



The Ivy Vine

2023

November



Dan Wilson, Pastor
pastordan@ivychapel.org

The Timeliness and the Timelessness of God

Time is a fascinating concept. To a great extent, the world has turned “time” into a commodity. That happened generations ago, for we frequently speak of “spending” time or of “wasting” time. Speaking of time in this way implies that “time” is a possession which we have acquired or even have earned. To me, this feels similar to the white man distorting a pure view of “land.” While Native Americans hold a perception of the land as part of God’s creation, as belonging to the Great Spirit; European settlers literally moved in and brought with them a viewpoint of “land ownership.” This is a totally foreign concept to Native Americans, who do not think of land as “property” which can be humanly owned.

The high view is that time, land, and many other aspects of life are not entities which can be acquired or accumulated by human beings. The high view is that these do not belong to us. The high view is that all dimensions of life belong to God, who is the Creator of life, the Originator of life.

The New Testament uses two different Greek words for time. “*Chronos*” is the word for “worldly time.” This is the time we set our clocks by - hours and minutes. The other Greek word is “*Kairos*,” which is the name for “God’s time,” that is, “Divine time.”

This is what the Apostle Paul is describing when he writes, “So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away; our inner nature is being renewed, day by day... because we look not at things seen, but at things not seen; for things seen are temporary, but things not seen are eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:16, 18)

“*Kairos*” is time on God’s scale. This framework is “eternity!” I consider this “**the timeliness and the timelessness of God!**” The “forever”-ness of God’s time is the “*timelessness*” component of “*Kairos*.” The psalmist sings to God, “For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.” (Psalm 90:4 NRSV) God’s Realm and God’s blessings never end. God is alive on a grander scale than anyone else! God is Everlasting, Eternal.

Additionally, there is a “*timeliness*” component of “*Kairos*.” This has to do with God acting in a timely manner, with God doing something that is well-timed. When things in life click, some people just chalk it up to “good karma” or “serendipity.” Others credit “chance” or “fortune.” The purely secular attributes a fortunate turn of events merely to good luck.

(Continued on pg. 2)

When the very same turn of events occurs, the faith community attributes this to the “*Kairos of God*,” that is, the “timeliness of God.” People of Christian faith humble themselves before God. “Wisdom is with the humble.” (Proverb 11:2) When something big or small goes well in the world, we praise God!

What is going to occur as a result of the bloody conflict, violence and military aggression in the Middle East? We do not know. We cannot know in advance.

As I compose this reflection, much of the world appears to be holding our collective breath, watching to see what will result in Israel, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, Egypt, Lebanon, Iran and beyond. Currently, it appears that the October 7 brutal, terrorist attacks by Hamas have provoked the threat of a Third Millennium, all-out war in the Middle East. One hopes not. However, already thousands of human beings have been killed or injured. Tragically, the fatalities and the injuries include enormous numbers of civilians. The victims are Israelis, Palestinians, Muslims, Jews, Christians and others.

The Israeli military has responded with such vicious, intense aggression that there is fear (not only in Israel but throughout the world) of equally violent reprisals against Jews. On Sunday, October 8th, three rabbis serving the neighboring synagogue located closest to our church issued a heart-wrenching message to colleagues in our area ecumenical clergy group, West County Interfaith Alliance. The rabbis’ message is entitled Bridge-Building Compassion. In part, their message declares, “*As a bridge-building community, know that your Jewish neighbors are hurting. Not only are we worried about friends and family in Israel, but we are scared and worried about what may happen here as anti-Semitic rhetoric has skyrocketed since this escalation in Israel and Gaza. At this moment, our partners in faith can help by checking in on their Jewish neighbors... So, too, we are aware that this may be a difficult time for our Palestinian and Muslim neighbors. We pray for peace and a shared recognition of humanity within one another. As our tradition teaches, ‘May the time come when nation shall not take up sword against nation; nor learn war anymore!’ (Isaiah 2:4)*”

Compassionate; blessed, powerful words from our neighbors. As our Jewish neighbors’ message so articulately expresses, may God watch over and remain with all people at this uncertain time.

The present conflict in the Middle East has caused me to turn once again to a treasured, sacred volume

written by Jean Vanier and Stanley Hauerwas, entitled Living Gently in a Violent World: The Prophetic Witness of Weakness (2018). There is immense wisdom in this modest, counter-cultural book. It is unfortunate that our present-day, global culture relentlessly seeks to impress upon people the importance of “not being weak.”

Consequently, contemporary views which advocate living in ways that are gentle or weak do not gain much traction. “Being weak is not wise, not practical, not feasible, not successful,” the world instructs. So it is that most individuals who have power and most nations who have power do not live gently or weakly. Age-old adages, such as “might makes right,” are hard to shake. Power is strength. Strength breeds success we are taught. And so, regrettably, people and nations often strive to act from positions of strength.

