5215, skheend@gmail.com with questions.

HELP US FIND A NEW 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.**



Children under 12 are not able to receive vaccines against Covid-19 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!

There are opportunities to connect with the children of Ivy Chapel!

Here are some things you can do:

Share a Children's Message

A small, but mighty, group has been offering children's messages since last fall. We are looking for a little more help. The children love to hear a message just for them. You can share a book, a favorite Bible story or explain a Bible verse to our young ones. Please contact **Sarah Heend**

314-283-5215, skheend@gmail.com if you can help.

Plan Sunday School Lessons

A few people have been sending Sunday school lessons to the families of our church. We can always use more help. 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** 314-288-4157 or **Tom Glenn** 314-409-7062.



The Note

I have been writing *The Note* for 10 years now. Sometimes, I forget what I have written about. I know how I have written about how I do not consider myself a lucky person, but I sure do have plenty of blessings in my life. I absolutely love looking for signs or having a moment of serendipity. It makes me feel like I'm on the right track. For example, I had a bout of illness last month. I was/am worried about it. Then, I see a church sign that says *Relax. God Is In Control*. I needed that at that particular time and moment in my life. I know some of you might be thinking *It's a church sign. Of course, it says something about God*. Regardless, it was the very thing I needed at that exact moment. In the course of writing this note, I was curious if there was anything related to serendipity in the Bible. I found a lovely devotional called *A God of Serendipity*. (Are you thinking what I'm thinking?? Totally serendipitous!). The author, Kelly Johnson, refers to the following from Jeremiah Chapter 29:11:

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Friends, we are all so exhausted by the pandemic. We have all become a little weary. I encourage you to find these moments of serendipity. Look for the miracles in the mundane. Open your eyes to the work God is doing all around us—in us and through us. Everyone can be someone else's serendipity. And, if you're feeling curious, please check out this wonderful devotion I found. <https://theglorioustable.com/2017/09/devotion-god-serendipity/>

On the music front, I long for the day when we all feel safe enough to come together in singing as a large group. I wish I could give you a firm date on the choir's return. Until that day, I am still looking for soloists, small groups or instrumentalists to enrich worship with their talents. If you feel it in your heart to give a little time and talent to the music ministry at Ivy Chapel, I would love to hear from you. Please do not hesitate to reach out so we can *make a joyful noise unto the Lord*.

Until next time...Smiles,

Anna DiVesta

314-609-0865

www.AnnadiVesta.com



Anna DiVesta-Minister of Music

music@ivy-chapel.org

Mary and Martha Wmns Grp

At the June meeting of the Mary and Martha Women's Group we discussed a trip to St. Charles for a Sunday Evening Jazz Band Concert. It evolved into an idea for a Fellowship Event for all of Ivy Chapel. The free outdoor Concert (see page four) will be on August 8th at 7:30 p.m. at the Lewis and Clark Museum and Boathouse which is at the south end of Frontier Park on the Riverfront. It is at the intersection of Booneslick Rd. and Riverside Dr. There is a large parking lot in front of the Boathouse and concrete pavement at the side of it where the Band will play. Bring your own lawn chairs or blankets and if you want, a cooler with snacks, drinks, or even dinner. Insect repellent is a good idea, too. The Museum and Boathouse will be open for restrooms and shopping in the gift shop. If it rains the concert will be cancelled. For further information you can check the St. Charles Municipal Band Website which is www.stcharlesband.com

The August meeting for the M&M Group will be at 1p.m. in the Multipurpose Room on Tuesday, August 17th. Janet Wasylczak, daughter of **Mary Mitchell**, is a Volunteer at the Botanical Gardens and will be discussing the new Visitor's Center in construction, the Origami display now at the Garden and anything else of interest.

There will be a short business meeting afterwards.

Fellowship Event

Outdoor Jazz Concert in St. Charles



The free outdoor Jazz Concert will be Aug. 8th, 7:30pm at the Lewis and Clark Museum and Boathouse which is at the south end of Frontier Park on the Riverfront. It is at the intersection of Booneslick Rd. and Riverside Dr. There is a large parking lot in front of the Boathouse and concrete pavement at the side of it where the Band will play. Bring your own lawn chairs or blankets and if you want, a cooler with snacks, drinks, or even dinner. Insect repellent is a good idea, too.

The Museum and Boathouse will be open for restrooms and shopping in the gift shop.

If it rains the concert will be cancelled.

For further information you can check the
[St. Charles Municipal Band Website](http://www.stcharlesband.com) at
www.stcharlesband.com

Scripture & Worship

1 AUG, 10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

2 Samuel 11:26 - 12:13a, Psalm 51:1-12, Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15, Psalm 78:23-29, Ephesians 4:1-16, John 6:24-35

8 AUG, 11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33, Psalm 130, 1 Kings 19:4-8, Psalm 34:1-8, Ephesians 4:25-5:2, John 6:35, 41-51

15 AUG, 12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14; Psalm 111, Proverbs 9:1-6, Psalm 34:9-14, Ephesians 5:15-20, John 6:51-58

22 AUG, 13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1 Kings 8:1,6,10-11, 22-30, 41-43; Psalm 84, Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; Psalm 34:15-22, Ephesians 6:10-20, John 6:56-69

29 AUG, 14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Solomon 2:8-13, Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9, Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; Psalm 15, James 1:17-27, Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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

(Free Gift continued from page 2)

for the many... Therefore, just as one's trespass led to condemnation for all, so One's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by one's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by One's obedience the many will be made righteous. But law came in, with the result that the trespass multiplied; but where sin abounded, *grace over-abounded!*" (Romans 5:15, 18-20)

The Apostle Paul preached, "God raised him from the dead... Let this be known to you therefore, my beloved siblings, that through this One forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. By this Jesus, everyone who believes is set *free* from all from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses." (Acts 13:30, 38-39)

Christ Jesus promises, "If you continue in my word, you truly are my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you *free*... if the Son sets you *free*, you will be *free* indeed." (John 8:31-32, 36)

We are Christians, we are God's Church, and we strive to be Christ's followers in response to the "grace gift" which all humankind receives through Jesus our Savior! We are *free*! "For the wages of sin is death, but the *free gift* of God is life eternal in Christ Jesus our Savior." (Romans 6:23) Christ sets all people *free*!

