



The Ivy Vine

May
2023



Dan Wilson, Pastor
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God Continues

The enduring presence of God provides abundant blessing. One verb which can be faithfully associated with God is the action verb *“to continue.”* Yes, God’s involvement with creation, with growth, with newness, with living creatures, with humankind, and with all life continues. **God continues!** Exceptional qualities of God include: God continues forgiving. God continues loving. God continues raising to new life! God continues **giving**.

God continues! The on-going relationship of God **giving** gifts to creation spans generations. God’s **giving** is spoken of throughout the first book of the Bible (Genesis 1, Genesis 9, Genesis 12-13, Genesis 15-17, Genesis 21-24, Genesis 26-28, Genesis 30, Genesis 35, Genesis 41, and Genesis 48).

Jesus of Nazareth is a rabbi; that is, a teacher. One of the central truths which Jesus teaches is, “God is **giving**.” As we behold the faithful presence and character of God, we consistently perceive that God is a *Giving God*.

On one occasion in Jerusalem, just as the ‘religious establishment’ was trying very hard to trip Jesus up and to find fault with what he said, they sent a devious group of Herodians and Pharisees to ask,

“Teacher,... is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?”

Jesus replied, “Bring me a denarius.” They brought him one.

Jesus asked, “Whose head is on this coin?”

They replied, “The emperor’s.”

Then Jesus *continued*, “Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God.” His reply left them overcome with wonder. (Mark 12:13-17)

Jesus, the Anointed One of God, reveals who God is. Additionally, the Anointed One reveals who God desires us to be; that is, reveals the manner in which God desires that we live. Jesus consistently teaches that God envisions human lives being lives of **giving**. Jesus teaches through word and through action.

Behold, the manifold **giving** which Jesus embodies! Jesus brings to life 'the Way' of God. In word and deed, our Savior proclaims, *"I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life... Truly, truly, I say to you, one who believes in me will also do the works that I do... this is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees the Spirit nor knows the Spirit. You know the Spirit, because the Spirit remains with you, and the Spirit will be in you."*
(John 14:6, 12, 16-17)

God continues... Years ago, Ivy Chapel UCC Chancel Choir offered the Gospel message one Sunday in Advent as a Christmas Cantata by Sandi Patty, entitled, The Gift Goes On. Some lyrics of the title song are:

*"Now when your life is full of Christmas
Then your life is full of love.
You can give away the present
That began with God above.
Just like ripples in the water
The circles of our love extend.
What was started with God above
Is a Gift that has no end.*

*And the Gift goes on!
The Father gave the Son,
And the Gift goes on!
The Son gave the Spirit,
And the Gift goes on!
The Spirit gives us life,
And the Gift goes on and on and on!
So we can give the Gift of love..."*

I treasure the *continuity* expressed by this message. Our God is a *Giving God!* And the Gift goes on! Everlasting, Eternal, Forevermore *God continues*.

What then, my friends, are we to do with the teachings of Christ in our day? At this time of such pronounced division and conflict? You and I are called by God to apply the teachings of Christ in our day-to-day living.

Living lives of **giving** in the manner of Christ encompasses both supporting 'God's Justice' and opposing every *injustice*. God's Prophet and our contemporary, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., preached, *"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."*

Sadly, at this moment, across our nation, there is evil condemnation and hatred rampantly manifesting itself in government and in society at large. It is time for you and me, with our Risen Savior Jesus strengthening us, to serve God as bold, Christ-like witnesses in opposition to every *injustice*; such as, condemnation, hatred, racism, persecuting the LGBTQIA community, legislative over-reach criminalizing personal matters, seeking to control other people, bullying, shaming, judging.

We must not be misled by any "holier-than-thou" individual (regardless of their notoriety, their title, or their station in life) who tries to claim that they are oppressing others because they themselves are "Christian." This is profaning the very name of Christ. Condemning and judging are **not** "Christ-like" living.

