

The Eternal Gerund

A verbal is a word formed from a verb but functioning as a different part of speech. In the English language, a 'gerund' is a verbal ending in '-ing' that functions as a noun.

There is a Dutch multinational banking and financial services corporation headquartered in Amsterdam called the *ING Group.* But I contend that <u>God</u> is the Ultimate '-ing'... the Eternal Gerund! God is perpetually living, and doing, and acting.

Consider the seasons of the Christian Church Year:

During Advent - Jesus is com-ing.

- At Christmas Jesus is **be-ing** born.
- During Epiphany Jesus is **be-ing** baptized and **reveal-ing** God.
- In Lent Jesus is pray-ing, enter-ing Jerusalem, celebrat-ing Passover, be-ing betrayed, go-ing to Calvary, forgiv-ing and dy-ing.
- At Easter Jesus is ris-ing!

At Pentecost - Jesus is giv-ing the Holy Spirit.

Throughout every Church season and throughout Jesus' entire life, he is ministering, teaching, leading, blessing, healing and loving.

The Holy One, God our Creator and our Savior, is ever present as the Eternal Gerund. In all likelihood, neither you nor I have conceived of God in this way before! Granted, this may come across as more than a little bizarre. Then again, isn't God truly a peculiar character? Yes, our God is uniquely and marvelously distinctive! This is the literal meaning of the word "holy." Over and over, Holy Scripture itself declares this truth. For instance, "I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God... I am the LORD, and there is no other. I form light, and I create darkness. I bring prosperity, and I create disaster. I, the LORD, do all these things... This is what the LORD says—the Holy One of Israel, and its Maker: Concerning things to come, do you question me about my children, or do you give me orders about the work of my hands? I made the earth, and I created humankind on it. My own hands stretched out the heavens, and I commanded their starry host ... Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other. By myself I have sworn, my mouth has spoken in complete righteousness a word that will not be revoked. Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear. They will say of me, 'In the LORD alone are deliverance and strength."" (Isaiah 45:5, 6-7, 11-12, 22-24)

Dan Wilson, Pastor pastordan@ivychapel.org (Continued from page 1)

The Gospel of Mark repeatedly describes the Messiah as the "*Coming One*." I love this distinctive way in which Mark characterizes Jesus Christ. Indeed, God <u>is</u> the Eternal Gerund! Christ is com-**ing**. God is forever liv-**ing**. Grace is cleans-**ing**. Agapé love is endur-**ing**.

Jesus Christ *comes* to the world to give many gifts. (John 3:16-17) Jesus Christ *comes* to life to do many things. Jesus Christ *comes* to make all things new! (Revelation 21:5) Jesus Christ *comes* to bless and transform and change our lives. (First Corinthians 15:51-52)

With our eyes and our hearts open, may we joyfully keep watch for the Eternal Gerund. This Advent, watch for the "*Coming One*."

Christ is coming, Pastor Dan





"Look! I am about to do a new thing!" declares God. Isaiah 43:19

EMERGENCY PASTORAL CARE December 25-31

Pastor Dan will be away from home on vacation at the end of December.

While Pastor Dan is gone, Rev. Dr. Kevin Gregory (senior pastor of St. John UCC – Manchester located at 332 Old Sulphur Springs Road 63021) has offered to respond to Ivy Chapel UCC Emergency Pastoral Care needs December 25-31.

If needed, please contact Rev. Dr. Kevin Gregory at 314-602-1571 (cell) or 636-391-6655 (church).



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Save the Date-Sunday, Dec. 5

Please save the date of Sunday Dec. 5 following worship services for our Annual Congregational Meeting, at which our congregation will vote to approve the 2022 Budget and Slate of Officers*.

The meeting will be held in person in the sanctuary and virtually, with remote participation via Zoom provided as an available option.

Formal notice of this meeting with additional details will be mailed to church membership in the next few weeks.

Nominations for 2022 Slate of Officers

2022 is fast approaching and we are looking for volunteers to fill open positions with our Council, Boards, and Committees.

Please consider joining our Moderator **John Weiland** in formation of a nomination committee to help fill these open positions. Please contact John at 636-399-2588 or jlweiland2003@yahoo.com if you are interested in serving on the nomination committee, or if you are interested in serving on an open position.

