

# The Ivy Vine

## 2022 September



Dan Wilson, Pastor  
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## God's Mercies Never Come to an End

In every generation, God's people have learned that we can depend on God's *mercy*. Timeless appeals of the psalmists echo down to this very day:

"Have *mercy* on me, O God, according to your steadfast love, according to the abundance of your *tender mercies*, blot out the stain of my sins." Psalm 51:1

"Be *merciful* to me, O God, be *merciful* to me; for in you my soul takes refuge." Psalm 57:1

There arrive moments when it seems as though the demands of this life may overwhelm us. Yet we always are able to call on God for help. When we ask, God's help is provided. God showed Abraham the place where God wanted him to go. Abraham went there. At the last instant, just as he was about to sacrifice his son Isaac, God called out, "Abraham! Abraham! Don't hurt the boy. Now I know that you revere God." Then Abraham named that place, "The LORD will provide." (Genesis 22) God's mercies never end.

For sure, there may be extended stretches of time when we must continue watching and waiting for help. At such times, if relief does not appear, our souls grow weary. Still, Christ calls on us to retain faith in God's promises, and so we wait. We have our doubts. A long wait may cause us to become discouraged, or even cynical. Yet God's mercies will appear. This is

as God's Word describes, "I am one who has seen affliction... The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall. My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me. But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of God never ceases, **God's mercies never come to an end**; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." (Lamentations 3) Ultimately, God's mercies are provided. God's gifts do not take place according to our wishes or on our timetables! We tend to have difficulty accepting this. But it is true. God's mercies arrive we know not when, we know not how. Keep watching. Keep believing. In the fullness of time, Merciful God will bless.

In his ministry, Jesus Christ teaches, "I say to you who are listening, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone strikes you on one cheek, offer them the other cheek, too." (Luke 6:27-29)

Carlo Carretto (1910-1988) was an Italian religious in the order of the Little Brothers of Jesus. Carretto was a contemplative Christian, a 20<sup>th</sup> century "Desert Father." In 1983, Brother Carretto wrote a small book entitled, *Ho cercato y ho trovato (I Sought and I Found)*. In this personal confession, Carretto divulges twists and turns which he himself has discovered along the way on his spiritual walk, "Many

(Continued on page 2)

people who start reading the Bible without adequate preparation, end by closing the Book in surprise and even fright, at God's apparent harshness where sinners are concerned. The fact is that the Bible, too, is on a journey, the same journey as the people of God, bearing witness on its way to a progressive discovery of that God who will eventually reveal God-self in God's fullness and in all God's splendor in Christ... Christ is the transition from the Old to the New. Christ is the revelation of a God who had been distorted by our by our childish fears and our stunted sense of justice and love! In my spiritual infancy, the sinner enraged me and inspired me with the passion to eliminate, or at least to punish.

In the maturity of Jesus' revelation, the sinner inspires me with compassion, and calls out to me for **mercy**... I believe in non-violence... I believe in prophecy more than in politics. I believe in Gandhi. I believe in Martin Luther King. I believe in Archbishop Oscar Romero... Jesus teaches me how to enter the kingdom that is Jesus' kingdom. When the choice lies between a civil law prescribing the death penalty for someone who strikes me, and Jesus who tells me to turn the other cheek, I know which to conform to in my heart. Between a civil law that jails an adulteress, and Jesus' manner of treating the adulterous woman in the gospel, I know how to choose, even though it may scandalize a few of the devout... What I have tried to do in this book is sum up, for my friends, and for those who want to seek God, the route that I have travelled... What convinced me of the existence of God was contemplation. What convinced me of God's life and God's heart was **mercy**. I turned completely to God in prayer, and I discovered God's inmost essence is God's capacity to forgive.

The grandest thing I can say about God is that God is **merciful**, and I believe in universal salvation. God's capacity for love, God's thirst for justice, God's battle against evil, God's desire to embrace humankind like a prodigal - joined to the power God has to make all things new! - all this can be summed up in these words, quoted by Jesus: '**Mercy** I desire, not sacrifice' (Matthew 9:13; cf. Hosea 6:6)... This is why the gospel can be summed up in Luke's Parable of the Prodigal, the return to the father of the far-away child. The return is God's victory, God's true joy. By **mercy**, God slakes the prodigal's thirst for love. Knowing God, even though I know it is possible we may become lost, I am now convinced that *all will be saved*." (pp. 128-134)

Brother Carretto's arrival at this lovely belief in universal salvation reminds me of another sacred book published 20 years later by two Quaker pastors, Philip Gulley and James Mulholland, which is entitled, *If Grace Is True: Why God Will Save Every Person*.

