

The Ivy Vine December 2022



Dan Wilson, Pastor
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The Advent of Christ

Plan a trip, and one needs to consider the timing of the trip. Anyone who has gone on a trip is aware that travel involves departure and arrival times.

In God's Church, disciples have an itinerary. We call it the Christian Church Year. The first 'season' in this year is the Advent Season.

During the Season of Advent, the Church makes preparations for the "coming" celebration of the Birth of Christ. This year Christmas Day will fall on a Sunday. Big events require substantial time to get ready. The Christian Church is highly intentional about preparing to celebrate the Holy Birth of the Christ-Child. The four Sundays preceding December 25th are the Sundays of Advent. These days are our prep time. On each of these Sundays, Christians light one new candle on the Advent Wreath. Then, on Christmas Eve (or Christmas Day, or both), the Church lights the final candle. The tall, white candle at the center of the Advent Wreath is named the Christ Candle. This candle is white to represent the purity of Christ.

Traditionally, our congregation shares the light of the Christ Candle while singing Silent Night as the closing hymn during Christmas Eve Worship. We could think of this as somewhat of a 'take-off' on the song Pass It On. It only takes a spark. Soon all those around can warm up in its glowing. The imagery of sharing the Light of Christ is a powerful symbol of our faith. God intends for all people to offer one another pure light and love.

In first century Palestine, God's Archangel Gabriel informed Mary that - *lo and behold!* - she soon would be expecting a new arrival. However, Gabriel provided no specifics. It may be God's messenger realized that this already was overwhelming enough blowing Mary away with the preposterous revelation of her approaching pregnancy! Consequently, Gabriel did not supply Mary with a time and location when this Messiah would be making a first appearance.

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After the Annunciation, Mary was aware that she was going to give birth to a child. Yet she was unaware of the birthplace; unaware that she would be bearing her baby all the way to the City of David before he was born! Given all that was still a mystery to her makes it remarkable that Mary responded to Gabriel, agreeing, "Behold, your handmaid, the servant of the Lord. Let it be with me according to your word." (Luke 1:38)

She knows not where. She knows not when. Even so, Mary trusts God has a role for her to serve in the birth of this holy, new arrival. Speaking words of wisdom; let it be. Oh, that our souls similarly may proclaim the greatness of God and exult in God our Savior! (Luke 1:47) The holiness of Christmas is its simplicity. Christ is born.

Marchaé Grair witnesses, *"If you've ever been scared to do what's right but done it anyway, then you understand the cost of Advent. On the other side of the invitation, 'Come, Lord Jesus,' is a radical Savior who refuses to treat anyone as disposable and who requires us to expand our courage and leverage our privilege to strive for collective liberation. In this season of waiting, we prepare for the coming of Emmanuel, whose presence with us demands that we embody Divine courage in moments of injustice."*

Long ago, disciples of John the Baptist came to John, saying, "Rabbi, the one who was with you across the Jordan,... here he is baptizing, and all are going to him." John answered, "... You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, 'I am not the Messiah, but I have been

sent ahead of him.'... For this reason my joy has been fulfilled. He must increase; I must decrease." (John 3:25-30)

In the coming days, the Church's Advent Wreath will become a growing ring of fire. Sunday by Sunday, candle by candle; the light will increase. As Christians throughout God's world get ready for a 2022 celebration of our Savior's birth, may our souls be enlivened by God's bright starlight! May we mimic Mother Mary - pondering how we may serve Mighty God; trusting that soon God is about to do something **"new"** (Isaiah 43:19; Revelation 21:5); something **"marvelous"** (Psalm 118:23; First Peter 2:9); something **"for all the world"** (Luke 2:14; John 3:16-17).

Wonder. Watch. Wait...
Christ is coming,
Pastor Dan



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Thank You!

Friends in Christ, I would like to thank you for the kind words and the thoughtful Pastor Appreciation Gift offered to me on behalf of the congregation by Moderator John Weiland during announcement time before worship on Sunday, October 23. It is a joy serving God as your pastor and growing alongside of you in Christian faith.

Thank you for the special gift expressing your appreciation, *Pastor Dan*

Deacons

We are working to finalize the **2023 Lay Ministry Schedule**. Please consider giving of your time and talent by serving as a Greeter, Usher, Liturgist, Fellowship Host or Care Corps volunteer. See Gail Thoele to schedule your much appreciated leadership.

