



**ANNANDALE UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**

250 OAK AVENUE NORTH

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ANNANDALE, MN 55302

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**The Grapevine  
January  
2025**

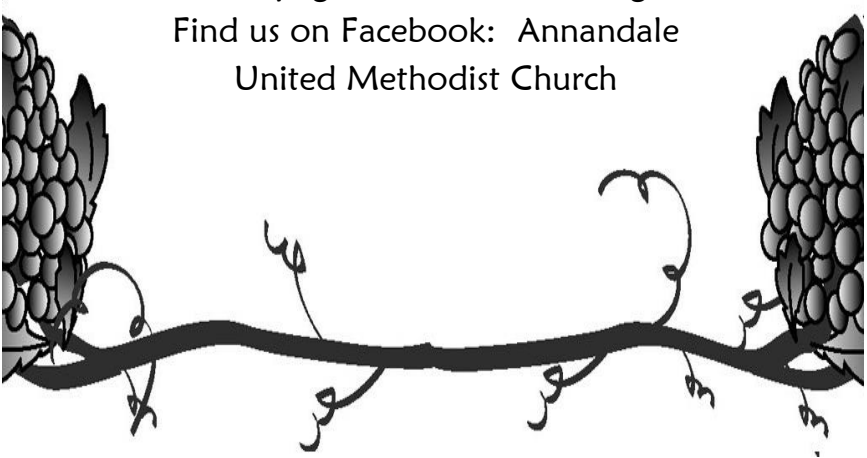
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## January 2025 Grapevine

### Walking Humbly into a New Year

January marks a time of reflection and new beginnings. Many of us approach the year with resolutions and goals, hoping to bring about meaningful change in our lives. Amid this forward-looking energy, the words of Micah 6:6-8 offer a grounding perspective:

“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

This passage challenges us to move beyond external displays of piety or achievement. Instead, it calls us to focus on the values that shape our daily lives—justice, mercy, and humility. These practices are not about dramatic gestures but about aligning our hearts and actions with God’s desires.

I once heard the story of a woman who decided to set a New Year’s resolution that wasn’t about personal success but about living out her faith more fully. She started visiting a local nursing home each week, spending time listening to residents’ stories, sharing prayers, and being a kind and warm presence. Over time, she realized that her simple acts of justice, mercy, and humility not only blessed others but transformed her own heart. Through small, consistent actions, she experienced a deeper connection with God and a richer understanding of His love.

This transformation reflects how God often works in our lives. It's not always through grand or miraculous events but through quiet, faithful steps that reveal His presence. When we choose to walk humbly with God, we begin to see God's hand in the everyday moments and recognize the sacred opportunities to share God's love with others.

As we embark on a new year, let Micah's words inspire us to live intentionally. Resolutions are fleeting, but a life rooted in justice, mercy, and humility creates lasting impact—in our hearts and in the world around us. May this year draw us closer to God and to the people God calls us to love.

With love and blessings,

Pastor Mark Schlasner

## **Annandale UMC Giving and Attendance**

Giving –Dec. 2024      Attendance –Dec. 2024

Dec. 1, 2024	\$1,827.00	26 – in-person 61 – online
	\$500.00 Apportionment Fund	
	\$968.00 Thanksgiving Dinner donations	

Dec. 8, 2024	\$1,545.00	31 – in-person 51 – online
	\$134.00 Mission March – Thanksgiving Dinner	
	\$250.00 Share Your Christmas donation	

Dec. 15, 2024	\$1,921.00	0 – in-person 0 – online
	\$1,000.00 Share Your Christmas Fund (Joint Worship Service held at Montrose UMC)	

Dec. 22, 2024	\$1,351.00	25 – in-person 47 – online
	\$100.00 Share Your Christmas donation	
	\$25.00 Apportionment Fund	

Dec. 24, 2024	\$468.00	36 – in-person
Christmas Eve offering		66 – online

General funds needed each week:    \$2,491.70

December income as of 12/27/24: \$8,467.00

December expenses as of 12/27/24: \$7,599.34

2024 apportionments = \$12,946.00

Monthly apportionments = \$1,078.83

Apportionments paid in December = \$500.00

Apportionments paid YTD = \$3,699.00



## January Worship Scripture Lessons

January 5, 2025 “Boy in the Temple”  
Scripture Reading: Luke 2:41-52

January 12, 2025 “Jesus’ Baptism”  
Scripture Reading: Luke 3:1-22

January 19, 2025 “Sermon at Nazareth”  
Scripture Reading: Luke 4:14-30

January 26, 2025 “Fish for People”  
Scripture Reading: Luke 5:1-11



## Coffee Fellowship Serving Groups

January 5, 2025: Dave & Joyce Heberling

January 12, 2025: Audrey Jones

January 19, 2025: Joni Walberg & Dianne Engler

January 26, 2025: Sally Smith



## Usher Schedule

January 5, 2025: Dave Heberling

January 12, 2025: Gerry Bahe

January 19, 2025: Gerry Bahe

January 26, 2025: Shelly Anderson



- Garry Elfstrand who has ongoing treatment for cancer.
- Jim Hill dealing with back problems.
- Nola Walberg undergoing rehab at the Care Center following a fall.
- Cheryl Maki who is dealing with health issues following a recent surgery.
- Diana Bajari who is in the Annandale Memory Care Center.

Blood Drive



### **Blood Drive - Friday, January 24, 2025**

The next Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at our church on Friday, January 24 from 10:00am – 4:00pm.

Donors can schedule an appointment now by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://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 12, 2025, will be for the Annandale athletic fund, a fund for low-income students to access passes for sporting events as well as possible physicals for those who cannot afford and therefore would be unable to participate.



Join us for our new monthly Breakfast Book Club, we're continuing with *Eleanor Oliphant is completely fine* by Gail Honeyman, a

heartwarming and deeply moving story about loneliness, human connection, and personal growth. We'll meet on Saturday, January 25th at 10 a.m. at McDonald's to enjoy good conversation over breakfast. Together, we'll discuss the book's themes and reflect on the importance of kindness and healing in our lives. Come ready to share your thoughts. We'd love to have you join us for great books, food, and fellowship!



### Help Us Name That Event!

This past fall, we had an incredible turnout for our **Sloppy Joe Dinner, Craft and Bake Sale, and White Elephant Gift Exchange** – so much that we're doing it again!

But there's one thing we need: a better name for this amazing event. That's where YOU come in!

Starting **January 12<sup>th</sup>**, we're launching our first-ever **Name That Event Contest!** Submit your creative ideas by **February 9<sup>th</sup>**, and the winning name will earn a fabulous **basket of goodies** as a prize.

You can submit your ideas in **person**, through **Facebook comments** on our **Sunday live stream**, or via **email**.

Get your thinking caps on and your clever ideas ready – our **Name That Event Contest** kicks off this January, and we can't wait to hear from you!

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