



# *The Ivy Vine*

**December**  
**2025**



Rev. Dr. Carol Trissell

## **Christmas Present**

In my search for a radio station while driving Nathaniel to his day program, I found one already playing Christmas music. It seems a little early to me as we have a week to go until Thanksgiving. We at Ivy Chapel are preparing for Advent season, which begins November 30. Popular culture is already in Christmas mode.

With a nod to Charles Dickens, I recognize many of us have memories of “Christmas Past”. Special traditions from long ago that hold a dear place in our hearts: annual parties with family or friends; Christmas cards in our mailbox from loved ones both near and far away; meals shared around a table full of relatives and/or friends; trips to the mall or department store to see Santa.

For me, my special tradition was watching the movie “White Christmas” with my mother every year until she passed in 2003.

It is easy this time of year to remember all that was and is no more. I recognize and honor feelings that make the holidays challenging at times. My door is open. I am glad to listen if this is the case for anyone in our church and community.

In one such time in my own life, I learned the importance of honoring those feelings while also being open to the beauty in the present. I was single at the time, living over 1,000 miles away from my family in Oklahoma. It was my first Christmas away from them. Yet, I discovered joy in buying my own Christmas

(Continued on pg. 2)

tree and decorating it though no one else would see it. I found peace in the candlelit singing of “Silent Night” at my church’s Christmas Eve midnight service. I knew I was not truly alone. God was very present with me. I will never forget the overflowing sense of love and peace I felt that Christmas.

Our Advent and Christmas season theme is “Come to Us, Abide with Us”.

I hope you will join in the worship services and fellowships at Ivy Chapel. Advent is a spiritually rich time when we once again recognize our need for a Savior and anticipate his arrival. Christmas is a magical time as we celebrate Emmanuel - God is with us now and forevermore. My prayer is that you will embrace the beauty of these seasons and the ever-present love of God for you.



## Scripture & Worship

### Season of Advent

#### **7 Dec 2025, Second Sun of Advent:**

Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7 and 18-19, Romans 15:4-13, Mathew 3:1-12

#### **14 Dec 2025, Third Sun of Advent:**

Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55, James 5:7-10, Mathew 3:1-12

#### **21 Dec 2025, Fourth Sun of Advent:**

Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalm 80:1-7 and 17-19, Romans 1:1-7, Mathew 1:18-25

#### **24 Dec 2025, Christmas Eve-Nativity of the Lord:**

Isaiah 52:7-10, Psalm 98, Hebrews 1:1-4(5-12), John 1:1 –14

**28 Dec 2025, First Sun after Christmas Day:** Isaiah 63:7-9, Psalm 148, Hebrew 2:10-18, Matthew 2:13-23, Numbers 6:22-27, Galatians 4:4-7, Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 2:15-21, Ecclesiastes 3:1-13, Psalm 8, Revelation 21:1-6a, Matthew 25:31-46

**4 Jan 2026, Second Sun after Christmas Day:** Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12, Psalm 147:12-20 or Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21, Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1:(1-9), 10-18



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OF CHRIST**  
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# PASTORAL SEARCH NEWS

Each month the Ivy Chapel Council will provide an update to the Ivy community in the monthly newsletter, The Ivy Vine, regarding the search for our new Pastor. If there are special updates those will also be announced in the weekly KYP's and posted on the website.

[Please click here to go directly to the updated page – Our Pastor Search.](#)

You can also navigate there from the front page of our website.

Start by clicking on the “ABOUT OUR CHURCH” button. A drop-down menu will appear, and under the “Our Staff” tab a link titled “Our Pastor Search” will appear, please click on that.

## SEARCH UPDATE:

The Interim Transition Team will host a coffee fellowship after worship on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of November and December. You are invited to join us for coffee, a light snack, and conversation in the Fellowship Hall.

Team members are Dottie Foster, Jim French, Tom Glenn, Tara Lowry, Gail Thoele, Valerie Waterman, and Jan Wirtz. Please see one of our team members or Pastor Carol if you have questions or suggestions during our Interim transition process.

## December Council Lifted Up:



Jo Ann Moody and Don Wolff for leading a successful Stewardship Campaign



Jo Ann Moody and Frank Purviance for help coordinating the Consecration Luncheon and the volunteers who helped with the serving and clean up.



All those involved in the Blood Drive— Gail Thoele, Pat & Carl Winship, Frank Purviance and Kara White

# Christian Action

Thank you for your generous donations for our special Harvest Collection for Thanksgiving.

Ivy donated :

- 40 canned goods
- coffee
- pet food
- diapers
- Toilet paper
- applesauces and peanut butters
- dishwashing detergents
- multiple boxes of cereal, stuffing, pastas, broths, muffin and brownie mixes



Thank you for helping to bridge the gap for families in need.

## Buy-a-Bird



Isaiah 58 provides holiday meals to over 700 local families. Each family receives holiday groceries and gift cards to celebrate the season with joy and grace. If you wish to donate, please make checks out to Ivy Chapel, designate Buy-A-Bird and place in the offering plate. Donations can be made through December 14.