Positions that are either currently vacant or are currently uncommitted for 2022 as of Oct. 16 include:

Vice Moderator Recording Secretary Treasurer Financial Secretary Christian Education (Council Rep and Board Members) Church and Ministry (Board Member) Deacons (Board Member) Fellowship (Council Rep) Trustees (Board Member) Investment (Committee Member) St. Louis Association (Representative)

Nov. Council Lifted Up:

- Dottie Foster and Gail Thoele for hosting the 1st Sunday in November fellowship event after worship service.
- Linda Lowry, Erin Winship and Ivy Chapel's youth for hosting the fellowship event on Consecration Sunday, October 17th.
- Sarah Heend and Linda Lowry for coordinating Ivy Chapel's Trunk or Treat this year.
- Don Wolff for his multiple efforts supporting and improving Ivy Chapel's IT technical needs.

Ivy Chapel Financials

	2019 Actuals 2	020 Actuals	2021 Approved Budget	2021 Projected Actuals	2022 Proposed Budget	Change 2022-2021 Budget - Projection
INCOME	101.000	402 502	405 700	404.004	400 700	(2.004)
Pledges	191,066	193,582	185,700	184,681	180,700	(3,981)
General and Loose	26,846	9,920	8,668	4,848	5,000	152
Facility Rental	16,974	7,303	12,240	16,995	20,400	3,405
Fundraisers net income (loss)	9,069	38,629	1,500	36,073	12	(36,061)
Grocery Coupons (net income)	2,250	1,000	1,500	1,000	1,000	-
Total Income	246,205	250,433	209,608	243,597	207,112	(36,485)
EXPENSES Church and Ministry	114,156	114,197	119,428	114,158	114,832	674
Trustees	66,326	88,830	58,516	65,745	65,875	130
Deacons	23,272	20,989	23,687	18,807	23,760	4,953
Christian Education	31,326	23,132	12,143	3,021	32,480	29,460
OCWM	3,000	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100	-
Christian Action	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	-
Stewardship	421	303	525	300	525	225
Fellowship	58	90	150	150	150	-
Total Expenses	242,059	254,142	221,049	208,781	244,222	35,441
Surplus or (Deficit)	4,146	(3,709)	(11,441)	34,816	(37,111)	(71,927)

NOTE:

The above financials for Ivy Chapel show the actual results for 2019 and 2020 along with the projected results for 2021. During this time period, Ivy received SBA loan amounts of \$37,177 in 2020 and \$36,035 in 2021 that were forgiven and reflected on the Fundraiser line for those years. These were one-time occurrences and similar loan forgiveness will not happen in 2022.

The results also show that the Youth Program Director position was not filled for the fourth quarter of 2020

and eleven months of 2021. This position is in the 2022 budget for the full year. Similarly the Minister of Music position has not been filled for October and November of 2021 but is in the 2022 budget for the full year. Because of these transactions, Ivy has not had to draw on its operating reserves during 2021 and they have grown from \$53,652 October 2020 to \$59,314 December 2020 to \$68,337 October 2021. This change in value is not reflected in the above financials.



ADYENT IS COMING! Advent starts on November 28th this year. We will have packets of Advent activities for each Sunday School family available soon.

ADYENT STORYTELLING FOR ALL AGES

We will have in-person **ADYENT STORYTELLING** on December 12th at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary. Join us for this special fellowship activity. We will read a few stories, talk about Advent traditions and maybe even sing a few Christmas songs.

We will wear masks and social distance to be as safe as possible.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT WILL BE Sunday, December 19th.

WE WILL HAVE AN <u>IN-PERSON</u> **PAGEANT THIS YEAR**, during 10 am worship! YEAH! There will be parts for all the kids who would like to participate. Those who are young at heart, we will have parts for you too.



Any ADULTS* who would like to participate should contact Tara Lowry, 314-973-6284 or Linda Lowry, 314-703-2776.

A Pageant rehearsals will be December 5^{th} , 12^{th} and 18^{th} for the kids.

*Adults will only have to attend the final rehearsal on the 18^{th} .

It should be a fun time-mark your calendars!

WANT TO GET IN THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT EARLY?

