

# The Ivy Vine

## February



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## A Good Turn

This world is a dynamic place. Now, that's an understatement, isn't it? Contemporary Planet Earth is a bastion of activity. We live in a world that is continuously on the move. This lively atmosphere is described accurately by statements, such as: *If there is one thing in life that you can depend on not to change, it is the fact that things will change!* Ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus of Ephesus (6<sup>th</sup> Century BCE) expressed this thought more succinctly long ago when he wrote, *"Change is the only constant in life."* Present-day life in this world surely is a vibrant, ever-changing adventure!

The third millennium is the embodiment of the Second Law of Thermodynamics. *"The identification of entropy is attributed to Rudolf Clausius (1822–1888), a German mathematician and physicist. Clausius studied the conversion of heat into work. From this idea came Clausius' statement of the Second Law of Thermodynamics: 'Heat does*

*not pass from a body at low temperature to one at high temperature without an accompanying change elsewhere.'* Entropy is simply a measure of disorder and affects all aspects of our daily lives.

*All things trend toward disorder. Energy disperses, and systems dissolve into chaos. The more disordered something is, the more entropic we consider it. In short, **we can define entropy as a measure of the disorder of the universe**, on both a macro and a microscopic level. The Greek root of the word translates to 'a turning towards transformation' — with that transformation being chaos. Entropy, a measure of disorder, explains why life seems to get more, not less, complicated as time goes on... Left unchecked disorder increases over time." (Farnam Street Media; Entropy: The Hidden Force That Complicates Life), 2023)*

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Delta. An equilateral triangle is the shape of the Greek letter delta. This is the Greek alphabet equivalent of our English letter “D.” In science, this Greek letter represents “*change*.” Delta is more than the corporate name of a passenger airline! The Mississippi Delta is the triangle-shaped area where the Mighty Mississippi River flows into the Gulf of Mexico. Another example is the elite, specially-trained unit of the United States Army which was created in 1977 and named “Delta Force.” As one can see, there is an extremely wide variety of ways in which the term “delta” is associated with effecting *change*. Christian faith is characterized by an enormous “delta” component. Our faith is always exploring and praising the perpetual actions of our *ever-changing* God in an *ever-changing* universe!

The principal time in the Christian Church Year for seeking *change* and for implementing *change* is the Season of Lent. This season begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes on Holy Saturday (the day before Easter Sunday). The number 40 is regarded as a holy, biblical number. Lent is intentionally designed to be a 40-day, sacred stretch of time for spiritual growth and renewed relationship with God. Historically, Lent has served as an extended occasion for acts of personal sacrifice, “giving up” something significant, fasting and praying. More recently, Lenten expressions of re-dedication to God have expanded to include “taking on” some additional, faithful action or devotion in our daily living.

This year, Ash Wednesday will be on Wednesday, February 22. Our tradition at Ivy Chapel United Church of Christ is celebrating worship with the Imposition of Ashes and the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The Lenten Season is a time for “turning.” Holy Scripture invites us to “turn away from evil” and to “turn toward God.” The faith traditions of Judaism and Christianity both include this invitation. In the language of the Common Covenant (Old Testament), the word meaning “turn” is the Hebrew verb “shuv.” In the language of the New Covenant (New Testament), the word meaning “turn” or “repent” is the Greek word “metanoia.”

The Prophet Jeremiah conveys God’s message as a command: “Turn now, all of you, from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.” (Jeremiah 18:11) This imperative from God for humankind to “turn” is echoed in Jeremiah 25:5 and 35:15. This also is heard repeatedly in the Wisdom Literature of Israel; for example, “Turn from evil.” (Proverb 3:7) Ezekiel prophesies, “Repent and turn away from all your transgressions... and get a new heart and a new spirit!... Turn, then, and live!” (Ezekiel 18:30-32)

One of the classic Scripture readings appointed for worship each Ash Wednesday is:

“Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.”

