



The Ivy Vine

2024

January



Dan Wilson, Pastor
pastordan@ivy-chapel.org

Fresh Start

The world soon will begin a new calendar year. Of course, before we begin 2024, this means engaging in our culture's annual, thorough review of the year gone by. This is wrap-up time when society customarily re-visits and over-analyzes every aspect imaginable of the past 12 months! Frequently, this annual ritual is discouraging, or disturbing, or both. Yet, on rare occasions, worthwhile insights may surface during this "year-in-review" process. Let's not become totally cynical. Keep an eye peeled for these rarities.

Beloved companions in faith, you and I are navigating this exciting earthly adventure together. A main pursuit of our Christian witness is following the example Christ gives. What is the Way in which Christ leads? Christ does what Christ teaches. Christ lives un-selfishly. Christ loves with extravagant outreach!

Recently, you and I sang together in worship, "**Joy to the World!**" This carol celebrates God's astounding gift: Christ comes... "**to the world;**" more precisely, Christ comes "**to all the world!**" This is what the familiar Gospel verse John 3:16 joyously announces: "**God so loves the world!**" This is to say, "**God loves the whole world!**"

In 1535, Martin Luther composed German hymn lyrics, which were translated into English in 1855 by Catherine Winkworth yielding the following inspiring words:

*"To you this night is born a Child
Of Mary, chosen mother mild;
This little Child of lowly birth,
Shall be the joy of all the earth."*

One of Christianity's foundational beliefs is faith in Creator God being 'the God of Second Chances.' The Rev. Dr. Gennifer Benjamin Brooks terms such blessings, Unexpected Grace (2012). From the psalmist, we learn, "God is gracious and merciful; slow to anger; and abounding in steadfast love." (Psalm 103:8) Our Savior Jesus Christ reveals to us the graciousness of God. From Jesus, we learn that God's grace is: forgiveness; cleansing; a new lease on life; a second chance; a fresh start.

(Continued on pg. 2)

God's universal grace is a gift. God's grace is a gift which is freely given to **all**. Let us acknowledge God's goodness, and let us strive to emulate God's goodness. God offers **everyone** grace! God offers **everyone** "a fresh start." The Son of God, Jesus Christ, teaches us to offer this same loving grace to **everyone**. In the spirit of God's Prophet Isaiah, Jesus teaches us to give grace freely and extravagantly! ("Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, ... and eat! Come, buy wine and milk, without money and without price." Isaiah 55:1) How often are we to extend this grace? Time and time again. (Simon Peter asks, "How often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus replies, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy times seven!" Matthew 18:21-22) This is God's unlimited forgiveness which the Apostle Paul is describing when he writes, "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you." Ephesians 4:32)

Nothing can match God's eternal grace. Nothing can match God's steadfast love. Christ's birth, Christ's baptism, and every one of Christ's miracles are '*signs from above*.' The essence of life is God's pure, sweet love. Christ is the ultimate gift of God's grace and love.

You are forgiven by God. You are loved by God.

Accept God's gift to you! Accept God's gift of "a fresh start." Next, beyond simply accepting grace; give grace away. As a follower of Christ, readily offer this same, free "fresh start" to others all the time. Living this way can change the world.

With countless acts of grace and love, celebrate Christ's life anew each day,
Pastor Dan

*"Remember your **tender mercies**, O LORD, and your **steadfast love**; for they have been from of old." Psalm 25:6*



Mark Your Calendars!

Un-hanging of the Greens!

Deacons and Trustees need
YOUR help.

Please join us on Saturday,
January 13, 2023 at 9:30AM
for the taking down and
storing of the inside
Christmas decorations.

Your help is greatly appreciated
and makes the process go much
more quickly. We look forward
to seeing you on January 13th.

Open and Affirming Reflections

Join us directly after the worship
services on **Jan 7th and 21st** for
“Open and Affirming” Reflections
as a congregation.

This will be a opportunity for
anyone in the congregation to
learn more about what
“Open and Affirming”
means in the UCC.

We look forward to the dialogue.

All Boards Meeting

Monday January 15th
at 7:00 PM.

This meeting will be conducted via
Zoom and a meeting link will be
shared. All members of Council,
Boards, and Committees are
requested to participate.

Our monthly Council Meeting
will be conducted on
Monday January 8th at 7:00 PM.

