



The Ivy Vine

2025

January

Glory to God



Dan Wilson, Pastor
pastordan@ivy-chapel.org

You are a blessing to me, Ivy Chapel United Church of Christ!

It is a privilege for me to enjoy this Ivy Vine platform of expression, and I genuinely treasure this. As you may imagine, there have been many previous occasions when

I have struggled to put into words the message that I would seek to offer you through the Pastor's Reflection in our monthly newsletter. Now, as I consider what thoughts God is leading me to express in this final Pastor's Reflection, once again, I am struggling. Yet the struggle is worthwhile, for this effort is a labor of love. Here goes!

You will recall that the tune "*Gloria!*" (Umberto Tozzi, 1979) was sung with vigor by St. Louis Blues hockey fans at the conclusion of home game victories down the stretch of the of the 2018-2019 National Hockey League season and playoffs. That was the season when the St. Louis Blues won the Stanley Cup Trophy! The victory song "*Gloria!*" became an instant tradition among fans that year.

There was another time in history, 300 plus years earlier, when renowned composer Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) cultivated a personal habit which was intended to give **God** glory. Bach completed his church compositions by signing them with the letters **S D G** in addition to his personal signature. These three letters are Bach's shorthand for a Latin phrase: "**Soli Deo gloria,**" meaning, "*Glory to God alone.*" Bach placed these three letters at the end of his compositions to make the utmost purpose of his work clear - his music was not to bring glory to the performers or to the conductor (or even to Bach himself, as the composer). Ultimately, the music was crafted for the *glory of God*. For Bach, every note, chord, and page of music points beyond itself, beyond its human creator, to *the* Supreme Creator, who is *God*.

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S D G captures the essence of Paul's words: "So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the *glory of God.*" (1 Corinthians 10:31) For Bach, **S D G** was a method of acknowledging that all of life is an expression of God's glory. Everything can serve to offer God praise and glory.

My personal assertion is that this view surely pertains to my life serving in parish ministry. **Soli Deo gloria!**

Regarding my pastorate serving Ivy Chapel United Church of Christ, in particular, there is so much to say. There is far more than can be expressed in human words. The emotions and the memories which I am feeling these days are beyond words, dear friends. It is said that sometimes less is more. In this regard, may I simply say, "Thank you."

We go back a ways! In the year 1998, God called me to serve this congregation as pastor and teacher. This I have attempted to do. However, I have not served you flawlessly. I have made mistakes along the way. From my heart, I sincerely thank you for the forgiveness and the grace which you have offered me. You have taught me much, and you have led me to grow as a follower of Christ. I thank you for this tremendous blessing!

I celebrate the countless joys which you and I have been blessed to experience while serving God alongside each other over this bountiful stretch of time! My hope is that you and I have taught one another and we have learned from one another. **Soli Deo gloria!** Community of Christ, I give God thanks for you; for my time among you; and for the abundant, giving ministries in which we have participated together. Forever will I be your grateful companion in Christian faith.

Ivy Chapel United Church of Christ, you are a community of God's grace. May you go forward assured of God's presence within you and beyond you. As I conclude this final reflection, I would like to offer you a simple yet enduring message which I pray you will carry with you in your soul forever:
God loves you.

In the grace, mercy and peace of our Savior Jesus Christ,
Pastor Dan

S D G



... My cup runneth over.
Psalm 23:5

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart... Yes, everything is for your sake; so that grace, as it is extended to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the **glory of God!**

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of **glory** beyond all measure, because we look not at things seen, but at *things not seen*; for things seen are temporary, but *things not seen* are eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:1, 15-18

"Epiphany"

by Angela Jackson

I've been old.

I've been poor.

I've been vulnerable.

I've been exploited.

I've been called an angel.

I've studied spiders.

I've lingered in love like a hummingbird outside a window.

I've likened myself to a pigeon, a dove.

I've been duped.

I've been brilliant.

I've been a genie in a bottle.

I've been let out.

I've been put back in.

I am in the dark.

How to get out with love in my mouth?

God saved you by God's grace when you believed.
And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.
Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done,
so none of us can boast about it.

Ephesians 2:8-9 New Living Translation (NLT)

Sing to God a new song; play skillfully on the strings, and shout for joy!
For the word of God is upright, and all God's work is done in faithfulness.
God loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of the steadfast love of God.