By contrast, Christ teaches, “*For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? Yet I am among you as one who serves.*” (Luke 22:27)

Through continuing prayer and effort, friends in Christ, let us strive to put faith in the promises of the psalmist: “LORD, Yahweh, who can compare with you? You deliver the weak from those too strong for them; you deliver the weak and needy from those who oppress them.” (Psalm 35:10)

Each day, may God be with and shelter people from harm, in the Gaza Strip and in every corner of God’s world. This isn’t simply going to ‘happen.’ As God’s faithful servants, we must act. Beloved, let us join together acting boldly and speaking courageously for a peaceful resolution to the merciless fighting in Gaza. Let us pray with and pray for every one of our companions here on Earth - Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Jews, Christians, people of all faiths, all nationalities, and all walks of life. With faith, may we boldly proclaim **the timeliness and the timelessness of God.**

Relying on “*Kairos*.” Praying for peace. Praying to God for help,
Pastor Dan

“I love you, O Yahweh, my strength. The LORD, Yahweh, is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

I call on the name of Yahweh, who is worthy to be praised!”
Psalm 18:2-3

October Council Lifted Up:

- ♥ Tom Glenn for helping Church and Ministry with calculating Pastor Benefits for Proposed 2024 Budget.
- ♥ Valerie Waterman for wearing all of her hats and helping with the worship musician situation.
- ♥ Jo Ann Moody for her 9/17 sermon.
- ♥ Stewardship mailing volunteers: Don Wolff, Jan Wirtz, Jo Ann Moody, Valerie Waterman, Sue Wilson.

New U.C.C.

General Minister and President Installed

"I am about to do a new thing! Now it springs forth," proclaims God's prophet. (Isaiah 43:19) The theme of newness, as part of God's promise, was woven throughout the Rev. Merlyn Hyde Riley's sermon during the October 20th installation of the Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson as the United Church of Christ's 10th General Minister and President. If anyone doubted that this was a historic occasion, the Rev. Merlyn Hyde Riley made sure that everyone knew. The Rev. Thompson is the first woman elected to serve as the leader of our denomination! The jubilant celebration — featuring a diversity of religious practices, a wide assembly of interfaith dignitaries, and a rich array of Spirit-filled acts of praise — was celebrated at Lakewood Congregational United Church of Christ in Lakewood, Ohio. Together with the whole United Church of Christ, Ivy Chapel U.C.C. rejoices in the installation of our new General Minister and President, the Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson. Glory be to God!

Scripture & Worship

5 Nov 2023

Twenty-third Sun after Pentecost:

Joshua 3:7-17, Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37,
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13,
Matthew 23:1-12

12 Nov 2023

Twenty-fourth Sun after Pentecost:

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25, Psalm 78:1-7,
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18,
Matthew 25:1-13

19 Nov 2023

Twenty-fifth Sun after Pentecost:

Judges 4:1-7, Psalm 123,
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11,
Matthew 25:14-30

26 Nov 2023

Twenty-sixth Sun after Pentecost, Reign of Christ:

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24,
Psalm 100, Ephesians 1:15-23,

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

CHRISTIAN ACTION

Every year our congregation has helped to provide a Merry Christmas for the children of Every Child's Hope.

This year we have chosen to send gift cards so that the social workers can shop for the children.

The gift cards should be for Target or Walmart and should be placed in an envelope marked ECH and put in the offering plate or handed to Kathryn Kuntzman.


Monetary donations are also welcome and

checks should be made out to Ivy.



November 26th
is the last day for donations.

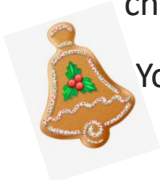
There is also a need for gift wrap and tags and that should be placed in the box in the narthex.

Thank you for your support again this year—
the children appreciate your love 



There is still time to help stock the pantry shelves at Circle of Concern with baking items before the holidays. Items needed for fall baking and holiday treats are:

sugar, flour, oil, shortening, vanilla extract, baking spices,
chocolate chips and other flavored chips, as well as decorations.



Your donations allow others to experience the joy of getting to **make and eat their own** home baked treats.



THANK YOU!

Mary^{and}MarthaWmnsGrp

The Mary and Martha Women's Group met on Oct. 17th with Janelle Uelk, Volunteer Coordinator for Lydia's House, and she spoke about her duties, the aims of this home for abused women and children and said it is the only facility of this kind in Missouri. There are other shelters for this purpose, but they are temporary. Lydia's House allows victims to live there for two years with various resources for the women to then live independently.

They have a 6-month waiting list.

Linda Ledbetter has offered about 50 miniature Christmas trees with some small ornaments which Every Child's Hope (Children's Home) has been delighted to receive, so the children can decorate their own little tree. Other members have decorations, also, so at our next meeting we will organize and pack the items for them. We will try to go to a recycling center in the coming year.

Our Crocheting Expert, Pat Winship, is working on her second one hundred preemie caps and the pictures show her beautiful work.