## Christmas Action

Share the joy and love of Christmas with the children and youth of Every Child's Hope!

This year we are collecting \$25 gift cards to Walmart or Amazon OR you can make a monetary donation of your choice, so the staff can make a special purchase for a child.

Checks should be made out to Ivy Chapel (with ECH in the memo), and placed in the offering plate. There are also envelopes on the table in the Narthex for donations.

The last day for giving is November 30th. Thank you!





# Ivy Chapel News!!



## Looking Ahead:

Nov 29-Hanging of the Greens Prep  
 Nov 30-Hanging of the Greens, First Advent,  
 Congregational Meeting after worship  
 Dec 7- Second Advent  
     Confirmation after worship,  
     Coffee Fellowship after worship  
 Dec 8- Council Meeting 7pm  
 Dec 14- Third Sunday of Advent  
 Dec 16-- Mary&Martha 1pm  
 Dec 17-- Men's Luncheon 11:30  
     Holiday Storytelling- 6-8pm  
 Dec 21- Fourth Sunday of Advent  
     Christmas Pageant during worship  
     Coffee Fellowship after worship  
 Dec 24-Christmas Eve services 5:00pm  
 Dec 25-Christmas Day  
 Dec 31-New Years' Eve

It is again that time to order your poinsettia for Christmas. We will use them to decorate the altar on Christmas Eve and then you can take yours home to have for Christmas. They will be available for purchase for \$10 each from Donna Grote, Through Dec.14th.

## Mary and Martha Wmns Grp

The Nov. Meeting of the Mary and Martha Women's Group was on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> at the Seven Pines Emmaus Home with the three residents. Dottie Foster and JoAnn Moody helped them make tea light autumn favors which they enjoyed.

There will be **NO Dec. Meeting** and the next meeting will be Tue., Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026 when we will plan for the coming year. Everyone is welcome.

## Trustees

This month we started the repair on two rails of the playground wooden fence that had splintered from time and weather. We also trimmed the Holly bush by the front entrance-much to the delight of the family of Cardinals who live there! We have begun prepping for the holidays and will continue to help with that during the Hanging of the Greens and the rest of the month.

# Youth News



## The Merry Mix-Up Christmas Pageant

"The Merry Mix-Up Christmas Pageant" begins rehearsals during the Sunday School portion of worship Nov.30th, Dec.7th & 14th with a dress rehearsal on Saturday, Dec 20th— time tbd. All youth from Pre-K to Senior High are encouraged to participate. Please reach out to Tara Lowry at [taralowry96@gmail.com](mailto:taralowry96@gmail.com) if interested.



## Advent Storytelling

All children of God no matter their age are invited to come together for Advent Storytelling on Wednesday, December 17th. Starting at 6 pm in the Sanctuary, all are welcome to take turns reading Christmas books aloud by the light of the Christmas tree. Afterwards we will enjoy pizza, cookies, and hot chocolate in Fellowship Hall. Come share the Christmas Spirit! No RSVP required.

## Youth Christmas Party!!!



There is no Christmas Party like an Ivy Youth Christmas Party. Youth from kindergarten to 12th grade are invited to come play games, watch Christmas movies, and tasty Christmas treats. Linda and Steve Lowry have graciously offered to host the Youth Christmas Party at their home in the Creve Coeur area. The Youth Christmas Party will be on Tuesday, December 30th at 6 pm.



## Youth Lock-In

**Have you ever wondered what it's like to spend the night at Ivy Chapel?**

Well, for our youth in 4th grade and up, they are about to find out!!! The Youth Lock-In will be from 6 pm on Friday, January 23rd to 10 am on Saturday, January 24th. There will be food, there will be movies, there will be shenanigans! Dinner and breakfast will be provided, but please be sure to bring a sleeping bag, blanket, and pillow, as everyone will be sleeping on the floor (my old lady back can already imagine what that will be like). Please let Tara Lowry know if you plan on attending this amazing event.

For more information regarding any of the Youth events, please contact Tara at [taralowry96@gmail.com](mailto:taralowry96@gmail.com) or 314-973-6284.

# Worship In December!

Advent & Christmas Worship "Come to Us, Abide with Us"

Join us each week as we explore this Advent theme and how we can invite Jesus and God to "Come to Us, Abide with Us".