Psalm 33:3-5

December Council Lifted Up:



Dottie Foster for her work with the Chrismons and the youth and helping Ivy Chapel celebrate this year's Hanging of the Greens.



Valerie Waterman and Mike Waller for coordinating and leading the multi-generational choir in the Advent anthem at the December 15th worship service.



John Weiland for the many responsibilities he carries (both current and new) as Moderator and his generous gifts of time and talents to Ivy Chapel UCC.

Trustees



The Trustees will continue to be busy with leaf removal well into the New Year. We have contacted our snow removal and salting folks, and they will be activated if we have 2 or more inches of snow. The Dehanging of the Greens will take place early this month and Trustees will also be setting up for Pastor Dan's retirement reception on January 26.

Scripture ^{to} Worship

5 Jan 2025, Second Sunday after Christmas Day:

Jeremiah 31:7-14, Psalm 147:12-20, Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1:[1-9] 10-18

12 Jan 2025, First Sunday after the Epiphany:

Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

19 Jan 2025, Second Sunday after the Epiphany:

Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11

26 Jan 2025, Third Sunday after the Epiphany:

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21

2 Feb 2025, Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany:

Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30

ImpactLife Needs YOU!

A huge thank you to everyone who has donated blood at the ImpactLife blood drives at Ivy Chapel UCC. While speaking with Mandy, our ImpactLife account manager, she shared our history of giving.

Dating back to 2016, our blood drives have collected over **270 pints of blood**.

These donations have impacted more than 1100 lives.

ImpactLife and the families touched by donations from our drives are thankful!!

It is our hope that Ivy Chapel UCC can continue this tradition of giving into the future. A new drive coordinator from Ivy will be needed to work with Mandy.

The time commitment is not huge and is only needed twice a year.

Please contact Sue Wilson at (314) 324-3765 for further information.

The 2025 drives are scheduled for May 8, 2025 from 4-7 PM
and November 6 from 4-7 PM.

Message for Care Corp

One of our congregation's invaluable and cherished ministries is Ivy **Care Corps**. This is a group of volunteer church members who offer to be leaders one month at a time throughout the year. Care Corps Leaders work with our pastor to provide care to members of the Ivy congregation during exceptional times in their lives.

The 2025 Care Corps Leaders Schedule is already set. With Pastor Dan retiring soon, Care Corps Leaders will need to assume enhanced responsibility. Our Board of Deacons is asking each monthly leader to be pro-active in every way possible. Importantly, this will include communicating with Ivy Office Administrator Kara White regarding on-going pastoral care concerns, and this will involve each leader being highly intentional about passing along full information to the Care Corps Leader designated to succeed you during the following month to provide a well-informed transition. Thank you for volunteering to serve in this precious ministry of care and compassion.

Any questions, please contact Kara at 314-434-4991.

THANK YOU IVY CHAPEL!!



Thank you Ivy for your generous donations of 18 gift cards and 25 rolls of wrapping paper!!!

The holiday season can be a difficult time of the year for the young people in our care, as well as their families. It is through your support, though, that ECH can help these children experience joy, love and support during the season. Together, we are able to help them discover the hope and strength needed to build a better life for themselves.



Thank you to the Ivy Chapel UCC congregation for your special Christmas Gift! I am grateful for your generosity and your thoughtfulness.
Happy New Year to all,
Pastor Dan

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



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. I look forward to this coming year and being able to be a small part of the wonderful things in store for Ivy Chapel!
Thank you! Kara



Ahead in January

Sun -Jan 5th Church Officer Installation (During worship)

Fri -Jan 10th Annual Reports due

Sun -Jan 12th All Boards Meeting (AFTER worship)

This is an important planning meeting for each Board, and Committee. Incoming, outgoing and continuing Council, Board and Committee members should plan to attend.

Mon – Jan 13th Council Meeting (at 7pm via Zoom)

Sun– Jan 26th Retirement and Farewell Reception for Pastor Dan and the Wilson family

Sun – Feb 2nd Ivy Chapel Annual Meeting and Elmer Awards.

Join in the fun and fellowship associated with this annual event in the life of Ivy Chapel!

