



## ANNANDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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# The Grapevine February 2026

Pastor Mark Schlasner

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United Methodist Church

## February 2026 Grapevine

As the days gradually lengthen and we turn our hearts toward the Lenten season, a familiar path stretches before us. We have walked this way before—marked by ashes, guided by reflection, and drawn by the promise of Easter dawn. There is a profound comfort in these rhythms, a sacred familiarity that grounds us like a homecoming. This year, we begin from that place of comfort, gathering once more as a community to observe the rituals and practices that have long sustained our faith. They are our starting point, the well-trodden path that invites us to step forward once again.

Yet, the call of Lent is not only to return, but also to deepen. It is an invitation to grow, to climb higher, and to reach further in our discipleship. While rooted in introspection, this season also stirs us to action, reminding us that we are a pilgrim people. Our journey is not merely inward; it is oriented toward seeking God's kingdom and participating in shaping God's kin-dom here on earth through our worship and our service to one another.

This Lent, we embark on a sermon series titled "Renewed Mercy," which seeks to illuminate this dynamic pilgrimage. We will explore how God's mercy is not a static point of forgiveness from our past, but a living, ever-flowing source of renewal for our present and future. It is a divine compassion that meets us in our comfort zones and then gently propels us forward, transforming familiar rituals into fresh encounters with grace.

We warmly invite you to walk this path with your church family. Together, we will discover how God's never-ending

mercy refreshes our spirits, reorients our lives, and empowers us for compassionate action. Join us each week as we follow our Lord on this journey from reflection to renewal, culminating in the glorious new life of Easter. May this season be one of profound personal and communal renewal, as we are refreshed and sent forth by God's boundless mercy.

With love and blessings,

Pastor Mark Schlasner



#### Coffee Fellowship Serving Groups

February 1, 2026: Joyce & Dave Heberling

February 8, 2026: Need

February 15, 2026: Audrey Jones

February 22, 2026: Need



#### Usher Schedule

February 1, 2026: Dave Heberling

February 8, 2026: Dave Heberling

February 15, 2026: Need

February 22, 2026: Shelly Anderson

## Annandale UMC Giving and Attendance

### Giving -Jan. 2026    Attendance -Jan. 2026

Jan. 4, 2026	\$2,113.00	28 – in-person 56 – online
	\$3,000.00	Apportionment Fund – 2025 apportionments
	\$3,000.00	Building/Maintenance Fund
Jan. 11, 2026	\$1,274.76	19 – in-person 138 – online
	\$309.00	January Mission March – Apportionments
Jan. 18, 2026	\$1,659.21	21 – in-person 51 – online
	\$600.00	Apportionment Fund
	\$140.00	Special Sundays Fund – Human Relations Day
Jan. 25, 2026	\$1,062.00	24 – in-person
	\$200.00	Apportionment Fund      74 – online

General funds needed each week:    \$2,853.76

January income as of 01/15/26: \$9,696.76

January expenses as of 01/15/26: \$11,477.13

2026 apportionments = \$11,571.00

Apportionments paid in 2025: \$5,532.00



## February Worship Themes

February 1, 2026 "What Is Good"  
Scripture Reading: Micah 6:1-8

February 8, 2026 "Call to Action"  
Scripture Reading: Isaiah 58:1-12

February 15, 2026 "Glory Revealed"  
Scripture Reading: Matthew 17:1-9

February 18, 2026 Ash Wednesday "A Clean Heart"  
Scripture Reading: Psalm 51:1-17

February 22, 2026 "Mercy on the Wilderness Road"  
Scripture Reading: Matthew 4:1-11



Our February Mission March, which will be taken during the first hymn on Sunday February 8, 2026, will go to Love, INC (Love in the name of Christ). With generous support from churches such as ourselves, Love INC is able to provide much needed assistance to individuals and families within our community who are in desperate need of a helping hand. Together we can share the love of Jesus and make an eternal difference to those who need a Savior.



As we continue our shared journey of faith and service, we want to express our profound gratitude for your unwavering support. It is through your generosity that our church doors stay open, our ministries thrive, and we are able to extend Christ's love into our community.

This year, we've faced some financial challenges. Our pledged giving has decreased from last year's \$80,342 to \$73,846. This decline, while understandable given the financial pressures many face, directly impacts our ability to fund our essential operations and the outreach events that are so vital to our mission. These events are not just programs; they are the hands and feet of our faith in action, serving our neighbors and sharing the hope we have in Jesus.

We are writing today with two heartfelt invitations:

- 1. If you have not yet made a financial commitment for this year, please prayerfully consider doing so.** Every gift, no matter the size, is a sacred offering that fuels our shared work. Your pledge allows us to plan and minister with confidence.
- 2. If you are already giving, would you pray about the possibility of increasing your gift?** Even a small increase, when combined with others, can make a tremendous difference in bridging this gap.

We want to assure you that your finance committee is also actively seeking additional fundraising opportunities to supplement our budget. However, our primary and most sustainable foundation is the faithful, regular giving of our congregation.

Let's view this not merely as a budget shortfall, but as an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to what God is doing here. We invite you to pray, asking God for wisdom in your stewardship. Then, respond as He guides you.

You can submit or update your pledge by placing your pledge card in the offering plate, visiting the church website, or contacting the church office. Thank you for your faithfulness, your prayers, and your partnership in the Gospel.

With love and blessings,

Pastor Mark Schlasner and the Finance Committee



### **Ash Wednesday Service – February 18 at 6 PM**

Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday**, a time to pause, reflect, and turn our hearts toward God. Join us at **Annandale UMC on February 18 at 6 PM** for a meaningful service of scripture, prayer, and the **imposition of ashes**, reminding us of our need for grace and renewal.

All are welcome as we step into this sacred season together. We hope to see you there.

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