



The Ivy Vine

September
2023



Dan Wilson, Pastor
pastordan@ivychapel.org

Widen the Circle of God's Love

The modern-day world is a cacophony! There are noises all over the place, and multiple voices are clamoring for our attention. With everything that is going on, it's no wonder we have difficulty hearing God's voice. You and I are living in tumultuous times! Never has the message of the Cecil Alexander's hymn lyrics been more apropos, "Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea." Sifting through all of the commotion while trying to identify the true voice of God is challenging.

On multiple occasions, Jesus of Nazareth encourages, "*Let anyone with ears listen.*" (Scripture passages where Jesus says this include: Matthew 11:15; 13:9; 13:43; Mark 4:23; Luke 8:8; 14:35) That's it. What Jesus says is one line, short and sweet. *Let anyone with ears listen.* These words of our Savior Jesus seem like clear, basic directions which would be simple enough to follow. However, as experience teaches us, often life is complicated. Living and navigating through present-day, contentious times, you and I appreciate any *genuine word of God* which we are able to make out. This may happen when we least expect it. Yet, every once in a while, we *are given "ears to hear"* the voice of God. As children of God, it is vital for us to keep our ears peeled, seeking to remain alert; so that we perceive and hear when God does speak!

Through the Prophet Isaiah, God declares, "Then the eyes of those who have sight will not be closed, and *the ears of those who have hearing will listen...* Rise up,... hear my voice... until a Spirit from on high is poured out on us,... Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness will abide in the fruitful field. The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever. My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places." (Isaiah 32:3, 9, 15-18) Later, God's prophet goes on to proclaim, "...Morning by morning, the Lord God awakens - *wakens my ear to listen* as those who are taught. The Lord God helps me; therefore, I have not been disgraced... The One who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me." (Isaiah 50:4-5, 7-9)

(Continued on pg. 2)

Aramaic was the vernacular, the everyday language spoken by the people of biblical Palestine, including Jesus of Nazareth. There are seven places in the Gospels where Jesus is quoted speaking in his mother tongue **Aramaic** (Mark 5:41; 7:34; 11:9; 14:36; Matthew 5:22; 27:46 and John 20:16). This is an extremely small number, which makes each one of these rare occurrences highly significant.

One of these situations was a time when Jesus was making his way south from Sidon toward the Sea of Galilee. People in the area brought to him a deaf man with a speech impediment. Jesus took the man aside privately. He put his fingers in the man's ears and touched the man's tongue, saying, "*Ephphatha!*" (**Aramaic**, meaning "*be opened*") And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke clearly... People were astounded beyond measure; overwhelmed with amazement, exclaiming, "Jesus has done everything well! He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak!" (Mark 7:31-37)

Recently, in a worship sermon based on Matthew 15:21-28, I spoke of Jesus conceding to a Canaanite woman and healing her daughter as an act of "*widening the circle of God's love.*" As Jesus is passing through her region, a local woman emerges and cries out, "Have *mercy* on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon!" At first, Jesus tries to ignore her. However, this Canaanite woman boldly approaches Jesus and kneels in front of him, asking, "Lord, help me." Jesus is astonished by her. Eventually, he gives in and heals her daughter, exclaiming, "Woman great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you desire." Jesus displays *mercy*.

The Way of Christ is a *merciful*, compassionate, open-ended manner of relating to all people. Our Savior practices what he preaches, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." (John 14:6) *Let mercy lead.* This is the "Way" in which God hopes that God's faith community everywhere will live. "*Let anyone with ears listen.*"

Our Risen Savior longs for all human ears and eyes, all human hearts and souls to "*be opened.*" This was true in biblical times, and it is true this day. Seeking to follow Christ is a life-long process of challenging ourselves to open wider and wider. In his song Fully Alive, Bryan Sirchio yearns, "I want to *open* my heart a little wider. Let Spirit in a little deeper. Love with a Love that's on fire. And be fully alive!"

As Christ reveals, fully alive disciples must keep moving and growing. *Openness* and faithfulness go hand in hand. Each new day, Christ Jesus is inviting us to display a bigger and bigger faith - a changing, steadily growing faith. Will we remain set in our ways? Or will we respond to new ways that Christ Jesus is encouraging us to live?

Let all who have ears to hear, listen!
Let mercy lead. Draw the circle wide.
"Ephphatha! Be opened!" says Jesus.

May we be all ears,
Pastor Dan

"The best exercise for strengthening the heart is reaching out and lifting people up."
- Ernest Blevins



Autumn Stewardship Journey

Ivy Chapel UCC will be embarking on an exciting, enlightening stewardship journey together this autumn. This venture in faith will serve as a grand opportunity for spiritual growth. This fall we are blessed that a member of our congregation, Jo Ann Moody, will be offering personal words as part of worship on Sunday, Sept. 17. Our journey will incorporate this year's United Church of Christ stewardship theme

"Because of You, Our Church Changes Lives!"



