



**ANNANDALE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

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**The Grapevine
February - 2021**

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February 2021 Grapevine

Intimacy Lives in Jesus – Easter is almost here, (Ash Wednesday is February 17th)

Do we live a life of fear, or a life of intimacy? Easter is all about letting go of our fears, and trusting that we are loved, really loved by the One who knows us as we are, and as we become the people we were meant to become. I want to share a paragraph from Henri Nouwen's book, Lifesigns. It is a book about how he found peace, not in trusting in the values of this world, but by working with people with disabilities, some of the people Jesus called "the least, the last, and the lost." While working with them, Nouwen found out that he was really the one who was "the least, the last, and the lost."

A careful look at the gospels shows that Jesus seldom accepted the questions posed to him. He exposed them as coming from the house of fear. "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? How often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife on any pretext? What authority do you have for acting like this? At the resurrection, to which of those seven (men she married) will she be a wife, since she had been married to them all? Are you the king of the Jews? Lord, has the hour come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel . . . " To none of these questions did Jesus give a direct answer. He gently put them aside as questions emerging from false worries. They were raised out of concern for prestige, influence, power, and control. They did not belong to the house of God. Therefore, Jesus always transformed the question by his answer. He made the question new -- and only then worthy of his response.

Nouwen goes on to ask and explore the question, "Do we live more often in the house of fear, or in the house of love?" Obviously he promotes the efforts we make to live more often in

the house of love. That is the house that Jesus built. It is the house that the wise man built on the rock. It is the house that will bring us the peace and contentment that we at times can't seem to find. That is because it is so easy for us to slip into living a life controlled by worries, anxiety, and fear. It is so easy to allow those things to control our lives, rather than to let Jesus control and guide our lives.

Easter is all about the conflict between fear-based living and living that has its source in love. On Palm Sunday, the love was flowing. But, as Jesus continued to teach what love meant during Holy Week, some realized that a life of love means that we have to let go of some of the really fun things in life, like holding a grudge. Eventually fears controlled the day for many, and before you know it, Jesus is arrested, convicted, and executed on a cross.

The good news is, that no matter how strong fear may be, love wins the day, love wins eternity! Easter is all about the strength and power of love, that even puts death in its place. Trust in the power of God's love for you today. Nothing can separate you from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord. That is the promise of Easter. And that promise is yours from now until eternity! Thank God for the intimacy that comes through true love. It cancels out fear, and eventually it cancels fear out entirely!

As John Wesley said on his death bed, "The best of all, God is with us still."

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

Pastor Paul

Pastor Paul D. Baker

Annandale UMC Giving and Attendance

Giving -Jan. 2021 Attendance -Jan. 2021

Jan. 3, 2021	\$1,759.52 \$170.00 apportionments	46 – online
Jan. 10, 2021	\$8,224.63 \$1,000.00 apportionments	77 – online
Jan. 17, 2021	\$1,771.00	59 – online
Jan. 24, 2021	\$6,340.00 \$90.00 apportionments	14 – in person 52 – online

General funds needed each week: \$2,519.00

January income as of 01/21/2021: \$11,390.15

January expenses as of 01/21/2021: \$20,345.38

2021 apportionments = \$14,020.00

Monthly apportionments = \$1,168.33

Apportionments paid in January = \$1,260.00

Apportionments paid YTD = \$1,260.00



Worship Information and DVD's available

Covid-19's rate of spread has decreased significantly, so we are now in the **Orange Phase**.

As such our in-person worship has resumed with safety protocols in place. As of this writing there have already been 107 Covid-19 deaths in Wright County, so please do your best to remain safe.

1)- Our prerecorded video and print worship experiences are still reaching many new people. As in the past, we encourage you to take part in our online worship by going to www.vimeo.com/revwindsurfer and choosing which Sunday worship you would like to watch.

2)-Through mid-February we will also continue a Monday evening Zoom Bible study based on a book titled "***I Wish Jesus Hadn't Said That: finding joy in the inconvenience of discipleship.***" During Lent we will offer a Zoom Wednesday Evening Bible Study with the Theme of "**Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times,**" with insight from the book of the same title by Bishop Michael Curry.

If you are on our email list, you will receive an email invitation for that group on Sunday each week. If you don't receive an invitation, please call the Annandale church office (320-274-5127) and let us know your email address. Thank you.

If you would like a DVD of the regular Sunday services, please let pastor Paul know at 320-455-7314.

February Worship Themes

[“I Wish Jesus Hadn’t Said That: finding joy in the inconvenience of discipleship.”](#)

February 7, 2021 “Blessed are the Persecuted
(Reversing our Misconception)”

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:1-12

February 14, 2021 “Do Not Be Angry”

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:21-26

Lenten Worship Theme

[“Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times”](#)

Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Worship 7:00 PM

Scripture Readings: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17;

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

(perhaps in person, probably via Zoom or online, watch for announcements)

February 21, 2021 “What is Love?”

Scripture Readings: Psalm 25:1-10, 1 Corinthians 13

February 28, 2020 “To Dream and to Build”

Scripture Readings: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16;

Mark 8:31-38



February Birthdays



February 6	Aleta Isaacson
February 9	Sally Smith
February 10	Roberta Monk
February 10	Gerry Bahe
February 11	Mason Petty
February 12	Mason Sommers
February 15	Linda Williams
February 19	Deb Woelfel
February 23	Helen Allen
February 25	Tom Maki

Blood Drive



Blood Drive - Friday, March 12

American Family is hosting a Red Cross blood drive at our church building on March 12.

The Blood Drives have been full, so please make a reservation online with the Red Cross *soon!* Due to Covid-19, they may not be accepting walk-ins.

Volunteers needed for 2 hour shifts to help check in the blood donors.

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