(Joel 2:13-14)

God’s command was preached by Jesus himself, “Repent, and believe in the good news!” (Mark 1:15) This recurring biblical theme also was proclaimed by early Christians: “Repent, therefore, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that God may send the Christ, the Anointed One appointed for you, who is Jesus.”

(Acts of the Apostles 3:19-20)

This sacred theme even finds its way into a church campfire song based on Ecclesiastes 3. “To ev’ry-thing. Turn, turn, turn. There is a season. Turn, turn, turn. And a time for ev’ry purpose under heaven.”

(Pete Seeger, Turn! Turn! Turn!, 1962)

God summons us to invite God to the Center of our lives. One of our Christian contemporaries expresses God’s gesture this way:

***The Center***

***By putting the gift of yearning for God  
into every human being’s heart,***

***God, at the same time,  
draws all people made in God’s image  
to God’s self***

***and into their own true selves.***

*Roberta Bondi*

*Alive Now*, 2015

May the approaching 40 days of Lent 2023 be a time when God draws each of us to God’s self. Perhaps a soul-felt prayer such as the one below may serve as a centering prayer day by day as we apply ourselves this Lent to personal, spiritual growth:

***Holy Spirit,  
you are in communion  
with each of us,  
not just for a moment  
but forever,  
on into the life  
that knows no end.***

***Amen.***

*Brother Roger of Taizé*

*Praying in Silence of Heart*, 2007

What are you sensing within your heart and soul at this moment? Believe in the supreme love and the dynamic grace of Eternal God. As the world embarks on the upcoming 2023 Lenten Journey, may all people make “***a good turn***” and move into a *changing*, deepening, growing relationship with God. Turn, turn, turn. Delta, delta, delta! Delta Ash Wednesday. Delta Lenten Season. Delta Holy Week.

Delta Resurrection Day!

Repent, and believe God’s good news!  
Turn.

Repent.

Return to God.

*Pastor Dan*

## Ash Wednesday Prayer

Lord, all year we try to avoid dust and ash.  
Dust is the homes we have failed to clean  
and our broken dreams long abandoned.  
Ash is the world engulfed in flames  
and ancient bodies in unmarked graves.  
Lord, all year we try to avoid dust and ash.  
But here we are.  
And here you are.  
And it is Wednesday.  
And we face reality.  
And you insist dust and ash be pressed to our  
flesh. We are fragile failures one day to be  
scorched by fire and snacked on by worms.  
Yet when it becomes too heavy, you  
whisper in our ears true things that are also  
sweet:  
"It was into dust and ash I breathed, and you  
awoke."  
Breathe again, Lord,  
and command us fragile figures to walk on.  
Lord, let us remember it all -  
dust and ash, death and deliverance.  
And especially you.  
Amen.

Robert Paul Fugarino, Alive Now, 2014

Ash Wednesday



Remember that you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return.

E C C L E S I A S T E S 3 : 2 0

## Jan Council Lifted Up:

- ♥ The Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall "defrocking" team: Jack Molyneaux, Jo Ann Moody, Frank Purviance, Gail Thoele, Sue Wilson. Pastor Dan and Don Wolff, plus any unnamed "church mice".
- ♥ Jo Ann Moody for helping with the interim Recording Secretary duties, and CE Board and Stewardship Committee responsibilities.

## Scripture & Worship

**5 Feb 2023, Fifth Sun after Epiphany:** Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12], Psalm 112:1-9 [10], 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16], Matthew 5:13-20

**12 Feb 2023, Sixth Sun after Epiphany:**

Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 119:1-8, 1 Corinthians 3:1-9, Matthew 5:21-37

**19 Feb 2023, Transfiguration Sun:** Exodus 24:12-18, Psalm 2 or Psalm 99, 2 Peter 1:16-21, Matthew 17:1-9

**22 Feb 2023, Ash Wednesday:**

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12  
Psalm 51:1-17 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**26 Feb 2023, First Sun in Lent:**

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7, Psalm 32, Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11

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



# Mary<sup>and</sup>MarthaWmnsGrp

The Mary and Martha Women's Group met on Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss plans for the coming year.

