

The Ivy Vine

July 2022



How far?



Dan Wilson, Pastor
pastordan@ivychapel.org

One aspect of Christian discipleship which comes into play with regularity is the level of our commitment. By this, I mean, to what extent are we willing to live out our Christian faith? Of course, this is not a “set” level. It varies. There is an ebb and a flow to our personal commitment level which is constantly fluctuating. I attribute this to the dynamic character of life itself. Our surroundings and our individual energy levels are perpetually changing.

Off and on, life circumstances and situations present us with an array of questions, such as, “How far is God asking me to go? How far am I willing to go? How far is God going? In this particular situation? At this particular moment?”

As we see, a common element of many such questions is the qualifier, “How far?”

There once was an inspiring, young woman whose writings were amazing and highly spiritual. Her name was Rachel Held Evans. In 1981, Rachel Grace Held was born in Birmingham, Alabama. In 2003, she graduated from college and married Dan Evans. The couple gave birth to two children. This young wife, mother and faith sojourner firmly, lovingly challenged all who reflect on her ponderings. Similar to Mary, the mother of Christ, Rachel was a deeply perceptive soul who pondered

many things in her heart. (Luke 2:19) In 2019, Rachel had a severe reaction to an antibiotic which she was given to treat an infection and she died at the ‘all-too-young’ age of 37 years old. Her death was saddening and tragic.

Here is just a sampling of Rachel’s provocative and sacred wisdom: “Christianity isn’t meant simply to be *believed*; it is meant to be lived, shared, eaten, spoken and enacted in the presence of other people,” and “The apostles remembered what many modern Christians tend to forget--what makes the Gospel offensive isn’t who it keeps out, but who it lets in!” and “Faith isn’t about having everything figured out ahead of time; faith is about following the quiet voice of God without having everything figured out ahead of time.” These are among the myriad of Rachel’s phenomenal, spiritual insights which she leaves as a lasting legacy to all who are continuing ahead on this fascinating, Christian discipleship quest. At every juncture, Rachel Held Evans proclaimed that there is no distance too far, no effort too much, and no amount of love too great for a faithful follower of Christ to give!

How far?

In the Gospel of Luke, “One of the scribes came

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near and... asked Jesus, 'Which commandment is the first of all?' Jesus answered, 'This first is, Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is One; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.' Then the scribe said, 'You are right, Teacher,' When Jesus saw that the scribe answered wisely, he said, 'You are not far from the Realm of God.' After that, no one dared to ask Jesus any more questions." (Mark 12:28-34)

Jesus cites the 'Shema' (Deuteronomy 6:4-5), which was viewed as a foundational tenet of Judaism. Jesus also cites love of neighbor from Judaism's 'Holiness Code' (Leviticus 19:18). Upon witnessing this, the scribe declares Jesus to be a faithful, correct teacher (as if Jesus were in need of another's endorsement!).

Jesus then responds by pronouncing the scribe to be "not far" from the Realm of God. High praise! This was, more or less, a variation on Jesus' mandate to the expert in the law who asked what one must do to inherit life eternal. We will recall that at the conclusion of teaching his Parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus asked, 'Which of the three do you think was a neighbor to the one who fell into the hands of robbers?' The expert answered, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Finally, Jesus commanded, 'Go, and do the same.'" (Luke 10:25-37)

Of course, in Jesus' day, Samaritans were looked down on as people not to be associated with by righteous Jews. Samaritans were non-Jews who were considered to be heathen and unclean.

Who are the maligned, ill-regarded, untouchables of our day? Who will minister to these children of God?

How far? How far is God summoning you and me to go this day?

To what lengths *will* we go?