Last year's virtual pageant is always available on Ivy Chapel's YouTube channel for your viewing pleasure. Follow the link if you would like to watch: https://bit.ly/2020Ivypageant

Help Us Find a new Youth Ministry Coordinator

We need help getting the word out about our open position at Ivy Chapel. The job posting is on www.ivychapel.org and on Ivy Chapel's Facebook page. 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.

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 would like to help.

Please contact **Sarah Heend** at 314-283-5215 or by email: **skheend@gmail.com** if you can help.

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Thank You...

I offer my heartfelt thanks to the Ivy congregation and to Moderator John Weiland for the thoughtful gifts (greeting card with personal note; Barnes & Noble Booksellers gift card; and gift given in my name to Heifer International) which were presented to me before worship on Pastor Appreciation Sunday. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. I am blessed to be serving alongside all of you in Christian ministry.

With gratitude, *Pastor Dan*

Cearn of the wise men who came from the East to Jerusalem inquiring of King Herod, about where the Messiah was to be born, in the New Testament book of Matthew, chapter 2.



SUPPORTING IVY CHAPEL

With the end of the year rapidly approaching, please consider donating appreciated stock or mutual fund holdings to Ivy Chapel. Such a donation, whether to cover a 2021 or 2022 pledge, or as an extra donation, is not only a potential income tax deduction, but also eliminates a sale of assets which would be subject to capital gains taxation. This is a sound tax strategy which benefits your personal income taxes. Another option, depending on your age, is to make a Qualified Charitable Contribution (QCD) directly from your IRA to Ivy Chapel, thereby reducing your required minimum distribution, another good tax strategy.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact **Tom Glenn**, Investment Chair, at thomglenn@sbcglobal.net



Mary Martha Wms Group

The Mary and Martha Women's Group has planned a trip to the historical Tappmeyer House which will be decorated for Christmas in a 1900's style on **Tuesday**, **December 7th at 10:00 a.m**. Judy Tappmeyer Dierberg, who grew up in this house will be there with her daughter, Laura Dierberg Ayers to talk with us about the house and its history. We will tour the house and see it decked out for Christmas. It is located in Millenium Park on Mason Road, and is reached from Olive Boulevard, just east of Mason Road and Barnes West Hospital. Anyone who would enjoy this event is invited to join us. We will meet at the park at 10 o'clock that morning.

Trustees

Thanks to all who helped clean up our stretch of Woods Mill Road this year. We completed our trash pick-up schedule on November 7 and will "pick up" a new schedule in March 2022.

An inspection by the Chesterfield Fire Marshal in September resulted in a Safety Report with a list of 12 items that needed to be remedied. All of the items on the Safety Report were addressed and Ivy Chapel passed the re-inspection. Please note that the Safety Report requires that we keep the back hallway by Frieda and Dan's offices clear of boxes and tables, providing a clear unimpeded path to the rear door.

Trustees and friends have been busy maintaining the area around Juniper Root Woodland Microschool. Fence posts have been replaced and trees trimmed. Brush, including honeysuckle and other invasive vines, has been cut back along the lower lot and pathway to the pavilion. New trees are being planted that will mitigate erosion as well as beautify the area.

Please submit 2022 schedules and/or lists—for example: Lay Ministry, Care Corps... to the church office.

The Ivy Vine, December 2021 www.ivychapel.org / YouTube / www.facebook.com/IvyChapel

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Scripture Worship

5 DECEMBER 2021~Second Sunday of Advent: Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 1:68-79, Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6

12 DECEMBER 2021 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT:



Zephaniah 3:14-20, Isaiah 12:2-6, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18

19 DECEMBER 2021~Fourth Sunday of Advent: Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:46b-55, Psalm 80:1-7, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-55

24-25 DECEMBER 2021~NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Isaiah 9:2-7, 62:6-12, 52:7-10, Psalm 96-98, Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7, Luke 2:1-20, Hebrews 1:1-12, John 1:1-14

26 DECEMBER 2021~First Sunday after Christmas Day 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26, Psalm 148, Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2:41-52

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

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP New Time

This year, December 24th we will have CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP AT 5PM.

We continue to have the annual Christmas Fund Contribution, see page 8 and Calendar.

