

The Ivy Vine March²⁰²²



Presence



Dan Wilson, Pastor
pastordan@ivychurch.org

The Lenten Season is a 40-day time period for Christian, spiritual growth. The season is intended to serve as an opportunity for all who are God's Church to grow in our devotion to Christ in preparation for the celebration of Resurrection Day. Christians engage in a wide array of faith practices during these 40 sacred days. These practices are sometimes called spiritual "disciplines." People do many things during Lent, including giving up (certain foods, bad habits, etc.) and increasing virtuous activities (taking on a commitment, offering, praying, etc.). This year, as the month of March begins, the Season of Lent begins. The date of the first day of the holy season this year is Ash Wednesday, March 2.

"Discipline is the other side of discipleship," writes Jesuit Priest Henri Nouwen. "Discipleship without discipline is like waiting to run in the marathon without ever practicing... Discipline in the spiritual life is the concentrated effort to create the space and time where God can become our master and where we can respond freely to God's guidance... to set apart a time and a place where God's gracious *presence* can be acknowledged and responded to." (Bread for the Journey, Henri Nouwen, 1997)

Cleansing is a central metaphor during the Christian Season of Lent. The perennial psalm for

Ash Wednesday is Psalm 51. This familiar psalm overflows 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."

God's cleansing *presence* is mysterious. In The Elusive Presence (1978), author Samuel Terrien delves into the elusive character of God in "Chapter 7 - The Play of Wisdom" (pp. 350-380), which draws upon biblical writings of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Job. Terrien expounds on God's "*Presence Beyond Grasp*" (pp. 362-365); God's "*Presence Beyond Time*" (pp. 365-368); and God's "*Presence Beyond Honor*" (pp. 368-373). Truly, the *presence* of God is elusive. Yet humankind often encounters God unintentionally. This is the beauty of human relationships with the Divine. Our relationships with God are beyond us! We are not able to "summon" the *presence* of God at will. More often than not, we profoundly sense the *presence* of God under circumstances in which we inadvertently have stumbled into God's living *presence*! This is humbling and astounding! Author Samuel Terrien describes this phenomenon in these words, "In spite of darkness, *presence* induced illumination." (The Elusive Presence, p. 373)

(Continued on page 2)

When we experience the eternal *presence* of God, we are overwhelmed and blessed. In his insightful work With Burning Hearts (1994), Henri Nouwen reflects on the walk along the road to Emmaus on the evening of Resurrection Day (Luke 24:13-35). "When Jesus joins us on the road and explains the scriptures to us, we must listen with our whole being, trusting that the word that created us will also heal us. God wants to become *present* to us and thus radically transform our fearful hearts. The sacramental quality of the word makes God *present* not only as an intimate *presence*, but also as a *presence* that gives us a place in the great story of salvation... The word lifts us up and makes us see that our daily, ordinary lives are, in fact, sacred lives that play a necessary role in the fulfillment of God's promises... Without the word, our life has little meaning, little vitality, and little energy... We need the word spoken and explained by the one who joins us on the road and makes his *presence* known to us—a *presence* first discerned in our burning hearts. It is this *presence* that encourages us to let go of our hardened hearts and become grateful. A grateful people we can invite into the intimacy of our home the one who has made our hearts burn." (With Burning Hearts, Chapter 2, "Discerning the Presence", pp. 48-50)

This Lent, try a basic approach. Simplify. Seek the Presence of Christ. Nothing more.

At the center of his stirring book In the Presence of the Wise and Gentle Christ (1993), James McNamara devotes a chapter to Simon Peter's personal journey from fear to faith. McNamara concludes this chapter with the following prayer:

*My Jesus,
I follow you knowing you are my Lord,
Learning that observing Laws is not enough.
When the headwinds of my doubts overwhelm me,
I call to you.
You reach out and rescue me.
Draw me close that I may listen and discover
who you are.
Gift me with insight into how you work through
the activities of my every day.
Soften my stubborn ways that I might be free
to grow.
Temper my impulsiveness that I may take time
to reflect.
Release me from the hold I have on pride
and lead me gently into humility.
Enter my fearful heart, struggling with denial*

*and re-form it with your love.
May the strength of your forgiveness
Conquer the weakness of my failures.
May the promise of your presence
Ground me in trust.
With the help of your Holy Spirit may I choose
peace over power,
hope over despair,
faith over fear,
You—over all others.
Amen.*

Why, this prayer is a wondrous prayer that each of us could pray!

