



The Ivy Vine

2024

March

Open and Affirming!



Dan Wilson, Pastor
pastordan@ivychapel.org

Praise God! The congregation of Ivy Chapel United Church of Christ has taken a courageous, faithful action! At our Sunday, January 28th Annual Meeting, through the inspiration, help and guidance of the Spirit of God, our faith community chose to make a commitment to living as an *Opening and Affirming* Congregation! During this meeting, our congregation voted to approve adoption of the *Ivy Chapel United Church of Christ Open and Affirming Covenant*. What a boldly compassionate gesture!

The next step in the UCC process was to submit a request for certification to the UCC Open and Affirming (ONA) Coalition. This request was submitted on January 30th. ONA Coalition Executive Director Katrina Roseboro-Marsh informed us on February 7th that Ivy Chapel UCC has been certified as an ***Open and Affirming Congregation***. "Greetings... It is an honor and a privilege to inform you that Ivy Chapel United Church of Christ has been granted certification as an *Open and Affirming* Congregation of the UCC!" wrote the Rev. Dr. Katrina Roseboro-Marsh.

For Fellowship Time following worship at Ivy Chapel UCC on Sunday, February 18th, our hosts not only provided us with delicious refreshments to enjoy, they also set the table with symbolic, meaningful napkins picturing an archway with an open door and the caption: "*There's a warm and friendly welcome here.*"

Together, we celebrate this new congregational commitment as an act of faith taken in the Spirit of Christ. We are familiar with Jesus moving from place to place throughout his ministry. The Gospel of Mark portrays one unique incident when Jesus was returning from the northern region of Phoenicia, going back towards the Sea of Galilee by way of the region of Decapolis. A deaf man with a speech impediment was brought to Jesus, and the people who brought him asked Jesus to lay hands on the man. Jesus took the deaf man away from the crowd. Jesus put his fingers in the man's ears, and then he touched the man's tongue. Looking up, with a deep sigh, Jesus exclaimed, "***Ephphatha!***"

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This is Aramaic meaning, **“Be opened!”** The man’s ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he began to speak clearly. This is what Jesus does. Jesus heals. Jesus **opens**. Our Savior Jesus Christ models for us a lifestyle that is *opening and affirming*; and so, seeking to follow Christ, Ivy Chapel UCC joyously covenants with God to strive towards living a communal life which is *open and affirming* in every regard!

The closing line of each verse in the hymn Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above (Johann J. Schutz, Tr. by Frances E. Cox) springs to mind: *“To God all praise and glory!”*

May all God’s people celebrate and live by our newly adopted *Ivy Chapel United Church of Christ Open and Affirming Covenant*.

Friends in Christ, I am excited to be sharing with you the remaining, transformative days of this Holy Season of Lent. On the final day of this month of March, you and I will rejoice with God’s Church everywhere, celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. In worship on Sunday, March 31st, may God’s sacred, Easter miracle come alive within your soul!

With the dawning of each Easter morn, God’s Church discovers treasured joys anew. The massive tombstone has been moved aside! The door is open! The tomb is empty!
Christ is alive! Alleluia!

On the way towards Resurrection Day,
Pastor Dan



One Great Hour of Sharing

Ivy Chapel UCC will be extending a special offering appeal this month. The 2024 **OGHS** Theme **“It’s Time to Share the LIGHT!”** is based on the scripture, “You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world” (Matthew 5:14) To learn about the life-giving work of **One Great Hour of Sharing**, please consult:

[UCC OGHS Resources](#)

OR



During worship on **Sunday, March 10th**, Ivy Chapel UCC will invite gifts to the 2024 **OGHS** offering. Thank you for **Sharing God’s LIGHT!**

Ivy Chapel United Church of Christ

Open and Affirming Covenant

Ivy Chapel United Church of Christ celebrates God's boundless and unconditional love by intentionally welcoming and celebrating all of God's people. We commit ourselves to:

- addressing issues of faith openly and honestly
- nourishing the Spirit of God within all
- creating a caring community that celebrates human diversity
- respecting the faithfulness and the wisdom of other faith traditions

working with all others to create a just world for all

Called by God to love one another, Ivy Chapel United Church of Christ commits to being an Open and Affirming community of faith. We invite everyone into full participation in the life and leadership of this congregation, celebrating that each unique human being is a child of God. We love and affirm every person of any age, race, gender, ethnicity, nationality, faith tradition, physical ability, mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. We joyfully invite everyone to join in this ministry of ongoing commitment to live as an actively Open and Affirming community of God.

We celebrate our diversity as we journey in faith together.

January 28, 2024





Thank you for participating in Ivy Chapel UCC's special appeal inviting Lenten Extra Mile Offering Gifts.

These offering gifts will be given to Caring for Kids, Inc. to support their life-changing work on behalf of children.

Bet Stapleton, Program Manager at Caring for Kids, Inc., will join us and will offer a **Mission Moment** during worship on Sunday, March 17th.

We are looking forward to Bet Stapleton's visit and message.

Please join us to learn more about this wonderful and important mission and the impact it has in our area.