SEE THE E-KYP (<u>K</u>eeping You <u>P</u>osted) and find out about other Ivy Chapel events on Ivy Chapel's Facebook "Community" page. At the Home" menu bar you see the word "Community."



PROPHECY OF The Christ Child

e shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted. Isaiah 7:15-16

GOOD NEWS~ BIRTH OF JESUS

S n that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to

Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the



manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. Luke 2:8-20



The Ivy Vine, December 2021 www.ivychapel.org / YouTube / www.facebook.com/IvyChapel



Week One ~ Sunday, November 28 THE CANDLE OF HOPE

Advent Wreath Candle Lighting Prayer

Gracious God, as we begin our Advent journey, we thank you for the gift of your Son, and for sending hope into a world filled with dread. Help us remember that we are your people, and because of your promises we have every reason to be hopeful. Take away our doubt and fear, and remind us that Christ is our Light, and the true source of hope. Amen.

> Week Two ~ Sunday, December 5 THE CANDLE OF PEACE

Advent Wreath Candle Lighting Prayer

Gracious God, as we continue our Advent journey, we thank you for sending the Prince of Peace into a world filled with unrest and strife. We ask that you quiet our restless hearts and instill in each of us the calm assurance that tells us you are in control so we need not worry. Give us the tools we need to serve as you would have us serve, and make us willing instruments of your peace. Amen.

> Week Three ~ Sunday, December 12 THE CANDLE OF JOY

Advent Wreath Candle Lighting Prayer

Gracious God, as we continue our Advent journey, we ask that you open our eyes to the beauty and goodness around us, and fill our hearts with grateful joy. Remind us that Christ is our light and the source of all joy, and that we are here to serve you and to spread this joy to others. Amen.

> Week Four ~ Sunday, December 19 THE CANDLE OF LOVE

Advent Wreath Candle Lighting Prayer

Gracious God, as we continue our Advent journey, we are reminded that "Love came down at Christmas - love amazing, love divine." You loved the world enough to send your Son, and now it's up to us to love others as you love us. Remind us that Christ is our Light, and the true source of infinite, everlasting, pure love. Amen.

> Christmas Eve ~ Friday, December 24 THE CHRIST CANDLE

Advent Wreath Candle Lighting Prayer

Gracious God, tonight as we gather together to conclude this Advent journey, we celebrate that a new light has dawned! A Child is born, and this Child is our light and the source of our joy. The child brings hope into the world, and the promise of peace on earth. The child is love incarnate, love divine; and we thank you, O God, for this—the most perfect gift imaginable. Joy to the world! Christ is born! Amen.











CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2021



THE CHRISTMAS FUND For Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums. Many continue to bear the consequences of lost or decreased income. Over the past 18 months, the emergency financial needs of many who serve the church increased dramatically. Each December your "Thank You" gift checks help our lower-income retirees. These difficult times make the need for the Christmas Fund more urgent than ever.

Thank you for supporting the Christmas Fund!

In 2020, gifts to the Christmas Fund enabled:

- Monthly pension supplementation for 276 retired clergy and lay employees (\$1,180,187)
- Health benefits supplementation for 89 retired clergy and lay employees (\$274,008)
- Emergency grants for 96 individuals and families (\$214,649)
- Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to 504 retired clergy and lay employees (\$252,000)

Please use the designated envelopes provided at worship or donate any time.

TO DONATE BY CHECK payable to **"THE CHRISTMAS FUND" MAIL TO:**

The Rev. Dr. Paul L. Ramsey, Philanthropy Officer The Pension Boards - United Church of Christ, Inc 475 Riverside Drive, Room 1020 New York, New York 10115-0059

Donate through link

Donate

The Christmas Fund

For the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

Birth of Jesus

From Luke 2:1-16

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census ... Joseph, whose family was from Bethlehem, went there to register with Mary. An angel said to shepherds, 'Today a Savior has been born to you, the Messiah, a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'