May your personal, Lenten walk "in the *presence* of the Wise and Gentle Christ" offer you newness of life. Little by little, open your soul to the cleansing *presence* of God.

Breathe on us, Breath of God.
Fill us with life anew,
Pastor Dan



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Feb. Council Lifted Up:

- ♥ **John Weiland** for the Annual Meeting and Elmer Awards.
- ♥ **Valerie Waterman** for her work to secure temporary worship musicians for Ivy Chapel's worship services.

OUR 2022 LENTEN OFFERING IS ALL ABOUT HELPING KIDS!



- Family Court of St. Louis County provides services to approximately 1,300 children?
- Children come under the Family Court jurisdiction because of neglect and/or physical or sexual abuse by caretakers or others?
- Untreated substance abuse by parent(s) or untreated depression can often lead to a referral to the Family Court?



Caring for Kids, Inc. immediately provides essential resources to meet the urgent needs of abused, neglected or at-risk children in St. Louis County and brings much needed hope to children and families by fulfilling these essential needs. With the help of Caring for Kids, children can be reunited with their families and leave foster care. Sometimes this requires something as simple as providing a bed to sleep in.

PLEASE consider supporting this small nonprofit organization with a special offering on **March 6, 13, 20, or 27.**

THANK YOU!



February, 2022

Ivy Chapel UCC

Isaiah 58 Ministries wants to thank Ivy Chapel UCC for the donation of food that your chapel gave to the ministries during the fourth quarter of 2021.

Your generosity helps Isaiah 58 Ministries in serving those in need.

Thank you ever so much!

*Rae Cooper
Board Member*

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME IS
SUNDAY, MARCH 13.**

Saturday, March 12,
Turn clocks **Forward**
one hour at bedtime.



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.

Scripture & Worship

Ash Wed, Mar 2: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Isaiah 58:1-12,
Psalm 51:1-17, 2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

6 Mar, First Sunday in Lent: Deuteronomy 26:1-11,
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16, Romans 10:8b-13, Luke 4:1-13

13 Mar, 2nd Sun. in Lent: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18,
Psalm 27, Philippians 3:17-4:1, Luke 13:31-35,
Luke 9:28-43a

20 Mar, Third Sunday in Lent: Isaiah 55:1-9,
Psalm 63:1-8, 1 Corinthians 10:1-13, Luke 13:1-9

Annunciation of the Lord, Fri, Mar 25: Isaiah 7:10-14,
Psalm 40:5-10 & 45; Heb. 10:4-10, Luke 1:26-38

27 Mar, Fourth Sunday in Lent: Joshua 5:9-12,
Psalm 32, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

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



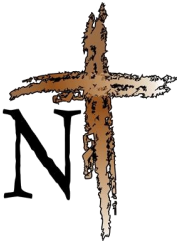
THE SEASON OF LENT BEGINS

2ND MARCH, ASH WEDNESDAY
with Worship at 7:30pm
in the Ivy Chapel sanctuary



DAILY SCRIPTURE FOR LENT

Ash Wednesday: Joel 2:12-18



WE HAVE SPECIAL LENT DEVOTIONAL SHEETS
LENT 2022 REFLECTIONS FROM THE DAILY MASS

READINGS FOR THE LENTEN SEASON,
ON THE NARTHEX TABLE TO GUIDE YOUR LENTEN
MEDITATION OF GOD'S HEALING WORD

DID YOU KNOW...

On Ash Wednesday, ashes that are swiped on our foreheads, are typically prepared by burning the previous year's Palm Sunday palms.

Receiving ashes is what connects us to people throughout Scripture. Ashes were—are—regarded as a symbol of mourning and repentance and our own mortality.



"Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in *ashes*."

~Jonah 3:4-6

"therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and *ashes*."

