

The Ivy Vine

2021 September



Dan Wilson, Pastor
pastordan@ivychapel.org

God's Transforming Promises

God promises big things. And God delivers!

"For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made God's light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels (clay jars) to show that transcendent (all-surpassing) power belongs to God and not to us." (2 Corinthians 4:6-7)

In her provocative work Scarred by Struggle, Transformed by Hope (Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, MI, 2005), a Benedictine nun named Joan Chittister reveals and celebrates that through Holy God there always is opportunity for transformation. Everyone goes through times of pain and sorrow, depression and darkness, stress and suffering. It can be through life's struggles, however, that we grow and receive new insights enabling us to go on. Building on the biblical story of Jacob wrestling with God (Genesis 32) and on the story of her own battle with life-changing disappointment, Sister Joan Chittister courageously explores the landscape of suffering and hope, dealing with wide-ranging topics, such as consumerism, technology, grief, injustice with regard to roles of women in the Roman Catholic Church, and the events of September 11, 2001. "We struggle," Sister Joan says, "against change,

isolation, darkness, fear, powerlessness, vulnerability, exhaustion, and scarring. While such struggles sometimes seem insurmountable, we can emerge from them with the gifts of conversion, detachment, faith, courage, surrender, limitations, endurance, transformation, and (perhaps most important) hope." Each of these struggles and gifts is discussed in depth. This is a book written by Sister Joan in an effort to help readers cope with their own personal suffering and disappointment. Scarred by Struggle, Transformed by Hope is, in the author's own words, "an anatomy of struggle and an account of the way hope grows in us, despite our moments of darkness, regardless of our bouts of depression. It is an invitation to look again at the struggles of life in order that we might remember how to recognize new life in our souls the next time our hearts turn again to clay."

The hopeful message here is that God's promises are fulfilled. Although we do encounter disasters and heartbreaks over the course of our earthly lives, the promises of God endure. "God's agapé love is patient. Love is kind. Love is not envious or boastful or rude... Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. God's agapé love never ends!" (1 Corinthians 13: 4-5, 7-8)

(Continued on page 2)

Yes, God's promises are true! Maybe not today, maybe not this month, but ultimately, God will fulfill God's promises. This is "better-than-good" news. This is spectacular, uplifting, tremendous news!

The celebrated poet and author Thomas Stearns Eliot was born September 26, 1888 in St. Louis, Missouri. East Coker is the name of a charming, lovely, little village in the open countryside of Somerset, England. The village is the ancestral home of T. S. Eliot.

"East Coker" is the second poem in his masterpiece Four Quartets. T. S. Eliot writes:

"In my beginning is my end. In succession
Houses rise and fall, crumble, are extended,
Are removed, destroyed, restored, or in their place
Is an open field, or a factory, or a by-pass.
Old stone to new building, old timber to new fires,
Old fires to ashes, and ashes to the earth,
Which is already flesh, fur, and faeces,
Bone of man and beast, cornstalk and leaf.
Houses live and die: there is a time for building
And a time for living and for generation
And a time for the wind to break the loosened pane
And to shake the wainscot where the field-mouse trots
And to shake the tattered arras woven with a silent motto.

In my beginning is my end. Now the light falls
Across the open field, leaving the deep lane
Shuttered with branches, dark in the afternoon,
Where you lean against a bank while a van passes
And the deep lane insists on the direction
Into the village, in the electric heat
Hypnotised. In a warm haze the sultry light
Is absorbed, not refracted, by grey stone.
The dahlias sleep in the empty silence.
Wait for the early owl.

In that open field
If you do not come too close, if you do not come too close
On a summer midnight, you can hear the music
Of the weak pipe and the little drum
And see them dancing around the bonfire...

Leaping through the flames, or joined in circles,
Rustically solemn or in rustic laughter
Lifting heavy feet in clumsy shoes,
Earth feet, loam feet, lifted in country mirth
Mirth of those long since under earth
Nourishing the corn. Keeping time,
Keeping the rhythm in their dancing
As in their living in the living seasons

(God's Transforming Promises continued on page 6)



From the Board of Deacons

*Anna DiVesta's final day of
leading worship at Ivy Chapel UCC
will be*

Sunday, September 5, 2021.