The season of our stewardship emphasis will leap-frog over Sept. 24 (which will be a pulpit supply Sunday for our congregation). We will resume with our journey together on World Communion Sunday, October 1. The following week, we will be led in worship by a very special guest who will preach. The concluding portion of our journey will be Consecration Sunday, October 8. Let's explore together our potential for

"Changing Lives!" as God's Church.



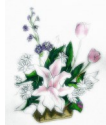
Because of you, Ivy Chapel United Church of Christ is changing lives!



Thank you, thank you for the many kind words, prayers, and cards. Ivy is truly a family

❤️ of special friends.

With gratitude from,
Rod & Judy Hertenstein



Emergency Pastoral Care September 18-27

Pastor Dan will be on vacation September 18-27. While Pastor Dan is on vacation, **Rev. Lisa Hart** (interim pastor at St. John's UCC –Chesterfield, located at 15370 Olive Blvd. 63017) has offered to respond to Ivy Chapel UCC Emergency Pastoral Care needs.

Mark Your Calendars

Saturday, Sept. 30th from 5-7 pm for a Wine & Cheese Evening.



Come gather with other Ivy members as we welcome October and fellowship together.

Bring your favorite snack to share and vino to celebrate autumn!



If you have an emergency need during September 18-27, please contact **Rev. Lisa Hart** at **314-472-3970** (mobile) or at the church **636-532-0540, Ext. 2**.



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

August Council Lifted Up:

- ♥ M&M's, specifically: Dottie Foster, Kay Kreder, Linda Lowry, Pat Winship, Jan Wirtz, plus Trish Baker, for preparing July's Salad Luncheon. It was a great success for all.
- ♥ Sarah Heend for baking Communion Bread, and Gail Thoele and Valerie Waterman for serving Altar Communion in August.
- ♥ Care Corp leaders who support Ivy Chapel members during times of need or comfort.
- ♥ Jack be nimble, Jack be quick" – Jack picks up sticks; Jack pulls weeds; Jack cuts the grass; Jack recycles glass, paper, cans; Jack of all trades!!! That's Jack Molyneaux!!!
- ♥ Gary Lindhorst for his continual care of Ivy Chapel's grounds and buildings to keep us look bright and crisp.

Mary^{and}MarthaWmnsGrp

The Mary and Martha Women's Group met on Aug. 15th and decided to make napkin ring favors for Lydia's House for their Thanksgiving Dinner Celebration.

We will do this at our next meeting on Sept. 19th and then present them to their representative who will come in October for an update to us about Lydia's House.

We discussed Dessert for A Dollar and decided the proceeds would go to Ivy Chapel.

Trustees

With the regular rainfall, regular mowing has continued. The storms also dropped many tree branches on the grounds which have been removed. In August, the fire alarm system received its UL certification. A fan on the Fellowship Hall AC unit was replaced along with the kitchen door lock. Highway clean-up was completed on Sunday, August 13. The next clean-up is scheduled for Sunday, November 5.



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.



Here is the 'Wish List':

- Chewy gift cards or any pet gift card
- Dog toys suitable for 60+ pound dogs
- Dog treats
- Purina Pro Plan dog food
- Pill pockets
- Gas cards (for transporting dogs)
- Paper towels



CHRISTIAN ACTION AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Thank you for all of your generous donations to our

Undie Sunday
Back to School drive

for [Isaiah58](#)
[Ministries.](#)



Once again the loving hearts of Ivy Chapel members shine through the kindness and free-handedness with which you continually support our greater community and especially our children.



Thank you Ivy!



2023-2024

Confirmation Program

Ivy Chapel UCC will be teaming up with St. John UCC-Manchester to offer a **Confirmation Program** for anyone 7th grade or older this school year. An organizational meeting for this cooperative faith formation program took place on Wednesday, August 30. We discussed our schedule and plans for the coming year. We will be taking a fresh approach using an exciting format for exploration called "**Confirm Not Conform.**" We anticipate sharing in two Wednesday gatherings each month. Anyone with an interest in participating is welcome!



[Confirm Not Conform UCC](#)

Please contact Pastor Dan at
314-580-4564 for details.

UCC Appeal for Hawaii

“There is so much loss, so much that once was there and is now ashes.”



Rev. Dr. David Popham, Hawaii Conference Minister

The United Church of Christ, through [Wider Church Ministries](#), is issuing a [**special appeal**](#) to provide essential items and long-term support to those impacted by wildfires across Hawaii, including the [deadly wildfires on the island of Maui](#).

