

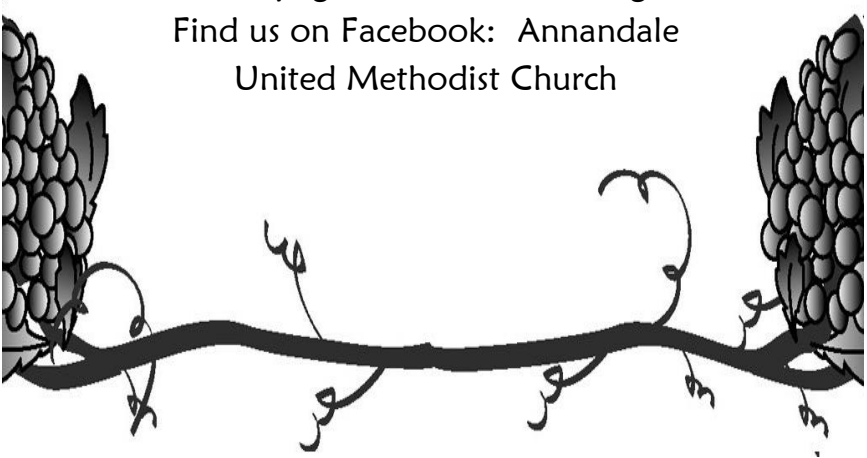


**ANNANDALE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

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**The Grapevine
April 2024**

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April 2024 Grapevine

Don't remember the prior things; don't ponder ancient history. Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it? I'm making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness. - Isaiah 43:18-19

At the end of this month, we will have the long awaited 2020 General Conference of the United Methodist Church. This conference has been a long time coming and will go down in history as one of the most important general conferences in the history of the Methodist church. It will be a divisive time where the United Methodist Church won't be as united as we'd like to be. The issue that has been highly debated is how we interpret scripture on human sexuality. Many people point to this as the underlying issue, but Paul Chilcote writes in his book *Multiplying Love* that the real issue is we need a spiritual renewal in the church. He poses the question that we've been trying to picture this entire time: is God gifting us with a new vision of radical inclusion in the church?

This radical inclusion isn't anything absolutely new to the UMC. Our motto, "Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors" has always been inclusive to me, but have we always lived out this motto as a church? Sure, no one can be perfect, but how have we made extra effort to share that radical love that we celebrate each time we gather as Christians? Sometimes we forget that the open doors that we refer to are not the doors to the church, but the doors to each of our hearts. There is a desperate need for spiritual renewal in the church and that renewal needs to happen *outside* of the church.

In this broken world, there is a huge need for healing. It isn't just physical or mental, but also spiritual healing. Many people have been hurt by the church through exclusion. For example, I was attending a private Christian school in Texas and they had some certain policies that normal schools wouldn't have. We had to wear school uniforms and we had to attend a weekly chapel service. Also, there were certain expectations for behavior. I know of a girl who was kicked out of the school simply because she had become pregnant. The school thought it had to practice what it preached. However, by doing so they were actively hurting the body of Christ. We all fall short of the grace that we have received through Jesus Christ. We all have wronged God in one way or another, but we shouldn't exclude others because of that. We should turn to radical love and radical inclusion!

This month we will briefly go through Paul Chilcote's *Multiplying Love* as we reflect upon the big changes coming up in General Conference. I ask that you pray for the delegates, bishops, and other participants. Pray that God may guide their hearts in their participation within the conference. I also ask that you pray for our church that we may this month learn more about what's in store for our future as we reflect on what it means to Multiply Love through radical inclusion.

Blessings!

Rev. Mark Schlasner



April Worship Themes

April 7, 2024 “Love is the Highest Gift”
Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:2, 12-13

April 14, 2024 “The Opportunity Before Us”
Scripture Reading: Colossians 3:11-15

April 21, 2024 “A Community of Love and Grace”
Scripture Reading: John 15:4-5, 8-10

April 28, 2024 “Discovering Love Again”
Scripture Reading: 1 John 4:19-21



Coffee Fellowship Serving Groups

April 7, 2024: Gerry & Ruth Bahe

April 14, 2024: Barb McNellis

April 21, 2024: Audrey Jones

April 28, 2024: Joyce Heberling



Usher Schedule

April 7, 2024: Gerry Elfstrand

April 14, 2024: Shelly Anderson

April 21, 2024: Dave Heberling

April 28, 2024: Dave Heberling



- Jessica, Steve & Laurie Dick's daughter who has been diagnosed with melanoma, and due to her pregnancy, there are limitations to what can be done until her baby is born and prayers for keeping the baby safe and healthy now and when it is born.



Our April Mission March, which will be taken during the first hymn on Sunday April 14, 2024, will go to apportionments. Apportionments are the share each annual conference or local church pays to support international, national, and local missions.



Chili Supper on Thursday May 9, 2024

Prior to our Ernie & Jason Couch concert on May 9th, we will host a chili supper for the community from 5:00 to 6:30 pm.

We need your help with donations of chili and other items. A clipboard will go around beginning approximately April 14 and the Sundays following. Please give as you are able. There is also the option of donating cash to defray costs of purchased items. A free will offering will be collected for the meal.

Thank you,
-Linda Elfstrand, Outreach



Gospel Music Concert and Chili
Supper on May 9, 2024 at
Annandale United Methodist
Church

Gospel and Christian music fans are welcome to join us for a chili supper followed by our favorite father-son duo from Nashville, Ernie & Jason Couch. The concert and supper will be on Thursday, May 9th at Annandale United Methodist Church, 250 Oak Avenue North. The chili supper will be from 5 to 6:30 pm and the concert is at 7:00 pm with seating beginning at 6:30 pm. Both the supper and the concert will accept freewill offerings. The donations for the supper will go the church and the donations for the concert will go to the musicians.

Ernie and Jason Couch will bring an exciting mix of Americana Gospel for our listening enjoyment. They are known across the United States and Canada for their lively music, good humor and genuine spirit. The Couch's have traveled the road together for almost 35 years, presenting a professional evening of music and entertainment. Besides a Grammy nomination and having charted 10 singles, both Ernie and Jason have recorded with such greats as George Jones, Patti Page, George Beverly Shea, Jeannie Seely, Tommy Roe, Jake Hess, and more. You can listen to samples of their music at www.erniecouchandrevival.com.

For a great evening of food, music, fun, and inspiration join us for Ernie Couch and Revival at the Annandale United Methodist Church on Thursday, May 9, 2024. Call the church office at 320-274-5127 with any questions. Freewill offerings will be collected for this event.

Annandale UMC
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