Please join us for our next meeting, Tues, Nov. 14th at 1 pm in the Multipurpose Room at Ivy. Everyone is welcome.



There are still a few times open, please consider donating blood Thursday, Nov. 2 from 2:00-6:00 PM Please scan the QR code to make an appointment.

Contact Sue Wilson for any questions or to assist in making your appointment.



PLEASE
consider donating,
YOU could save a life!

Trustees

Days are getting cooler and the leaves and acorns are falling.

The Trustees have been busy spreading mulch and maintaining the grounds. We have also been setting up Fellowship Hall for a memorial reception and various rentals.

The last highway clean-up of the year is scheduled for Sunday, November 5, weather permitting!

Need a space to host your event? **Choose Ivy Chapel!**

Spaces are available for
hourly rentals including
Fellowship Hall, the
Multi-purpose Room and
also the Outdoor Pavilion!

Please contact Kara in the office,
@314-434-4991 or
ivychapelucc@ivychapel.org

Office Hours: M/W/Th/F:
9:30AM to 2:30PM

If you would like to include an
item in the monthly edition of the
Vine OR the weekly edition of the
KYP (Keeping You Posted) please
contact Kara in the church office
at 314-434-4991 or
ivychapelucc@ivychapel.org.

Items are due each Wednesday for
the KYP and the 15th of the month
for the Vine.



Looking Ahead:

Nov. 2– ImpactLife Blood Drive
from 2:00 - 6:00 PM

November 19 - Coffee Hour

Nov 21– Thanksgiving Worship
@ St. John's UCC on Olive
at 7pm

Nov. 23 — Thanksgiving

Nov. 24 — Office Closed

Dec. 3– Congregational Meeting
after worship

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Worship
and coffee hour

Dec. 25– Christmas Day



WITH GOD'S BLESSINGS

Happy Anniversary

Happy Birthday to...



11/12/1983
Bill and Jan Wirtz

11/21/1964
Jack and Nancy Litzinger

11/24/1979
Stephen and Linda Lowry

11/26/2005
Valerie Waterman and John Parsons



5 Alicia Carr
6 Erin Bowman
10 Matthew Amsler
11 Brenda Otterson
12 Shannon Farrell &
Ralph Weiland
13 Norma Pasia
19 Julie Mc Allister
20 Jennifer Wintrode &
Tom Kuntzman
22 Jackson McNeal



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/>



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all



Serving God's People

September Schedules

Greeter/Ushers

DATE	GREETERS/USHERS
5 Nov 2023	Donna Grote and Jan Wirtz communion
12 Nov 2023	Kathryn Kuntzman and Jack Molyneaux
19 Oct 2023	Dottie Foster and Gail Thoele
26 Nov 2023	Don Wolff and John Weiland
3 Dec 2023	Kay and Earl Kreder communion

Liturgists

5 Nov 2023	Jan Wirtz
12 Nov 2023	Ann Molyneaux
19 Nov 2023	n/a
26 Nov . 2023	John Weiland
3 Dec . 2023	Jim French

CARE CORPS

- NOV— ANN MOLYNEAUX 314-878-0966
- DEC — DEBBIE GLENN 314-954-2286 AND EVELYN STECHER 636-536-6542

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/Friday 9:30AM–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



RITENOUR CO-CARE FOOD PANTRY: Place food and personal care items on **2nd SHELF**. Rccfoodpantry.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 All Saints Day TKD 5:30-6:30pm	2 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm BLOOD DRIVE 2-6	3	4 AA 10:30am #350
5 23rd S aft Pentecost grn Daylight Svg Time Ends TOTENFEST SUNDAY 10am Worship/LS HWY CLEAN-UP AFTER WORSHIP AA 6pm YR	6	7 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349	8 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	9 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm	10 Square dancing 3:30-5:30pm 7-9pm	11 AA 10:30am #350
12 24th S aft Pentecost grn 10am Worship AA 6pm YR	13 Council Mtg 7pm	14 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349 Deacons-7pm Zoom Mary & Martha Wms Grp 1pm	15 TKD 5:30-6:30pm Men's Luncheon 11:30am- Spiro's 1054 N Woods Mill Rd	16 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm The Ivy Vine Articles DUE	17	18 AA 10:30am #350
19 25th S aft Pentecost grn 10am Worship AA 6pm YR	20	21 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349	22 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	23 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am Thanksgiving Day Office Closed	24	25 AA 10:30am #350
26 Reign of Christ wht 10am Worship AA 6pm YR	27	28 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349	29 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	30 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm	December 1	December 2 AA 10:30am #350

**AHEAD IN DEC: 2ND— HANGING OF THE GREENS PREP 3RD— HANGING OF THE GREENS 11TH—Council Meeting
19th Mary & Martha Women's Grp 20th Men's Lunch 11:30am @ Massa's
24th—Christmas Eve Services and Coffee Hour**

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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Dan Wilson, Pastor