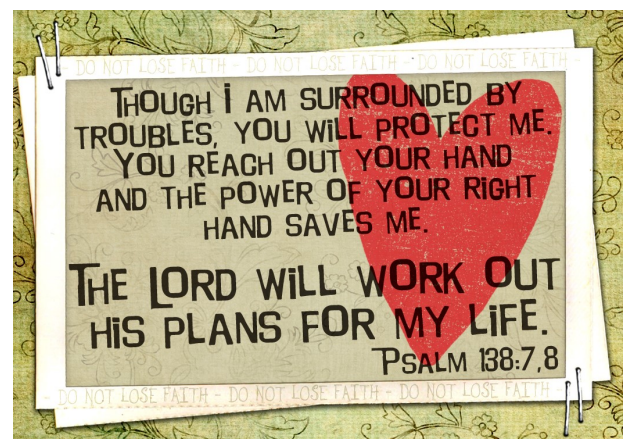
One of the songs in our Ivy Chapel UCC pew worship booklet which I love is I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me. The spirit of this hymn is grateful remembrance of God's grace: "I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me,... When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me, singing glory hallelujah, Jesus lifted me!" The hymn celebrates that there is no distance which God will not go on our behalf. God will go to every length to "lift" us and to save us. There is no limit to God's grace and love. Remarkable!

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RECEPTION CELEBRATING FRIEDA CLARK'S RETIREMENT FROM IVY CHAPEL

Mark your calendars for a celebration
of Frieda's
16 years of service
as Office Manager at Ivy Chapel.

We will gather on **July 24th**, at **2pm**,
for an open house reception at Ivy Chapel.



June Council Lifted Up:

- ♥ **Earl Kreder** for his many, many hours of labor to repair Ivy Chapel's tractor and bring it back to life!
- ♥ Office Administrator Search Committee (**Frank Purviance, Pastor Dan, Steve Lowry, Don Wolff and Jo Ann Moody**) for their successful efforts to fill the Office Administrator position upon Frieda Clark's retirement.
- ♥ Minister of Music Search Committee (**Valerie Waterman, Myrna Weiland, Ralph Weiland, Sarah Wilson, Sue Wilson, Jan Wirtz and Pastor Dan**) for securing Mike Waller as the Minister of Music/Worship Musician.

Are YOU Ready for Action?

Ivy Chapel UCC is supporting **Isaiah 58 Ministries' Back to School** event by collecting much needed supplies for their annual fundraiser! You can help by purchasing girls' and boys' socks and underwear (**ALL sizes needed**).



PLUS. . . 2-pocket folders (we need 300!)

Please drop off all supplies at Ivy Chapel no later than August 14, 2022.

PRO TIP: Take advantage of the Sales Tax Holiday Weekend when you shop August 5-7!

Hate to shop but still want to support this great cause? We'll do the shopping for you! Drop off a check at Ivy and be sure to designate "Isaiah 58 Back to School" on the memo line.

Ivy in ACTION brings us together for community outreach and action!

It's all about serving our neighbors and raising our visibility as an active church.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGES IN WORSHIP

We are hopeful that our congregation will return to the practice of incorporating a Children's Message in our weekly Sunday worship services. It is regrettable that we have gotten out of the habit of doing this with regularity. Formerly, this was scheduled by Ivy Chapel's Youth Program Coordinator in cooperation with the Board of Christian Education. This is not our present situation. Consequently, a new approach is needed (at least for the time being).

Concern for including a Children's Message in Sunday worship more frequently was expressed by Pastor Dan at our Ivy Council Meeting in May. In the absence of a current point person for this, Pastor Dan is inviting you to consider offering a Children's Message soon and to contact Pastor Dan to schedule a Sunday date. God loves and values God's children. May we as God's faith community actively display this.

Thank you for stepping up.

Isaiah 58 MINISTRIES Cares

May, 2022

Ivy Chapel UCC
Isaiah 58 Ministries wishes to thank Ivy Chapel UCC for the donation of food, hygiene products and clothing your church gave to the ministries during the first quarter of 2022. Your generosity is greatly appreciated so Isaiah 58 Ministries can serve those in need. Thank you very much!
Reg Coper
Board member of Isaiah 58 Ministries

HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

Please consider helping picking up trash along a designated section of North Woods Mill Road. After worship for the following Sundays of this year (subject to change): **Aug 28, Nov 6**
Contact Bruce Wilking, 314-640-4902 about helping.



