

The Grapevine April 2025

Pastor Mark Schlasner

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April 2025 Grapevine

The Unseen Road of Faith

There's a thread running through these scriptures that feels startlingly relevant—one that reveals faith not as a series of grand declarations but as a quiet, persistent journey of surrender. The tax collector's whispered prayer, the stones waiting to cry out, the broken bread of the Last Supper, the bewildered women at the tomb, the unrecognized Christ on the Emmaus road—they all point to the same truth: God works most powerfully when we've run out of scripts. Our world craves certainty, spectacle, and triumphant narratives, but these passages insist that divine revelation comes in the unimpressive places—in honest inadequacy, in subversive service, and even in grief that hasn't yet recognized resurrection.

This should unsettle us. We've been conditioned to believe impact requires platforms, that influence demands visibility, and that doubt is the opposite of faith. Yet here, in Luke's account, the kingdom of God consistently subverts these assumptions. The truly transformative moments happen offstage: a sinner's raw confession, a teacher washing feet, an empty tomb witnessed by marginalized women, a walk with a stranger who turns out to be the answer to every shattered hope. What if our frantic efforts to "be the light" are drowning out the very spaces where light is most needed—in the quiet, the ordinary, the unresolved?

Perhaps this is the invitation: to release our grip on performative faith and instead become people who recognize holiness in the unremarkable. To pray like the tax collector—not to prove our piety but to acknowledge our need. To serve

like Jesus at the table—not for recognition but because love demands it. To stand like the women at the tomb—terrified yet present. To walk like the Emmaus disciples—confused but open. Resurrection didn't come with a parade; it came as a whisper, a question, a shared meal.

This changes everything. It means our doubts, our small acts of love, and our unanswered questions aren't obstacles to faith—they're the road where Christ meets us. The world doesn't need more polished certainty; it needs people humble enough to kneel, brave enough to question, and faithful enough to keep walking when the path ahead looks nothing like they expected. The gospel isn't a spotlight; it's a lantern carried by ordinary travelers, illuminating just enough of the road to take the next step.

With love and blessings,

Rev. Mark Schlasner

Annandale UMC Giving and Attendance

Giving - March 2025 Attendance - March 2025

March 2, 2025 \$1,760.00 21- in-person

47 - online

March 9, 2025 \$1,596.00 22 - in-person

50 - online

\$340.00 Mission March – Food Shelf \$80.00 Ash Wednesday Service Fund

March 16, 2025 \$1,298.00 23 - in-person

- online

\$25.00 Apportionment Fund

March 23, 2025 \$1,195.13 23 - in-person

33 - online

General funds needed each week: \$2,638.78

March income as of 03/20/25: \$5,028.00

March expenses as of 03/20/25: \$5,190.13

2025 apportionments = \$11,690.00

Monthly apportionments = \$970.91

Apportionments paid in March = \$500.00

Apportionments paid YTD = \$1,000.00



Our April Mission March, which will be taken during the first hymn on Sunday April 13, 2025, will go towards the outdoor flower fund, which will help to beautify the outside of our church building.



April Worship Themes

April 6, 2025 "Prayer" Scripture Reading: Luke 18:9-14

April 13, 2025 Palm Sunday Scripture Reading: Luke 19:39-40

April 17, 2025 Maundy Thursday Love Feast @ 6:00pm Scripture Reading: Luke 22:1-27

April 20, 2025 Easter Sunday Scripture Reading: Luke 24:1-12

April 27, 2025 "Emmaus Road" Scripture Reading: Luke 24:13-35



Coffee Fellowship Serving Groups

April 6, 2025: Barb McNellis and Betsy Gridley

April 13, 2025: Dan Roller & Mona Steinhaus

April 20, 2025:

April 27, 2025: Joni Walberg and Dianne Engler



Usher Schedule

April 6, 2025: Garry Elfstrand

April 13, 2025: Mona Steinhaus

April 20, 2025:

April 27, 2025: Shelly Anderson



Maundy Thursday Love Feast: A Night of Fellowship & Worship

Join us for a special Maundy Thursday Love Feast on Thursday, April 17th, at 6:00 PM!

This will be a meaningful evening of **shared food, worship, and reflection** as we remember Christ's love and sacrifice. **Here's** how it works:

- Potluck Sign-Ups Begin April 6th A sheet will be passed around for you to indicate what dish you'd like to bring.
- **Bring a Dish to Share** Let's gather around the table in fellowship.
- Worship Together After the meal, we'll transition into a time of prayer, song, and Scripture.

Come and experience this sacred night of **community**, **gratitude**, and **devotion**. See you there!



Chili Supper on Wednesday, May 14th, 2025

Prior to our annual Ernie & Jason Couch concert on May 14th we will host a community chili supper from 5 to 6:30.

We need your help with donations of chili and other items. A clipboard will be passed beginning on Easter Sunday and the Sundays following. Please give as you are able. In addition to select food items, there is the option of donating cash to defray the costs of purchased items. A free will offered will be collected for the meal.

Thank you from the Outreach Committee

Barb McNellis, Barb Owen, Linda Elfstrand



Gospel Music Concert and Chili Supper on Wednesday, May 14, 2025 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 Wednesday, May 14th 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 free will 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 Wednesday, May 14th, 2025. Call the church office at 320-274-5127 with any questions. Free will offerings will be collected for this event.

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