



The Ivy Vine

February
2026



Rev. Dr. Carol Trissell

To Infinity and Beyond!

As I am writing this article today, St. Louis is preparing for a cold and snowy weekend. Liturgically, we are moving through the season of Epiphany quickly. Ash Wednesday will usher in the Lenten season on February 18. Can you believe Easter Sunday is only 9 weeks away? It doesn't seem possible.

Ivy Chapel is moving through the interim process quickly as well. The Interim Transition Team (ITT) has created two surveys to share with the members and friends of Ivy Chapel. The first survey is crafted to gather feedback about our current ministries and programs. This survey will be handed out during coffee fellowship on February 8 to be completed anonymously. It will also be available online for those who are unable to attend in person.

On February 15, the ITT will conduct a second survey gathering your input on our next settled pastor. It also will be distributed during coffee fellowship time and available online. All this information will be tabulated and then shared with the Pastoral Search Team. Our Church Council is in dialogue about potential members for that team. We hope to post the Settled Pastor position around Easter time.

In March, we as a congregation will begin to share our dreams for the future of Ivy Chapel. We will dialogue about who we are now. We will talk about the ministries and programs where we see the Spirit of God moving. We will dream about what we envision for Ivy Chapel in the future. The answers to those questions and the feedback from the surveys will assist the Pastoral Search Team in reviewing applicants.

Ivy Chapel is so very blessed with faithful leadership and with our generous community members. We have so much to offer to the person God will lead to accept the call to be

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our Pastor. While a family size congregation, we are active in ministry to our community and beyond. We are an Open and Affirming congregation who welcomes all people. We are financially healthy. Our facilities are well maintained by the Trustees and are debt free.

Please join me in praying for the person who will come to lead us into God's future. While we are waiting for that person to arrive, I will be blessed to share this interim time with you all. Let's dream God's dream for Ivy Chapel together and move forward in faith to grasp all that God has for us and will do through us. May Ivy Chapel continue to shine the Light of Christ so others may come to know the hope, peace, joy, and love we have found!

January Council Lifted Up:



Ivy's youth, Tara Lowry and Jo Ann Moody for their roles in making this year's Christmas Pageant a success!



Kara White for helping with the "Un-hanging of the Greens" and organizing Ivy's Christmas and holiday "stuff".



Council lifted up Jack and Ann Molyneaux in our prayers.

Scripture & Worship

1 Feb 2026, Fourth Sun after Epiphany: Isaiah 9:1-4, Matthew 4:12-23

8 Feb 2026, Fifth Sun after Epiphany: Micah 6:1-8, Matthew 5:1-12

15 Feb 2026, Transfiguration Sun: Exodus 24:12-18, Matthew 17:1-9

18 Feb 2026, Ash Wednesday: Psalm 51:1-17, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

22 Feb 2026, First Sun in Lent: Psalm 32, Matthew 4:1-11

1 Mar 2026, Second Sun in Lent: Psalm 121, John 3:1-17

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 please click the link titled “Our Pastor Search” .

SEARCH UPDATE:

The Interim Transition Team (ITT) 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

The ITT will be hosting coffee time on Feb. 8th and 15th in Fellowship Hall directly after worship. We will be surveying the congregation as we move forward.

Feb 8th survey- “Our Ministries”

This survey will focus on the current ministries and programs.

Feb 15th survey- “Our Settled Pastor”

This survey will concentrate on the qualities desired in a Settled Pastor for Ivy.

The surveys will be available online after each session
if you are unable to make it in person.
We look forward to seeing you there!

Council News

Trustees

Youth

Winter is here! The parking lot had to be cleared of snow and salted last weekend due to the winter storm.

We will be monitoring the weather to keep the church entryway safe for everyone. Several bulbs were also replaced in the sanctuary as well as the Narthex and coat closet helping to brighten the inside of our church on these dreary winter days.

We are so excited to announce that Tara Lowry has been called to help lead our Youth this year as Ivy Chapel's new Youth Ministry Coordinator.

She began formally serving with the youth this past October, which included helping to plan and lead [FAITH 101](#), as well as various youth activities; Advent Storytelling, the Christmas Pageant, holiday parties and an overnight lock-in. We are eager to see where this next step will take Tara and the Ivy Youth in their journeys with God.

Mary^{and}Martha Wmns Grp

The Mary and Martha Women's Group met on Jan. 20th and made plans for the coming year. We began with a devotion from Jan Wirtz who played us a Pentatonix version of Hallelujah Song based on Leonard Cohen's poem. It is about the flaws and failures of the human condition with rays of light coming through. The Annual Report was reviewed.

Looking Ahead:

Feb. 17th - A pre-Lenten devotion with Pastor Carol Trissell

Mar. 17- Continue our efforts to clean the kitchen

Mar. 29- Palm Sunday- Prepare an Easter Basket for Emmaus Seven Pines residents.