Scripture & Worship

3 Jul, 4th Sun aft Pentecost: 2 Kings 5:1-14,
Psalm 30; 66:1-9, Isaiah 66:10-14,
Galatians 6:1-16, Luke 10:1-11, 16-20



10 Jul, 5th Sun aft Pentecost: Amos 7:7-17,
Psalm 25:1-10; 82, Deuteronomy 30:9-14,
Colossians 1:1-14, Luke 10:25-37

17 Jul, 6th Sun aft Pentecost: Amos 8:1-12, Psalm 15, 52,
Genesis 18:1-10a, Colossians 1:15-28, Luke 10:38-42

24 Jul, 7th Sun aft Pentecost: Hosea 1:2-10, Psalm 85, 138,
Genesis 18:20-32, Colossians 2:6-19, Luke 11:1-13

31 Jul, 8th Sun aft Pentecost: Hosea 11:1-11,
Psalms 49:1-12; 107:1-9, 43; Colossians 3:1-11,
Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23, Luke 12:13-21

<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu//index.php>

When Israel was a child,
I loved him,
and out of Egypt I called my son.
The more I called them,
the more they went from me;
they kept sacrificing to the Baals
and offering incense to idols.

Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk;
I took them up in my arms,
but they did not know
that I healed them.

I led them with cords of
human kindness,
with bands of love.
I was to them like those
who lift infants to their
cheeks I bent down
to them and fed them....



...How can I give you up, Ephraim?
How can I hand you over, O Israel?
How can I make you like Admah?
How can I treat you like Zeboiim?
My heart recoils within me;
my compassion grows warm and tender.

Hosea 11:1-4, 8

Unless otherwise noted, all quoted Bible references are from
New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Mary and Martha Wmns Grp

The Mary and Martha Women's Group cancelled their planned trip to St. Charles for lunch and the Lewis and Clark Boathouse and Museum in June due to a day of high heat and humidity.



→ We have rescheduled this trip for the 3rd Tuesday in July (19th).

We will meet at Ivy Chapel at 11:00 a.m. and *carpool* to St. Charles. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Trustees

We are pleased to welcome Kara White to the Ivy Chapel family. She will start working with Frieda Clark in the month of July and take over as Church Office Administrator when Frieda retires July 31.

The Trustees and friends were busy with projects inside and out.

- On the inside, the final inspection of the new furnace and AC unit by St. Louis County has been completed and the final payment to Academy Air was made.
- The leak from the Memorial Garden into the lower classroom was repaired. The window blind in Fellowship Hall was replaced.
- The quarterly pest control application—which includes outside bait stations, complete spraying of all interior areas, and spider bait traps placed throughout the upper and lower levels—was completed.
- Outside the building, the mowing tractor had two major failures and had to be taken out of service twice. Thanks to **Earl Kreder** for his many hours of work to obtain parts and make the repairs.
- Two playground gates were rebuilt and installed, and the Youth sign had its two support posts replaced.
- The roof gutter on the east side of the office wing was repaired.
- The redbud tree in the parking lot island was split in a windstorm and had to be removed. All parking lots and island areas have been sprayed for weeds.
- Highway Clean-Up was done in late May and is scheduled again for August 28.

This is the gift which the Apostle Paul invites all Christ followers to remember when he writes, "Receive one another, therefore, just as Christ has received you, for the glory of God." (Romans 15:7) How vital it is for all to recognize the grace Christ displays toward us and to respond by displaying the same grace toward others.

A prayer written by Roberta Porter expresses this:

*"Holy Spirit, shine
Through my weakness,
my self -
so that others might see
a heart of compassion,
a heart for the poor,
a heart willing to give away the gifts I've been given.
And I pray
any light shining
will reflect back to you.*

(Alive Now, September/October 2007, Roberta Porter)

Jesus Christ always goes the distance for others. For us and for all people, following Christ means going all the way. Let's keep trying! With God's help, we are able to give and to love fully. Go all the way, for then, as Christ declares, "you are not far from the Realm of God."

