



The Ivy Vine

January 2026



Rev. Dr. Carol Trissell

Happy New Year!



Happy New Year! I don't know about you, but I gave up making new year's resolutions many years ago. They just didn't work for me. Instead I have adopted a spiritual approach to enter the new year with an open heart. I surrender my will and seek to hear what God is calling me to let go of or to take up.

This mirrors the process we are in during the interim transition. We as a church are called to let go of the past. We seek to resolve any issues still present, even if not on the surface. We release all the good and all the not-so-good to God and start afresh. And, yes, I know it's not easy. However, we can start the process of releasing these things which hold us back from all God has for us.

One of the things that needs to be released to God: the isolation and fear of the COVID years. I have heard so many times, "well, before COVID, we did..." Now is the time to reflect upon what we gave up that needs to be resurrected in a new way. Worship elements such as passing of the peace have returned. Bringing forward our offerings & pledges for a prayer of dedication will be returning in the Epiphany season. As warmer temperatures return, the deacons and I will discuss how we distribute communion in a manner that is safe, but more appropriate to today.

The Interim Transition Team will be conducting surveys about the ministries of Ivy: what do we need to release; what do we need to take up; what do we need to modify. They will also be leading surveys about the qualities, skills, experience, and spiritual gifts we will seek in a settled pastor. Those surveys will be turned over to the Pastoral Search Committee when formed.

(Continued on pg. 2)

We as a congregation will spend time envisioning the future – dreaming God’s dream for Ivy. We will discuss “who are we?”, “who are we becoming?”, “what are our values?” The answers to those questions will come from the Spirit moving among us all. These are also vital information for the Pastoral Search Committee. We need the person whom God is calling to lead, guide, and empower us to fulfill God’s dream.

There are many things we will discern together about our future. The most important element now is to walk through this time in step with the Spirit. My prayer for Ivy Chapel in the year to come is found in Philippians 3:12-14. The church in Philippi was beloved to the Apostle Paul as you are to me.

“Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal,
but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.
Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it.

But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,
I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which
God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

Scripture & Worship

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

SEASON OF EPIPHANY

6 Jan 2026, Epiphany of the Lord Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7; 10-14, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12

11 Jan 2026, Baptism of Christ, First Sun after Epiphany: Isaiah 42:1-9, Ps 29, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17

18 Jan 2026, Second Sun after Epiphany: Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-11, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42

25 Jan 2026, Third Sun after Epiphany: Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27:1; 4-9, 1 Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-23

1 Feb 2026, Fourth Sun after Epiphany: Micah 6:1-8, Psalm 15, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Matthew 5:1-12

All of the scripture we use for worship can be found through the website address listed below to the Vanderbilt University library's lectionary collection.

www.lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

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 2nd and 3rd Sundays in January, February and March. 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:

-  All who were involved in the helping of the Hanging of the Greens prep
-  Dottie Foster for sharing the history of Chrismons and Advent
-  All of the youth who are lighting the candles weekly, especially this month and the Advent candles
-  Rich Heend and his colleague Beth Bennet for developing website options for Ivy Chapel to move into the next digital chapter for the church

Ahead in January

Un-hanging of the Greens

Deacons and Trustees
need YOUR help!

Please join us Sunday, January 4, 2026 after worship 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 4th.

Year-End Reporting

2025 Year-End Reporting for Officers, Boards, and Committees are requested to be submitted to Kara White no later than Jan. 9th, to be included in the Annual Report.

Thank you!

All Boards Meeting

Sunday January 11th
at 11:30 following fellowship.

This meeting will be in-person and all members of Council, Boards, and Committees are requested to participate.

Our monthly Council Meeting will be conducted on Monday January 12th at 7:00 PM.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday January 25th
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.

Christian Action

Thank You Ivy Chapel!



Every Child's Hope received Ivy's generous contributions of gift cards and check totaling \$790! That helps provide a gift for 32 children this Christmas!



The special food gathering for Isaiah58 before Thanksgiving was delivered and much appreciated by all



Buy-a-Bird

Thank you for your generous donations of \$325 to help the families of Isaiah58 celebrate Christmas this year with holiday groceries and gift cards.

Trustees

Winter is here! The parking lot had to be cleared of snow and salted in late November and again in December. We will be monitoring the weather to keep the church entryway safe for everyone. Despite the snow, the Hanging of the Greens was completed on schedule. The US and Christian flags have been replaced and fly over the front yard of the church.

Mary & Martha Women's Group

The Mary & Martha Group will meet on Tue., Jan. 20th at 1pm, to plan for the coming year. Everyone is welcome to come.

Youth News



Youth Overnight 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 or 314-973-6284.

