



# The Ivy Vine

2024

July

## Gift of God



Dan Wilson, Pastor  
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God is our Savior. God gives salvation.

Every once in a while, you and I are blessed to behold someone remark, “*What a gift of God!*” These moments of spontaneous gratitude can seem quite few and far between. Nevertheless, moments do arise when such an exclamation is voiced. When this happens, it can give us chills.

Our faith is strong on acknowledging God’s gifts. In practice, though, our day-to-day lives may not be.

Here’s a brief prayer of William O’Malley, which is found in his spiritual guidebook [More Daily Prayers for Busy People](#):

*God, my friend,  
help me see the difference  
between “seems” and “is.”  
Amen.*

Together, let’s pause. Take a deep breath. Attempt to summarize our faith in basic terms. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the life story of Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus is the Son of God. The Gospel is God’s message of joy! Frequently, it is referred to as “the Good News.” The Gospel is the extravagant message that, as Jesus Christ, God *gives* every human being eternal gifts of love and salvation! No one deserves or earns these gifts. They are simply *given* by God to all people. Regrettably, it is evident that many people, including a large contingent of “self-proclaimed Christians,” lack clear perspective on this truth: God *gives* gifts.

I feel that when people try to pressure other people with questions, such as, “Are you saved?” or “Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior?”; this often reveals the questioner’s failure to appreciate the genuine character of salvation through Christ as a pure *gift of God*.

(Continued on pg. 2)

In the Second Letter to the Church in Corinth, the Apostle Paul writes about “a thorn... in the flesh” which is tormenting him: “Three times I appealed to God about this - that it would leave me; but God said to me, ‘*My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.*’... Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Corinthians 12:8-10) The grace of God always is enough. Trust this promise, my friends. God’s grace is sufficient for you.

God *gives* everyone grace and salvation simply because God desires to *give*. In his Letter to the Romans, the Apostle Paul repeatedly emphasizes salvation through Christ is “the *free gift* of God.” (Romans 5 and 6)

As Jesus commissions the Twelve Disciples and sends them out to do ministry, a significant part of what Jesus commands is, “*Freely* you have received; *freely give.*” (Matthew 10:8)

*All shall be Amen and Alleluia.  
We shall rest and we shall see.  
We shall see and we shall know.  
We shall know and we shall love.  
We shall love and we shall praise.  
Behold our end which is no end.  
Saint Augustine of Hippo (354-430)*

This wonderful *Amen and Alleluia* prayer of Saint Augustine is cited by Archbishop Desmond Tutu in the ‘Adoration’ portion of his 1995 An African Prayer Book. In life, in death, in life beyond death; God loves all humankind! Eternal life, eternal salvation through Christ is a *gift of God*.

All people are blessed, for salvation is *given* to all as the *free gift of God*.

May you and I live with deep gratitude to God for this wondrous *gift!*

*Pastor Dan*



“Therefore, since it is by God’s mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart... For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake... But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that it may be made clear that transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. So we do not lose heart... because we look not to things that are seen but to things that are not seen; for things that are seen are temporary, but things that are not seen are eternal.”

2 Corinthians 4:1, 5, 7, 16, 18

# Ivy 's Generosity Shines!



## *Ivy is 5 for 5!*

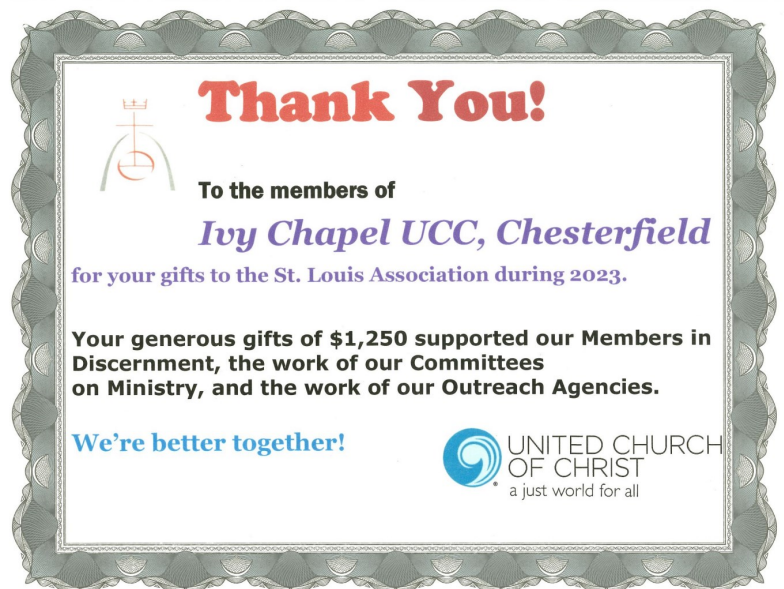


5 for 5 churches fully support Our Church's Wider Mission. They give to OCWM and all four special mission offerings.

