



The Ivy Vine

August
2023



Dan Wilson, Pastor
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Joyful Living in Christ

The word “**difficulty**” does not appear much in Scripture. One resource indicates a mere 6 uses. The word “**difficult**” comes in only slightly higher at a grand total of 7 uses. All in all, neither of these words appear often in Holy Scripture. This is rather curious, since earthly life is riddled with many “**difficulties**.” God’s Word characteristically is realistic and offers bona fide guidance for prevailing over the array of challenges life presents. This time around, though, it appears that we need to take an approach other than a direct, biblical “word search” to discover the way God leads us toward overcoming hardships.

When confronting “**difficulty**” (as is true of life in general); perspective can make all the difference. Our calling as Christ’s followers is to adopt a joyful outlook; an ever-grateful perspective that God provides blessings galore and gifts unlimited! It is this “cornucopia” perspective that Christ Jesus teaches and lives. As Grandma Ramona lovingly coos to her Granddaughter Bernice in the 1998 film Hope Floats, “Oh, honey. My cup runneth over.” With our God and Savior; the horn of plenty is always overflowing. Psalm 23:5 rejoices, “My cup overflows!”

One of the imposing **difficulties** that humans struggle with is our failure to be satisfied. What is required for people to be satisfied? We wind up on the verge of exhaustion dreaming up all sorts of answers to this question. Yet God’s Prophet Micah clarifies the remedy for human dissatisfaction: “God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8)

Consider this provocative, anonymous pearl:

***More of Thee, Lord.
And less of me.***

***If the cross were
more than an ornament in our
sanctuaries,
how would church life be different?***

How would life be different?

***What would this world look like
if the cross were more -
more than an ornament?***

***More of Thee, Lord.
And less of me.***

“Choosing an *abundance* mind-set is not easy in our culture. For one thing, there is evil in the world... There is an imbalance of resources. And there is fear, which fosters a scarcity mind-set... Choosing an *abundance* mind-set is **difficult**, not only because of mistrust and fear for the future but also because the scarcity worldview permeates our culture... The scarcity syndrome produces fear of others, and fear sells all kinds of things - guns, security devices, residences in ‘safe’ neighborhoods, and a variety of insurance. Recall this week’s news - any week’s news. It reinforces fear... The dry creek-bed of the scarcity syndrome leaves us with a feeling that we’re missing something, for we thirst for Life... But it is the New Testament words of *abundance* - ‘faith, hope, and love remain, these three’ - that fill the dry creek-bed and the inner void that thirsts for more... It’s a mystery and therefore a matter for the heart... Through an *abundance* mentality, we tend to perceive God as the giver of grace, who speaks the language of unconditional love... When we

risk reviewing our worldview, opening ourselves to be transformed by the God of *abundance*, we begin to stop worrying about sharing our bread. We begin to perceive that all is sacred. We begin to understand that the Mystery is beyond our understanding. We begin to soften our hardened hearts... We remember the One who came to us in a manger and showed us the mystery of God. We recognize our partner in the dance... Yes! This trustworthy God of *abundance* is the One we find on the spiritual labyrinth that leads to living *abundantly*.” (Marilyn Brown Oden, *Abundance: Joyful Living in Christ*, 2002)

Our Savior Jesus Christ teaches, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it *abundantly*.” (John 10:10)

Through **difficulties**, obstacles and failures; the love of Jesus Christ prevails! The faithful response to receiving God’s gifts is offering *abundant* gifts ourselves. May living *abundantly* become our ‘august approach’ - our fresh perspective. Risk it for God. Together, let’s all join in Christ’s joyful dance.

Joyfully accept God’s gifts, and then live *abundantly*!
Pastor Dan

“God is a God of *abundance*, not a God of scarcity.”
- Henri Nouwen (*Bread for the Journey*, 1996)

June Council Lifted Up:

- ♥ Linda Lowry for taking Council Meeting minutes at the June meeting.
- ♥ Mike Waller for his flexibility playing worship music at the July 2nd service when Ivy Chapel did not have power.
- ♥ Earl Kreder for playing saxophone at the July 2nd worship service.
- ♥ Dave Menzel for his “catch and release program” of the animals visiting Ivy Chapel’s vegetable garden.

Mary^{and}MarthaWmnsGrp

The Mary and Martha Group met on July 18th and made the following plans for the monthly meeting for the remainder of 2023.

AUG. 15th — Finalize plans for Holiday favors for Lydia’s House and for a trip to a recycling center in Nov. Also finalize plans for Dessert for a Dollar on Aug. 27.

SEPT. 19th — Make favors for Lydia’s House

OCT. 17th — Update with speaker from Lydia’s House

NOV. — Trip to recycling center for tour

We made plans for the July 30th Salad Luncheon which will be after worship and decided the proceeds should be shared equally between Unleashing Potential and Ivy Chapel.

The next meeting will be Aug. 15th at 1:00 pm in the Multipurpose Room.

All are welcome!

Trustees

Trustees replaced an emergency light in the Narthex last week.

All exit and emergency lights are now working correctly.

The internet failed and ATT replaced two system modems.

Repair was needed to the tractor engine, but thanks to Earl, the tractor is back in service and mowing continues!



Highway Clean-Up is scheduled for Sunday, August 13, weather permitting.

