



The Ivy Vine

April
2023



Dan Wilson, Pastor
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The Cross

The miracle of God's love is conveyed to the world through the Cross of Christ. The power of the cross is astonishing!

"... God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person - though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves God's love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, we will be saved through him... For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of the Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, we will be saved by his life. But, more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation... But law came in with the result that the trespass multiplied; but where sin abounded, *grace over-abounded!*" (Romans 5:5-11, 20)

What an uplifting revelation to discover that someone - let alone the Creator of the Universe! - loves us this profoundly.

We are about to conclude the Season of Lent. As we do, let us embrace the following words from a book authored by Bishop Robert Schnase for daily Lenten devotion and spiritual growth. "Offer God's love. Invite. Pray about it. Learn about it. Grace received becomes grace given; a way discovered becomes a path offered. Grace becomes real through invitation. What's the greatest gift you have ever given? Perhaps the most life-changing gift you will ever offer to another person is an invitation to life with God. This is the gift immeasurable." (Robert Schnase, Forty Days of Fruitful Living: Practicing a Life of Grace, 2010). Christ's act of sacrifice on the cross moves us to offer our own personal sacrifices on behalf of other people.

There is intriguing, supreme power in the Cross of Christ. "For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God... For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom,

and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, siblings: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are; so that no one might boast in the presence of God. God is the source of your life in Christ Jesus." (1 Corinthians 1:18, 23-30) Poised for the Church's sacred observance of Holy Week, we anticipate the diverse array of emotions which coming days will bring to the community of faith.

Dr. Carol Bechtel is a former Professor of Old Testament at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. In her collection of reflections on living in the midst of God's grace, she writes, "So often we think about the Christian life in terms of following Jesus... Yet there are times in this **life after grace** when we lose the will to follow God's lead. We doubt God's mercy, and we're unsure of God's direction... In these times, it's good to know that the Good Shepherd has some trusty sheepdogs... and their names are Goodness and Mercy. Even when we stray from the path, we are *being followed*. In fact, the Hebrew word for 'follow' can also be translated 'pursue.' Try that translation on for size next time you're feeling lost or forgotten. 'Surely Goodness and Mercy shall *pursue* you all the days of your life...' This verse reminds us that

our security in the faith does not depend on our own sense of clarity or confidence. Our security depends, rather, on a God whose steadfast love will not let us go." (Carol Bechtel, Life After Grace, 2003). This is the spirit of powerful, comforting words offered to us in a recent Lenten daily devotion: "Resurrection of the Dead - death always seems like the end, but our faith teaches us that it is also the beginning - the beginning of a full life in God. When Jesus himself died, his friends thought it was the end of everything. When people we love die or whenever we are saddened by a loss, it may seem like the end. Remember, God is there at those times, and always, to give us new life, just as Jesus rose to new life on Easter morning." (Footsteps to the Cross, 2023)

The immeasurable gift of Jesus Christ is this comprehensive sequence: the life, the death, and the Resurrection of Jesus. Be amazed by the miraculous way in which God as Christ Jesus comes alive again! May God's astonishing Easter Blessing fill you with joy overflowing!

Lift high the Cross.
The love of Christ proclaim.
'Til all the world adore Christ's
holy name.

Alleluia!
Pastor Dan





HOLY WEEK

April 2— Palm Sunday—
Hosannah Anthem during
10 am Worship *



April 6— Maundy Thursday



April 7—

Good Friday

Worship @ 1pm



April 9—

Easter Services 10 am
with coffee after in
Fellowship Hall*



*Children's Message during worship
followed by Sunday School activities in

Mar Council Lifted Up:

♥ Bruce and Janet Wilking for their many years of involvement and dedication to Ivy Chapel's Woods Mill Road Highway quarterly clean-ups.

♥ Ivy Chapel youth (Audrey and Jane Farrell; and Rory, Holly and Cole Winship) and the adults who accompanied them (Linda Lowry, Sarah Wilson and Jo Ann Moody) shopping for food and personal care items for Circle of Concern and Isaiah 58 Ministries for the "Sharing with the Caring" mission project.