(Continued on pg. 3)

*“For God so loved the world that God gave God’s only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God sent God’s Son into the world **not to condemn** the world, but to save the world through him.” (John 3:16-17)*

Our Gracious Savior Jesus Christ teaches, *“Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged.” (Matthew 7:1-2 NLT)*

Podcaster and author Alicia Chole reflects,

“Hope. We need it to thrive. How we source it is critical to its sustainability... The question is key: **How do we live hope-filled about the future and realistic about today?**... In short, the church, in our sincere desire to help those struggling with disappointment, often sends a message that the source of hope today is what might be *‘right around the corner’* tomorrow... we say, ‘Hold on. God has something better just *around the corner*. Tolerate today because God will deliver something better tomorrow.’ (And then we make a video of the few for whom this is true.) And what of the rest?... Did God fail them? Did they fail God? Or perhaps we have all sourced hope in the possible realization of dreams tomorrow instead of the certain presence of God today. Personally, how do I stay healthy when my dreams are delayed? By working to ensure that my soul’s address for hope is **in God and God’s love** for me. My hope is sourced **in God’s love today** - not the materialization of my dreams *tomorrow*.

My hope is rooted in God’s company not in my scenery. Do I abandon my dreams? No. But neither do I make their *future* fulfillment the ‘why’ of my hope. I do not have to ‘hold on for what’s *right around the corner*,’ because Jesus is always holding me in this moment today. **God loves me**—that’s a worthy address for hope... as well as for contentment and peace. Such a sacrificial Savior is trustworthy enough to steward my (and your) dreams. Whatever our circumstances or scenery, today through Jesus we are known in heavenly realms as God’s beloved. Sinking deeply into that reality sources a sustainable hope and gifts our faith with roots and our dreams with wings.” (Hope’s Source, 2016, Alicia Britt Chole)

God is present *now*. No need to wait. Live a life of **giving**. Do not give hatred. Do not condemn others. Give joy, grace, blessing, affirmation, praise, kindness and steadfast love. In the true Spirit of Christ, **continue giving** gifts of God. Speak and act fearlessly in support of ‘God’s Justice.’ Live this moment with hope in the joy and the power of the Resurrected Christ!

We can give the Gift of love, and the Gift goes on... God continues!
Pastor Dan

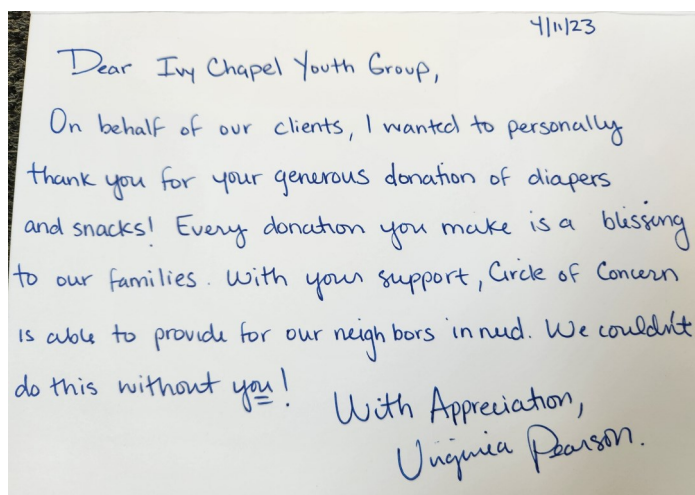
*“There is therefore now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 8:1)*



April Council Lifted Up:

- * Earl Kreder for playing saxophone in worship on Sunday, March 26.
- * Kathryn Kuntzman for playing cello in worship on Good Friday.
- * Jo Ann Moody, Sarah Wilson and Sue Wilson for leading this year's Easter Egg Hunt.
- * Audrey Farrell, Jane Farrell, Cole Winship, Holly Winship and Rory Winship for singing "Hosanna!" with the choir on Palm Sunday.
- * Valerie Waterman for coordinating and conducting the combined choir anthem on Palm Sunday! Also, a profound thank you to Valerie for singing vocal solos on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Alleluia!
- * Mike Waller for all of his special work preparing and offering music in worship.
- * Sarah Wilson for enhancing our worship services by playing guitar on Palm Sunday and trumpet on Easter Sunday.
- * Frank Purviance for arranging for the waxing of our Fellowship Hall floor in preparation for Holy Week.
- * Gail Thoele for picking up and delivering Easter lilies to church.
- * Jack Molyneaux and Gary Lindhorst for outdoor work on church grounds
- * Kara White, Ivy Chapel's Office Administrator, for her extra efforts negotiating several rental agreements for Ivy Chapel facility rental.
- * Pat Winship and Kay Kreder for their help with the Children's Message and Sunday School activities in April

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH NEWS



Card is displayed on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

55 pounds of food and personal care items were delivered to Circle of Concern as a result of the **Caring with the Sharing** collection by the youth.

