

**ANNANDALE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

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**The Grapevine
March 2026**

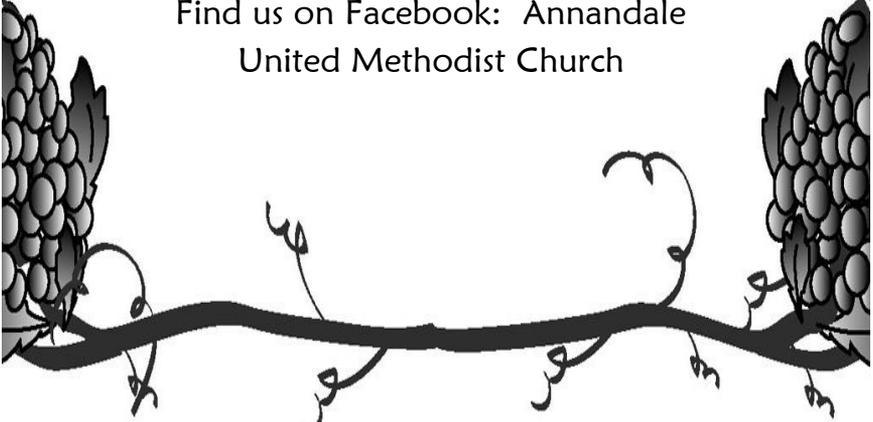
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March 2026 Grapevine

⁶ Jesus told this parable: “A man owned a fig tree planted in his vineyard. He came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ He said to his gardener, ‘Look, I’ve come looking for fruit on this fig tree for the past three years, and I’ve never found any. Cut it down! Why should it continue depleting the soil’s nutrients?’ ⁸

The gardener responded, ‘Lord, give it one more year, and I will dig around it and give it fertilizer. ⁹ Maybe it will produce fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.’ ”

- Luke 13:6–9.

This morning, I found myself turning to the parable of the mustard seed in Luke 13, but I like to read the entire chapter for a devotional so I can better understand the context. I came upon this parable of the fig tree after this call to repentance, and it just hit me hard. Can something/someone be so irredeemable that it has to be removed? Is there no hope for this fig tree?

My home in Oklahoma didn’t have any trees. For all of my teenage years, I didn’t have to collect leaves or pick up stray branches from the yard. So when my world shifted from the wide-open plains to a neighborhood thick with so many types of trees, I found myself annoyed by the constant mess. The fallen leaves felt like a chore, the branches a nuisance. I saw trees as things that just were—they either provided shade or they created work.

But this morning, reading about the gardener who was willing to get his hands dirty—to dig and to fertilize—I realized I had been looking at trees, and maybe at people, all wrong. The gardener didn’t see a fruitless tree as a problem to be removed.

He saw potential that needed nurturing. He saw a project worth investing in.

That's the "aha!" moment for me. It's so easy to adopt the owner's perspective: "Cut it down. It's taking up space and not producing." We apply this to people who frustrate us, to parts of our own lives that feel stagnant, and sometimes even to our faith when it doesn't seem to be bearing fruit. We want immediate results.

But Jesus, in this parable, paints a picture of God as the patient gardener. He sees the soil of our hearts and knows it needs to be loosened up. He knows we need some "fertilizer"—maybe it's a challenging circumstance, a kind word from a friend, or a fresh perspective from His Word—to finally put down deep roots and bear fruit. Thanks be to God for a Gardener who doesn't give up on us after one bad season, or even three. Thanks be to God for a God who digs and fertilizes, patiently waiting for the fruit that He knows is possible.

With love and blessings,

Pastor Mark

Annandale UMC Giving and Attendance

Giving –Feb. 2026 Attendance –Feb. 2026

Feb. 1, 2026	\$5,896.00	22 – in-person 61 – online
	\$10.00 Memorial Fund – Jeff Anderson	
Feb. 8, 2026	\$1,575.00	21 – in-person 66 – online
	\$190.00 February Mission March – Love INC	
	\$20.00 Memorial Fund – Marlin Grant	
Feb. 15, 2026	\$1,760.00	19 – in-person 30 – online
	\$25.00 Apportionment Fund	
Feb. 22, 2026	\$801.87	19 – in-person
	\$110.00 Ash Wednesday Worship Fund	45 – online

General funds needed each week: \$2,853.76

February income as of 02/19/26: \$11,567.00

February expenses as of 02/19/26: \$8,944.44

2026 apportionments = \$11,571.00

Apportionments paid YTD: \$1,109.00



March Worship Themes

March 1, 2026 "Guided By the Promise"
Scripture Reading: John 3:1-17

March 8, 2026 "Companion for the Journey"
Scripture Reading: Romans 5:1-11

March 15, 2026 "Journeying in Grace"
Scripture Reading: Psalm 23

March 22, 2026 "Redemption Road"
Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

March 29, 2026 (Palm Sunday) "Marching Orders"
Scripture Reading: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Blood Drive



Blood Drive - Friday, March 20, 2026

The next Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at our church on Friday, March 20 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).



Coffee Fellowship Serving Groups

- March 1, 2026: Joyce & Dave Heberling
- March 8, 2026: Joni Walberg & Dianne Engler
- March 15, 2026: Betsy Gridley & Barb McNellis
- March 22, 2026: Need
- March 29, 2026: Need



Usher Schedule

- March 1, 2026: Dave Heberling
- March 8, 2026: Dave Heberling
- March 15, 2026: Shelly Anderson
- March 22, 2026: Need
- March 29, 2026: Need



March Birthdays

- March 2 Celia Mix
- March 15 Danielle Bach
- March 15 Jeff Bach
- March 17 David Heitkamp
- March 17 Trevor Prinsen

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 into the church office by SUNDAY, March 8. 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: _____

Cost of plants: Easter lilies \$12.00/plant
 Tulips \$10.00/plant
 Hydrangeas \$29.00/plant

	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Amount</u>
EASTER LILY PLANTS	_____	_____
HYDRANGEA PLANTS	_____	_____
Blue Pink (Please circle color)		
TULIP PLANTS	_____	_____
Total Amount Enclosed	_____	

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