April – Organize a church-wide collection of standard twin sheets for Lydia's House. If you might like to contribute perhaps you could find a sale on them between now and then. Dillard's Discount Store in Mid Rivers Mall was suggested as a place that has deep discounts. Lydia's House has only twin beds.

April/May- We hope to have Dave Menzel discuss his January trip to Uganda and perhaps have Sarah Heend discuss new books for summer from the Library. No dates have been confirmed.

June-No Meeting

July- Meeting will be 2nd Tue., July 14th to plan for a Salad Luncheon which is scheduled for Sun., July 19th.

Aug.- Dessert for a Dollar will be Sun. Aug. 23rd.

We assigned members to the Seven Pines Residents for providing a gift on their birthdays. We wrote some cards to member who are ill or shut-in.

Youth News



Youth Overnight Lock-In

Due to inclement weather, the January lock-in has been rescheduled.

We are looking to reschedule during a Friday in March. More details to come.



The **Souper Bowl of Caring** will be held this year on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 8th. The Ivy Youth will again be collecting canned and nonperishable goods for donation to a local charity. For more information please visit tacklehunger.org.

FAITH 101 and Confirmation Class

Due to inclement weather in January, **both** Faith 101 and Confirmation will have class after church at 11:30 am on February 8th and February 15th. Snacks will be provided for participating youth.



Easter Cookie Decorating



Aren't you tired of chocolate Easter bunnies and sugary Peeps that look so adorable and yet are never enough for your sweet tooth? Never fear, Easter cookies are here! The youth will be selling Easter cookies this year. They are accepting Easter cookie orders during the month of March after each church service in the Narthex. Then on April 4th at 10 am all youth are invited to decorate the Easter cookies at Ivy Chapel. Cookie orders will then be available for pick up on Easter Sunday.



'Youth Sunday' Planning

What's that in the distance?
Is it a bird?
Is it a plane?

No! It's Youth Sunday!

In preparation for Youth Sunday in May, starting February 1st the older youth will have Sunday School every 1st and 2nd Sunday to plan Youth Sunday. Younger youth are invited to join these planning classes on the second Sunday of each month, as they will have standard Sunday School on the first Sunday of each month.

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

Happy Birthday to ...



2 Isabella Del Carmen
3 Carol Faust
14 Diann Sheahan

16 Paul Farrell
20 Joe Del Carmen
23 Kate Mc Neal
27 Taylor Cox



Serving God's People-February Schedules

Liturgists



1 Feb	Julie McAlister
8 Feb	Ann Molyneaux
15 Feb	Kathryn Kuntzman ASH WEDNESDAY
18 Feb	JoAnn Moody
22 Feb	John Weiland

Greeter/Ushers

Hello
my name is

1 Feb	Kay and Earl Kreder communion preparer Jan Wirtz
8 Feb	Donna Grote and Jan Wirtz
15 Feb	Julie McAlister and Dave Mentzel
18 Feb	Dottie Foster and Gail Thoele ASH WEDNESDAY
22 Feb	Frank Purviance and John Weiland

CARE CORPS



➤ FEB — Linda Lowry 314-703-2776—LEADER
Donna Grote 314-304-6876

➤ MAR — Valerie Waterman 636-391-9886—LEADER
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 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

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 4th S aft Epiphany Grn 10am Worship / ⚔ LS KY&M 4pm AA 6pm YR	2 TKD 5:30-6:30pm Groundhog's Day 	3 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349 KD 5:30-6:30pm Deacons-7pm Zoom	4 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	5 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm	6	7 AA 10:30am #350 Privat Event 3-10pm
8 5th S aft Epiphany Grn 10am Worship KY&M 4pm AA 6pm YR	9 TKD 5:30-6:30pm Council Mtg 7pm	10 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349 KD 5:30-6:30pm	11 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	12 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm The Ivy Vine Articles DUE	13 Square dancing 3:30-5:30pm 7-9pm	14 AA 10:30am #350 
15 6th S aft Epiphany Grn 10am Worship KY&M 4pm AA 6pm YR	16 TKD 5:30-6:30pm President's Day Office Closed	17 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349 KD 5:30-6:30pm Mary & Martha Wms Grp 1pm	18 TKD 5:30-6:30pm Men's Luncheon 11:30am- Duffy's Pub and Grill 1024 Schnucks Woods Mill Plaza ASH WEDNESDAY Worship 2pm	19 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm	20	21 AA 10:30am #350 Council Retreat 9am-noon Private Rental 3-9 FH
22 1st S in Lent prpl 10am Worship KY&M 4pm AA 6pm YR	23 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	24 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349 KD 5:30-6:30pm	25 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	26 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm	27	28 AA 10:30am #350

AHEAD IN MAR: 3rd Deacons 7pm **8th DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS** Hwy Clean-up after worship **9th**—
 Council Meeting 7pm **17th**—Mary & Martha Meets **18th**—Men's Luncheon 11:30am **29th**—**Palm Sunday Worship**

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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