~Job 42:6

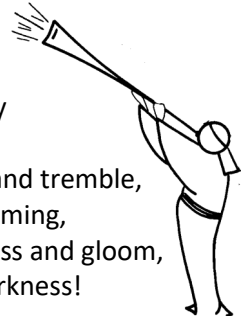
...until you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
you are dust,
and to dust you shall return."

~Genesis 3:(part) 19

Read more at (excerpted from)
<https://mypastoralponderings.com/2021/02/16/why-ashes/>

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sound the alarm on my
holy mountain!

Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
for the day of the LORD is coming,
it is near—a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness!



Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
gather the people.

~Joel 2:1-2a,b; 15-16a

HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

Please consider helping picking up trash along a designated section of North Woods Mill Road. After worship for the following dates (subject to change) :

March 13, May 22, Aug 28, Nov 6

Contact Bruce Wilking, 314-640-4902 about helping.



2021 Elmer Awards

Presented at Ivy Chapel, UCC Annual Meeting on Sunday Jan. 30, 2021

"CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?" AWARD:

Aaron DiVesta, Rich Heend, Steve Lowry, Valerie Waterman, Dan Wilson, Sarah Wilson, Sue Wilson

Anyone remember this line from the Verizon Wireless commercials from about 15 or 20 years ago? When our worship services transitioned from fully virtual to a "hybrid" of in-person and virtual in March 2021, our team was faced with new challenges to provide a high-quality audio-visual experience for both types of participation. This group had to make sure you heard and saw what was going on. This is harder than it may seem! Our worship team acquired speakers, a sound board, microphones and camera and camera stand (all within budget or free). During worship, members of our team were required to troubleshoot and adapt on the fly. This was truly a vital part of the life of Ivy Chapel in 2021 and remains so today and going forward. Many thanks to our team! If you are interested in helping out, they would be glad to work with you. The "Can You Hear Me Now?" ELMER AWARD goes to Aaron DiVesta, Rich Heend, Steve Lowry, Valerie Waterman, Dan Wilson, Sarah Wilson, and Sue Wilson.

"FELLOWSHIP, FOOD, AND FUN" AWARD:

Dottie Foster, Linda Lowry, Gail Thoele

We have all missed our traditional coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall following worship. Fortunately, we have found ways to have fellowship activities, appropriate to the season, in a safe way during the current pandemic. Our team of Dottie Foster, Linda Lowry, and Gail Thoele have organized events since last summer on the first Sunday of the month. Thanks to our team and any other who have helped organize and clean up. We are looking for others to help with this in upcoming months, so please consider doing this! The "Fellowship, Food, and Fun" ELMER AWARD goes to Dottie Foster, Linda Lowry, and Gail Thoele.

"TEACH YOUR CHILDREN WELL" AWARD:

Anna DiVesta, Dottie Foster, Sarah Heend, Linda Lowry, Tara Lowry, Stuart Kirk, Jo Ann Moody, Liz Schurwan, Ashton Wilson, Sue Wilson

Things have obviously been a little different again in 2021, and for most of the year there haven't been many children at our church, in large part because vaccines weren't available for children until recently. That hasn't stopped our team of volunteers from stepping up to provide meaningful children's messages virtually through our livestream worship platform. Many thanks to our group of volunteers for maintaining this important aspect of our faith community. The "Teach Your Children Well" ELMER AWARD goes to Anna DiVesta, Dottie Foster, Sarah Heend, Linda Lowry, Tara Lowry, Stuart Kirk, Jo Ann Moody, Liz Schurwan, Ashton Wilson, and Sue Wilson.

"MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE" AWARD:

Aaron DiVesta, Anna DiVesta, Colton Burton, Marsha Fix, Kathryn Kuntzman, Earl Kreder, Julie McAllister, Valerie Waterman, Sarah Wilson, Sue Wilson

For the last few years, we have had a group of dedicated volunteers providing beautiful music, signing or instrumental, during worship accompanied by our organist/pianist. Thanks to our talented group for sharing their gifts and making our worship experience more meaningful! The "Make a Joyful Noise" ELMER AWARD goes to Anna DiVesta, Aaron DiVesta, Colton Burton, Marsha Fix, Kathryn Kuntzman, Earl Kreder, Julie McAllister, Valerie Waterman, Sarah Wilson, and Sue Wilson.