We established a Mission Statement as follows: “ ***We are a group endeavoring to offer spiritual and ecumenical fellowship with women of faith while supporting missions of Ivy Chapel and the community.***”

In addition to usual projects, we had some new ideas for projects and practices for this year, including making simple crocheted caps for preemie babies, adopting a family for various uplifts during the year and starting a prayer chain.

We will try to include more women in our group, even friends of members who might be interested.

Our next meeting will be on Tue. Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> at which we will try our hands at simple crocheting of preemie caps if instructions are available and a hospital is in need. An alternate activity would be to go to the Holocaust Museum which would have to be on a day other than Tuesday when they are closed. **Please watch the KYP for more information.**

On March 21<sup>st</sup> we hope to have a Lenten devotion with Pastor Dan.

## \*\*\*SERVICE PROJECT\*\*\*

ECH has requested additional wrapping paper, bags, tissue paper and ribbon, especially birthday themed, to replace what was lost in last summer's flooding.

We will bring that to the Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

# Trustees

The Trustees kept busy in 2022 with the completion of several major projects:

A new furnace and AC unit were installed in May and are in good working order. Final certification on the new units was made by St. Louis County.

The tractor used for mowing the grounds had a major transmission failure. Earl Kreder disassembled the unit, found replacement parts, and did a major overhaul. The tractor was up and running again in June.

Frieda retired as Chief Office Administrator effective July 31. A search for her replacement led to the hiring of Ms. Kara White.

This summer, the pavilion, garage, picnic tables, mailbox post, signposts, and the cross behind Memorial Garden were given two coats of stain.

In 2023, we hope to tackle some major projects in addition to the regular mowing, trimming, raking, and general maintenance of the grounds. The new projects include:

Clean and oil pews

Grade Lower Parking Lot

Sand/ paint Pavilion steel plates and table legs

Fix drainage at Pavilion

Replace sprinkler pipe - steps to sign

Seal and restripe parking lot – (contractor)

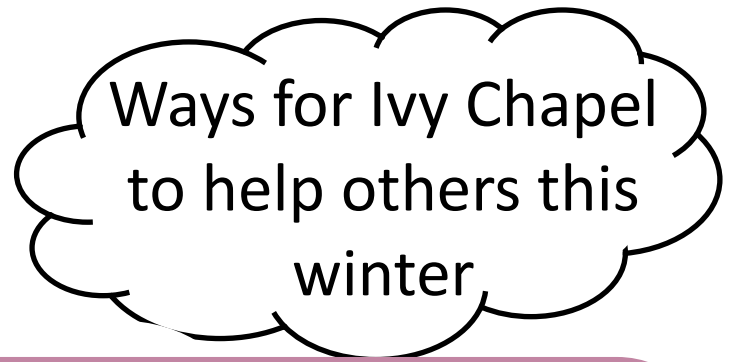
Inspection of fire extinguisher – (contractor)

Certification of Fire Alarm – (contractor)

The tentative dates for the clean-up of our mile of Woods Mill Road are Sunday, March 5; Sunday, May 21; Sunday, August 13; and Sunday, Nov. 5

Thanks to all who help the Trustees with these projects: Don Wolff, Gary Lindhorst, Steve Lowry, Mark Gerdes, Julie McAllister, and Dave Mentzel to name just a few.





“The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.” Proverbs 22:9

Food insecurity is an ongoing concern in our community. Ivy Chapel presently supports two food pantries with our regular deliveries to **Circle of Concern** and **Isaiah 58**. You can help many families with food donations.

Please reference the lists on the shelves in the cloak room for items of critical need.

Isaiah 58 will also accept plastic grocery bags but no egg cartons at this time

Warm Greetings to everyone!

Our congregation will once again be participating in an “extra-mile” offering opportunity during the 2023 Lenten Season.

