

**ANNANDALE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

250 OAK AVENUE NORTH

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ANNANDALE, MN 55302

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**The Grapevine
March - 2021**

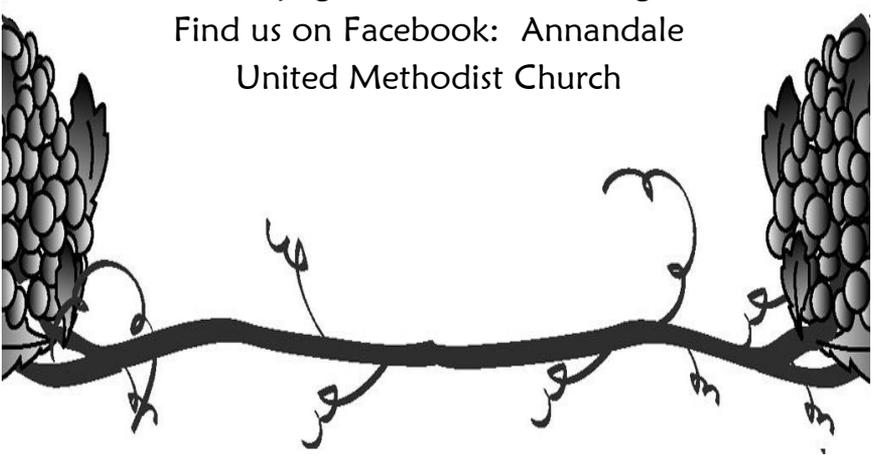
Pastor Paul Baker

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March 2021 Grapevine

Deuteronomy 15:7-11 ⁷ If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbor. **8** You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be. **9** Be careful that you do not entertain a mean thought, thinking, "The seventh year, the year of remission, is near," and therefore view your needy neighbor with hostility and give nothing; your neighbor might cry to the Lord against you, and you would incur guilt. **10** Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so, for on this account the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. **11** Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, "Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land."

We are not alone. We love you.

This scripture was in my daily devotional for last week. It speaks of the community of faith, and our responsibility to care for and love people who are in need. We are not in this life alone, and what makes life difficult for one of us, affects us all.

For the culture we live in, this is a radically counter-cultural message! In fact, some of us reading this won't like this passage of scripture or will try to find a loophole in this scripture. Good luck with that. When you read between the lines, this scripture takes generosity to an even deeper level than anything we know of in today's world. Without mentioning it by name, verse nine in this scripture refers to the Year of Jubilee!

The Year of Jubilee came around every seven years. In that year, the people of the community would forgive the debts of everyone who owed them money. That way, everyone would have a fresh start in life, every seven years. This must've been such a different time in human history. Can you imagine that taking place in the world we live in? I can't.

The main point of this passage is simply this. We are all in this together. I, for one, believe it. I recently heard that we now have more billionaires in the US than we ever have before. In the same newscast, I heard that people are still losing their jobs, and it's still so bad that people are even losing the homes they have worked so hard to provide for their families. There is just something wrong with this picture. How can so few have so much, and other people end up out on the street, and the culture we live in seems to not care about them, one way or the other? I don't have the detailed answers, but I know that something needs to change. It starts with love based in commitment to God and each other.

The core values of the Bible are the answer. From start to finish, the scriptures have always told the story of a God that cares about everyone in the community. We may call it love, we may call it fairness, we may call it justice, but God has always stood up for the little guy and encouraged the little guy to better themselves. God has always asked those of us who have extra, to give others a hand up, not just a hand out.

Please keep each other in your prayers. There will always be those in need in this world. And as verse 11 reminds us, we are called to generously meet those needs. We can make a difference, because the Lord has first made a difference in our lives.

We are not alone. We love you.

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 fluid.

Pastor Paul D. Baker

Annandale UMC Giving and Attendance

Giving -Feb. 2021 Attendance -Feb. 2021

Feb. 7, 2021	\$1,405.00	0 - in-person 65 - online
	\$50.00 Apportionments	
	\$100.00 Building Fund	
Feb. 14, 2021	\$1,406.00	0 - in-person 77 - online
	\$440.00 apportionments	
Feb. 21, 2021	\$835.00	11 - in-person 37 - online

General funds needed each week: \$2,519.00

February income as of 02/18/2021: \$2,136.99

February expenses as of 02/18/2021: \$5,622.46

2021 apportionments = \$14,020.00

Monthly apportionments = \$1,168.33

Apportionments paid in February = \$1,170.00

Apportionments paid YTD = \$2,340.00



Worship Information and DVD's available

We continue to operate in the Minnesota Conference's recommended **Orange Phase**.

As such our in-person worship continues with safety protocols in place. As of this writing there have been 114 Covid-19 deaths in Wright County, so please do your best to remain safe.

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 either watching Facebook Live on our church Facebook page (or perhaps Paul D. Baker's personal page) or going to www.vimeo.com/revwindsurfer and [choosing which Sunday worship you would like to watch.](#)

2)- During Lent we will not offer our regular Wednesday Soup Suppers, but we will offer a Zoom Wednesday Evening Video Bible Study with the Theme of "**Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times,**" with insight from the book of the same title by Bishop Michael Curry. Each Wednesday evening will offer a different video message from one of our District Superintendents.

If you are on our email list, you will receive an email invitation for that group 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 or a printed manuscript of the sermon, please let pastor Paul know at 320-455-7314.

March Worship Themes

Lenten Worship Theme –

[“Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times”](#)

March 7, 2021 “Doing Our Job”

Scripture Readings: Exodus 20:1-17 and John 2:13-22

March 14, 2021 “What Love Reveals”

Scripture Readings: Numbers 21:4-9 and John 3:14-21

March 21, 2021 “Agreeing to Love”

Scripture Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34 and John 12:20-33

March 28, 2021 **Palm Sunday** “Walk Together”

Scripture Readings: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 and Mark 11:1-11

April 1, 2021 Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 PM in Montrose

April 2, 2021 – Good Friday Community Service

Noon in Annandale (If we have it)

April 4, 2021 – **Easter Sunday**

(check back for more details)



Our next Family Night is Wednesday, March 10, 2021. We are asking our families to join in on our Zoom Lenten Study at 7:00 p.m. that night. Pastor Paul will be sending out a Zoom invite.

Easter Lily Order Form – Annandale UMC

If you are interested in purchasing an Easter plant to adorn our sanctuary on Easter Sunday, please fill out this form and put it in the offering plate or turn it in to the church office by SUNDAY, March 14. The cost is as follows: \$8.00/Easter lily, \$19.00/hydrangea plant, and \$9.00/tulip plant. Checks can be made payable to the ANNANDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. Please mark on the check “Easter Lily”.

YOUR NAME: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Amount</u>
EASTER LILY PLANTS	_____	_____
HYDRANGEA PLANTS	_____	_____
(please circle) blue	pink	white
TULIP PLANTS	_____	_____
(please circle) yellow	pink orange	purple
Total Amount Enclosed		_____

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