

# The Grapevine January 2024

Pastor Mark Schlasner

(Pastor) am.umc.pastor@gmail.com

(Office) aumc@lakedalelink.net

Webpage: annandaleumc.org

Find us on Facebook: Annandale

United Methodist Church

## January 2024 Grapevine

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup>They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him." - Matthew 2:1-2

As we embark on a new year, it's an opportune time to reflect on our journey and welcome the unknown with open hearts. Doubt, often seen as a hindrance, can actually serve as a catalyst for growth and self-discovery. Let us draw inspiration from the scripture in Matthew 2:1-2, where the wise men embraced doubt and embarked on a transformative quest.

In Matthew 2:1-2, we encounter the story of the wise men who followed a star, unsure of where it would lead them. Their doubt did not deter them, but rather fueled their curiosity and desire to seek the messiah. Similarly, as we step into the new year, let us embrace doubt as an invitation to explore new possibilities, challenge our assumptions, and deepen our understanding of ourselves and Christ in the world around us.

Doubt can be a powerful force for growth and self-reflection. It encourages us to question, to seek answers, and to expand our horizons. By acknowledging and embracing doubt, we open ourselves up to God allowing the potential for personal and spiritual transformation in this new year.

As we bid farewell to the past year, let us carry the lessons we learned from doubt and use them as stepping stones towards a brighter future. Embracing doubt allows us to confront our fears, push boundaries, and discover Christ within ourselves

and others. It is through this process that we can truly embrace the new year with open hearts and a sense of wonder.

In this new year, let us welcome doubt as a companion on our journey. Embrace it as an opportunity for growth, exploration, and self-discovery. By doing so, we can navigate the unknown with courage and curiosity, trusting that God will lead us to new heights of understanding and fulfillment.

Wishing you a doubt-embracing new year filled with self-discovery, growth, and endless possibilities!

Blessings!

Pastor Mark Schlasner

#### **Annandale UMC Giving and Attendance**

Giving -Dec. 2023 Attendance -Dec. 2023

Dec. 3, 2023 \$2,508.00 26 - in-person

28 - online

\$20.00 Memorial Fund - Debbie Vokaty

Dec. 10, 2023 \$581.00 31 - in-person

29 - online

\$175.00 Mission March - Bldg./Maint. Fund

\$10.00 Share Your Christmas Fund

\$75.00 Memorial Fund - Debbie Vokaty

Dec. 17, 2023 \$1,855.00 23 - in-person

26 - online

\$20.00 Memorial Fund – Debbie Vokaty

\$25.00 Apportionments Fund

Dec. 24, 2023 \$1,850.13 58 - in-person

35 - online

\$780.00 Christmas Offering Fund

Dec. 31, 2023 \$13,536.80 27 - in-person

0 - online

\$3,000.00 Building/Maintenance Fund

\$1,225.00 Apportionments Fund

General funds needed each week: \$2,491.71

December income as of 12/20/23: \$3,683.00

December expenses as of 12/20/23: \$5,600.53

2023 apportionments = \$12,673.00

Monthly apportionments = \$1,056.00

Apportionments paid in December = \$1,250.00



January Worship Scripture Lessons

January 7, 2024 "Doubt and the Wise Men"

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

January 14, 2024 Pastor Paul Baker "Is There a God?" Scripture Reading: John 1:43-51, Psalm 8:3-4

January 21, 2024 Pastor Paul Baker "The Good Book? Wrestling with the Bible."

Scripture Reading: Psalm 119:105, 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:16-17

January 28, 2024 Pastor Paul Baker "Are All Non-Christians Going to Hell?"

Scripture Reading: 1 Timothy 2:3-6a



Coffee Fellowship Serving Groups

January 7, 2024: Dave & Joyce Heberling

January 14, 2024: Betsy Gridley

January 21, 2024: Audrey Jones

January 28, 2024: Joni Walberg & Dianne Engler



Usher Schedule

January 7, 2024: Dave Heberling

January 14, 2024: Shelly Anderson

January 21, 2024: Dan Roller & Mona Steinhaus

January 28, 2024: Need



• Jim Anderson's sister, Margie, who was recently diagnosed with breast cancer.



#### Blood Drive - Friday, January 26, 2024

The next Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at our church on Friday, January 26 from 10:00am – 4:00pm.

Donors can schedule an appointment now by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Their goal is to collect 32 units of blood!



Our January Mission March, which will be taken during the first hymn on Sunday January 14, 2024, will go to apportionments. Apportionments are the share each annual conference or local church pays to support international, national, and local missions.



Pastor Mark will be on paternity leave from January 10, 2024 – February 20, 2024. Pastor Paul Baker will be our guest speaker during his leave. If you have any pastoral needs during Pastor Mark's absence, please contact Linda in the church office or Rev. Lori Artner, South Haven UMC, at 320-249-6756.



### January Birthdays

January 7 Nola Walberg

January 18 Laurie Dick

January 19 Ashley Gillham

January 31 Kyle Bahe

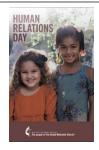


Thank you for your support for the 2023 Share Your Christmas program. With the combined efforts of many generous groups and individuals, we were able to help families in need from Annandale and the surrounding area.

Your generosity brought hope to 80 families, 31 seniors, and 237 children. Every family and senior also received a gift certificate from Marketplace to help with their holiday meal expenses.

We are grateful to be a part of this wonderful and supportive community, and we thank you for your continued support.

Sally Smith and Joyce Heberling Share Your Christmas chairpersons



Human Relations Day on Sunday, January 14, 2024 is a denomination-wide Special Sunday that celebrates and raises awareness about the strength of human relationships. We celebrate Human Relations Day the Sunday before Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday to recognize his vision of "the beloved community." Your donation supports ministries of advocacy and community engagement.

Annandale UMC 250 Oak Avenue North PO Box 329 Annandale, MN 55302