CHRISTIAN ACTION AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Back to School Drive

Christian Action
and Christian Ed
are collecting
underwear and
socks for Isaiah 58



EARLY CHILDHOOD
AFTER SCHOOL
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
ENRICHMENT CAMPS

Formerly
Neighborhood
Houses

for their Back to School drive.

It will culminate on Undie Sunday,
August 20.



These should be sized for school aged
children with a special need for adult
sizes for teens.

There will be a basket in the narthex
to gather the offerings.



Blessing of the Animals



The 2023 **Blessing of the Animals** will be celebrated on **Saturday, Sept. 16.**



We are pleased that **"Love-A-Golden" Rescue** will be the featured animal
assistance organization at this year's event. Representing "Love-A-Golden" at this
Blessing will be familiar acquaintances from years past Bob and Sandy K.
and their Golden Retriever Hank.



For further information and/or a Wish List of items which you may donate, you
are welcome to contact the Ivy Chapel UCC Church Office.
Complete information will be included in the *September* Ivy Vine.

2023-2024 Confirmation Program

Rev. Tracey Harris, Associate Pastor
serving St. John United Church of
Christ – Manchester, and Ivy's Pastor
Dan are working together to offer a
Confirmation Program for both St. John
UCC and Ivy Chapel UCC.

This 2023-2024 program will begin in
autumn and will conclude on Pentecost
Sunday, May 19, 2024.

We enthusiastically invite all youth who
are in the 7th grade or above and who
have not previously attended
confirmation to take part in this
combined Confirmation Program!

If you are aware of a young person in
this age range who would like to
participate in this upcoming program,
please contact Pastor Dan, at 314-580-
4564 or pastordan@ivychapel.org

Subsequently, an organizational
meeting for parents/guardians and
confirmands will be scheduled for a
future date.

Scripture Worship

6 Aug 2023, Tenth Sun after Pentecost:

Genesis 32:22-31, Psalm 17:1-7, 15,
Romans 9:1-5, Matthew 14:13-21

13 Aug 2023, Eleventh Sun after

Pentecost: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28,

Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b,

Romans 10:5-15, Matthew 14:22-33

20 Aug 2023, Twelfth Sun after

Pentecost: Genesis 45:1-15,

Psalm 133, Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32,

Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

27 Aug 2023, Thirteenth Sun after

Pentecost: Exodus 1:8—2:10, Psalm

124, Romans 12:1-8, Matthew 16:13-20

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



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

WITH GOD'S BLESSINGS

Happy Birthday to...



6 Dottie Foster

Michelle Moody

8 Gloria Wintrode

11 Cleo Steffens

12 Kathryn Kuntzman

14 Erin Winship

15 Earl Kreder

19 Brittany Wolff

20 Diane Droege

Jim French

Nick Wintrode

23 Sally Dodge

24 Claire Lowry

25 Mike Tichy

26 Michael Pfau

31 Michelle Purviance



Happy Anniversary to...



8/1/1970 Carl and Pat Winship

8/9/1964 Earl and Kay Kreder



Serving God's People

Greeter/Usher Schedule August

DATE	GREETERS/USHERS
6 Aug 2023	Myrna and Ralph Weiland— communion
13 Aug 2023	Julie McAllister and Dave Mentzel
20 Aug 2023	Diann and Jim Sheahan
27 Aug 2023	Pat and Carl Winship
3 Sept 2023	Donna Grote and Jan Wirtz communion

CARE CORPS

➤ **AUG** — Kathryn Kuntzman
636-391-8468

➤ **SEP** — Dottie Foster
314-878-4286

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-Kara White: 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
2023 		1 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349	2 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	3 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm	4	5 AA 10:30am #350
6 10th S aft Pentecost grn 10am Worship/† LS UNDIE Fundraiser  AA 6pm YP	7	8 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349	9 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	10 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm	11 Square dancing 3:30-5:30pm 7-9pm	12 AA 10:30am #350
13 11th S aft Pentecost grn 10am Worship UNDIE Fundraiser  HWY CLEAN-UP AFTER WORSHIP AA 6pm YP	14	15 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349 Mary & Martha Wms Grp 1pm The Ivy Vine Articles DUE	16 TKD 5:30-6:30pm Men's Luncheon 11:30am-El Maguey	17 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm	19	19 AA 10:30am #350
20 12th S aft Pentecost grn 10am Worship Coffee Hour (after worship)  UNDIE SUNDAY  AA 6pm YP	21 Council Mtg 7pm	22 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349	23 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	24 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm	25	26 AA 10:30am #350 JRMC-Summer Picnic 5-10 EMMP
27 13th S aft Pentecost grn 10am Worship Dessert for \$1 AA 6pm YP	28	29 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349	30 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	31 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm	September 1	September 2 AA 10:30am #350

AHEAD IN SEPT: 4TH- LABOR DAY-OFFICE CLOSED 11TH-Council Meeting 16th- BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS 17TH Coffee Hour after Worship 19th Mary & Martha Women's Grp 20th Men's Lunch 11:30am @ El Maguey

LS=THE LORD'S SUPPER KYP=KEEPING YOU POSTED M&M GRP=MARY AND MARTHA WOMEN'S GROUP		FH = Fellowship Hall EMMP=Eric Moody Memorial Pavilion SY=SANCTUARY		AA=Alcoholics Anonymous JRWP=JUNIPER ROOT WOODLAND PRESCHOOL 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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