*Please join us at a reception from
3-5 o'clock in the afternoon*

*to greet Anna,
have some refreshments and celebrate.*



**LET'S GO TO PAGE 5 TO SEE MORE
ABOUT THAT FELLOWSHIP EVENT
called
BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**



Aug. Council Lifted Up:

- ♥ Dottie Foster and Gail Thoele for organizing and hosting the Lemonade Stand and Watermelon outdoor fellowship events the first Sundays in July and August.
- ♥ Anna and Aaron DiVesta for their spirit-filled service to God and Ivy Chapel's congregation for over 10 years.

Youth September News

Sunday School on Pause



We have decided to hold off on in-person Sunday school due to the surge in covid cases in recent weeks. We look forward to a time when we can gather together again safely in the future.

In the meantime, there are ways we can connect with our young people:

Share the 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 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 at 314-283-5215 or by email: skheend@gmail.com if you can help.

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.



**Thank you for
wearing your
masks!**

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!

The Note

"To everything there is a season,
and a time to every purpose
under the heaven:

A time to be born, and a time to
die; a time to plant, and a time
to pluck up that which is
planted:

A time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;

A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn,
and a time to dance;

A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones
together; a time to embrace and a time to refrain
from embracing.

A time to get, and time to lose; a time to keep, and a
time to cast away;

A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep
silence, and a time to speak;

A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a
time of peace. " Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Friends, this is my last installment of the note.
Ecclesiastes has obviously been speaking to me lately.
It is the end of an era for me and not just Ivy Chapel.
The boys are getting older, and I'm moving into a new
chapter of my personal life as well as my professional
life. Change is so hard. Eleven years ago, Aaron and I
moved to St. Louis. We had no family here, and I was
giving up my life for the unknown. It was an incredibly
scary time. I was unexpectedly pregnant with Miller,
and I was leaving a job I loved. After Miller was born,
I applied for a music director position at Ivy Chapel
UCC. I never knew that I would find exactly what I
needed at that time; a family, a sense of purpose and
help. I was scared, young and had no idea what I was
doing. Looking back, I have no doubt that God led me
to Ivy. You were *exactly* what I (we) needed. My time
spent at Ivy has been nothing short of wonderful. I love
you all so very much. It is with incredible sorrow that
I leave. Please keep in contact and know that I will be
there for you whenever I can.

As I leap into the unknown, I appreciate your loving
presence in our lives. Your support has meant the world
to me over the years and even now as I go, I can still feel
your love and support.

I wish Ivy the best, and I hope you find someone
amazing to fill my position. Know that I will always be
here for you. My love will find you.

For the last time...Smiles,

Anna DiVesta

314-609-0865, www.AnnaDiVesta.com



Anna DiVesta-Minister of Music

Mary and Martha Wmns Grp

The Mary and Martha Women's Group met on Aug. 17th with Janet Wasylczak (Mary Mitchell's daughter) who is a Docent at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Janet gave us much information about the new Jack Taylor Visitor's Center being built there. It and will be larger with more attention to ecology and newer technology. She also discussed the Origami Display that is in the Garden through Oct. 10th. There are 18 origami displays and she discussed a little about each one. She brought pictures of all of this. She offered to take us on a tour which we are trying to set up. Watch the KYP.

We decided to do a Book Collection for Unleashing Potential's Preschool at Caroline Mission. We will be collecting new or gently used books for Infants through Six-Year- Old Children during the month of September in the Church Narthex. These will be added to their Library where the children may borrow a book for a week at a time. They will appreciate and use all donations.

Unfortunately, the planned Fellowship Jazz Concert for August 8th had to be cancelled because of stormy weather. The Jazz Band will have their last concert of the season on Sept. 5th in Frontier Park at the Bandstand at First Capitol and Riverside Dr. at 7:30 p.m. for all who might like another chance to attend.

SEARCH BEGINS FOR MINISTER OF MUSIC

An Ivy Chapel UCC Minister of Music Search
Committee is being formed.

If you are interested in serving on this committee,
please email Deacon **Judy Hertenstein** at
judyhrtstn@yahoo.com

HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

Please consider helping picking up trash along
the designated section of North Woods Mill Road.
Dates are set for **11/7, 10am**—last one for 2021.

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



Bring your **BEST FRIEND** to Ivy Chapel's

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Saturday, September 18 from 1- 3pm

620 N. Woods Mill Road | Chesterfield



Enjoy refreshments and meet some "new" friends up for adoption!

Show your support for **CARE-STL** with a cash donation

OR... select and bring a gift from their **AMAZON WISH LIST!**



All friends should be leashed or in carriers.
Event will be held rain or shine.
If indoors, masks will be required.