Scripture & Worship

2 April 2023, Sixth Sun in Lent, Palm Sun:

Matthew 21:1-11; 26:14—27:66 ;
Psalm 31:9-16 ; 118:1-2, 19-29 Isaiah 50:4-9a,
Philippians 2:5-11



Maundy Thursday: Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14,
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26,
John 13:1-17, 31b-35



Good Friday: Isaiah 52:13—53:12 Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16-25 ; 4:14-16; 5:7-9 ,
John 18:1—19:42



9 Apr 2023, Easter Sunday: Acts 10:34-43, Jeremiah
31:1-6, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, Colossians 3:1-4,
Acts 10:34-43, John 20:1-18, Matthew 28:1-10

16 Apr 2023, Second Sun of Easter: Acts
2:14a; 22-32, Psalm 16, 1 Peter 1:3-9,
John 20:19-31



23 Apr 2023, Third Sun of Easter: Acts 2:14a; 36-41,
Psalm 116:1-4; 12-19, 1 Peter 1:17-23, Luke 24:13-35

30 Apr 2023, Fourth Sun of Easter: Acts 2:42-47,
Psalm 23, 1 Peter 2:19-25, John 10:1-10

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

♥ With Love-

Words cannot express my thanks to my Ivy family and friends for all the cards, calls and prayers sent my way during my recent hospitalization and rehab. I'm sure they played a big part in my recovery.

♥ God bless you all. ♥
Dottie Foster



Fellowship

Reminder to join us for coffee and a time to fellowship with others directly after church in Fellowship Hall this month on EASTER Sunday.



Be sure to check the weekly KYP and next month's Vine for additional dates!



This Lenten season we learned more about **Caring for Kids'** bed and bedding program which helps to provide children with stability and familiarity of being in a relative's home instead of state sponsored foster care.

Keeping a child in foster care in the state of Missouri costs between \$282 and \$372 per month. For the cost of a bed at \$250- that child can get home and **be with family** and **get out of foster care.**

Please consider giving to this worthy cause as this Lenten Season comes to an end, because every child deserves a good night's sleep.



THANK YOU for
your support!

Mary^{and}MarthaWmnsGrp

The Ivy Mary and Martha Women's Group met on Mar. 21st with Pastor Dan to have a Lenten Devotion. We learned that the color purple and burgundy are Lenten symbols for Christ's blood. We heard a scripture from Corinthians I, ch. 1 and a prayer for deepening our connection with God and thankfulness for Christ's sacrifice for us.

Pat Winship taught us more about crocheting and showed us 20 more beautiful little preemie caps that she had made!

We discussed what to add to an Easter basket for the residents of Seven Pines Emmaus Home which will be given to them on Palm Sunday.

We decided to have a **Salad Luncheon Fundraiser in June** rather than a soup luncheon in May. It will be planned for the 3rd Sunday of June following worship.

Our next meeting will be on **Friday, April 21st at 1 p.m.** We will have a half hour meeting and then carpool to the Holocaust Museum at 12 Millstone Campus Dr. which is where the JCCA is located. The admission is \$10.00 for seniors and \$12.00 for adults. We will carpool to the Museum from Ivy. Anyone who would like to see this Museum is invited to join us or meet us there. The date is changed from our usual Tues. because the Museum is closed on that day.

Trustees

As the weather warms up, we will be ramping up our maintenance of the grounds. We also plan to start tackling outdoor projects including:

- Sanding/painting Pavilion steel plates and table legs
- Fixing drainage at Pavilion
- Grading Lower Parking Lot
- Replacing sprinkler pipe - (steps to sign area)
- Clean up Memorial Garden

We have our next workday scheduled for May 6th, weather permitting.

Deacons

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 again to all who signed up to give your time and talent in the upcoming year by serving Ivy Chapel.

Your leadership is much appreciated.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH NEWS

April is a BUSY month!
Be sure to mark your calendars
for these upcoming dates and
join in the fun with other youth
at Ivy Chapel.

April 2nd – Palm Sunday: Children's
Message, Hosannah Anthem
(be sure to practice), Sunday
School activities in Fellowship Hall.

April 8th – Easter Egg Hunt for ages
2-12 (Time TBA)

April 9th – Easter: Help decorate
the Flower Cross in the Sanctuary,
Children's Message, Sunday School
activities in Fellowship Hall.

April 16th – "Seeds of Faith":
Children's Message and Sunday
School activities in Fellowship Hall
to celebrate **Earth Day 2023**.

***EVERYONE is welcome to
come join us and help make the
days special!!***



Sharing With The Caring



The youth were able to purchase over \$300 of groceries from your generous donations to the Sharing With Caring drive last month. These supplies were given to Circle of Concern and Isaiah58 Ministries.

Thank you again for your generosity and showing how much Ivy Cares through how much Ivy Shares!



Mark Your Calendars!



April 16– Earth Day Celebration during

Youth Sunday School

April 21st– FRIDAY– Mary &

Martha meeting and

field trip to

Holocaust Museum

May 6th– Clean–Up Day

‘Brighten Ivy up for

Spring!’

May 11th– Blood Drive

2:30-6:30 pm

May 21st– Highway Clean-Up

May 29th– Memorial Day

June 18th– Salad Luncheon Fundraiser



Thursday, May 11 BLOOD DRIVE at Ivy Chapel UCC

Ivy Chapel UCC will host an **ImpactLife Blood Drive** in Fellowship Hall **2 - 6 pm Thursday, May 11**. To schedule your donation appointment time, please go to <https://www.bloodcenter.org/donate/> or contact event coordinator Sue Wilson at 314-324-3765.