O the abundant love, the unconditional love, the eternal love of God!

Ponder. How far will God go? How far does Christ our Savior go? All the way... always! This is the blessed character of the God of steadfast love.

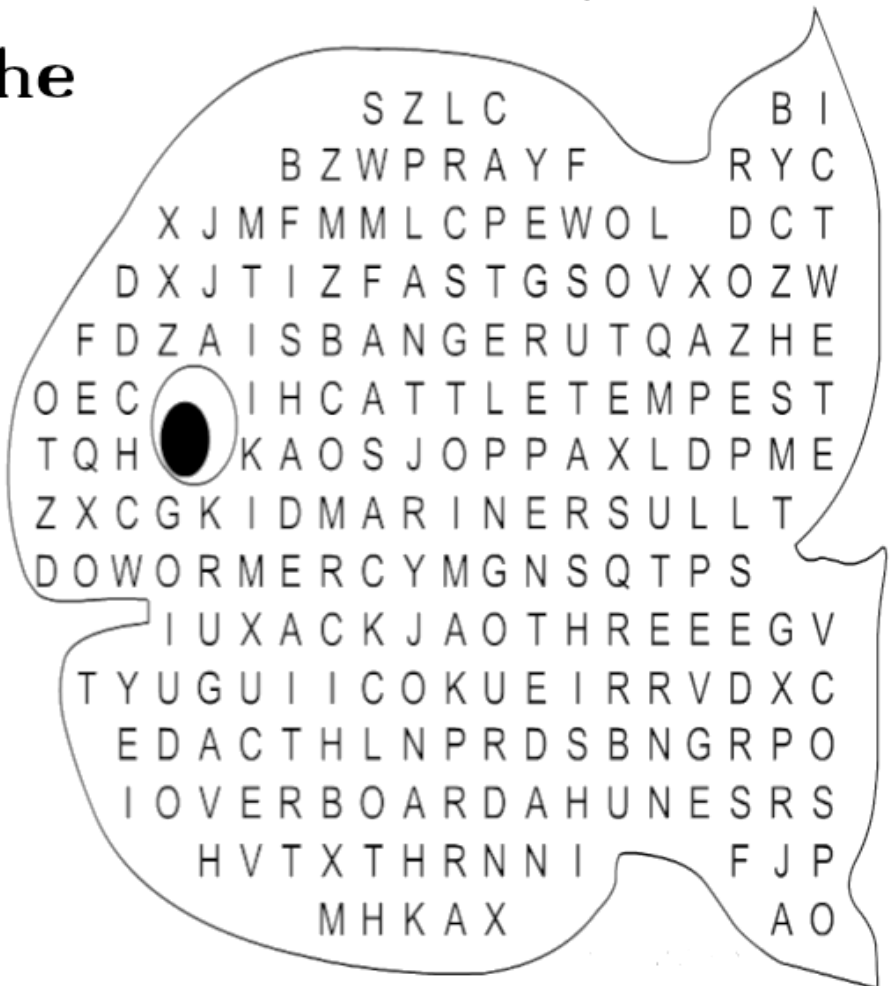
May we love and serve God by doing the same,
Pastor Dan

Jonah and the Big Fish

ANGER	PLANT
CATTLE	PRAY
FAST	REPENTED
FISH	SACKCLOTH
GOURD	SHADE
JONAH	TARSHISH
JOPPA	TEMPEST
MARINERS	THREE
MERCY	WORM
OVERBOARD	

Based on the book of
Jonah

adapted from
© akidsheart.com





With God's Blessings

Happy Anniversary to... 

7/23/2000 Robert and Diane Droege

Happy Birthday to... 

12 Bob De Fer	24 Jessica Kempa
18 Stephen Lowry	28 Bill Pasia
20 Jim Sheahan	30 Jack Litzinger
21 Chris Moody	31 Cole Winship
23 Tyler Ray	
Elizabeth Schurwan	

Frieda Clark will retire from Ivy Chapel on **Sunday, July 31st, 2022**. See page 2

Then on August 1st, Kara White will take over as Church Office Administrator.