"GEE WHIZ" AWARD:

Mike Waller

This award is in recognition of and thanks to a true 'Godsend' who is serving among us as our Worship Musician. We greatly appreciate his fun-loving, flexible nature and his marvelous musical abilities. In the very best sense of the word "character," this guy is a kind-hearted and quirky "character"! As you may or may not be aware, his email address is "Key of G Wiz"!! From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for helping hold our 2021 worship services together. The "Gee Whiz" ELMER AWARD is given to Mike Waller.

"LIVE STREAM BOOSTER" AWARD:

Don Wolff

For his wisdom, imagination, creativity, and 'stick-to-it-iveness', working to boost the Wi-Fi signal for Live Stream Worship and to improve our sanctuary AV System sound quality, we thank our "Resident Cyber Guru." Over the course of this past year, many things were tried. Praise God, some worked! The "Live Stream Booster" ELMER AWARD is given to Don Wolff.

(Continued...)

"HITTING THE BOOKS" AWARD:

Steve Lowry

This job may not be the most exciting job at Ivy Chapel, but it is certainly one of the most important ones. This requires great attention to detail and timely response to make sure the books are balanced, bills are paid on time, and budgets are developed and tracked. This individual has been provided dedicated service as our Treasurer for many years, beyond his original term. Many thanks are due to this individual for his dedicated service to Ivy Chapel, going "above and beyond" in many ways. The "Hitting the Books" ELMER AWARD is given to Steve Lowry.

"DO THEY KNOW IT'S CHRISTMAS?" AWARD:

Linda Lowry and Tara Lowry

Once again, we have been blessed by two individuals who have creatively developed spiritually enriching and fun activities during Advent and wrote and directed our Christmas Pageant, incorporating participation from kids and adults alike. This has certainly made our Advent and Christmas seasons brighter! The "Do They Know It's Christmas?" ELMER AWARD is given to Linda Lowry and Tara Lowry.

"BY THE BYE" AWARD:

Peter LaSalle, Jo Ann Moody, Gail Thoele

Fun fact! Ivy Chapel's By-Laws were originally adopted in 1997, and updates have been made and adopted five times, most recently in 2010. Since it has been a while since the last update and certain aspects of our church life have evolved with the times, including virtual meetings and worship, the time was right to take another look at the By-Laws and offer some recommended updates. Our "By-Laws" Ad Hoc committee took a deep dive into this and have developed a proposed revision to the By-Laws, which will be shared with our congregation for review and approval. The "By the Bye" ELMER AWARD is given to Peter LaSalle, Jo Ann Moody, and Gail Thoele.

"ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVE" AWARD:

Sue Wilson

For the last several years, this individual has coordinated blood drives twice a year at Ivy Chapel with Impact Life, formerly known as Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center. This has undoubtedly helped save lives, and we are blessed to have the opportunity to be a part of it. The "Roll Up Your Sleeve" ELMER AWARD goes to Sue Wilson.

"MASTER FACILITATOR" AWARD:

Frank Purviance

Every year, we are faced with several challenges to provide repairs and keep the church building and grounds in good working order. This year was no exception, and our Trustees do an outstanding job to keep things in order. This individual not only leads the Trustees but takes an active role in facilitating repairs, such as finalizing roof repairs, unexpected repairs to our waterline and sewer line, and coordinating inspections by the fire department, among other things. The "Master Facilitator" ELMER AWARD goes to Frank Purviance.

WHALE OF A FELLOW:

Gail Thoele

This person has been a member of Ivy Chapel UCC since the year 2003.

This individual has been actively involved in multiple church leadership roles during 2021.

This church member consistently offers a genuinely pleasant disposition and an encouraging, positive outlook to all occasions. Our church is remarkably blessed through the variety of ways in which she energetically gives of her time and her abilities!

This year, the wide array of her activities has included: assisting the Board of Deacons (through implementing COVID precautions when our congregation resumed in-person worship; hosting monthly Zoom Deacons meetings; coordinating ushers and lay liturgists; co-hosting post-worship refreshments and fellowship); assisting with Stewardship Committee tasks; serving on Care Corps; serving on the Church and Ministry Board; and serving on the By-Laws Revision Committee.