Un-hanging of the Greens!

Deacons and Trustees need **YOUR help.**

Please join us on Saturday, January 11, 2025 at 9:30AM 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 11th.

Mary^{and}Martha Wmns Grp

The Mary and Martha Women's Group will meet in the Multipurpose Room at 1 p.m. on Tue., Jan. 21st 2025 to plan for the coming year.

Everyone is welcome.

Ivy Information

Worship with US!

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

The Lord's Supper:
first Sunday of the month

Connect with Ivy

www.ivychapel.org —>



<--- [YouTube](#)—

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 / 314-580-4564

Office Administrator-Kara White: ivychapelucc@ivychapel.org / 314-434-4991

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

Minister of Music– Mike Waller

Custodian– Alondra Ramirez

Be sure to check out the Fellowship Hall bulletin board throughout each month to see news and events from our sister churches and organizations we partner with and support. If you would like to have a flyer placed on the bulletin board please contact the office for more information at 314-434-4991 or ivychapelucc@ivychapel.org.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING RENTING
SPACE AT IVY CHAPEL
PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE AT 314-434-4991
OR IVYCHAPELUCC@IVYCHAPEL.ORG**

E-KYP (E-KEEPING YOU POSTED)

By end of any Wednesday
Send your news to Ivy Chapel
ivychapelucc@ivychapel.org emailed every Friday.

WITH GOD'S BLESSINGS

Happy Birthday to ...

Happy Anniversary to...



4- Sue Wilson
15-Skylar Droege
17-Tara Lowry

20-Beth Noonan
Janet Wilking
29-Debbie Glenn
Alexander Wilking

Michael and
Donna Grote
1/15/1971




Serving God's People-Jan Schedules

Liturgists

5 Jan	JoAnn Moody
12 Jan	Jan Wirtz
19 Jan	-----
26 Jan	John Weiland
2 Feb	Pat Winship

Greeter/Ushers

5 Jan	Pat and Carl Winship communion preparer Sue Wilson
12 Jan	Kay and Earl Kreder
19 Jan	Donna Grote and Jan Wirtz
26 Jan	Dottie Foster and Gail Thoele
2 Feb	Don Wolff and John Weiland communion preparer Valerie Waterman


CARE CORPS  ➤ JAN — Sue Wilson 314-324-3465
➤ FEB — 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/> 

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 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	2 AA (Ladies #744) 10am TKD 6-7pm	3 Annual Reports Due Square dancing 3:30-5:30pm 7-9pm	4
5 1st S aft Christmas wht 10am Worship / † LS Church Officer Installation AA 6pm YR	6 TKD 5:30-6:30pm Epiphany	7 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349 Deacons-7pm Zoom	8 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	9 AA (Ladies #744) 10am TKD 6-7pm	10	11 AA 10:30am #350 Un-hanging of the Greens
12 Baptism of Our Lord Wt 10am Worship, Worship All Boards after worship AA 6pm YR	13 TKD 5:30-6:30pm Council Mtg Meeting 7pm The Ivy Vine Articles DUE	14 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349	15 TKD 5:30-6:30pm Men's Luncheon 11:30am Hunan Empress 164 Four Seas. Shpg Cntr,	16 AA (Ladies #744) 10am TKD 6-7pm	17	18 AA 10:30am #350
19 2 nd S aft Epiphany Gn 10am Worship AA 6pm YR	20 TKD 5:30-6:30pm MLK Jr Day	21 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349 Mary & Martha Wms Grp 1pm	22 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	23 AA (Ladies #744) 10am TKD 6-7pm	24	25 AA 10:30am #350
26 3rd S aft Epiphany Gn 10am Worship; Dan's Retirement Wilson Family Farewell AA 6pm YR	27 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	28 AAS.O.S. 10-11am AA 12pm #349	29 TKD 5:30-6:30pm	30 AA (Ladies #744) 10am TKD 6-7pm	31 Pastor Dan's Last Day	Feb 1 AA 10:30am #350

AHEAD IN FEB: 2ND-Annual Meeting and Elmer Awards worship 10TH-Council Meeting 17th-President's Day 18th-Mary & Martha Women's Grp 19th-Men's Lunch 11:30am @ Duffy's Pub

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