An equal amount was donated to Isaiah58 Ministries.

The Lenten Extra Mile giving collected \$1,225 for Caring for Kids!!!

THANK YOU IVY!!!

Fellowship

Ivy Chapel United Church of Christ 59th Anniversary 1964 - 2023

The Deacons invite you to celebrate the 59th Anniversary of Ivy Chapel United Church of Christ on Sunday, May 21st following worship.

Refreshments will be provided along with pictures and memorabilia celebrating Ivy Chapel UCC's rich, sacred history.

Please feel free to bring additional pictures and items to display.

Praise God for abundantly blessing the Spirit-filled, giving ministries of this wonderful congregation over the years!

We look forward to sharing together this special occasion commemorating the birthday of Ivy Chapel UCC.

Ivy Chapel Barbeque Fundraiser June 10th

Please join us for a barbeque fundraiser dinner at Ivy Chapel on Saturday, June 10th from 4 PM until 7 PM. We are planning to offer meals carry-out style, which can be eaten on-site at the church pavilion (weather permitting), in the Fellowship Hall, or taken to go.

Menu options include a choice of hamburger or bratwurst with two sides and a dessert for \$10 or hot dog with one side and a dessert for \$5.

Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the event.

We are looking for volunteers to help with various activities, including food preparation, ticketing, serving, and cleanup, and volunteers are requested to bring dessert (brownies or angel food cake). A sign up sheet will be placed in the church narthex, please contact John Weiland if you are interested in helping (636-399-2588 or jlweiland2003@yahoo.com).

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Thanks!
John

Mary^{and}Martha Wmns Grp

The M & M Group met on Friday, April 21st and had a brief business meeting before heading to the Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum which is a new modern building on the JCCA campus.

The Holocaust (which was a genocide of Jews, disabled people, and other unwanted people) occurred during WWII in a developed Christian country (Germany). The Museum traced world-wide and uniquely German causes for the state sponsored killing of 6 million people (about the population of Missouri).

Genocides are still occurring
in some places.

The Museum hopes to educate people to respect, even embrace, racial and human differences.



At the meeting before visiting the museum we decided on July 16th as a date to sponsor a Salad Luncheon after worship.

This will be a Fund-Raiser with a charge of \$8.00 per person with half the money going into Ivy's budget and half to Unleashing Potential (formerly Neighborhood Houses).

Our next meeting will be on
Tue., May 16th at 1 p.m.

We will meet at Ivy Chapel and then carpool to **Faust Park** to tour their historical Village. They have recently added some new buildings.

Trustees

April was a busy month, with the clean-up of autumn leaves, tree branches, and gumballs in the parking lot, islands, and playground.

Flower beds around the front sign, flagpole, and youth sign were also cleaned out and mulched. Regular mowing has begun and the community garden is tilled and will be planted with help from Juniper Root Micro School.

Sign lamps as well as the GFI on the west wall were replaced and hoses were connected for seasonal usage ahead.

The Memorial Garden and fountain were cleared of leaves as well as the porch area outside of the Sanctuary windows. The playground and lower parking lot were cleaned as well.

Cleanup from the recent storms included repairing the base for the mailbox, re-doing the top fence wire around the garden and removing three dead trees in the park area.

Inside, a freshly scrubbed and waxed Fellowship Hall hosted numerous activities including a family Easter luncheon and egg roll.

In May, we plan to start tackling outdoor projects at the pavilion and parking lots.

We are scheduled to pick up trash along Woods Mill Road on Sunday,
May 21st.
(weather permitting)

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

Looking ahead...

May 6th— Clean-Up Day
'Brighten Ivy up for Spring!'