Year-End Reporting

2023 Year-End Reporting for
Officers, Boards, and Committees
are requested to be submitted to
Kara White **no later than**
January 8th, to be included in the
Annual Report.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday January 28th
at 11:00 AM,

Immediately following worship .
This meeting will be conducted in
person in the sanctuary with
remote participation available via
Zoom (link will be provided).
The agenda will be provided in
advance of the meeting.

Love and Sympathy

We offer our love and sympathy to the family and loved ones, especially her husband , Rod, of **Judy Hertenstein**, who passed on to life eternal Dec. 26, 2023.

More information to come about a memorial service later this month.



Happy Birthday to...

4 Sue Wilson
15 Skylar Droege
17 Tara Lowry
20 Beth Noonan
Janet Wilking
29 Debbie Glenn
Alexander Wilking



Happy Anniversary to...



Michael and Donna Grote
1/15/1971



December Council Lifted Up:



- ❖ Dottie Foster for her Children's Message and creating a Sunday School activity for the youth to enjoy on Hanging of the Greens Sunday.
- ❖ Earl Kreder, Steve Lowry for leading the effort, with other Trustees' help, to remove leaves from Ivy Chapel's grounds, and move them to the back of our property.
- ❖ Bob Mainz for his dedication as Ivy Chapel's Interim Minister of Music.
- ❖ All who helped with the Hanging of the Greens Saturday morning set-up.
- ❖ For "the village" that made Consecration Sunday an amazing Sunday: Michelle Moody (cooking); Trish Baker (griddle, serving & clean-up); Dottie Foster (Consecration song lyrics; serving OJ, drying dishes); Gail Thoele (gourds & set-up); Donna Grote (OJ & syrups); Dan Wilson (miscellaneous help); Pat Winship & Sarah Wilson (Kids' programming); John Weiland & Steve Lowry (livestream & sound assistance)

Trustees

The Trustees have been working on clearing the leaves from the grounds, a task that usually continues until Spring.

The parking lot lights went out and a shorted broken wire was found and repaired. Some circuit breakers failed, and new ones and a LED light were installed. Meanwhile, temporary corrective wiring put the breakers back in operation. A new dusk-to-dawn LED light fixture was installed on the outside wall.

Fellowship Hall has been busy with four rentals in December and more planned in January. Inertia Martial Arts has added an extra evening and will now hold a class on Mondays from 5:30– 6:30 in Fellowship Hall in addition to their Wednesday and Thursday evening classes.

Scripture Worship

7 Jan 2024, Second Sunday after Christmas Day:
Jeremiah 31:7-14, Psalm 147:12-20 or Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21, Ephesians 1:3-14,
John 1:[1-9] 10-18

14 Jan 2024, Baptism of the Lord First Sunday after the Epiphany: Genesis 1:1-5,
Psalm 29 Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11

21 Jan 2024, Second Sunday after the Epiphany:
1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20], Psalm 139:1-6;13-18 ,
1 Corinthians 6:12-20, John 1:43-51

28 Jan 2024, Third Sunday after the Epiphany:
Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 62:5-12,
1 Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20

4 Feb 2024, Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany:
Deuteronomy 18:15-20 ,Psalm 111,
1 Corinthians 8:1-13, Mark 1:21-28

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

Mary^{and}Martha Wmns Grp

The Mary and Martha Women's Group will meet in the Multipurpose Room at Ivy at 1:00 p.m. on Tue., Jan. 16th. We will be planning programs and activities for 2024.
Happy New Year!



Happy New Year!

I wanted to express my delight and appreciation for the congregation's generous Christmas gift for 2023. I look forward to all the continued blessings that working at Ivy in 2024 will bring.

Thank you so much~ Kara

Office Closed

Dec 29th– Jan 4th

Kara will be visiting her youngest kiddo.



Be sure to check out the Fellowship Hall bulletin board throughout each month to see news and events from our sister churches and organizations we partner with and support. If you would like to have a flyer placed on the bulletin board please contact the office for more information at 314-434-4991 or ivychapelucc@ivychapel.org.



