



**ANNANDALE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

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**The Grapevine
July - 2021**

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July 2021 Grapevine

Faith at Work!

As I look back at the prayer requests from the last two weeks, I'm reminded of just how many different experiences are a part of the human experience. This last week you shared your feelings about everything from graduations to weddings, and from upcoming surgeries to the loss of loved ones. This is the human experience.



In all of this I can see that faith is at work. Oh, for sure it seems like faith is at work more some days than others. There are times when our frustrations get to us and we let an unkind word slip out, one we didn't mean to even think much less say. And also there are times when we feel the love and support from people and places where it is completely unexpected. For example, Sunday morning right before church started I checked my email. I had a message in the inbox from a church in Illinois. It simply stated that they had a prayer list of churches and pastors from across our nation and were praying for different people each week. Low and behold, this Sunday we were on their prayer list. I can't tell you how amazing it was for me to read that message and feel that prayer right before starting worship! It made my day.

You may wonder about the photo that accompanies this article, the one of the US flag. Well, this is my view outside of the window in the bedroom that I have turned into a home office for the last year or so. As I gaze on the flag this morning, I can't help but think of July 4th right around the corner. Independence Day. This is the day that we celebrate our ancestors who stood up for what was right, for their own rights and responsibilities over 200 years ago. They did it together. Declaring our independence depended on their

interdependence. (Try saying that three times fast!) They needed to recognize that what they had in common was so much more important than any of their differences. Once they did that, our nation was born!

This would not have been possible without faith. Faith is what they had in common. Oh, they weren't all Methodists, or Lutherans, or Catholics. They had their differences, but even some of those founding ancestors of ours who didn't profess faith through any particular denomination, still expressed faith in a God who gave us the mystery of life. Faith at work can accomplish amazing things!

Put your faith to work today. Pray for the people on our prayer list. Reach out to a neighbor. Help out with meals on wheels or the Montrose food distribution program – FeeD. The book of James reminds us that faith without works is dead. Give life to your faith, and remember as you celebrate this Independence Day, that we are also interdependent with each other. May God bless you, now and forever more.

We take comfort in John Wesley's words from 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



- Tara Smith, Sally Smith's daughter, who is undergoing treatment for breast cancer.
- Debbie Vokaty who is dealing with health concerns.
- The family and friends of Richard Heitkamp and Jim Magnuson who passed away this past month.

Annandale UMC Giving and Attendance

Giving – June 2021 Attendance – June 2021

June 6, 2021	\$1,574.00 \$50.00 4 th of July donations Fund	25 – in-person
June 13, 2021	\$1,530.00 \$78.00 June Mission March – Love Offering	20 – in-person 44 – online
June 20, 2021	\$1,682.12 \$200.00 Flower Fund	24 – in-person 34 – online

General funds needed each week: \$2,519.00

June income as of 06/24/2021: \$5,480.12

June expenses as of 06/24/2021: \$6,575.62

2021 apportionments = \$14,020.00

Monthly apportionments = \$1,170.00

Apportionments paid in June as of 06/24/2021 = \$0

Apportionments paid YTD = \$5,860.26

Blood Drive



Blood Drive - Friday, July 16

American Family is hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive at our church building on July 16.

The Blood Drives have been full, so please make a reservation online with the Red Cross *soon*! Due to Covid-19, they have not been accepting walk-ins but masks are no longer required if donors, volunteers, and staff have been vaccinated. If you would like to donate, please make a reservation at www.redcross.org.



Grandparent/Grandchild Day Camp is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday-- July 26th and 27th from 9:00am – 3:00pm. The theme is "Be Kind". We will have snacks, lunch, beach time, crafts, games, and learn about being kind. Call the office to register. Organized by Sally Smith.



Worship Information and DVD's available

We are now operating in the Minnesota Conference's recommended **Blue Phase**. Below you will find the recommendations for this phase of our recovery.

COVID-19 is still circulating but the infection rate is decreasing or low, and larger gatherings can take place.

Churches can open with no capacity limits but social distancing is still highly encouraged and masks are recommended for anyone unvaccinated. We would offer these considerations as you determine your requirements in this new phase:

- What is your congregational make-up? If you have children in worship, we would encourage you to continue to require masking for all to protect them until they have an opportunity to be vaccinated. If your congregation is made up of primarily older individuals who have all been vaccinated, then you may consider eliminating your masking requirement.
- Pay attention to the vaccination rates and the COVID positivity rate in your community. If the positivity rate increases above 5 percent, you may want to re-impose masking requirements.
- Remember the essential risk factors of COVID: indoors, proximity, and length of time. A good rule of thumb to keep people safe is to meet two of these three conditions when meeting in a public space, especially when you don't know the vaccination status of participants: outdoors, social distanced, masked.

- If masking is optional in your setting, create an environment of respect for those who continue to wear masks. We all have different vulnerabilities. People should not be chided about their lack of faith or made to feel uncomfortable because they choose to do something that allows them to participate with a degree of comfort. You might want to encourage those with colds to wear a mask when they come to church to protect others. Continue to have masks and hand sanitizer available as an act of hospitality.
- Keep offering people different worship options as we are all emerging from COVID in different phases: outdoor, indoor, online. Make use of all modalities to allow for the fullest participation.
- Congregational singing is still considered a high-risk activity. Consider doing congregational singing outdoors, having people masked if there's congregational singing indoors, or having only members of your worship band sing while others hum along.
- Children's ministries should continue to require that all adult volunteers and all participants wear masks until more children have been vaccinated.
- Be cautious about how you re-introduce coffee fellowship time and potlucks. Eating and mingling indoors creates higher-risk conditions.
- Continue all sanitation practices from the previous phases. All toys and materials in the nursery and children's areas should be cleaned after each use.
- Continue to use no-touch alternatives for the passing of the peace and greeting each other (including the pastor at the end of the service).
- Serve communion in individual cups and pre-cut the bread.



Summer Worship Themes

June 27, 2021 “The Power of Jesus’ Touch”

Scripture Reading: Mark 5:21-43

July 4, 2021 “Show Me the Way to Go Home”

Scripture Reading: Mark 6:1-13

“Ephesians: Gearing up for LIFE”

July 11, 2021 “Setting Our Hope”

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

July 17, 2021 Saturday Picnic Worship Service

July 25, 2021 “Rooted and Grounded in Love”

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 3:14-21

“Ephesians: GEARING UP for Life”

August 1, 2021 “A Life Worthy”

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4:1-16

August 8, 2021 – Guest Speakers

August 15, 2021 “Speaking Truth”

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4:25-5:2

August 22, 2021 “Giving Thanks”

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 5:15-20

August 28, 2021 “Armored”

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20

September 5, 2021 Labor Day

Scripture Reading: James 1:17-27

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