



# The Ivy Vine

## January



Dan Wilson, Pastor  
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## A Beginner

All genuine Christians are “beginners.” It seems to be human nature that people yearn “to achieve” being accomplished in a particular field or at a particular skill. While pursuing solid goals is admirable, there can be a real downside to telling ourselves that we must attain excellence. A distinction that can be applied to Christian discipleship is that, as we are aspiring to follow Christ, we are humbled. Sharing in a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ leads us to learn that we still have much to learn. Faith in Christ our Savior gives people the healthy resolve to continue starting over - to begin, again and again!

I became acquainted with Kate Braestrup through her first published literary work, her memoir entitled, Here If You Need Me (2007). Kate’s publisher describes this book as, “... the story of Kate Braestrup’s remarkable journey from grief to faith to happiness. It is dramatic, funny, deeply moving, and simply unforgettable, an uplifting account about finding God through helping others, and the tale of the small miracles that occur every day when life and love are restored.”

Personally, I consider the bold transparency which Kate Braestrup displays in her self-revelatory writing to be a tremendous gift she offers to each of her readers. Further, I perceive that Kate’s openness stirs all who read her writing to seek displaying sincere, personal transparency in the living of our lives.

Later, Kate authored another book entitled, Beginner’s Grace (2010). This book has the same admirable character which is evident in her earlier writing. Again, in such a refreshing, humbling manner, Kate describes her relationship with God. “... *not long ago, I drove to Augusta for an afternoon meeting. The low winter sun painted the passing landscape in a range of grays and sere browns: gray sky, brown trees, brown fields bleached cold, ochre by frost. In Maine, the cold and dark loom so absolutely that anyone with a human soul yearns for warmth and radiance... A farm borders the road in the town of Union, and as I passed the place, I glimpsed a scene with plenty of biblical*

*(Continued on page 2)*

*antecedents: a flock of sheep abiding in a pasture... I felt the stirring of faith... It was a sign, for those who know, of a coming miracle. Spring will come, the green fields and the dancing lambs. The lambs are already on their way, just as the bulbs and seeds that shall be flowers are already waiting in the soil, and the sap rests even now in the roots of the maple trees. With the winter solstice, the earth will tilt back into the center of that blessed cone of sunlight to warm a belly already pregnant with the new spring. My prayers cannot make the earth tilt or the sap rise, and neither the tilt nor the rise are mine. In the grand scheme of things, my faith is unnecessary, and so it comes to me as **grace**: Yes! Wow. Thank you! Even as the darkness and the cold close in, the warmth, flowers, lambs, and light are on their way. Nothing more than time is needed for the prayers to be answered and the promise to be fulfilled. Amen."*

The path through which Kate has journeyed from devastating personal loss to personal calling to Christian ministry is uplifting! Her experiences sacredly speak to everyone's life experiences. Kate's faith journey provides others with the foundation of hope in God.

It is likely that you will be reading this January *Ivy Vine* during the Twelve Days of Christmas. It fascinates me that the way in which God's Church began the 2022 Advent Season (lighting one initial candle symbolizing 'Hope') connects with the emotion that you and I are experiencing now during this Season of Christmas - namely, an uplifting 'Hope!'

Rev. Nathan Burgell ponders the trek of the Magi to the City of David (Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 2): *"The visit of the Magi from the East is one of the most powerful images I have of Christmas when growing up. As a child, I never really comprehended the distances that these Magi must have traveled. Amazingly, they traveled such long distances based on a star in the sky. As I reflect on this journey, I think that hope drove the Magi. They knew that at the end of their journey, they would find hope for their lives. Once they arrived in Bethlehem, they must have rejoiced at what they saw. Hope wasn't found in the mighty King Herod or the Roman Empire. Hope was found in a small child born in a manger."*

Some of our contemporaries may question the relevance (even the truth) of Christmas, or of Christ's holy birth, or of the Church, or of God. However, there's no need for arguing about any of this. We need not seek to win an argument; for we are aware that no one ever has been or ever will be *logically convinced* to believe.

Believing is about faith.

That's all.

We're all beginners.

Speaking for myself, as a believer in God, a celebrant of the Christ-Child, a follower of Jesus; I rejoice to exclaim, "My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior Divine!" Prove any of it? I cannot. Somehow, I have been given faith. I feel no compulsion to try to force anyone else to believe what I believe. Not that I possibly could anyway! I accept that each individual

person freely determines our own beliefs. I cannot speak for others. I speak only for myself. As for me, day by day, I am seeking to “learn” of God. (Matthew 11:28-30) I am a beginner. I always will be. I rely on God’s promise, “*My **grace** is sufficient for you.*” (2 Corinthians 12:9) Similar to Kate Braestrup, I need to rely on God’s eternal gift of Beginner’s Grace.

God’s ‘Joy to the World!’ which we review, re-enact and rejoice over as we praise God at Christmas for the birth of Christ is an astounding blessing. God’s Joy is infectious! God’s Joy is bigger than we are!

