



# The Ivy Vine

July  
2023



Dan Wilson, Pastor  
[pastordan@ivy-chapel.org](mailto:pastordan@ivy-chapel.org)

## God's Astonishing Love!

A local Episcopalian Church which I frequently drive by as I travel from my home to our church currently is displaying a prophetic message on their sign. The sign joyously proclaims:

*"If it is not about love, it is not about God."*

People actually can mean quite different things when speaking of "love." There are many varieties of love. Depending on which type of love someone has in mind, our comments about love can have a wide range of implications. One noble view of human love is the sacred thought of Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hahn, who writes, "Love is the capacity to take care of, to protect, to nourish."

The Holy Bible also speaks of love. In the Common Covenant (a.k.a. the Old Testament); the prevailing occurrence is the Hebrew word "hesed," which is a name for God's "steadfast love." This is used most frequently in the Book of Psalms. In the New Covenant (a.k.a. the New Testament); three Koiné Greek words ("agapé," "philéo," and "philóstorgos") occur. The word "philéo" is used multiple times in the Gospel of John, and it means "be a friend to" or "tender affection." The compound word "philóstorgos" ("philéo" + "storgé") occurs one time (Romans 12:10) and it means "properly dear" or "cherishing one's natural relatives."

The Koiné Greek word “agapé” is the New Covenant word for love which has the most uses of all. “Agapé” is “Divine love” or God’s “self-giving love.” This is the word which is used consistently throughout First Corinthians, Chapter 13. It also is the word which is used twice in the inspiring, single verse, **“We love, because God first loved us.”** (1 John 4:19) Above all, it is the word which Christ Jesus uses when he preciously gives us his *new commandment*, **“Love one another.”** (John 13:34)

Our faith walk is a spiritual journey seeking to follow in the footsteps of our Savior Jesus. As we experience over the course of our lives, this frequently can manifest itself as a “one step forward, two steps back” process. Then again, this is what we would expect from our Master and Teacher who instructs, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, but those who lose their life for my sake will find it.” (Matthew 16:24-25) This is “self-giving love!” Additional, superb thoughts on this are found in a phenomenal, sacred work authored by James Mulholland and Phillip Gulley entitled, If God Is Love: Rediscovering Grace in an Ungracious World (HarperCollins, 2004). Through this insightful book, authors Mulholland and Gulley offer us a marvelous vision of the thoroughly gracious, unconditional, eternal, astonishing love of God. Our Creator and our Savior truly is the God of love forevermore!

Our calling, my friends, is to embrace Christ’s *new commandment* and display it in the living of our daily lives. “Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I am fully known. And now, faith hope and love [‘agapé’] remain; and the greatest of these is love [‘agapé’].” (1 Corinthians 13:12-13)

Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me. May the “steadfast love” of God (‘hesed’) and the “self-giving love” of God (‘agapé’) be evident in our manner of living.

Seeking daily to give away Christ’s astonishing love,  
*Pastor Dan*



# June Council Lifted Up:

- ♥ Pat Winship led the M&Ms group in making OVER 100 crocheted baby caps!
- ♥ Kay Kreder for her leadership in the M& Ms group, organizing the group and keeping the members active.
- ♥ The volunteers who helped with the BBQ: Gail Thoele, Kathryn Kuntzman, Pat Winship, Michael Winship, John Weiland, Ralph Weiland, Frank Purviance, Don Wolff, Jack Molyneaux, Julie McAllister, Dave Mentzel, Earl Kreder, Kay Kreder, Jan Wirtz, Tom Glenn, Debbie Glenn, Diann Sheahan
- ♥ Dave Mentzel for his Work landscaping, working in the Ivy garden and many more outside tasks.
- ♥ Cindy Kettler and John Weiland for helping with the Children's message on May 21st. Also thanks to Linda Lowry, Dottie Foster, Gail Thoele, JoAnn Moody and Valerie Waterman for coordinating the Ivy birthday celebration.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH NEWS

St. John's UCC invites all Ivy Chapel youth to attend or help with Vacation Bible School this year.

This year's Vacation Bible School will be held

**July 10 – 14, 2023 (M-F)**

With children attending **9 AM to NOON**

PLUS Special Events on **Sunday, July 16th** during and after worship

The theme is

Register here:

<https://forms.gle/sp9NxR57FVdSictM6>

Registration remains \$35/child.

Volunteers Welcome (age 5th grade +). Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/G35Dh8Amc1TEJkd99>

We guarantee a fun and meaningful week.

NOTE: We reserve the right to close children registration at any time so we can maintain a safe program.

Questions? [ChristianEducation.SJUCC@gmail.com](mailto:ChristianEducation.SJUCC@gmail.com)



# Mary<sup>and</sup>MarthaWmnsGrp

The Mary and Martha Women's Group will meet on Tue. July 18th in the Multipurpose Room at Ivy. We will discuss plans for the Salad Luncheon on Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup> after worship.

The cost for the Luncheon will be \$8.00.

We will also discuss Dessert for a Dollar to be August 27th after worship.

We also will plan on fall programs and projects.

Everyone is welcome.



## Fellowship

### *Ivy Chapel Barbeque Fundraiser*

The event was a success and good opportunity for Fellowship.

It had been advertised in the newspaper and after expenses the total profit was \$683.

There were a few leftovers and those were sold on Sunday morning following worship.

Thank you to all who joined us!

## Trustees

Trustees are continuing with the grass cutting and general yard clean up. The air conditioners were checked and we found that the East sanctuary unit was not working. It is more than 25 years old and not repairable. An estimate on a replacement unit has been requested.

In considering the problem, it is our opinion that unless we have a very hot Sunday, it will not need to be replaced. The West unit is working and providing a comfortable Sunday experience so no further action is being pursued.