- Neighbors in Need**– First Sunday in October– supporting ministries of justice and compassion throughout the US.
- The Christmas Fund**– Fourth Sunday of Advent– providing direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties.
- One Great Hour of Sharing**– Fourth Sunday of Lent – providing humanitarian and development needs in the world.
- Strengthen the Church**– Pentecost–reflects the shared commitment o cooperatively build up the UCC.

Ivy's generosity supports the St. Louis Association and their Committees on Ministry, Members in Discernment and the Outreach Agencies supporting the ministries of:

- Eden Theological Seminary
- Epiphany UCC Community Dinner
- Holy Trinity Food Pantry
- Isaiah 58 Ministries
- Lydia's House
- Revolutions Community Bike Shop,  
First Congregational UCC, Memphis, TN
- Unleashing Potential
- Urban Mission Experience STL



## THANK YOU IVY



# for your continued support and generosity!

# June Council Lifted Up:

- Valerie Waterman, Bob Meinz and Mike Waller for coordinating shared worship music experiences on Sunday mornings.
- The “Grass Guys” - Gary Lindhorst, Earl Kreder, Tom Glenn, Mark Gerdes and Jack Molyneaux — for their dedication to Ivy Chapel’s weekly grounds mowing.
- An “atta girl” to Jo Ann Moody for leading Ivy Chapel’s 60th Anniversary celebration.

## July Council Meeting:

Ivy Chapel UCC By-laws provide for a summer recess of monthly Council meetings, in the month of July. Frank Purviance made a motion to have the next Council meeting in August, rather than July. Don Wolff seconded the motion. Council voted and approved the motion.

## Mary and Martha Wmns Grp

There was no meeting in June.

We will be meeting on July 18<sup>th</sup> in the Multipurpose Room at 1 p.m.

# Trustees

Regular rainfall through mid-June had Trustees continuing with regular grass cutting. Assistance was provided to Jo Ann Moody during her activities preparing for our 60th anniversary celebration.

A new router for the Wi-Fi system was obtained and placed into service for the broadcast of the Sunday services. Trustees paid a visit to Scrap Mart Metal Recycling with a trailer load of aluminum and steel and raised \$79.00.

## Scripture Worship

### 7 July 2024, Seventh Sunday after Pentecost:

2 Samuel 5:1-5 and 9-10, Ezekiel 2:1-5, Psalm 48, Psalm 123, 2 Corinthians 12:2-10, Mark 6:1-13

### 14 July 2024, Eighth Sunday after Pentecost:

2 Samuel 6:1-5 and 12b-19, Amos 7:7-15, Psalm 24, Psalm 85:8-13, Ephesians 1:3-14, Mark 6:14-29

### 21 July 2024, Ninth Sunday after Pentecost:

2 Samuel 7:1-14a, Jeremiah 23:1-6, Psalm 89:20-37, Psalm 23, Ephesians 2:11-22, Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

### 28 July 2024, Tenth Sunday after Pentecost:

2 Samuel 11:1-15, 2 Kings 4:42-44, Psalm 14, Psalm 145:10-18, Ephesians 3:14-21, John 6:1-21

### 4 Aug 2024, Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost:

2 Samuel 11:26—12:13a, Exodus 16:2-4 and 9-15, Psalm 51:1-12, Psalm 78:23-29, Ephesians 4:1-16, John 6:24-35



# CHRISTIAN ACTION

A Giant



to everyone who helped with our May collection for **Every Child's Hope**. We were able to donate 37 pool towels (more than one per child!!!!), 6 pool noodles and six pairs of swim goggles. The items were delivered on May 23rd just in time for the pool opening for summer!