What comes to mind is the song Pass It On. *“It only takes a spark to get a fire going. And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing. That’s how it is with God’s love. Once you’ve experienced it, you want to sing. It’s fresh like spring. You want to pass it on!”*

Experiencing joy moves us to share joy! May God so *grace* your soul. As Mark Twain once wrote, *“To get the full value of joy, you must have someone to divide it with.”*

With the dawning of this new year, may each child of God be blessed with Beginner’s Grace,  
*Pastor Dan*

“When you do things from your soul,  
you feel a river moving in you, a joy!”  
- Jalaluddin Rumi



## Thank You

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the congregation for the very thoughtful Christmas card and Christmas bonus which you gave to me at the close of the year.

I am grateful to God for the blessing of serving Christ along with you here at Ivy Chapel UCC.

Thank you again for your kindness,  
Pastor Dan



## Pastoral Care

### Emergency Pastoral Care -

Clergy Contact while Pastor Dan is on vacation.

**January 1 through January 7:**

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



# Mark Your Calendars!

## All Boards Meeting

**Monday January 9th at 7:00 PM.**

This meeting will be conducted via Zoom and a meeting link will be shared. All members of Council, Boards, and Committees are requested to participate.

Our monthly Council Meeting will be conducted on Monday January 16th at 7:00 PM.

## Year-End Reporting

2022 Year-End Reporting for Officers, Boards, and Committees are requested to be submitted to Kara White no later than January 6th, to be included in the Annual Report.

## Annual Congregational Meeting

**Sunday January 29th at 11:00 AM**, immediately following worship .

This meeting will be conducted in person in the sanctuary with remote participation available via Zoom (link will be provided). We will be sharing in coffee and refreshments in the Fellowship Hall after the meeting.

## Un-hanging of the Greens!

Deacons and Trustees need **YOUR help.**

Please join us on Saturday, January 7, 2023 at 9:30AM for the taking down and storing of the inside Christmas decorations.

This year many of the decorations will need to go into new storage bags and be relabeled as to where they were placed as we take them down. Your help is greatly appreciated and makes the process go much more quickly. We look forward to seeing you on January 7.

## Dierberg's Gift Cards

Starting in January , Dierberg's Gift Cards will be available in Fellowship Hall after worship when there is a Coffee Hour.



# Deacons

Thank you to all who signed up to give your time and talent in the upcoming year by serving as a Greeter, Usher, Liturgist, Fellowship Host or Care Corps volunteer.  
Your leadership is much appreciated.

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.

Thank you.

# Trustees

Thank you to those who helped with maintaining the front circle and walkway and clearing away all of the leaves that finally fell into the parking lot in December.

We were able to get the stumps ground down and mulch to the playground as well as the piano tuner in for the sanctuary piano.

The Tuesday Ladies AA group has let us know they will be coming back to in person meetings starting in April.

## Dec Council Lifted Up:

♥ Linda Lowry for her willingness to take and provide Council meeting minutes several times this year.

♥ Gail Thoele for her efforts gathering worship Lay Leaders for 2023

♥ Valerie Waterman for gathering and leading a "choir group" preparing for a Christmas choral program

## Mary<sup>and</sup>Martha Wmns Grp

The Mary and Martha Women's Group will meet on Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room to plan for the coming year. Everyone is welcome.



# Scripture & Worship

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

## SEASON OF EPIPHANY

**6 Jan 2023, Epiphany of the Lord** Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7; 10-14, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12



**8 Jan 2023, Baptism of Christ, First Sun after Epiphany:** Isaiah 42:1-9, Ps 29, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17

**15 Jan 2023, Second Sun after Epiphany:** Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-11, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42

**22 Jan 2023, Third Sun after Epiphany:** Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27:1; 4-9, 1 Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-23

**29 Jan 2023, Fourth Sun after Epiphany:** Micah 6:1-8, Psalm 15, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Matthew 5:1-12

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



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



## Happy New Year!

I wanted to express my delight and appreciation for the congregation's wonderful Christmas card and bonus for 2022. I have thoroughly enjoyed working here these past six months and look forward to all the 2023 will bring to the Ivy Chapel family.

Thank you so much~ Kara



Office Closed

**Dec 29th– Jan 3rd**

Kara will be returning her youngest to college.

# With God's Blessings

## Happy Anniversary to...



1/15/1971 Michael and Donna Grote

## Happy Birthday to...



4 Sue Wilson  
15 Skylar Droege  
17 Tara Lowry  
20 Beth Noonan  
Janet Wilking  
23 Judy Hertenstein  
29 Debbie Glenn  
Alexander Wilking

## 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/Wednesday/Thursday 9:00AM–3:00PM Friday 8:30AM–2:30PM

➤ JAN CARE CORPS 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 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.