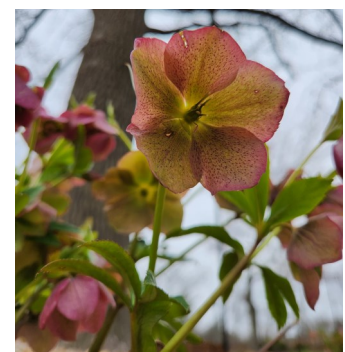
Thank you for giving
the gift of life!



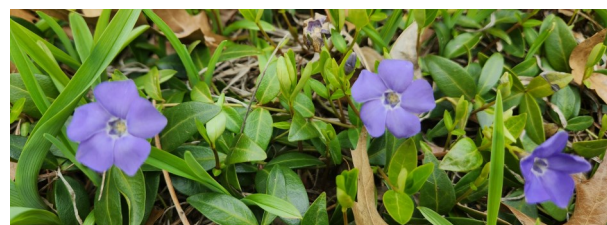
Memorial Garden

Ivy Chapel is blooming!

Be sure to check out all of the wonderful examples of God’s great design and love right here at church through the glorious flowers we get to enjoy right here at Ivy!



Front Circle Garden



Side Building/Parking Lot

With God's Blessings

Happy Anniversary to...

4/11/1987 Tom and Debbie Glenn

4/26/2008 Jason and Kristine Lowry

Happy Birthday to...



1 Elizabeth Carr

6 Marilyn Gulotta

7 Rod Hertenstein

10 Ashton Burton

22 Myrna Weiland

26 Annie Sampath

30 Donna Grote

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

➤ APR CARE CORPS Julie Mc Allister 314-576-4946

➤ MAY CARE CORPS 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 and let Gail Thoele know 314-576-0091/314-591-0057.

Greeter/Usher Schedule April

DATE	GREETERS/USHERS
2 Apr 2023 Palm Sunday	Kay and Earl Kreder — communion
9 Apr 2023 Easter	Myrna and Ralph Weiland
16 Apr 2023	Julie McAllister and Dave Mentzel
23 Apr 2023	Pat and Carl Winship
30 Apr 2023	Donna Grote and Jan Wirtz
7 May 2023	Kathryn Kuntzman and Jack Molyneaux — communion



E-KYP (E-KEEPING YOU POSTED)

By end of any Wednesday—Send your news to Ivy Chapel 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



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 10:30am #350
2 PALM SUN red 10am Worship/ ✠LS, YSS	3	4 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349 SLBG— 1:30-3 pm	5	6 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am Maundy Thursday	7 GOOD FRIDAY Worship 1 pm	8 AA 10:30am #350
9 EASTER wht 10am Worship/ YSS Fellowship (after worship)	10 Council Mtg 7pm	11 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349 SLBG— 1:30-3 pm	12	13 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am	14 Square dancing 3:30-5:30pm 7-9pm	15 The Ivy Vine Articles DUE AA 10:30am #350
16 2nd Sof Easter wht 10am Worship/ YSS	17	18 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349 SLBG— 1:30-3 pm	19 Men's Luncheon 11:30am Harpo's 136 Hilltown Vllg Cntr Chstrfld	20 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am	21 Mary & Martha Wms Grp 1pm	22 AA 10:30am #350
23 3d S of Easter wht 10am Worship	24	25 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349 SLBG— 1:30-3 pm	26	27 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am	28	29 AA 10:30am #350
30 4ty S of Easter wht 10am Worship	May 1	May 2 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349 SLBG— 1:30-3 pm	May 3	May 4 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am	May 5	May 6 AA 10:30am #350 Work Day



LOOKING AHEAD IN MAY: **6TH WORK DAY**
15th Council Meeting & Ivy Vine articles due
17th Men's Lunch 11:30am @ The Country Club

11TH BLOOD DRIVE 2:30-6:30
16th Mary & Martha Women's Grp 1pm
21st HWY Clean-Up



AA=Alcoholics Anonymous CA=Christian Action CC=Chancel Choir CE=Christian Education EMMP=Eric Moody Memorial Pavilion		FH = Fellowship Hall LL=LOWER LEVEL M&M GRP=MARY AND MARTHA WOMEN'S GROUP		KYP=KEEPING YOU POSTED LS=THE LORD'S SUPPER Y SS=YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL		JRWP=JUNIPER ROOT WOODLAND PRESCHOOL SY=SANCTUARY SLBG= St. Luke's Bereavement Group			
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	

Ivy Chapel UCC
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Dan Wilson, Pastor