Let's recall our Savior's words. As soon as Jesus had concluded teaching the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10), he asked his inquisitor, "Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" The reply came, "The one who showed him **mercy**." Finally, Jesus commanded, "Go, and do the same."

Over and over, Christ's life and teachings emphasize offering *mercy*. God's *tender mercies* never come to an end.

May your soul overflow with the *mercy* of God,  
*Pastor Dan*

## Scripture & Worship

**4 Sep, 13th Sunday aft Pentecost:** Jeremiah 18:1-11, Psalms 1, 139:1-6, 13-18; Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Philemon 1:1-21, Luke 14:25-33

**11 Sep, 14th Sunday aft Pentecost:** Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalms 14, 51:1-10, Exodus 32:7-14, 1 Timothy 1:12-17, Luke 15:1-10

**18 Sep, 15th Sunday aft Pentecost:** Jeremiah 8:18-9:1, Psalms 79:1-9; 113; Amos 8:4-7, 1 Timothy 2:1-7, Luke 16:1-13

**25 Sep, 16th Sunday aft Pentecost:** Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15; Psalms 91:1-6, 14-16; 146; Amos 6:1a, 4-7, 1 Timothy 6:6-19, Luke 16:19-31

**2 Oct, 17th Sunday aft Pentecost:** Lamentations 1:1-6; 3:19-26, Psalms 37:1-9; 137; Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4, 2 Timothy 1:1-14, Luke 17:5-10

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



### GIVING AT IVY CHAPEL

If you cannot attend the Sunday Worship service, you can send your offering gift to the church:

Ivy Chapel UCC,  
620 North Woods Mill Road  
Chesterfield, MO 63017



## Autumn Voyage “to Faith and Giving”

Friends in Christ, we are poised to embark together this autumn on a life-defining journey! This will be a community trip. As with most aspects of our life as God’s faith community, *we will go together.*

Here’s an overview. Our itinerary will extend from Sunday, September 25th through Sunday, October 16th. We will be blessed by this as a “season” of reflecting on our personal giving commitments for 2023 and beyond. During this span of time, we will engage with one another and we will welcome a precious, outside guest to share a portion of our congregation’s voyage with us.

Our theme will be **“From Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving.”**

These are intriguing, inspiring words, are they not? Imagine aspiring and growing and progressing **“to faith and giving.”** What a shining vision of Christian stewardship this is which summons us to attempt such an ambitious pilgrimage!

As God’s Church, Ivy Chapel United Church of Christ, let’s dream of who God can help us become! You and I are not done growing. How are we doing so far? Are we joyfully following our leader Christ Jesus along this surprise-laden trail of life? What manner of giving stewards are we at present? To what future heights of Christian character may God yet lead us? On these autumn travels, our souls will be exploring and seeking to discover renewal in becoming ever-growing givers.

Christ Jesus loves extravagantly and gives extravagantly. Therefore, it seems quite natural for our Master and Savior to desire that all who endeavor to follow him will do the same.

With God’s help, all can begin loving and giving extravagantly!

Let’s prepare to embrace the astonishing, uplifting ways in which God is able to move us **“from bread and cup to faith and giving!”**

# Deacons

We are in need of future volunteers to provide refreshments on the first Sunday of each month. *Please consider hosting this valuable time together and sign up for a Sunday on the list in the narthex.*

We are still desperately in need of people to run the sanctuary sound system during worship... It is easier than you may think, and you can start simply by shadowing during worship. Please reach out to **Sarah Wilson** or **Valerie Waterman**, 314-630-3668 (with no obligation) if you have any interest at all...

*By the way*, all worship participants have been instructed just to talk louder if the mics are not operating on a particular Sunday, so there is no pressure :)))

*Thank you for your support and participation!*

## Aug Council Lifted Up:

- ♥ JoAnn Moody and Dottie Foster for leading Children's messages
- ♥ Frank Purviance for coordinating Frieda Clark's retirement reception
- ♥ Kay Kreder and Dottie Foster for providing the refreshments for Frieda's retirement reception.