## Greeter/Usher Schedule January

DATE	GREETERS/USHERS
8 JAN 2023	Kay and Earl Kreder
15 JAN 2023	Myrna and Ralph Weiland
22 JAN 2023	DONNA GROTE AND JAN WIRTZ
29 JAN 2023	KATHRYN KUNTZMAN AND JACK MOLYNEAUX
5 FEB 2023	DOTTIE FOSTER AND GAIL THOELE— COMMUNION

## 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

## E-KYP (E-KEEPING YOU POSTED)

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

**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/>



**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>

# Epiphany-Twelfth Night

## Word Search

Find the hidden words associated with January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany  
also known as Three Kings Day or Twelfth Night

X	P	P	B	E	P	I	P	H	A	N	Y	T	O	T	S	A	E	F
I	U	L	Y	Q	B	N	H	T	M	O	V	D	L	E	V	W	N	F
W	M	I	W	Z	A	A	G	D	T	A	E	J	U	G	B	I	M	G
N	A	P	M	C	L	S	V	T	L	E	N	E	G	N	V	S	L	N
U	R	P	A	C	T	N	Y	Y	R	O	S	G	B	I	F	E	M	I
Y	Y	K	T	M	H	I	U	H	U	N	G	E	E	K	X	M	J	R
M	C	Z	T	K	A	G	T	B	E	S	T	F	A	R	M	E	L	E
O	S	T	A	R	S	H	H	C	N	H	U	U	D	C	Q	N	Q	F
T	E	V	Y	E	A	T	N	A	L	E	I	S	W	T	K	B	L	F
H	Z	E	H	K	R	I	R	E	M	Q	E	N	E	Z	N	J	R	O
E	I	L	U	H	K	R	H	K	E	T	V	U	A	J	M	A	Z	O
R	M	Z	P	N	J	E	H	K	Y	A	N	K	Q	F	Y	R	E	U
S	X	Q	A	M	M	N	L	O	S	R	E	Y	E	S	A	B	G	L
E	R	R	A	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	T	I	D	E	A	O
R	F	G	G	O	D	W	E	C	U	H	X	G	G	H	A	X	M	B
U	I	N	U	D	L	I	H	C	L	F	T	H	I	L	C	R	O	H
S	U	U	G	G	Y	O	M	V	Y	K	H	F	U	F	A	Y	H	D
A	S	X	H	Q	I	T	A	C	Z	R	C	C	L	P	T	O	I	W
E	S	V	H	A	N	A	F	E	B	A	L	M	S	E	N	S	M	Y
R	R	O	I	H	C	L	E	M	Y	J	L	A	G	R	W	X	Q	D
T	Q	M	Y	R	R	H	B	A	X	Y	C	T	V	M	E	T	E	J

BABY JESUS  
BALTHASAR  
BETHLEHEM  
CASPAR  
CHILD  
CHRISTMASTIDE  
EPIPHANY


FEAST  
FRANKINCENSE  
GIFTS  
GOLD  
HOMAGE  
KING  
LABEFANA



LOSREYES  
MAGI  
MANGER  
MARY  
MOTHER  
MELCHIOR  
MYRRH

NIGHT  
OFFERING  
QUEEN  
STAR  
THREE  
TREASURE  
TWELFTH  
WISEMEN



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h1>January 2023</h1>						
<b>1</b> 1st S aft Christmas wht <del>NO Adult Bible Study</del> <b>10am Worship / <del>LS, SS</del></b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <del>AA S.O.S 10-11am</del> AA 12pm #349	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am <del>CE Mtg 7pm</del>	<b>6 Epiphany</b> <b>Annual Reports Due</b> Square dancing 3:30-5:30pm 7-9pm	<b>7</b> AA 10:30am #350
<b>8</b> Baptism of Our Lord Wt <del>9am Adult Bible Study</del> <b>10am Worship, SS</b> <b>Church Officer Installation</b>	<b>9</b> <b>All Boards Meeting 7pm</b>	<b>10</b> <del>AA S.O.S 10-11am</del> AA 12pm #349	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> AA 10:30am #350
<b>15</b> 2nd S aft Epiphany Gn <del>9am Adult Bible Study</del> <b>10am Worship, SS</b> <b>The Ivy Vine Articles DUE</b>	<b>16</b> <b>Council Mtg 7pm</b>	<b>17</b> <del>AA S.O.S 10-11am</del> AA 12pm #349 <b>Mary &amp; Martha Wms Grp 1pm</b>	<b>18</b> <b>Men's Luncheon 11:30am Hunan Empress 164 Four Seas. Shpg Cntr,</b>	<b>19</b> AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> AA 10:30am #350
<b>22</b> 3rd S aft Epiphany Gn <del>9am Adult Bible Study</del> <b>10am Worship, SS</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <del>AA S.O.S 10-11am</del> AA 12pm #349	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> AA 10:30am #350
<b>29</b> 4th S aft Epiphany Gn <del>9am Adult Bible Study</del> <b>10am Worship, SS</b> <b>Annual Meeting 11am</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <del>AA S.O.S 10-11am</del> AA 12pm #349	February 1	February 2 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am	February 3	February 4 AA 10:30am #350

**IN JANUARY:**    **6TH ANNUAL REPORTS DUE**    **9th ALL BOARDS MEETING**    **15th The Ivy Vine articles due**  
**16th Council Meeting**    **17th Mary & Martha Women's Grp 1pm**    **18th Men's Lunch 11:30am @ Hunan Empress**  
**29th ANNUAL MEETING 11 AM**

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
				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

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**Dan Wilson, Pastor**