



**ANNANDALE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

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**The Grapevine
December - 2021**

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**Finding Faith in the Story
of the Grinch!**

What is your favorite non-religious Christmas story?

THE
HEART
THAT GREW THREE SIZES

Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer is on TV as I write this, but my absolute favorite is “A Christmas Carol” with that cranky yet loveable Scrooge. – BUT, Dr. Seuss’ “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” is a very close second! And that is the theme we will focus on as we hear the Christmas story told in a new way this year. And frankly, the recent movie version of the Grinch, starring Jim Carey, is good but doesn’t hold a candle to the simplicity and the imagination of the original.



The Dr. Seuss classic was first written as a stand-alone story in 1957, and was made for TV in 1966 and has been aired on TV every year since then. The author set out to create a counter cultural Christmas story, as he himself had a bit of a “distain for sleigh bells, sappy music, and garish decorations.” Soon into the project, the author realized that the story had a touch of the autobiographical in it.

Grinch Graphic is created by 13 year old Kaj Naujokas, from Fargo Faith United Methodist Church. We thank him for giving us permission to use it.

The main character of the story, the Grinch, has a bit of an ill-temper, a bit mischievous, and an irrational distaste for all things having to do with Christmas. We aren't told why he feels this way. That is left to the imagination of the reader. And I think by writing the story without answering the question why, Seuss has left it open for us to fill in the answer with some of our own experiences with Christmas, both good and, yes, let me just say it, bad. There are times when our inner Grinch does sneak out into the world, for all of us. But, thank God that the light of Christmas still warms our hearts.

Please join us starting November 28, as we explore how this big green Grinch found faith.

And remember, even there are many ways that Christmas has been co-opted by our culture, the hope and love and light of Christmas still shines through, for me and for you.

You can watch “How the Grinch Stole Christmas on NBC, Friday November 26th at 7PM.

May God's Kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Paul". The script is cursive and fluid.

Pastor Paul D. Baker

Annandale UMC Giving and Attendance

Giving –Nov. 2021 Attendance –Nov. 2021

Nov. 7, 2021	\$2,943.00	30 – in-person 23 – online
	\$300.00 Share Your Christmas donation	
Nov. 14, 2021	\$2,070.00	23 – in-person 42 – online
	\$250.00 Nov. Mission March – apportionments \$100.00 Share Your Christmas donation	
Nov. 21, 2021	\$2,460.61	21 – in-person 41 – online
	\$625.00 Share Your Christmas donation	

General funds needed each week: \$2,519.00

November income as of 11/21/21: \$8,478.95

November expense as of 11/21/21: \$7,861.93

2021 apportionments = \$14,020.00

Apportionments paid YTD = \$9,380.52



Our December Mission March on Sunday, December 12, 2021 will go to apportionments. Apportionments are the share each annual conference or local church pays to support international, national, and local missions.



Phased Re-Gathering Plan for Churches

The suggestions in the phased plan below are driven by our Three Simple Rules:

- **We are a people that do no harm.** We practice physical distancing to minimize harm to others, especially the vulnerable.
- **We are a people that do all the good we can.** We care for the spiritual and physical needs of our neighbors, providing food, emotional support, and supporting our health care system.
- **We are a people that stay in love with God.** When we love God through prayer, praise, and worship, we grow in love of our neighbor. Love of God and love of neighbor are inseparable.

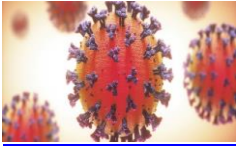
We are currently in the **YELLOW Phase**. For more information on the various phases, go to our Minnesota Conference webpage <https://www.minnesotaumc.org/regatheringplan>

For Our Specific County: We have been asked to make safe decisions based on the positive test rate for our county. If the positive test rate is over 5% then we are asked to consider whether we need to initiate more precautions.

At this point Wright County has increased tremendously since last month and is now hovering around the 18% positive test rate level. We will be adjusting our response weekly, with an eye to whether the infection rate either declines or increases.

We would like to ask you to consider wearing a mask indoors. Some churches in Wright County have gone back requiring masks indoors, however at the time of this writing, we have opted to continue with the precautions we have in place. If you feel so led, please wear a mask when indoors.

– From Pastor Paul, *“I don’t want anyone else to end up dealing with long-hauler symptoms like my brother Ray is dealing with in Fargo. And tonight, my 89-year-old dad is in the emergency room with Covid!”*



From the Wright County Facebook Page:
(November 18) The New York Times conducted a study of the highest case rates

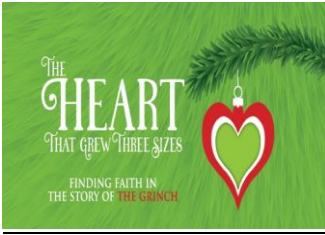
of COVID-19 in the 3,006 counties in the United States. As of Wednesday, the New York Times' list of the 100 counties with the highest case rates in the country (counties with fewer than 10,000 residents are excluded), 19 are in Minnesota, including Wright County, which is tied for 69th. The Minnesota counties are:

- 3. Dodge County - 155 cases per 100K
- 8. Wadena - 145
- 12. Goodhue - 133
- 20. Sherburne - 124
- 24. Kanabec - 119
- 24. Mille Lacs - 119
- 32. Douglas - 115
- 39. Todd - 113
- 40. Roseau - 112
- 43. Pope - 110
- 53. Pine - 106
- 56. Itasca - 105
- 67. Benton - 101
- 69. Wabasha - 100
- 69. Meeker - 100
- 69. Wright - 100
- 75. Beltrami - 99
- 80. Kandiyohi - 97
- 83. Morrison - 96



- Tara Smith, Sally Smith's daughter, who is being treated for breast cancer.
- Aloys Olson, Ruth Bahe's mother, who fell and broke her hip this past month.
- The family, friends, and members of Our Saviors Lutheran Church in French Lake for Pastor Del Roy Johnson who passed away from complications with the Covid virus.
- Dan Baker, Pastor Paul's dad, who is being treatment for Covid.

Advent Worship Series



– **The HEART that Grew
Three Sizes**

– *Finding Faith in the
Story of the Grinch*

November 28, 2021 “*The Most Wonderful Time of the Year*”
Scripture Readings: Isaiah 61:1-2, 6-7; Amos 5:21.23-24;
Matthew 2:6; Romans 12:9

December 5, 2021 “*Looking the Part*”
Scripture Readings: Isaiah 60:3-6; Zechariah 7:9-10;
Matthew 3:7b-12

December 12, 2021 “*When You Are Sure You Are Right*”
Scripture Readings: Matthew 2:11; Luke 1:26-38; Luke 1:52-53

December 19, 2021 “*The Heart That Grew Three Sizes*”
Scripture Readings: Psalm 136:1-3; Luke 2:8-20;
Romans 12:17-21

December 24, 2021 “*It was Not a Silent Night*”
Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-7

Annandale: 4:30 PM **Candlelight Service**
Christmas offering: Camp MN and Discretionary Fund

Montrose: 7:00 PM **Candlelight Service**

December 26, 2021 *Lost at Home For Christmas*
Scripture Reading: Luke 2:41-52

NO Blue Christmas this year in Montrose. Please encourage the people who do usually attend that service, to attend Sunday services, as the sermon themes may fit their needs.

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