



**ANNANDALE UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**

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**The Grapevine  
April 2026**

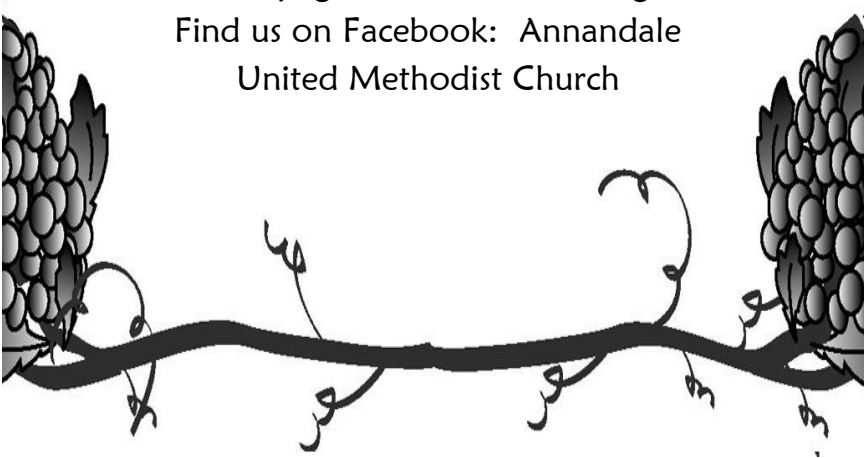
Pastor Mark Schlasner

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## April 2026 Grapevine

Easter Sunday is a rush. There is the burst of music, the brightness of lilies, the bold proclamation that Christ is risen. It is a day that invites us to lean forward, to feel the full weight of victory, and to exhale after the long walk of Lent.

But then the lilies fade. The music settles. And we find ourselves standing in the days after—what the church calls Eastertide—wondering what it looks like to \*live\* in the reality of a Resurrection we celebrated so loudly just weeks ago.

This is not a new question. The first disciples wrestled with it too.

We tend to imagine that the morning of the empty tomb solved everything for them, that their faith became instantly unshakeable. But the gospel writers tell us a different story. They show us people standing in gardens, not yet understanding what they are seeing. They show us friends gathered behind locked doors, afraid despite the rumors of hope. They show us a man demanding to touch wounds before he will believe, and two others walking away from Jerusalem with heavy hearts, convinced the story had ended in tragedy.

These are not failures of faith. They are the raw materials of it.

What is striking about the weeks following the Resurrection is how gently Jesus meets them in these spaces. He does not shame them for their slowness to understand. He walks beside them on the road. He shows them His hands. He speaks in a voice familiar enough to pierce through their confusion. He seems less interested in impressing them with the spectacle of

what He has done than in equipping them for what comes next—which is to say, He is equipping them for life.

That is the quiet work of Eastertide. It is the season in which we stop trying to manufacture the mountaintop experience of Easter Sunday and instead learn how to let Resurrection settle into the ordinary rhythms of our days.

How do we recognize the voice of the Shepherd when life grows noisy and we are unsure which way to go? How do we hold onto hope when we find ourselves, like the disciples on the Emmaus road, walking away from what we thought was the fulfillment of everything we hoped for? What does it mean to trust not only in the fact of the Resurrection but in the presence of the Risen One who refuses to leave us in our fear?

These are the questions that shape this season. And they are not meant to be answered in a single Sunday. They unfold over time. They unfold in the gathering—in the stories we share, the Scriptures we open, and the space we make to wrestle together.

So this season, let us not rush past the stories of those who took time to believe. Let us not pretend we have it all figured out. Instead, let us gather around the things that matter—around the Voice that knows us, the Hands that bear witness to suffering transformed, and the Table where we are astounded all over again.

The lilies may fade, but the season is just beginning. There is time enough to let the hope catch up with us.

With love and blessings,

Pastor Mark Schlasner

## **Annandale UMC Giving and Attendance**

Giving – March 2026      Attendance – March 2026

March 1, 2026	\$2,047.00	23 – in-person 62 – online
March 8, 2026	\$1,657.00	22 – in-person 44 – online
	\$389.00	March Mission March – Food Shelf
March 15, 2026	Church canceled due to blizzard warnings	
March 22, 2026	\$2,785.82	30 – in-person 44 – online
	\$100.00	Apportionment Fund
	\$245.00	Special Sunday Offering - UMCOR

General funds needed each week:    \$2,853.76

March income as of 03/17/26: \$4,201.00

March expenses as of 03/17/26: \$6,120.99

2026 apportionments = \$11,571.00

Apportionments paid YTD: \$1,109.00



Our April Mission March, which will be taken during the first hymn on Sunday April 12, 2026, will go to the Building Fund. Our bell tower repair has now begun.



## April Worship Themes

April 3 Good Friday Service @ 7:00 pm

April 5, 2026 Easter Sunday “A New Start”

Scripture Reading: Matthew 28:1-10

April 12, 2026 “Unless I See”

Scripture Reading: John 20:19-31

April 19, 2026 “Astounded Us”

Scripture Reading: Luke 24:13-35

April 26, 2026 “Knowing That Voice”

Scripture Reading: John 10:1-10

Blood Drive



**Blood Drive - Friday, May 15, 2026**

The next Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at our church on Friday, May 15 from 10:00am–4:00pm.

Donors can schedule an appointment now by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org), or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).



## Coffee Fellowship Serving Groups

April 5, 2026:

April 12, 2026: Betsy Gridley and Barb McNellis

April 19, 2026: Audrey Jones

April 26, 2026: Laurie Dick and Deb Woelfel



## Usher Schedule

April 5, 2026: Mona Steinhaus

April 12, 2026: Gerry Bahe

April 19, 2026: Need

April 26, 2026: Shelly Anderson



## April Birthdays

April 1      Alicia Gillham

April 2      Hunter Mutterer

April 4      Jennie Planer

April 8      LeRoy Roller

April 14     Judd Owen

April 15     Pastor Mark Schlasner



Apportionments can be seen as an ugly word, but I can testify that apportionments have helped our church.

Every month, I will be sharing how apportionments help support international, national, and local missions in the United Methodist Church.

As we are now in spring and the weather gets warmer, I can't help but be reminded of summer camps. Apportionments pool the generosity of many congregations to make summer camp possible for all. Together, these shared gifts subsidize costs, maintain facilities, and ensure no child is turned away—turning collective giving into life-changing experiences of community and grace.

The only money collected for apportionments are those indicated as such. So we ask that you prayerfully consider giving whatever you can for apportionments so *we* can pass it on and bless other congregations.

With love and blessings,

Pastor Mark

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