# Mary<sup>and</sup>MarthaWmnsGrp

The Mary and Martha Women's Group met on Aug. 16<sup>th</sup> and enjoyed slides and a discussion about Fur Bearing Mammals including their effects on Missouri History and current conditions for them. Donna Kendrick Phillips and Sandy Stevenson from Powder Valley Nature Center presented the topic along with pelts from coyote, otter, beaver, rabbit, fox, racoon, and squirrel and a beaver hat for us to see and feel. As always, the importance of Conservation of these Animals is emphasized.

Following this presentation, we made the following plans.

- ★ On **Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>** we will meet at the Multipurpose Room at 1 p.m. and discuss a few items for a very brief business meeting and then carpool to the MO Botanical Garden where Janet Wasylczak who is a Docent there will take us on a tour of the brand new J C Taylor Visitor's Center. After that we will go to see the water lilies which will be gone soon after this date. We will have tickets available for free admission.
- ★ On **Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>** we will attempt once more to have lunch and go to the Lewis and Clark Museum in St. Charles.
- ★ On **November 15<sup>th</sup>** we hope to visit the Holocaust Museum.



# Trustees

The Trustees and friends took advantage of the “mild” August weather to complete some outdoor projects. A dead fifty-foot pine tree at the entrance to the parking lot was taken down and parts of the trunk were used to rebuild washed out parts of the lane that goes from the lower lot to Fellowship Hall. The pavilion, garage, mailbox post, signposts, and the cross behind Memorial Garden were given two coats of stain. The playground walk was cleaned and sealed. Boards were installed along the fence on the west side to keep dirt from washing into the playground. In addition, the holly bush and boxwoods in front of the church were trimmed.



## Thank you, IVY!!!!

Here is our donation to  
Isaiah 58's Back-to-School drive.



Together we gathered:

304 folders

34 pairs of socks

85 pairs of underwear

Contributions are still being accepted,  
items can be left on the shelves in the  
coatroom.

## 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): **Nov 6**



# BLESSING of the ANIMALS



AT IVY CHAPEL UCC ON  
SATURDAY, 17TH OF SEPTEMBER, 2022  
FROM 1-3PM.

All of God's creatures are invited to gather outside at the Eric Moody Memorial Pavilion. This annual gathering has become a beloved tradition greatly enjoyed by all. We gather to praise God for blessing this world with life in a miraculous array of shapes and sizes!

Bi-State Pet Food Pantry is our Featured animal assistance organization this year. Our donations of **cat toys, cat and dog treats, canned cat food, canned dog food** and money will support this vital ministry.

Our church rejoices at this opportunity to welcome and to bless God's marvelous creatures. Please invite all of the critters you know to bring their humans to Ivy Chapel UCC for a life-affirming, sacred afternoon together. Come and share in this marvelous celebration on holy ground **1-3 pm Saturday, Sept. 17.**

Please see Frieda's thank you note. The original is pinned to the board in Fellowship Hall.



5 Aug. 2022

Dear Ivy Chapel members,

I just couldn't let another day go by without saying thank you for the retirement celebration you gave me on Sunday, July 17th. I am touched and surprised by the departing gift that was given. I shall enjoy and wear the necklace with the cross pendant for many years to come.

I was very blessed to have been able to serve you and enjoy your friendship and love all these years.

In Christ We are blessed.

Sincerely Frieda Clark



# Fellowship

## Happy Fall Y'all!

Come join us at Ivy Chapel on Saturday Sept. 24th starting at 4 pm until 7 pm (or later) for a fun night of Fall Fellowship. Bring your own wine, cheese, crackers, or other snacks and beverages and enjoy the start of the Fall season together.

Weather permitting, we will plan to meet out at the pavilion, due to limited seating please consider bringing your own lawn chairs. Provisions will be made to meet in Fellowship Hall if the weather doesn't cooperate.

Please contact John Weiland with any questions.

[jlweiland2003@yahoo.com](mailto:jlweiland2003@yahoo.com) or 636-399-2588

We look forward to seeing you there!



## 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.

## Offering Gifts for Flood Victim Assistance

On July 26th, record-breaking rainfall and resulting flood waters caused devastating damage across a widespread area from Missouri to Eastern Kentucky to Eastern West Virginia. Help is needed.