Join us for Holy Week

Sun.- March 24th— Palm Sunday Worship 10 am

Fri. - March 29th— Good Friday Worship 1 pm

Sun.—Mar. 31st— Easter Sunday Worship 10 am



WITH GOD'S BLESSINGS

Happy Birthday to...



March

3 Jake Del Carmen
12 Linda Ledbetter & Wes Wieser

14 Kaillen Cox
15 Katie Amsler
22 Wade Wieser
23 Alex Glenn & Deborah Washburn

24 Sue Lindhorst & Bruce Wilking
29 Doris De Fer
30 Jack Molyneaux



Happy

Anniversary to...



For March

3/4/2000 Bob and Doris De Fer
3/5/2011 Elizabeth and Scott Schurwan
3/27/1982 Mark and Nancy Gerdes

Trustees

This winter, the Trustees have been busy keeping the parking lot clear of gumballs and have had little snow to deal with. As the weather warms up, we plan to tackle outdoor projects including:

- Fixing drainage at Pavilion,
- Replacing sprinkler pipe (steps to sign)
- Sealing and restriping parking lot (contractor)

We are scheduled for the clean-up of our mile of Woods Mill Road on Sunday, March 3rd— after worship, weather permitting.

Scripture Worship

3 Mar 2024, Third Sunday in Lent: Exodus 20:1-17, Psalm 19, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, John 2:13-22

10 Mar 2024, Fourth Sunday in Lent: Numbers 21:4-9, Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22, Ephesians 2:1-10, John 3:14-21

17 Mar 2024, Fifth Sunday in Lent: Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16, Hebrews 5:5-10, John 12:20-33

24 Mar 2024, Sixth Sunday in Lent, Palm Sunday:

Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16, Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

29 Mar 2024, Good Friday: Isaiah 52:13—53:12, Psalm 22, Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9, John 18:1—19:42

SEASON OF EASTER

31 Mar 2024, Resurrection of the Lord—Easter Day:

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43, John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

7 Apr 2024, Second Sunday of Easter: Acts 4:32-35, Psalm 133, 1 John 1:1—2:2, John 20:19-31

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

Mark Your Calendar!

Our Next Church BLOOD DRIVE

Ivy Chapel UCC will host an Impact Life Blood Drive **4:00 pm to 7:30 pm Thursday, May 9.** Blood Donations are still in high demand and **YOUR** Blood Donation is much needed.

We would like to make everyone aware of when Ivy will host our next Blood Drive to encourage donors to plan accordingly so that you will be eligible to donate on **May 9.**

Thank you for giving the Gift of Life!



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

Serving God's People

Greeter/Ushers

3 Mar	Don Wolff and John Weiland communion server Valerie Waterman
10 Mar	Donna Grote and Jan Wirtz — Daylight Saving Time Begins
17 Mar	Kay and Earl Kreder
24 Mar	Kathryn Kuntzman and Jack Molyneaux Palm Sunday
29 Mar	Don Wolff (Usher) Good Friday
31 Mar	Don Wolff and John Weiland Easter
7 Apr	Dottie Foster and Gail Thoele communion server Sue Wilson

March Schedules

Liturgists

10 Mar	John Weiland
17 Mar	-----
24 Mar	Jim French
31 Mar	Ann Molyneaux
7 Apr	Rod Hertenstein

CARE CORPS

- MAR Sue Wilson 314-324-3465
- APR Julie Mc Allister 314-576-4946

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	2 AA 10:30am #350 Chili Supper 4:30-7pm
3 3rd S in Lent prpl 10am Worship/† LS HWY CLEAN-UP AFTER WORSHIP AA 6pm YR	4 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	5 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349	6 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	7 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm	8 Square dancing 3:30-5:30pm 7-9pm	9 AA 10:30am #350
10 4th S in Lent prpl Spring/Daylight Svg Time Begins 10am Worship OGHS Offering AA 6pm YR	11 TKD 5:30-6:30pm Council Mtg 7pm	12 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349 Deacons-7pm Zoom	13 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	14 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm	15 The Ivy Vine Articles DUE	16 AA 10:30am #350
17 5th S in Lent prpl 10am Worship AA 6pm YR	18 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	19 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349 Mary & Martha Wms Grp 1pm	20 TKD 5:30-6:30pm Men's Luncheon 11:30am Stackhouse 13419 Olive Blvd	21 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm	22	23 AA 10:30am #350
24 Palm Sunday red 10am Worship AA 6pm YR	25 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	26 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349	27 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	28 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm Maundy Thursday	29 Good Friday Worship @1 pm	30 AA 10:30am #350
31 Easter wht 10am Worship AA 6pm Y	April 1 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	April 2 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349	April 3 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	April 4 AA (Ladies #744) 9:30-11am TKD 6-7pm	April 5	April 6 AA 10:30am #350

**AHEAD IN APR: 1st– EASTER MONDAY 8th–Council Meeting 16th Mary & Martha Women's Grp
17th Men's Lunch 11:30am @ Harpos 21st-Children's Worship and DESSERT for \$1 after 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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Dan Wilson, Pastor