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/>

GIVING AT IVY CHAPEL

If you cannot attend the Sunday Worship service, you can send your offering gift to the church:

Ivy Chapel UCC,
620 North Woods Mill Road
Chesterfield, MO 63017



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
REGARDING RENTING SPACE
AT IVY CHAPEL
PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE
AT 314-434-4991 OR
IVYCHAPELUCC@IVYCHAPEL.ORG**

E-KYP (E-KEEPING YOU POSTED)

By end of any Wednesday
Send your news to Ivy Chapel
ivychapelucc@ivychapel.org
for the weekly e-KYP (e-Keeping You Posted)
emailed every Friday.

Epiphany

Z L I Y Z N R T W W Y M Z C I R Q
 Q S V V B E T H L E H E M A T D M
 V T V Z F G M A G I C F A M P N J
 N A G I F T S F B H T H R E E F T
 H R Y G A S P A R N D C X L J T N
 H J E P I P H A N Y R N S S V K B
 O F R B A L T H A S A R Y G K I J
 M E T W E L F T H L I G H T I N C
 A A M A N G E R Q E H N A N K G L
 G S T G M U R U G H B H M I I K W
 E T O F F E R I N G U Y J G N Y W
 Y W C P G K K G O L D E E H G X I
 E O X R A M Y R R H V I S T H M S
 F R A N K I N C E N S E U S E M E
 K N K O D C H I L D D I S F R A M
 Z Z E J Z O M E L C H I O R O R E
 K I T R E A S U R E B Q Z O D Y N

Balthasar	Bethlehem	Camels	Child	Epiphany
Feast	Frankincense	Gaspar	Gifts	Gold
Homage	Jesus	King	KingHerod	Light
Magi	Manger	Mary	Melchior	Myrrh
Night	Offering	Star	Three	Treasure
Twelfth	Wisemen			



Serving God's People

January Schedules



Greeter/Ushers

7 Jan 2024	Dottie Foster and Gail Thoele- communion server Pat Winship
14 Jan 2024	Don Wolff and John Weiland
21 Jan 2024	Kathryn Kuntzman and Jack Molyneaux
28 Jan 2024	Myrna and Ralph Weiland
4 Feb 2024	Pat and Carl Winship — communion server Donna Grote

Liturgists

7 Jan 2024	Rod Hertenstein
14 Jan 2024	Jim French
21 Jan 2024	-----
28 Jan 2024	Ann Molyneaux
4 Feb 2024	Sue Wilson

CARE CORPS

- JAN — Gail Thoele 314-576-0091
- FEB — Pat Winship 636-394-5991



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@ivy chapel.org / 314-580-4564

Office Administrator-Kara White: ivy chapelucc@ivy chapel.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
 2024						
	1	2 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349	3 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	4 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm	5	6 Epiphany
7 1st S aft Christmas wht 10am Worship /✝ LS AA 6pm YR	8 TKD 5:30-6:30pm Council Mtg 7pm Annual Reports Due	9 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349 Deacons-7pm Zoom	10 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	11 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm	12 Square dancing 3:30-5:30pm 7-9pm	13 AA 10:30am #350
14 Baptism of Our Lord Wt 10am Worship, Church Officer Installation AA 6pm YR	15 TKD 5:30-6:30pm All Boards Meeting 7pm The Ivy Vine Articles DUE	16 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349 Mary & Martha Wms Grp 1pm	17 TKD 5:30-6:30pm Men's Luncheon 11:30am Hunan Empress 164 Four Seas. Shpg Cntr,	18 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm	19	20 AA 10:30am #350
21 2 nd S aft Epiphany Gn 10am Worship AA 6pm YR	22 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	23 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349	24 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	25 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm	26	27 AA 10:30am #350
28 3rd S aft Epiphany Gn 10am Worship; Annual Meeting & Elmer Awards 11am AA 6pm YR	29 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	30 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349	31 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	Feb 1 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm	Feb 2	Feb 3 AA 10:30am #350

**AHEAD IN FEB: 12th—Council Meeting 14th ASH WEDNESDAY
20th Mary & Martha Women's Grp 21st Men's Lunch 11:30am @ Duffy's**

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

Ivy Chapel UCC
620 North Woods Mill Road
Chesterfield, MO 63017
ivy chapelucc@ivy chapel.org
314-434-4991
[twitter@ivy chapel](https://twitter.com/ivy chapel)
www.facebook.com/IvyChapel
www.ivychapel@ivy chapel.org



Dan Wilson, Pastor