### **You are invited to offer a gift for Flood Victim Assistance.**

People choosing to donate through *Ivy Chapel United Church of Christ* are asked to label your gift  
**"Emergency USA"**

People choosing to give an offering gift for Flood Relief directly to the national offices of the United Church of Christ may donate to the **"Emergency USA"** option online.

To Donate in this manner, please go to  
<https://support.ucc.org/>

***Thank you so much for your  
compassionate gift.***



# With God's Blessings

Happy Anniversary to... 

Happy Birthday to... 

9/7/2019 Christine and Adam James  
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	15 "Lee" Lelia Headrick
Frank Purviance	Linda Lowry
4 Gail Thoele	17 Holly Winship
6 Dan Faust	28 Richard Heend
7 Stuart Kirk	Jo Ann Moody
11 Calvin Heend	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 the church office 314-434-4991.

Pastor Dan Wilson: [pastordan@ivy-chapel.org](mailto:pastordan@ivy-chapel.org) 314-580-4564 Office Administrator: [ivy-chapelucc@ivy-chapel.org](mailto:ivy-chapelucc@ivy-chapel.org)

Office hours: Monday/Friday 8:30AM–2:30PM Tuesday/Thursday 9:30AM–3:30PM

➤ BORROWING Chairs/Tables: Ralph Weiland 314-878-3230

SEP CARE CORPS LDR-Pat Winship 636-394-5991  
OCT CARE CORPS LDR-Gail Thoele 314-576-0091

CO-LDR-Jan Wirtz 314-740-7385  
CO-LDR-Nancy Marston 314-878-1317

**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
4 Sep	Don Wolff and John Weiland— <b>communion</b>
11 Sep	Kay and Earl Kreder
18 Sep	Myrna and Ralph Weiland
25 Sep	Pat and Carl Winship
2 Oct	Don Wolff and John Weiland— <b>communion</b>
9 Oct	Kay and Earl Kreder
16 Oct	Myrna and Ralph Weiland
23 Oct	Pat and Carl Winship
30 Oct	Kay and Earl Kreder



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](http://www.ierschool.org)

**Getting new eyeglasses?** Ask your eye doctor if they will take your old pair to recycle or go to this web site <https://allaboutvision.com/resources/donate.htm>





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am  <b>CE Mtg 7pm</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> AA 10:30am #350
<b>4</b> 13 <sup>th</sup> S aft Pentecost grn  <b>9am Adult Bible Study</b> <b>10am Worship</b> ✠ w/LS,SS	<b>5</b> Labor Day-Office Closed	<b>6</b> <del>AA S.O.S 10-11am</del> AA 12pm #349	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am	<b>9</b>  Square dancing 3:30-5:30pm 7-9pm	<b>10</b> AA 10:30am #350
<b>11</b> 14 <sup>th</sup> S aft Pentecost grn  <b>9am Adult Bible Study</b> <b>10am Worship, SS</b> Aft wrshp Board Mtgs CA/Deacons/Trustee's	<b>12</b>  <b>Council Mtg 7pm</b>	<b>13</b> <del>AA S.O.S 10-11am</del> AA 12pm #349	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am  <b>The Ivy Vine Articles DUE</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> AA 10:30am #350  <b>Blessing of the Animals 1-3pm</b>  
<b>18</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> S aft Pentecost grn  <b>9am Adult Bible Study</b> <b>10am Worship, SS</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <del>AA S.O.S 10-11am</del> AA 12pm #349  <b>Mary &amp; Martha Wms Grp 1pm</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Men's Luncheon 11:30am-CHIMI's</b> 60 Four Seasons Shopping Center, 3147865090	<b>22</b> AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> AA 10:30am #350  <b>Fall Fellowship Event 4-7pm</b>
<b>25</b> 16 <sup>th</sup> S aft Pentecost grn  <b>9am Adult Bible Study</b> <b>10am Worship, SS</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <del>AA S.O.S 10-11am</del> AA 12pm #349	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am	<b>30</b>	October 1 AA 10:30am #350

**IN OCTOBER:**    **10th** Council Meeting    **15th** The Ivy Vine articles due    **18th** Mary & Martha Women's Grp 1pm  
**19th** Men's Lunch 11:30am @ Yellowstone Cafe

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**Dan Wilson, Pastor**