What an amazing list of gifts she has offered!

It is with joy and gratitude that we present this year's "Whale-of-A-Fellow Award" to Gail Thoele.

Thank you to all the award recipients, and to all at Ivy Chapel who continue to contribute in many ways to our faith community. I wish you all the best this year and look forward to many great things to come.

God bless!



With God's Blessings

Happy Anniversary to... 

3/4/2000 Bob and Doris De Fer
3/5/2011 Elizabeth and Scott Schurwan
3/27/1982 Mark and Nancy Gerdes

Happy Birthday to... 

3 Jake Del Carmen	23 Alex Glenn
12 Linda Ledbetter	Deborah Washburn
Wes Wieser	24 Sue Lindhorst
14 Kaillen Cox	Bruce Wilking
15 Katie Amsler	29 Doris De Fer
21 Peter LaSalle	30 Jack Molyneaux
22 Wade Wieser	

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

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

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-Gail Thoele 314-576-0091

ASSISTING IN LAY MINISTRY: Please find YOUR Name. If you're unable to attend please switch with others serving on another date (available to sub: Liz Schurwan 314-432-3362) and let Gail Thoele know 314-576-0091/314-591-0057

DATE	GREETERS/USHERS
6 Mar	Myrna and Ralph Weiland— communion
13 Mar	Donna Grote and Jan Wirtz— Daylight Sav'g
20 Mar	Kathryn Kuntzman and Jack Molyneaux
27 Mar	Dottie Foster and Gail Thoele
3 Apr	Pat and Carl Winship— communion
10 Apr	Don Wolff and John Weiland— Palm Sun
17 Apr	Kay and Earl Kreder— Easter
24 Apr	Myrna and Ralph Weiland



All are welcome to join us.
Masks and social distancing still required to protect our young and unvaccinated members.
Or worship on Facebook or YouTube Sunday at 10 a.m.
[Visit our YouTube channel](#)

For daily spiritual nourishment; we invite you to subscribe free of charge to our United Church of Christ Still Speaking Daily Devotional at
<https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/>



Charities 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
2022  March		1 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm	2 ASH WEDNESDAY Worship 7:30pm	3 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am CE Mtg 7pm	4	5 AA 10:30am
	6 1st Sunday in Lent -prpl Lenten Offerings- CARING FOR KIDS pg 3 10am Worship w/LS, SS	7	8 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm	9	10 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am	11 Square dancing 3:30-5:30pm 7-9pm  Turn Clocks ahead an hour
	13 2nd Sunday in Lent -prpl Spring/Daylight Saving Time Begins Lenten Offerings- CARING FOR KIDS pg 3 10am Worship, SS HWY CLEAN-UP AFTER WORSHIP pg 4	14 Council Mtg 7pm	15 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm The Ivy Vine Articles DUE Mary & Martha Wms Grp 1pm	16 Men's Luncheon 11:30am Stackhouse 13419 Olive Blvd	17 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am	18
	20 3rd Sunday in Lent -prpl Lenten Offerings- CARING FOR KIDS pg 3 10am Worship, SS	21	22 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm	23	24 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am	25
	27 4th Sunday in Lent -prpl Lenten Offerings- CARING FOR KIDS pg 3 10am Worship, SS	28	29 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm	30	31 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am	April 1 April 2 AA 10:30am

IN APRIL: LENTEN OFFERINGS-CARING FOR KIDS PG 3

7TH CE Mtg 7pm

11TH COUNCIL MEETING 7PM

15TH NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE

19TH MARY AND MARTHA WOMEN'S GROUP, 1PM

20TH MEN'S LUNCHEON AT HARPO'S 136 Hilltown Village Center

AA=Alcoholics Anonymous	CA=Christian Action	FH = Fellowship Hall	KYP=KEEPING YOU POSTED	JRWP=JUNIPER ROOT	WOODLAND PRESCHOOL
CC=Chancel Choir	CE=Christian Education	LL=LOWER LEVEL	LS=THE LORD'S SUPPER	NURSERY=NY	PP=PURPLE PAGES
EMMP=Eric Moody Memorial Pavilion		M&M GRP=MARY AND MARTHA WOMEN'S GROUP		SY=SANCTUARY	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	