CARE STL MISSION: Providing second chances
to abused, neglected, and homeless animals in
St. Louis and then pairing those animals with
humans to better each other.



ivychapel.org

icarestl.org



[Click here for AMAZON WISH LIST!](#)

icarestl.org

Thank You, Ivy Chapel !!!

The Back-to-School Drive for Isaiah 58 Ministries was successful!



Donations:

- 251 - rulers [We had been asked for 250]
- 21 - T-shirts
- 223 - pairs of underwear
- 231 - pairs of socks



Thank for your support,
Blessings from your
Christian Action Board

Scripture Worship

5 SEPTEMBER 2021, 15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23. Psalm 125, Isaiah 35:4-7a, Psalm 146, James 2:1-17, Mark 7:24-37

12 SEPTEMBER 2021, 16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Proverbs 1:20-33, Psalm 19, Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 116:1-9, Solomon 7:26-8:1, James 3:1-12, Mark 8:27-38

19 SEPTEMBER 2021, 17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Proverbs 31:10-31, Psalm 1, Solomon 1:16-2:1, 12-22, Jeremiah 11:18-20, Psalm 54, James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a, Mark 9:30-37

26 SEPTEMBER 2021, 18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22, Psalm 124, Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29, Psalm 19:7-14, James 5:13-20,

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

WHO WAS ESTHER?

MORE LIKE, HOW DID ESTHER BECOME A PERSIAN QUEEN SINCE SHE WAS A JEW?

King Ahasuerus who ruled Achaemenid Empire between 486 and 465 BC (over one hundred twenty-seven provinces from India to Ethiopia).

The Jewish people had been under the Persian rule for nearly seventy years. A promise that God made through Jeremiah. ('For thus says the Lord: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place.' Jeremiah 29:10) The Jewish people would be exiled and ruled by kings that were not their own.

By the time of his third year as king, Ahasuerus, (miscalculating the years the prophecy referred to) celebrated the passing of the seventy years with the Jewish people still under his thumb. Near the end of the celebration he requested his queen, Vashti, to attend. Yet she refused. Some scholars say that he had her executed. Then of course he just had to find another woman to be queen. As a matter of tradition, Persian kings did not marry women that were not Persian and of noble birth. How is it he finds Esther?

In the Book of Esther (chapter two), we find out how Esther actually becomes the new queen.

Learn more in <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Esther%201&version=NRSV>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahasuerus#Book_of_Esther
https://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/2836114/jewish/Under-Babylonian-and-Persian-Rule.htm
<http://www.heritageinstitute.com/zoroastrianism/susa/>

(God's Transforming Promises continued from page 2)

The time of the seasons and the constellations
The time of milking and the time of harvest
The time of the coupling of man and woman
And that of beasts. Feet rising and falling.
Eating and drinking. Dung and death.

Dawn points, and another day
Prepares for heat and silence. Out at sea the dawn wind
Wrinkles and slides. I am here
Or there, or elsewhere. In my beginning."

Music and lyrics of the beloved hymn In the Bulb There Is a Flower (also known by the alternate title Hymn of Promise) were composed in 1985 by Natalie Sleethe. This hymn is set to Sleethe's Tune PROMISE 8.7.8.7.D. Sleethe drew inspiration for her lyrics from the above poem, "East Coker" by T. S. Eliot. The final verse of her hymn opens, "In our end is our beginning; In our time, infinity. In our doubt, there is believing; In our life, eternity..."

Ah, yes, God's promises endure. The promise of life eternal offered by the Son of God, Jesus Christ, is a promise which God will fulfill. On one occasion, as he was walking from Judea back to Galilee, Jesus took a rest stop and sat down beside Jacob's well in the Samaritan town of Sychar. A local woman came to draw water from the well. Jesus asked her for a drink of water, but the woman questioned his request. Then Jesus proclaimed, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink the water that I will give will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to life eternal." (John 4:13-14)



Joan Chittister, Natalie Sleethe and Jesus of Nazareth, all celebrate wondrous promises of God! Scarred by struggle; Transformed by hope. "There's a dawn in every darkness, Bringing hope to you and me. From the past will come the future; What it holds a mystery. Unrevealed until its season, Something God alone can see."

Accept God's promise of life eternal. Be transformed!