### **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)

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING RENTING SPACE AT IVY CHAPEL**

**PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE  
AT 314-434-4991 OR  
[IVYCHAPELUCC@IVYCHAPEL.ORG](mailto:IVYCHAPELUCC@IVYCHAPEL.ORG)**

# In Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to family and loved ones of the Rev. Patricia Vollertsen Malik who passed on to life eternal June 3.

Rev. Pat formerly served as Ivy Chapel UCC Minister of Youth and Christian Education. Her energetic ministry meaningfully blessed many lives.

We celebrate God's image lived fully in Pat's life!



## Scripture & Worship

### 2 July 2023, Fifth Sun after Pentecost:

Genesis 22:1-14, Psalm 13, Romans 6:12-23, Matthew 10:40-42

### 9 July 2023, Sixth Sun after Pentecost:

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67, Psalm 45:10-17, Romans 7:15-25a, Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

### 16 July 2023, Seventh Sun after Pentecost:

Genesis 25:19-34, Psalm 119:105-112, Isaiah 55: 10-13, Romans 8:1-11, Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

### 23 July 2023, Eighth Sun after Pentecost:

Genesis 28:10-19a, Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24, Romans 8:12-25, Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

### 30 July 2023, Ninth Sun after Pentecost:

Genesis 29:15-28, Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or Psalm 128, Romans 8:26-39, Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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

# With God's Blessings

## Happy Birthday to...

12 Bob De Fer  
18 Stephen Lowry  
20 Jim Sheahan  
21 Chris Moody  
23 Tyler Ray &  
Elizabeth Schurwan  
24 Jessica Kempa  
28 Bill Pasia  
30 Jack Litzinger  
31 Cole Winship



All are welcome to join us. Masks 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/>



**DAILY  
DEVOTIONAL**  
Created by the StillSpeaking Writers' Group



# Serving God's People

## Greeter/Usher Schedule May

DATE	GREETERS/USHERS
2 July 2023	Donna Grote and Jan Wirtz -communion
9 July 2023	Kathryn Kuntzman and Jack Molyneaux
16 July 2023	Dottie Foster and Gail Thoele
23 July 2023	Don Wolff and John Weiland
30 July 2023	Kay and Earl Kreder

## CARE CORPS

➤ JUL — DIANN SHEAHAN  
314-275-2913

➤ AUG — Kathryn Kuntzman  
636-391-8468

### 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](mailto:pastordan@ivychapel.org) / 314-580-4564

Office Administrator-Kara White: [ivychapelucc@ivychapel.org](mailto: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](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
						<b>1</b> AA 10:30am #350
<b>2</b> 5th S aft Pentecost grn <b>10am Worship/†  LS</b>  AA 6pm YA	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349  Independence Day-Office Closed	<b>5</b> TKD 5:30-6:30pm	<b>6</b> AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm	<b>7</b> Square dancing 3:30-5:30pm 7-9pm	<b>8</b> AA 10:30am #350
<b>9</b> 6th S aft Pentecost grn <b>10am Worship</b>  AA 6pm YA	<b>10</b> <b>Council Mtg  7pm</b>	<b>11</b> AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349	<b>12</b> TKD 5:30-6:30pm	<b>13</b> AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> AA 10:30am #350  <b>The Ivy Vine  Articles DUE</b>
<b>16</b> 7th S aft Pentecost grn <b>10am Worship</b>  AA 6pm YA	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349  <b>Mary &amp; Martha  Wms Grp 1pm</b>	<b>19</b> TKD 5:30-6:30pm  <b>Men's  Luncheon  11:30am  Talayna's Italian  Pizza 68 Four Seasons  Shopping Center</b>	<b>20</b> AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> AA 10:30am #350
<b>23</b> 8th S aft Pentecost grn <b>10am Worship</b>  AA 6pm YA	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349	<b>26</b> TKD 5:30-6:30pm	<b>27</b> AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> AA 10:30am #350
<b>30</b> 9th S aft Pentecost grn <b>10am Worship</b>  <b>Salad  Fundraiser  (after service)</b>  AA 6pm YA	<b>31</b>	August 1 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349	August 2 CE Mtg 7pm TKD 5:30-6:30pm	August 3 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm	August 4	August 5 AA 10:30am #350

**AHEAD IN AUG: 7TH—Council Meeting 15th Mary & Martha Women's Grp 16th Men's Lunch 11:30am @ El Maguey  
19th— Church Work Day 20th— Rally Day 27th— Dessert for \$1 and HWY Clean-up**

<b>AA=</b> Alcoholics Anonymous <b>CA=</b> Christian Action <b>CC=</b> Chancel Choir <b>CE=</b> Christian Education <b>EMMP=</b> Eric Moody Memorial Pavilion		<b>FH =</b> Fellowship Hall <b>LL=</b> LOWER LEVEL <b>M&amp;M GRP=</b> MARY AND MARTHA WOMEN'S GROUP		<b>KYP=</b> KEEPING YOU POSTED <b>LS=</b> THE LORD'S SUPPER <b>WOMEN'S GROUP</b>		<b>JRWP=</b> JUNIPER ROOT WOODLAND PRESCHOOL <b>SY=</b> SANCTUARY <b>TKD=</b> INERTIA MARTIAL ARTS <b>SLBG=</b> 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  
620 North Woods Mill Road  
Chesterfield, MO 63017  
[ivy chapelucc@ivy chapel.org](mailto:ivy chapelucc@ivy chapel.org)  
314-434-4991  
[twitter@ivy chapel](https://twitter.com/ivy chapel)  
[www.facebook.com/IvyChapel](https://www.facebook.com/IvyChapel)  
[www.ivychapel@ivy chapel.org](http://www.ivychapel@ivy chapel.org)



**Dan Wilson, Pastor**