We continue to be in need of additional volunteers to assist with the sanctuary sound system. You can start gradually. We welcome you to begin by shadowing one of our existing volunteers. Please reach out to Sarah Wilson or Valerie Waterman.

Trustees

In November the Trustees were in the attic and helping to gather the decorations for the Church in preparation for the Hanging of the Greens and the Christmas season.

Stumps left over from trees cut down this year are to be ground down and mulch distributed around the playground. Trash was picked up along Woods Mill Road in mid-November with the next pickup scheduled for March.

Ivy has a new tenant in Fellowship Hall on Monday nights, Simplified Kundalini Yoga. As in past years, the Church has a contract to have the parking lot salted and plowed if there is more than 2 inches of snow.

Mary and Martha Wmns Grp

The Mary and Martha Women's Group met on Nov. 15th. We decided to use our M&M Funds to send four \$25.00 Walmart gift cards to ECH (Every Child's Hope) for Christmas shopping and also \$25.00 in gift wrap items to them.

After the brief business meeting we shared treasured items. These included a family of rag dolls handmade for family members, a lovely Christening gown used by family members, a beautiful perfectly preserved China doll and a fruit bowl handed down through generations. The love with which these treasured items were given is truly a blessing.

There will be no meeting in December. The next meeting will be Jan. 17th, 2023.

Scripture & Worship

4 Dec, Second Sunday of Advent: Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19, Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12

11 Dec, Third Sunday of Advent: Psalm 146:5-10, Isaiah 35:1-10, Matthew 11:2-11, Luke 1:46b-55, James 5:7-10

18 Dec, Fourth Sunday of Advent: Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25

24/25 Dec, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day: Isaiah 9:2-7; 52:7-10; 62:6-12, Psalms 96-98, Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7; Luke 2:1-20, Hebrews 1:1-12, John 1:1-14

1 Jan 2023~First Sunday aft Christmas Day: Numbers 6:22-27, Psalms 8, 148, Ecclesiastes 3:1-13, Isaiah 63:7-9, Hebrews 2:10-18, Matthew 2:13-23, 25:31-46, Luke 2:15-21, Galatians 4:4-7, Philippians 2:5-11, Revelation 21:1-6a

<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

End of Year Contributions

"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 2022 or 2023 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"



Dec Council Lifted Up:

- ♥ Sarah Wilson and Rich Heend for quickly righting the camera problems during worship and transferring to Facebook Live.
- ♥ Mike Waller, Marsha Fix and Valerie Waterman for their special music on November 6.
- ♥ Bruce Wilking, Janet Wilking, Jack Molyneaux, Julie McAllister, Dave Mentzel for doing the highway clean up on November 13.
- ♥ Jan Wirtz for making the banner for the special Thanksgiving Worship service.
- ♥ Frank Purviance for working in the office while Kara White was unable to come in. Frank jumped in to do the work and collaborated with Kara remotely.

Dierberg's Gift Cards

The next chance to get Dierberg's gift cards will be during Fellowship Hour on December 18th. You can always call

Kay Kreder, 314-878-5296, and arrange to get them at other times.

Several people have also used the cards for Christmas gifts for service members or for family members.

Thank you for your support!

Important dates for Pastoral and Office Administrator vacations.

Pastor's Vacation

Pastor Dan will be on vacation **Dec. 26 through January 7.**

Emergency Pastoral Care - Clergy Contacts

While Pastor Dan is on vacation, two UCC clergy have graciously offered to be available for Ivy Chapel UCC Emergency Pastoral Care needs.

Dec. 26 through January 1: Rev. Betsy Happel, Kirkwood UCC,
will be available at her mobile number **314-882-4629.**

January 1 through January 7: Rev. Tracey Harris, St. John UCC – Manchester,
will be available at her mobile number **618-830-3919.**

Office Administrator Vacation

Office Closed **Dec 29th– Jan 3rd**—Kara will be returning her youngest to college.