May 11th— Blood Drive
2:30-6:30 pm



May 14th— Mother's Day

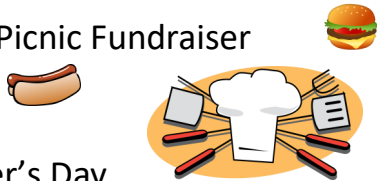
May 21st— 59th Anniversary Celebration
Highway Clean-Up after



May 29th— Memorial Day



June 10th— BBQ Picnic Fundraiser



June 18th— Father's Day



Thursday, May 11 BLOOD DRIVE at Ivy Chapel UCC

Ivy Chapel UCC will host an **ImpactLife Blood Drive** in Fellowship Hall from **2 - 6 pm** On **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!



Scripture Worship

7 May 2023, Fifth Sun of Easter: Acts 7:55-60, Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16, 1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-14

14 May 2023, Sixth Sun of Easter: Acts 17:22-31, Psalm 66:8-20, 1 Peter 3:13-22, John 14:15-21

21 May 2023, Seventh Sun of Easter: Acts 1:6-14, Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35, 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11, John 17:1-11

28 May 2023, Pentecost Sun: Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21 John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

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



All are welcome to join us. Masks and social distancing are still 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/>



With God's Blessings

Happy Anniversary to...



5/26/1962 Rudolph and Heide Lauer
 5/26/2007 Shannon and Paul Farrell
 5/26/2018 Katie and Matt Amsler
 5/28/1988 Mike and Celeste Tichy

Happy Birthday to...



1 Ann Molyneaux	18 Nancy Gerdes
Bill Wirtz	Amanda Dunham
2 Adam James	21 Tom Glenn
9 Pat Winship	24 William LaSalle
10 Jamie Del Carmen	25 Trish Baker
Bradley Kuntzman	Sarah Wilson
14 Alex Kuntzman	

Serving God's People

Greeter/Usher Schedule May

CARE CORPS

DATE	GREETERS/USHERS
7 May 2023	Kathryn Kuntzman and Jack Molyneaux- communion
14 May 2023	Dottie Foster and Gail Thoele
21 May 2023	Don Wolff and John Weiland
28 May 2023	Kay and Earl Kreder
4 June 2023	Myrna and Ralph Weiland- communion

➤ **MAY — Valerie Waterman**
636-391-9886
 ➤ **JUN — Kay Kreder**
314-878-5296

Assisting in Lay Ministry:

Please find your Name to see the date you are scheduled to help.
 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.



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 numbers below.

Pastor Dan Wilson: pastordan@ivychapel.org / 314-580-4564

Office Administrator: ivychapelucc@ivychapel.org / 314-434-4991

Office hours: Monday/Wednesday/Thursday 9:00AM–3:00PM Friday 9:00AM–2:30PM

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	2 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349 StLBG 1:30-3pm	3 TKD 5-6pm	4 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm	5	6 AA 10:30am #350 Work Day (weather permitting)
7 5th S of Easter wht 10am Worship/† LS	8 Council Mtg 7pm	9 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349 StLBG 1:30-3pm	10 TKD 5-6pm	11 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am Blood Drive 2:00-6:00pm	12 Square dancing 3:30-5:30pm 7-9pm	13 AA 10:30am #350 JRS in FH 2-5 pm
14 6th S of Easter wht 10am Worship Mother's Day 	15 The Ivy Vine Articles DUE	16 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349 StLBG 1:30-3pm Mary & Martha Wms Grp 1pm	17 TKD 5-6pm Men's Luncheon 11:30am The Country Club 288 Lamp and Lantern Village, 636-256-7201	18 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm	19	20 AA 10:30am #350
21 7th S of Easter wht 10am Worship 59th Anniversary Celebration HWY CLEAN-UP AFTER CELEBRATION	22	23 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349 StLBG 1:30-3pm	24 TKD 5-6pm	25 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm	26	27 AA 10:30am #350
28 PENTECOST SUN 10am Worship	29 Memorial Day (Office Closed) 	30 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349	31 TKD 5-6pm	June 1 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm	June 2	June 3 AA 10:30am #350

LOOKING AHEAD IN JUNE: 10TH— CHURCH BBQ PICNIC

15th Ivy Vine articles due

20th Mary & Martha Women's Grp 1pm

12th Council Meeting

21st Men's Lunch 11:30am @ Satchmo's

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	JRWP =JUNIPER ROOT WOODLAND PRESCHOOL SY =SANCTUARY SLBG = St. Luke's Bereavement Group	TKD = INERTIA MARTIAL ARTS
	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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