The *free gift* of God is life eternal.

Love out of thanksgiving for God-given grace,
Pastor Dan

Trustees

The sewer line from the Church was leaking in the preschool playground.

On June 29, Hoffman Plumbing started to dig and found a clean-out buried in the playground. They roto-rooted the pipe and cleared the blockage due to roots growing



through the joints in the clay drainage pipes. They sent a camera down to confirm that the pipe was clear but found sludge in the pipe further down under the parking lot. This has since been cleared and repairs have been completed.

Trash pick-up along Woods Mill Road is scheduled for Sunday, August 29, weather permitting.

Finally, we would like to remind you to make sure to *lock up* if you come to Church during the week.

HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

Please consider helping picking up trash along the designated section of North Woods Mill Road. Dates are set for the **8/28**, and 11/7.



Feel free to contact **Bruce Wilking**, 314-640-4902, and let him know you want to help.

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 repairs to a broken sewer pipe this summer, parking lot water pipe repair last winter; the roof repair and audio/visual improvements in the Sanctuary that were accomplished the past two years.

If you are able, please consider helping us meet our goal through contributions.





With God's Blessings

Happy Anniversary to... 

Happy Birthday to... 

8/1/1970 Carl and Pat Winship

8/9/1964 Earl and Kay Kreder

6 Dottie Foster
Michelle Moody

8 Gloria Wintrobe

11 Cleo Steffens

12 Kathryn Kuntzman

14 Erin Winship

15 Earl Kreder

19 Brittany Wolff

20 Diane Droege

Jim French

Nicholas Wintrobe

23 Sally Dodge

24 Claire Lowry

25 Mike Tichy

26 Michael Pfau

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@ivy chapel.org 314-580-4564

Anna DiVesta: music@ivy chapel.org

Frieda Clark: ivy chapelucc@ivy chapel.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

AUG Care Corps LDR-Diann Sheahan 314-275-2913

SEP Care Corps LDR-Kathryn Kuntzman 636-391-8468

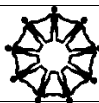
CO-LDR-Ann Molyneaux 314-878-0966

CO-LDR-Valerie Waterman 636-391-9886

ASSISTING IN LAY MINISTRY		Please find YOUR Name.		Reminders are sent each Tuesday.		
DATE	NURSERY	ACOLYTE/	GREETERS	USHERS	LITURGIST	COFFEE
		<p>Reservations no longer needed for Sunday worship. All are welcome to join us. Masks and social distancing still required to protect our young and unvaccinated members.</p> <p>Or worship on YouTube Sunday at 10 a.m.</p> <p>Visit our YouTube channel</p>				
		<p>For daily spiritual nourishment; we invite you to subscribe free of charge to our United Church of Christ Still Speaking</p>				
		<p>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 <https://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. <https://i58ministries.org/>



RITENOUR CO-CARE FOOD PANTRY Collects food and personal care items. <https://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 10 th S aft Pentecost-grn 10am Worship Anna DiVesta-Music classes 11:30-1pm	2 AA 1pm	3 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm	4 Anna DiVesta-Music classes 3:30-9pm	5 Christian Ed. Mtg 7pm	6	7 AA 10:30am Anna DiVesta-Music class 1-3pm
8 11 th S aft Pentecost-grn 10am Worship Outdoor Concert in St. Charles 7:30pm see pg 4 Anna DiVesta-Music classes 11:30-1pm	9 AA 1pm COUNCIL MTG 7PM	10 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm	11 Anna DiVesta-Music classes 3:30-9pm	12	13 Square dancing group	14 AA 10:30am Anna DiVesta-Music class 1-3pm
15 12 th S aft Pentecost-grn The Ivy Vine articles due 10am Worship Anna DiVesta-Music classes 11:30-1pm	16 AA 1pm	17 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm Mary & Martha Wms Grp 1pm	18 Men's Lunch 11:30am Stackhouse @ 13419 Olive Blvd. (Chesterfield Plaza) Anna DiVesta-Music classes 3:30-9pm	19	20	21 AA 10:30am Anna DiVesta-Music class 1-3pm
22 13 th S aft Pentecost-grn 10am Worship Anna DiVesta-Music classes 11:30-1pm	23 AA 1pm	24 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm	25 Anna DiVesta-Music classes 3:30-9pm	26	27	28 AA 10:30am Anna DiVesta-Music class 1-3pm  HWY CLEAN-UP see pg 5
29 14 th S aft Pentecost-grn 10am Worship  Anna DiVesta-Music classes 11:30-1pm	30 AA 1pm	31 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm	1 September Anna DiVesta-Music classes 3:30-9pm	2 September Christian Ed. Mtg 7pm	3 September	4 September AA 10:30am Anna DiVesta-Music class 1-3pm

August 2021



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
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	