Ivy Chapel UCC Christian Action Board invites you to give a Special Offering Gift in support of **Caring for Kids, Inc.** during the Season of Lent. Please place your gift in one of the brightly-colored envelopes which will be in the sanctuary pew racks throughout the Lenten Season. What a sacred invitation this will be for our faith community to embrace in connection with the spirit of Lent.

We are blessed that Cynthia Harcourt, Executive Director of Caring for Kids, Inc., will gather with us in person and will offer a Mission Moment as part of our worship on Sunday, March 12, 2023. We look forward to receiving Cynthia’s personal message about the life-giving ministries being offered to God’s children by Caring for Kids, Inc.

Thank you for your special offering gift!

# 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.



I wanted to thank you for the Christmas gift that I received from the congregation.

It was very thoughtful of you and I appreciate it very much.

-Mike Waller



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/>



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST



DAILY  
DEVOTIONAL  
Created by the Still Speaking Writers' Group

# With God's Blessings

## Happy Birthday to...



## Happy Anniversary to...



There are NO Anniversaries in February

2 Isabella Del Carmen  
3 Carol Faust  
Gregory Scott  
14 Diann Sheahan  
15 Nancy Marston  
16 Paul Farrell

17 Dan Wilson, Pastor  
20 Joe Del Carmen  
Marg Ivey  
Rich Marston  
23 Kate Mc Neal  
27 Taylor Cox

## 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@ivychapel.org](mailto:pastordan@ivychapel.org) 314-580-4564 Office Administrator: [ivychapelucc@ivychapel.org](mailto:ivychapelucc@ivychapel.org)  
Office hours: Monday/Wednesday/Thursday 9:00AM–3:00PM Friday 8:30AM–2:30PM

➤ FEB CARE CORPS Pat Winship 636-394-5991  
➤ MAR CARE CORPS Sue Wilson 314-324-3465

**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.

## Greeter/Usher Schedule February

DATE	GREETERS/USHERS
5 FEB 2023	DON WOLFF AND JOHN WEILAND— <b>COMMUNION</b>
12 FEB 2023	KAY AND EARL KREDER
19 FEB 2023	MYRNA AND RALPH WEILAND
22 FEB 2023	DOTTIE FOSTER AND GAIL THOELE <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>
26 FEB 2023	PAT AND CARL WINSHIP
5 MAR 2023	DONNA GROTE AND JAN WIRTZ— <b>COMMUNION</b>

## 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 [ivychapelucc@ivychapel.org](mailto:ivychapelucc@ivychapel.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>



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Presentation of the Lord AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am	3	4 AA 10:30am #350
5 5th S aft Epiphany Grn 10am Worship / ‡LS	6	7 <del>AAS.O.S. 10-11am</del> AA 12pm #349	8	9 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am	10 Square dancing 3:30-5:30pm 7-9pm	11 AA 10:30am #350
12 6th S aft Epiphany Grn 10am Worship	13 Council Mtg 7pm	14 <del>AAS.O.S. 10-11am</del> AA 12pm #349  The Ivy Vine Articles DUE  Mary & Martha Wms Grp 1pm	15 Men's Luncheon 11:30am-Duffy's Pub and Grill 1024 Schnucks Woods Mill Plaza	16 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am	17	18 AA 10:30am #350
19 TRANSFIGURATION wht 10am Worship	20	21 <del>AAS.O.S. 10-11am</del> AA 12pm #349	22 ASH WEDNESDAY Worship 7:30pm	23 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am	24	25 AA 10:30am #350
26 1st S in Lent prpl 10am Worship	27	28 <del>AAS.O.S. 10-11am</del> AA 12pm #349	March 1	March 2 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am	March 3	March 5 AA 10:30am #350

**IN JANUARY:**    13TH Council Meeting       14th Mary & Martha Women's Grp 1pm       15th The Ivy Vine articles due  
17th Men's Lunch 11:30am @ Duffy's Pub

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

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**Dan Wilson, Pastor**