Sunday, November 30, 10am "Transform Our **Hope**"

Sunday, December 7, 10am "Empower Our **Peace**"

Sunday, December 14, 10am "Awaken Our **Joy**"

Sunday, December 21, 10am "Expand Our **Love**"

Wednesday, December 24, 5pm "**Emmanuel: God with Us**"

Sunday, December 28m 10am "**Abide with Us**"



## Special Worship Happenings:

Sunday, November 30, 10am —

Hanging of the Greens during worship

Congregational Meeting 11:30am

Fellowship afterwards

Sunday, December 21, 10am —

**The Merry Mix-Up Christmas Pageant** during worship

Special fellowship after worship

Wednesday, December 24, 5pm Christmas Eve

Worship will feature stories of the birth of Christ

through scripture lessons and Christmas Carols ending with singing "Silent Night" sung by candlelight

Sunday, December 28m 10am —

We sing our favorite Christmas Carols in worship



# Happy Birthday to ...



2 Christine James  
8 Michael Winship  
10 Jan Wirtz  
12 Jane Farrell

13 Valerie Waterman  
16 Emily Pfau  
18 Gary Lindhorst  
19 Audrey Farrell

27 David Knieriem &  
Frank Pfau  
28 Catrina Lowry  
31 Jacob Knieriem

## Serving God's People-December Schedules

### Liturgists

7 Dec	John Weiland
14 Dec	Jim French
21 Dec	Julie McAlister
24 Dec	Ann Molyneaux <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>
28 Dec	Kathryn Kuntzman
4 Jan 2026	JoAnn Moody

### Greeter/Ushers

7 Dec	Dottie Foster and Gail Thoele <b>communion preparer Valerie Waterman</b>
14 Dec	Frank Purviance and John Weiland
21 Dec	Kathryn Kuntzman and Jack Molyneaux
24 Dec	Kay and Earl Kreder <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>
28 Dec	Julie McAlister and Dave Mentzel
4 Jan	Donna Grote and Jan Wirtz <b>communion preparer Gail Thoele</b>



### CARE CORPS

- DEC — Debbie Glenn 314-954-2286 and Evelyn Stecher 636-536-6542
- JAN — Gail Thoele 314-576-0091

### 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 or 314-591-0057 as well as the office. **THANK YOU!**

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](http://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](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>30 1ST S OF ADVENT prpl</b> <b>HANGING OF THE GREENS</b> 10am Worship/LS	<b>1</b> TKD 5:30-6:30pm	<b>2</b> AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	<b>3</b> TKD 5:30-6:30pm	<b>4</b> AA (Ladies #744) 10am TKD 6-7pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> AA 10:30am #350
<b>7 2ND S OF ADVENT prpl</b> <b>10am Worship</b>  Yoga 4pm AA 6pm YR	<b>8</b> TKD 5:30-6:30pm  <b>Council Mtg 7pm</b>	<b>9</b> AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349 TKD 5:30-6:30pm  Deacons-7pm Zoom	<b>10</b> TKD 5:30-6:30pm	<b>11</b> AA (Ladies #744) 10am TKD 6-7pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> AA 10:30am #350
<b>14 3RD S OF ADVENT prpl</b> <b>10am Worship/</b>  Yoga 4pm AA 6pm YR	<b>15</b> TKD 5:30-6:30pm  <b>The Ivy Vine Articles DUE</b>	<b>16</b> AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	<b>17</b> TKD 5:30-6:30pm  <b>Men's Luncheon 11:30am-The Shack</b>  <b>ADVENT STORYTELLING 6pm</b>	<b>18</b> AA (Ladies #744) 10am TKD 6-7pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> AA 10:30am #350
<b>21 4TH S OF ADVENT prpl</b> <b>10am Worship</b> <b>"The Merry Mix-Up Christmas Pageant"</b>  Yoga 4pm AA 6pm YR	<b>22</b> TKD 5:30-6:30pm	<b>23</b> AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	<b>24</b> TKD 5:30-6:30pm  <b>Christmas Eve Worship 5pm</b>	<b>25</b> AA (Ladies #744) 10am TKD 6-7pm  <b>Christmas Day Private Event 12p</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> AA 10:30am #3
<b>28 1st S after Christmas Day</b> <b>10am Worship</b>  Yoga 4pm AA 6pm YR	<b>29</b> Private Event 12-5  TKD 5:30-6:30pm	<b>30</b> AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	<b>31</b> TKD 5:30-6:30pm  <b>New Year's Eve</b>	January 1 AA (Ladies #744) 10am TKD 6-7pm	January 2  Square Dancing 4-10pm	January 3 AA 10:30am #350

**AHEAD IN JAN: 1<sup>st</sup>** New Year's Day **6<sup>th</sup>**—Epiphany **11<sup>th</sup>**—Church Office Installation **12<sup>th</sup>**—All Boards Meeting **19<sup>th</sup>**—Council Meeting 7pm **20<sup>th</sup>** Mary & Martha Meets **21<sup>st</sup>**—Men's Lunch 11:30am **25<sup>th</sup>**— Annual Meeting following worship

<b>LS=THE LORD'S SUPPER</b> <b>KYP=KEEPING YOU POSTED</b> <b>M&amp;M GRP=MARY AND MARTHA WOMEN'S GROUP</b>		<b>FH = Fellowship Hall</b> <b>EMMP=Eric Moody Memorial Pavilion</b> <b>SY=SANCTUARY</b>		<b>AA=Alcoholics Anonymous</b> <b>JRWP=JUNIPER ROOT WOODLAND PRESCHOOL</b> <b>TKD= INERTIA MARTIAL ARTS</b>	
	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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