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CHILD	GLORY	NIGHT
CLOTH	HEAVEN	PEACE
DAVID	INN	PEOPLE
DELIVER	JOSEPH	PRAISING
DESCENDED	JOY	SHEPHERDS
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Wi awi	ith God	l's B	lessings					
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12/10/1988 Russel and Deborah Wa	ashburn	7 F	rank lvey	19 Auc	lrey Farrell			
		8 N	/lichael Winship	26 Mo	rgan Tichy			
ADULTS are invited to particip	oate in the		Jan Wirtz Beverly Govreau		27 David Knieriem Frank Pfau			
Christmas Pageant.	070 (004	12	Jane Farrell	28 Cat	28 Catrina Lowry			
Please contact Tara Lowry, 314 or Linda Lowry, 314-703-		13	Valerie Waterma	n 29 Scc	ott Schurwan			
		16	Emily Pfau	31 Jaco	ob Knieriem			
Pastor Dan Wilson: pastordan@ivychape Office Manager—Frieda Clark: ivychapel Office hours: Mond ➤ GIVING STATEMENTS: Peter LaSalle 63 DEC Care Corps LDR-Debbie Glenn 314	el.org 314-580-4 ucc@ivychapel.o lay/Friday 8:30/ 36-519-0823	4564 org am-3pm Tu ▶Borr	, please contact us lesday/Thursday 8 owing Chairs/Tal .DR-Evelyn Steche	3:30ам–2:30рм bles: Ralph Weila				
Assisting in Lay Ministry Ple	ease find YOUR I	Name. F	Reminders are sen	it each Tuesday.				
DATE NURSERY ACO	YTE/ GF	REETERS	USHERS	LITURGIST	COFFEE			
Worship with us at Svy Chapel	required Or wor For daily	to protect of ship on Face Visit spiritual no	oin us. Masks and our young and unv ebook or YouTube our YouTube cha ourishment; we in r United Church o	vaccinated meml e Sunday at 10 a. Innel vite you to subsc	oers. m.			

Charifies we serve: Please place items on the designated shelves in the cloak room or otherwise designated.

CIRCLE OF CONCERN—*Shopping and monthly needs List* is on **FH bulletin board**. Place on **TOP SHELF**. 636-861-2623 https://www.circleofconcern.org/



RITENOUR CO-CARE FOOD PANTRY: Place food and personal care items **on 2nd SHELF**. https://www.rccfoodpantry.org/

Isaiah 58 Ministries Bag of Blessings list on FH bulletin board. Place on 3rd-4th SHELVES: food, egg cartons, clothing, plastic bags, glass cases. https://i58ministries.org/



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 cases)* 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
Decen 2021	iber Mer	RY CHRISTMAS!	1	2 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am Christian Ed. Mtg 7pm	3 Square Dancing-FH 3:30-5:30, 7-9pm	4 AA 10:30am
			Fried	da is on vacation	to 5 December	
5 2 ND S IN ADVENT 10am Worship w/LS CONGREGATIONAL MEETING pg 2 Shannon Farrell Girl	6 AA 1pm	7 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm	8	9 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am	10	11 AA 10:30am
Scouts 6-7:30pm -no other groups						
12 3 RD S IN ADVENT 10am Worship 6:30pm ADVENT STORYTELLING pg 4	13 AA 1pm COUNCIL MEETING 7PM	14 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm	15 The Ivy Vine articles due Men's Luncheon 11:30am Massa's 14312 South Outer 40 Rd, Town and Country	16 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am	17	18 AA 10:30am
19 4TH S IN ADVENT 10am Worship and CHRISTMA PAGEANT pg 4 Shannon Farrell Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm -no other groups	20 AA 1pm	21 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm Mary & Martha Wms Grp 1pm	22	23 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am	24 CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP 5PM pg 6 Christmas Fund Contribution pg 8	25 CHRISTMAS DAY AA 10:30am
26 1 st S of Christmas 10am Worship	27 AA 1pm	28 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm	29	30 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am	31	January 1

In January: 7th Annual Reports due

10th All Boards Meeting 31st Annual Meeting

AA=Alcoholics Anonymous CA=Christian Action CC=Chancel Choir CE=Christian Education EMMP=Eric Moody Memorial Pavilion			JRWP=JUNIPER RO NURSERY=NY SY=SANCTUARY	OOT WOODLAND SCHOOL PP=PURPLE PAGE SS=SUNDAY SCHO	S
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
JRWS 8:30-3:30	JRWS 8:30-3:30	JRWS 8:30-3:30	JRWS 8:30-3:30	JRWS 8:30-3:30	