

Mar. 9, 2025

Ivy Chapel UCC



Ivy Chapel UCC Welcomes You!

If you are unable to join us in person for Sunday worship, find us on YouTube as [Ivy Chapel UCC](#)

First Sunday of the month Communion is offered.

e-KYP— Keeping You Posted

Find out more about us by visiting our website or following us on Facebook:

www.ivychapel.org / www.facebook.com/IvyChapel

Deacons appreciate everyone's cooperation in maintaining a safe and welcoming worship environment. We ask that everyone continue to respect those with compromised immune systems and take precautions as needed.

9 Mar 2025, First Sunday in Lent: Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13

TAKE IT OFF!

Author-Vince Amlin

From UCC Daily Devotional

[Click here to find more online](#)

Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of [God's] power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. – Ephesians 6:10-11 (NRSV)

When I arrived at the retreat center, my room wasn't ready. It was 3:55, and check-in was at 4. They took my phone number and said they'd call. Not promising.

I wandered the grounds, feeling anxious. I was spending the week with a bunch of strangers. Worse! Pastors. My thoughts alternated between all the reasons they wouldn't like me and all the reasons I wouldn't like them.

Then I came across the retreat center's labyrinth, outlined in mossy stones and surrounded by trees. I decided to walk it. And as I did, I asked God to prepare me for the week ahead.

Paul tells the church in Ephesus to put on the armor of God. The whole armor. Which, he doesn't mention, will necessitate taking off all the armor they're currently wearing: The belt of half-truth. The breastplate of self-righteousness. Shoes that will let you run back to your room at the first sign of discomfort. You get the picture.

And, in exchange, God's armor. "Be strong in the strength of the Lord." Which, we know from elsewhere, turns out to be weakness. A shirt so thin they can see your rapidly beating heart. Nothing to protect you. Except God.

As I walked each circuit, God peeled it all away. The layers of my onion. The whole armor. Until, as I made my final turn toward the middle, it was just me there, open and unprotected. And when I stepped into the center (I swear, it happened!), my phone rang.

"Mr. Amlin, we're ready for you."

Prayer

Clothe me in gentleness, openness, and love. And nothing else.

16 Mar 2025, Second Sunday in Lent: Genesis 15:1-12 and 17-18, Psalm 27, Philippians 3:17—4:1, Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36



The Ivy Youth will be having a special Lenten fellowship after worship **THIS Sunday March 9th, we hope you'll join us!**

Lenten Resources are NOW available on the table in the Narthex.

SPRING COLLECTION FOR LYDIA'S HOUSE

The Mary and Martha Women's Group is collecting items for Welcome Gift Bags for new residents at Lydia's House. We will be collecting the items through **THIS SUNDAY, Mar. 9th**, in a box in the Narthex.

If you would like to contribute to this effort the following is a list of suggestions.


- Decorative and other Soaps
- Hand/Body Lotion
- Toothpaste and/or toothbrushes
- Small items for children such as small books, sticker or activity books or any small game or toy.
- Shampoo
- Pretty Note Pads
- Body Puffs

We are trying to give attractive items that are also useful since these ladies usually have little money. The size of the bags is about 13x18 inches and we are looking to fill 20 to 25 bags to supply them for 1 year.

We have been able to find some items at the Dollar Stores and Ollies and Kay Kreder will be accepting money to go and purchase the items for you.

Thank you!

 **GREETER/USHER**
 9 Mar — Julie McAlister and Dave Mentzel
 16 Mar — Don Wolff and John Weiland

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! 12 Linda Ledbetter
 14 Kaillen Cox
 15 Katie Amsler 

LITURGIST 
 9 Mar — Julie McAlister
 16 Mar -----

CARE CORPS 
 ➤ MAR — Linda Lowry 314-703-2776
 ➤ APR — Julie Mc Allister 314-576-4946

Pastoral Care If you or anyone you know is in need of Pastoral Care please contact our office administrator, Kara White at 314-409-2832 who will inform our Ivy Chapel Care Corp.
 If you have any questions please contact the office at 314-434-4991 or ivychapelucc@ivychapel.org.

➤ **Men's luncheon Mar 19 Stackhouse 13419 Olive Blvd**

➤ OUTSIDE GROUPS: JUNIPER ROOT WOODLAND MICROSCHOOL M-F; SQUARE DANCING 2ND F; TKD M/W/TH; AA MEETINGS TUE & SAT, WOMEN'S TUE/THUR, YOUNG PEOPLE'S- SUN