## Mark Your Calendars!

July 21st– Salad Fundraiser after worship

Aug 18th– Rally Day & Highway Clean-up after worship

Aug 25th– Dessert for \$1 after worship



## Connect with Ivy

### Worship with US!

EVERY SUNDAY:  
10am in person and  
streamed live on YouTube

The Lord's Supper:  
first Sunday of the month



[www.ivychapel.org](http://www.ivychapel.org) —>



← [YouTube—  
IvyChapelUnitedChurchofChrist](https://www.youtube.com/IvyChapelUnitedChurchofChrist)

[www.facebook.com/IvyChapel](https://www.facebook.com/IvyChapel) —>



### Our Support Staff

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](mailto:pastordan@ivychapel.org) / 314-580-4564

Office Administrator-Kara White: [ivychapelucc@ivychapel.org](mailto:ivychapelucc@ivychapel.org) / 314-434-4991

Office hours: Monday/Wednesday/Thursday/Friday 9:30AM–2:30PM

Minister of Music– Mike Waller

Custodian– Alondra Ramirez

# WITH GOD'S BLESSINGS

Happy  
Birthday  
to ...

18th- Stephen Lowry

20th- Jim Sheahan

21st- Chris Moody

23rd- Tyler Ray

Elizabeth Schurwan



24th- Jessica Kempa

28th- Bill Pasia

30th- Jack Litzinger

31st- Cole Winship

## Serving God's People

### Liturgists

7 July	Rod Hertenstein
14 July	Julie McAlister
21 July	-----
28 July	Ann Molyneaux
4 Aug	JoAnn Moody

### July Schedules

#### Greeter/Ushers

7 July	Donna Grote and Jan Wirtz communion server Gail Thoele
14 July	Kay and Earl Kreder
21 July	Dottie Foster and Gail Thoele
28 July	Diann and Jim Sheahan
4 Aug	Don Wolff and John Weiland communion server Valerie Waterman

### CARE CORPS

- JUL — Kay Kreder 314-878-5296
- AUG — Kathryn Kuntzman 636-391-8468

### 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 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](http://www.ierschool.org)



**RITENOUR CO-CARE FOOD PANTRY**: Place food and personal care items on **2nd SHELF**. [Rccfoodpantry.org](http://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
						
	<b>1</b> TKD 5:30-6:30pm	<b>2</b> AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349  <b>Office OPEN</b>	<b>3</b> TKD 5:30-6:30pm	<b>4</b> AA (Ladies #744) 10am  Independence Day- Office Closed	<b>5</b>          <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>6</b> AA 10:30am #350
<b>7</b> 7th S aft Pentecost grn <b>10am Worship</b>	<b>8</b> TKD 5:30-6:30pm  <b>NO Council Mtg</b>	<b>9</b> AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349  Deacons-7pm Zoom          <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>10</b> TKD 5:30-6:30pm	<b>11</b> AA (Ladies #744) 10am TKD 6-7pm	<b>12</b>          <b>Square dancing 3:30-5:30pm 7-9pm</b>	<b>13</b> AA 10:30am #350
<b>14</b> 8th S aft Pentecost grn <b>10am Worship</b>	<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  <b>Mary &amp; Martha Wms Grp 1pm</b>          <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>17</b> TKD 5:30-6:30pm  <b>Men's Luncheon 11:30am Talayna's Italian Pizza</b> 68 Four Seasons Shopping Center	<b>18</b> AA (Ladies #744) 10am TKD 6-7pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> AA 10:30am #350
<b>21</b> 9th S aft Pentecost grn <b>10am Worship Salad Fundraiser</b>	<b>22</b> TKD 5:30-6:30pm	<b>23</b> AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349          <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>24</b> TKD 5:30-6:30pm	<b>25</b> AA (Ladies #744) 10am TKD 6-7pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> AA 10:30am #350
<b>28</b> 10th S aft Pentecost grn <b>10am Worship</b>	<b>29</b> TKD 5:30-6:30pm	<b>30</b> AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349          <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>31</b> TKD 5:30-6:30pm	August 1  AA (Ladies #744) 10am TKD 6-7pm	August 2	August 3 AA 10:30am #350

**AHEAD IN AUG: 12th-Council Meeting 17th-Work Day 18th-HWY Clean-Up 20th-Mary & Martha Women's Grp 21st Men's Lunch 11:30am @ Mimi's Cafe 25th-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**