God fulfills God's promises,
Pastor Dan



IVY CHAPEL United Church of Christ

DAN WILSON, PASTOR

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Ivy Chapel's Stewardship Season is Approaching

Greetings God's Beloved,

We pray that you are remaining healthy and safe as the COVID-19 Pandemic persists. Our congregation's autumn Stewardship Season will begin this month. As with just about all aspects of our daily lives, this Ivy Chapel UCC Stewardship Journey will be somewhat different. Flexibility is the name of the game. So, ahead we go! As followers of Christ, God calls us to place emphasis on what can be done. Consequently, our focus seeks to be on celebrating ways through which Faithful God continues enabling us to share with one another in life-giving Christian discipleship.

You will be receiving a letter from our Stewardship Committee soon with additional information. At this point, we anticipate that Stewardship messages will be incorporated in our weekly worship services starting on Sunday, September 26th through Sunday, October 10th. This autumn's Stewardship Journey will lead us to Consecration Sunday, October 17th. In worship at Ivy Chapel UCC that morning, we will invite God to "consecrate" our **2022 Commitments of Giving** in support of Christ's on-going ministries being offered to God's people by this faith community.

Due to COVID-19 health concerns, we regrettably will not be able to join together this year in our customary Celebration Lunch following worship on Consecration Sunday. Displaying consideration for everyone's safety, health and well-being remains a top priority for our church. This necessitates that we cannot presently engage in certain activities. For now, we are limited to envisioning future occasions when once again we safely will be able to do things such as gather together in person and share a meal with each other. In the meantime, we wait for such occasions with joyful anticipation and relying on God-given patience. Our Stewardship Committee will soon provide you with information on how you may offer Ivy Chapel UCC your **2022 Commitment of Giving**.

May God be with you and give you peace,

Ivy Chapel UCC Stewardship Committee

"Blessed are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked...

Their delight is in the law of Yahweh, and on Yahweh's law they meditate day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season."

Psalms 1:1-3



With God's Blessings

Happy Anniversary to... 

Happy Birthday to... 

9/7/2019 Christine (Lindhorst) and Adam James

9/08/2010 Anna and Aaron DiVesta

9/11/1982 Gary and Sue Lindhorst

9/23/2006 Trish and Mark Baker

9/24/1996 Curt and Jennifer Wintrobe

9/28/1996 Frank Pfau and Beth Noonan

3 Sarah Heend
Frank Purviance

4 Gail Thoele

6 Dan Faust

7 Stuart Kirk

11 Calvin Heend

15 Lee Headrick

Linda Lowry

17 Holly Winship

28 Shirley Headrick

Rich Heend

Jo Ann Moody

30 Mark Gerdes

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

Office Manager: 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

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

OCT Care Corps LDR-Nancy Litzinger 314-434-4162

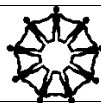
CO-LDR-Valerie Waterman 636-391-9886

CO-LDR-Nancy Marston 314-878-1317

ASSISTING IN LAY MINISTRY		Please find YOUR Name.		Reminders are sent each Tuesday.		
DATE	NURSERY	ACOLYTE/	GREETERS	USHERS	LITURGIST	COFFEE
<div>  <p>Worship with us at Ivy Chapel</p> <p>All are welcome to join us. Masks and social distancing still required to protect our young and unvaccinated members. Or worship on YouTube Sunday at 10 a.m. 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 Daily Devotional at www.ucc.org/daily_devotional</p>  </div>						

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	2 Christian Ed. Mtg 7pm	3	4 AA 10:30am
5 15TH S AFT PENTECOST-GRN 10AM WORSHIP w/LS 3-5PM RECEPTION FOR ANNA DIVESTA SEE PAGE 2	6 AA 1pm	7 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm	8	9	10 Square Dancing-FH 3:30-5:30, 7-9pm	11 AA 10:30am
12 16th S aft Pentecost-grn 10am Worship Shannon Farrell Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm -no other groups	13 AA 1pm COUNCIL MTG 7PM	14 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm	15 The Ivy Vine articles due Men's Lunch 11:30am Spiro's 1054 N Woods Mill Rd	16	17	18 AA 10:30am BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS 1-3PM SEE PG 5
19 17th S aft Pentecost-grn 10am Worship	20 AA 1pm	21 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm Mary & Martha Wms Grp 1pm	22	23	24	25 AA 10:30am
26 18th S aft Pentecost-grn STEWARDSHIP SEASON 10am Worship Shannon Farrell Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm -no other groups	27 AA 1pm	28 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm	29	30	1 October	2 October AA 10:30am

In October: Consecration Sunday, 17th

TOTENFEST forms will be available in October (newsletter).

AA =Alcoholics Anonymous CA =Christian Action CC =Chancel Choir CE =Christian Education EMMP =Eric Moody Memorial Pavilion		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		