No Worship at Ivy Chapel UCC on Sunday, January 1

At our November Council Meeting, it was decided that In order to give our Worship and AV Teams some time to enjoy the holidays and take some down time, there will be **No Worship** at Ivy Chapel UCC on **Sunday, January 1, 2023.**

If you would like to worship somewhere virtually, please join our brothers and sisters in Christ at either:

St. Phillips UCC, St. Clair, MO (Laura Hertenstein-Mignerone, Pastor)

[St. Phillips UCC Facebook](#)

Zion UCC, Union, MO (Nick Knoblauch, Pastor)

<https://www.youtube.com/@zionucc6275>

Blessings to you this holiday season and beyond!



With God's Blessings

Happy Anniversary to...

12/06/1969 Rich and Nancy Marston
12/10/1988 Russel and Deborah Washburn

Happy Birthday to...

2 Christine James	18 Gary Lindhorst
7 Frank Ivey	19 Audrey Farrell
8 Michael Winship	26 Morgan Tichy
10 Jan Wirtz	27 David Knieriem
Beverly Govreau	27 Frank Pfau
12 Jane Farrell	28 Catrina Lowry
13 Valerie Waterman	29 Scott Schurwan
	31 Jacob Knieriem


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: ivy chapelucc@ivy chapel.org
Office hours: Monday/Wednesday/Thursday 9:00AM-3:00PM Friday 8:30AM-2:30PM

DEC CARE CORPS LDR-Debbie Glenn 314-576-3991 CO-LDR-Evelyn Stecher 636-536-6542

ASSISTING IN LAY MINISTRY: Please find YOUR Name. If you're unable to attend please switch with others serving on another date and let Gail Thoele know 314-576-0091/314-591-0057.
If you are in need of a substitute please call Liz Schurwan 314-432-3362.

DATE	GREETERS/USHERS
4-DEC-22	Gail Thoele — communion
11-DEC-22	Don Wolff and John Weiland
18-DEC-22	Kay and Earl Kreder
24-DEC-22, SAT., CHRISTMAS EVE	Myrna and Ralph Weiland
25-DEC-22, SUN., CHRISTMAS DAY	Pat and Carl Winship
1-JAN-23	Donna Grote and Jan Wirtz — communion



Worship with us at Ivy Chapel!

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/>



DAILY DEVOTIONAL
Created by the StillSpeaking Writers' Group

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/ 	Every Child's Hope https://everychildshope.org Lydia's House https://www.lydiashouse.org UP—Unleashing Potential https://upstl.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/ 	INSTITUTO EL REY: Explore the website how YOU can help students in rural northern Honduras pursue their dreams. 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
				1 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am CE Mtg 7pm	2 Square dancing 3:30-5:30pm 7-9pm	3 AA 10:30am #350
4 -2ND S OF ADVENT prpl 9am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship ✠ w/LS,SS Congregational Meeting	5	6 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm #349	7	8 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am	9	10 AA 10:30am #350
11 -3RD S OF ADVENT prpl 9am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship,SS Aft wrshp Board Mtgs- CA/Deacons/Trustee's	12 Council Mtg 7pm	13 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm #349	14	15 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am The Ivy Vine Articles DUE	16	17 AA 10:30am #350
18 -4TH S OF ADVENT prpl 9am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship	19	20 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm #349 Mary & Martha Wms Grp 1pm	21 Men's Luncheon 11:30am-Massa's 14312 S. Outer 40 Rd, Town and Country	22 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am	23	24 Christmas Eve Wht AA 10:30am #350 Christmas Eve Worship 5pm
25 -Christmas Day wht NO Adult Bible Study 10am Worship	26	27 AA S.O.S 10-11am AA 12pm #349	28	29 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am OFFICE CLOSED	30 OFFICE CLOSED	31 New Year's Eve AA 10:30am #350

IN DECEMEBER: 4TH CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 12th Council Meeting 15th The Ivy Vine articles due 20th Mary & Martha Women's Grp 1pm 21st Men's Lunch 11:30am @ Massa's 24th Christmas Eve 25th Christmas

AA=Alcoholics Anonymous CC=Chancel Choir EMMP=Eric Moody Memorial Pavilion	CA=Christian Action CE=Christian Education	FH = Fellowship Hall LL=LOWER LEVEL M&M GRP=MARY AND MARTHA WOMEN'S GROUP	KYP=KEEPING YOU POSTED LS=THE LORD'S SUPPER M&M GRP=MARY AND MARTHA WOMEN'S GROUP	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

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Dan Wilson, Pastor