E-KYP (E-KEEPING YOU POSTED)

By end of *any* Wednesday—Send your news to Ivy Chapel ivychapellucc@ivy chapel.org for the weekly e-KYP (e-Keeping You Posted)—emailed every Friday.

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 the church office 314-434-4991.
 Pastor Dan Wilson: pastordan@ivy chapel.org 314-580-4564 Office Administrator: ivychapellucc@ivy chapel.org
 Office hours: Monday/Friday 8:30AM–3PM Tuesday/Thursday 8:30AM–2:30PM
 ➤ BORROWING Chairs/Tables: Ralph Weiland 314-878-3230

JUL CARE CORPS	LDR-Diann Sheahan 314-275-2913	CO-LDR-Ann Molyneaux 314-878-0966
AUG CARE CORPS	LDR-Kathryn Kuntzman 636-391-8468	CO-LDR-Valerie Waterman 636-391-9886

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
3 Jul	Dottie Foster and Gail Thoele — communion
10 Jul	Diann and Jim Sheahan
17 Jul	Don Wolff and John Weiland
24 Jul	Kay and Earl Kreder
31 Jul	Myrna and Ralph Weiland
7 Aug	Donna Grote and Jan Wirtz— communion
14 Aug	Kathryn Kuntzman and Jack Molyneaux
21 Aug	Dottie Foster and Gail Thoele
28 Aug	Diann and Jim Sheahan



All are welcome to join us. Masks and social distancing still strongly recommended in consideration for the safety of immunocompromised and unvaccinated individuals. Worship with us in the church, on Facebook or YouTube Sunday at 10 a.m.




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/> 

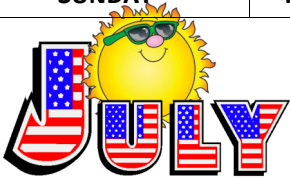
RITENOUR CO-CARE FOOD PANTRY: Place food and personal care items on **2nd SHELF**. <https://www.rccfoodpantry.org/>

Isaiah 58 Ministries Bag of Blessings list on FH bulletin board. Place on **3rd-4th SHELVES**: food items, 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
					1	2 AA 10:30am #350
3 4 th S aft Pentecost grn 10am Worship + w/The Lord's Supper	4 Independence Day- Office Closed	5 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm #349	6	7 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am	8 Square dancing 3:30-5:30pm 7-9pm	9 AA 10:30am #350
10 5 th S aft Pentecost grn 10am Worship	11 Council Mtg 7pm	12 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm #349	13	14 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am	15 The Ivy Vine Articles DUE	16 AA 10:30am #350
17 6 th S aft Pentecost grn 10am Worship	18	19 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm #349 Mary & Martha Wms Group to Clark Boathouse and Museum see page 4	20 Men's Luncheon 11:30am Creve Coeur Lakehouse 2160 Creve Coeur Mill Rd	21 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am	22	23 AA 10:30am #350
24 7 th S aft Pentecost grn 10am Worship 2pm Reception for Frieda Clark's retirement~pg 2	25	26 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm #349	27	28 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am	29	30 AA 10:30am #350
31 8 th S aft Pentecost grn 10am Worship	August 1	August 2 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm #349	August 3 CE Mtg 7pm	August 4 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am	August 5	August 6 AA 10:30am #350

IN AUGUST: 8th Council Meeting **15th** The Ivy Vine articles due **16th** Mary & Martha Women's Grp 1pm
17th Men's Lunch 11:30am, @ Granite City Restaurant **20th** WORK DAY **21st** RALLY DAY
28th after Worship: DESSERT FOR \$1~more info to come, and HWY CLEAN-UP

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
EMMP=Eric Moody Memorial Pavilion		M&M GRP=MARY AND MARTHA WOMEN'S GROUP		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