“As we learn of the rising toll of the wildfires in Maui and see more and more of the extent of the destruction, we hold the people of Hawaii in our prayers, including UCC members and Hawaii Conference leadership,” said Peter Makari, transitional executive for Wider Church Ministries. “The outpouring of concern and support across the UCC that we have already seen is a reflection of the sense of compassion and connection that is the Church.”

For information on how to directly donate to those impacted:

support.ucc.org/Hawaii-wildfires

Or scan this QR code



For information on Wider Church Ministries-

www.ucc.org/wider-church-ministries

Or scan this QR code



WITH GOD'S BLESSINGS

Happy Anniversary to...



9/11/1982
Gary and Sue Lindhorst

9/23/2006
Trish and Mark Baker

9/24/1996
Curt and Jennifer Wintrode

9/28/1996
Frank Pfau and Beth Noonan

Happy Birthday to...



3 Sarah Heend &
Frank Purviance

4 Gail Thoele

6 Danny Faust

7 Stuart Kirk

11 Calvin Heend

15 "Lee" Lelia Headrick &
Linda Lowry

17 Holly Winship

28 Shirley Ann Headrick &
Richard Heend &

Jo Ann Moody

30 Mark Gerdes



SAVE THE DATE

Thursday Nov. 3
2-6 pm in Fellowship Hall

Donate and help give
the gift of life!

Scripture & Worship

3 Sept 2023, Fourteenth Sun after Pentecost: Exodus 3:1-15, Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b, Romans 12:9-21, Matthew 16:21-28

10 Sept 2023, Fifteenth Sun after Pentecost: Exodus 12:1-14, Psalm 149, Romans 13:8-14, Matthew 18:15-20

17 Sept 2023, Sixteenth Sun after Pentecost: Exodus 14:19-31, Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21, Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-35

24 Sept 2023, Seventeenth Sun after Pentecost: Exodus 16:2-15, Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45, Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16

E-KYP (E-KEEPING YOU POSTED)

By end of any Wednesday
Send your news to Ivy Chapel
ivychapellucc@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**

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

Serving God's People

September Schedules

Greeter/Ushers

| DATE | GREETERS/USHERS |
|--------------|---|
| 3 Sept 2023 | Donna Grote and Jan Wirtz communion |
| 10 Sept 2023 | Kathryn Kuntzman and Jack Molyneaux |
| 17 Sept 2023 | Dottie Foster and Gail Thoele |
| 24 Sept 2023 | Diann and Jim Sheahan |
| 1 Oct 2023 | Don Wolff and John Weiland communion |

Liturgists

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 3 Sept 2023 | Jim French |
| 10 Sept. 2023 | Ann Molyneaux |
| 17 Sept. 2023 | n/a |
| 24 Sept. 2023 | Rod Hertenstein |
| 1 Oct. 2023 | Sue Wilson |

CARE CORPS

- SEP — Dottie Foster 314-878-4286
- OCT — Jan Wirtz 314-740-7385

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/>



RITENOUR CO-CARE FOOD PANTRY: Place food and personal care items on **2nd SHELF**. Rccfoodpantry.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 AA 10:30am #350 |
| 3 14th S aft Pentecost grn 10am Worship/LS AA 6pm YP | 4 Labor Day-Office Closed | 5 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349 | 6 TKD 5:30-6:30pm | 7 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm | 8 Square dancing 3:30-5:30pm 7-9pm | 9 AA 10:30am #350 |
| 10 15th S aft Pentecost grn 10am Worship AA 6pm YP | 11 Deacons-7pm Zoom | 12 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349 | 13 TKD 5:30-6:30pm | 14 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm | 15 The Ivy Vine Articles DUE | 16 AA 10:30am #350 Blessing of the Animals 1-3pm |
| 17 16th S aft Pentecost grn 10am Worship Coffee Hour (after worship) AA 6pm YP | 19 Council Mtg 7pm | 19 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349 Mary & Martha Wms Grp 1pm | 20 TKD 5:30-6:30pm Men's Luncheon 11:30am- Chimi's 60 Four Seasons Shpg Cntr, 3147865090 | 21 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm | 22 | 23 AA 10:30am #350 |
| 24 17th S aft Pentecost grn 10am Worship AA 6pm YP | 25 | 26 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349 | 27 TKD 5:30-6:30pm | 28 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm | 29 | 30 AA 10:30am #350 Wine & Cheese Fall Fellowship 5-7 pm |

**AHEAD IN OCT: 15TH—CONSECRATION SUNDAY 16TH—Council Meeting
17th Mary & Martha Women's Grp 18th Men's Lunch 11:30am @ Yellowstone Cafe**

| | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 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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