THANK YOU

Advent Storytelling

Many thanks to Tara Lowry who lead Advent Storytelling!

Thank you to our puppeteers, our readers and support from Steve and Linda Lowry. It was a fun and festive evening!!

The Merry Mix-up Christmas Pageant

A special thank you to all of the wonderful people who made the Christmas pageant, "The Merry Mix-up Pageant" happen,

it couldn't have happened without everyone's help below.

Linda Lowry, Jo Ann Moody, Valerie Waterman, Bob Meinz, Don Wolff, Frank Purviance, Kara White, and the parents for supporting and transporting the youth!

The Ivy youth for their outstanding performances and willingness to be flexible with casting changes!

And especially Tara Lowry for having vision, writing the script , and directing the cast!!

Thank You Ivy Chapel!

Thank you so much for your generous gift for Christmas! It was an unexpected blessing for me and my family. You continue to bless and amaze me with your generosity of talents, time, and financial resources. We are richly blessed at Ivy Chapel with caring, dedicated people.

Thank you! Carol

Thank you Ivy Chapel for your Christmas gift. Blessings to all this new year. Thank you-
Alondra Ramirez

Thank you Ivy for your generous gift for the holidays, I am so lucky and blessed to be here. Thank you especially for your continued support and faith in me this year.
Thank you! Kara

Thank you Ivy Chapel UCC for your Christmas gift. I appreciate your support and generosity throughout the year.

Thank you,
Bob Meinz

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

Epiphany Word Search

Bethlehem
wisemen
epiphany
journey
worship
Herrod
camel
Jesus
myrrh
king
magi
east
gold
star

Happy Birthday to ...



17 Tara Lowry
20 Beth Noonan
Janet Wilking
29 Debbie Glenn
Alexander Wilking



Happy Anniversary



Michael and Donna Grote
1/15/1971
Pastor Carol and Bonnie
1/18/1997



Serving God's People-January Schedules

Liturgists



4 Jan	JoAnn Moody
11 Jan	John Weiland
18 Jan	Linda Lowry
25 Jan	Jim French
1 Feb	Julie McAlister

Greeter/Ushers

Hello
my name is

4 Jan	Donna Grote and Jan Wirtz communion preparer Gail Thoele
11 Jan	Dottie Foster and Gail Thoele
18 Jan	Frank Purviance and John Weiland
25 Jan	Kathryn Kuntzman and Jack Molyneaux
1 Feb	Kay and Earl Kreder communion preparer Jan Wirtz

CARE CORPS



➤JAN —Gail Thoele 314-576-0091 —LEADER
Dottie Foster 314-878-4286 ➤FEB —Linda Lowry 314-703-2776—LEADER
Donna Grote 314-304-6876

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/>



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 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm Office Closed	2 Square dancing -5pm	3
4 2nd Sat Christmas wth 10am Worship /† LS Church Officer Installation Un-Hanging of the Greens-11am Confirmation Class 11:30 AA 6pm YR	5 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	6 Epiphany AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349 Deacons-7pm Zoom	7 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	8 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm	9 Square dancing 3:30-5:30pm 7-9pm Annual Reports Due	10 AA 10:30am #350
11 Baptism of Our Lord 10am Worship, Fellowship 11am All Boards Meeting after Fellowship AA 6pm YR	12 TKD 5:30-6:30pm Council Mtg 7pm	13 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349	14 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	15 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm The Ivy Vine Articles DUE	16	17 AA 10:30am #350
18 2 nd Sat Epiphany Gn 10am Worship Fellowship 11am Confirmation Class & FAITH101 at 11:30 AA 6pm YR	19 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	20 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349 Mary & Martha Wms Grp 1pm	21 TKD 5:30-6:30pm Men's Luncheon 11:30am Hunan Empress 164 Four Seas. Shpg Cntr,	22 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm	23 Youth Lock-in Starts 6 pm	24 AA 10:30am #350 Youth Lock-in Ends 10am
25 3 rd Sat Epiphany Gn 10am Worship; Annual Meeting 11am AA 6pm YR	26 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	27 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349	28 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	29 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm	30	31 AA 10:30am #350

AHEAD IN FEB: 3rd Deacons 7pm 9th—Council Meeting 7pm 11th Men's Luncheon 11:30am
14th-Valentine's Day 16th-President's Day 17th-Mary & Martha Meets 18th-Ash Wednesday

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

Ivy Chapel UCC
620 North Woods Mill Road
Chesterfield, MO 63017
ivychapel@ivychapel.org
314-434-4991
ivychapel@ivychapel.org
facebook.com/IvyChapel
Instagram.com/ivychapel/

