



**ANNANDALE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

250 OAK AVENUE NORTH

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ANNANDALE, MN 55302

(320) 274-5127

**The Grapevine
January - 2021**

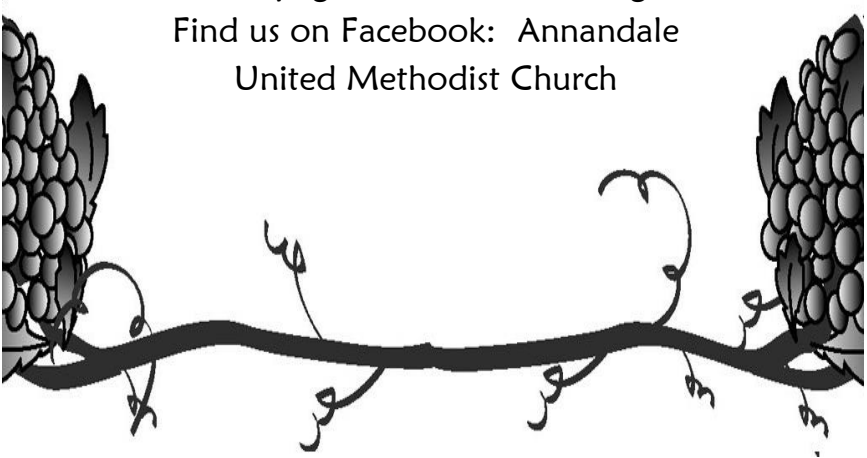
Pastor Paul Baker

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January 2021 Grapevine

What do you think of when someone says, Happy New Year?

This year you are probably thinking, “thank God the last one is over!” And we all know it has been an extremely difficult year. Right now the TV networks are all taking a look back at the past year. They are reminding us of all the amazing people we have lost this year, everyone from Ruth Bader Ginsberg to entertainers, to Kobe Bryant, to individual friends who have given us the special gift of joy. For me this year, that friend is Joe Volk, who everyone knew as either the Duck, or DJ Duck.

The Duck was a unique person. He was born with what many might assume at first glance was a disability, but when you looked closer turned out to be an exceptional gift. In a store he wasn't able to count out the correct change, but he was able to tell you everything you ever wanted to know about the Twins. He was able to watch one of my softball games, and judge correctly that my District Superintendent (20 years older than me) was our best player. He was able to spend just a little bit of time with a new person and decide correctly if that was a person of character, or just a character that wasn't trustworthy.

His legs were so deformed that he wasn't able to walk in a straight line for very long, yet when he saw a long-lost friend coming into view he could kick those legs into high gear to greet that friend. And I remember that when I was going through some tough times earlier in my life, it was Joe who stood beside me and helped to carry me through. I pray that you have also had that kind of a friend in your life.

At this time of year we are able to mourn our losses, but also able to remember that we would not be grieving those losses

had we not enjoyed the gift of a loving relationship in the first place. That bond of love will never be broken. It will change, it will be transformed, and it will morph into a different kind of relationship, but it will continue to provide us with inspiration and joy.

We have this promise through our greatest friend and savior, Jesus of Nazareth. May we never forget that though his life was lost, He yet lives. His love lives eternally. His hope lifts us up always. Emmanuel, he is always with us. As we step into the New Year, our first church service on January 3rd is John Wesley's Covenant Renewal Service. If you missed it, go back and take a look at it again. Throw yourself into the service. Let it speak to you, renew your trust, and grow your faith. You are loved, and you are simply asked to share that love with each other. Happy New Year!

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!

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

Pastor Paul D. Baker

Annandale UMC Giving and Attendance

Giving –Dec. 2020 Attendance –Dec. 2020

Dec. 6, 2020	\$9,543.00	89 – online
Dec. 13, 2020	\$2,995.00	64 – online
Dec. 20, 2020	\$2,799.46	91 – online
Dec. 27, 2020	\$920.00	33 – online
	\$1,095.00	Christmas offering

General funds needed each week: \$2,523.38

December income as of 12/29/2020: \$15,577.46

December expenses as of 12/29/2020: \$10,029.60

2020 apportionments = \$18,089.00

Monthly apportionments = \$1,507.41

Apportionments paid in December = \$500.00

Apportionments paid YTD = \$5,060.00

2021 apportionments = \$14,020.00



Worship Information and DVD's available

In our safety protocols we continue for the time being in the Red Phase.

As such our in-person worship continues to be postponed until the Covid-19 rate of spread has dropped to safe levels.

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)-In January we will also offer 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.***" 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.

January Worship Themes

January 3, 2021 – “Wesley’s Covenant Renewal Service”
Jeremiah 31:31-34

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

January 10, 2021 – “Love Your Enemies”
Luke 6:27-38

January 17, 2021 – “Deny Yourself, Take Up Your Cross”
Mark 8:31-9:1

January 24, 2021 – “Not 7 Times, but 77 Times”
Matthew 18:21-22

January 30, 2020 – “You Can’t Serve Both God and Money” Luke 13:16

Blood Drive



Blood Drive - Friday, January 15

American Family is hosting a Red Cross blood drive at our church building on January 15.

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.



January Birthdays



January 7	Nola Walberg
January 18	Laurie Dick
January 19	Ashley Gillham
January 23	Bruce Karg
January 31	Kyle Bahe



Share Your Christmas letter received from Joyce Heberling and Sally Smith.

Dear Friends,

The appreciation for your continued

support and generosity for the 2020 Share Your Christmas project is beyond words. With the combined efforts of so many we were able to provide Visa gift cards and Marketplace gift cards to 63 families that included 193 children! We also were able to send Marketplace cards to 19 senior citizens, a cash donation to the Annandale Health and Wellness Center to provide gifts for needy residents, a cash donation to Sunset Ridges for a group gift for residents, and a donation to Village Ranch for 15 female residents.

The generosity from churches, individuals, and local business and civic groups was amazing and humbling. We are so very grateful to be part of this wonderful and supportive community. In this year of worry and isolation, your generosity brought us together to touch the lives of so many in need. Thank you for your support.

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