

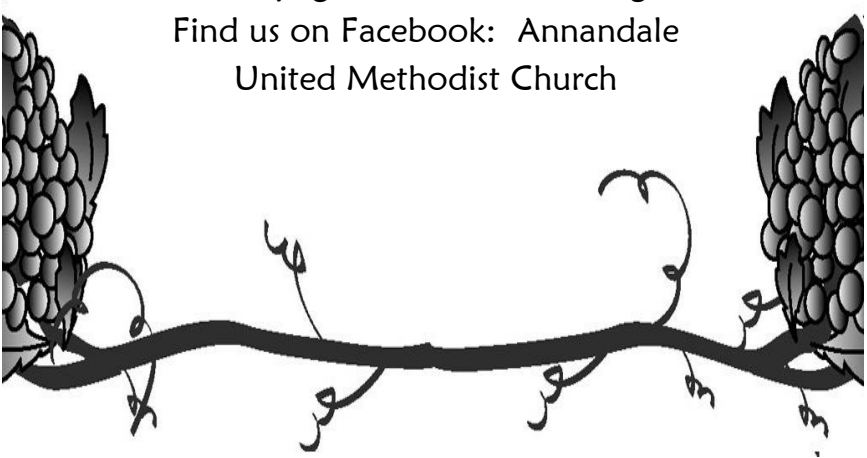


**ANNANDALE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

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**The Grapevine
May 2024**

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May 2024 Grapevine

As a result of having strong roots in love, I ask that you'll have the power to grasp love's width and length, height and depth, together with all believers. I ask that you'll know the love of Christ that is beyond knowledge so that you will be filled entirely with the fullness of God. - Ephesians 3:17-19

As we delve deeper into our sermon series based on Tom Berlin's book "Reckless Love," let's take a moment to reflect on the concept of reckless love as hinted in Ephesians 3:17-19. In this passage, the apostle Paul prays for the Ephesians, asking that they may be rooted and established in love, understanding the vastness of Christ's love that surpasses knowledge.

Reckless love, as hinted in these verses, speaks to a love that knows no bounds, a love that is extravagant, unconditional, and unrelenting. It is a love that goes beyond human comprehension, a love that is willing to take risks, to be vulnerable, and to give without expecting anything in return.

In Tom Berlin's book, we are reminded of the radical nature of God's love for us. Just as Paul prayed for the Ephesians to grasp the breadth, length, height, and depth of Christ's love, we too are called to immerse ourselves in this reckless love that transforms lives and renews hope.

As we journey through this sermon series, may we open our hearts to receive this reckless love, allowing it to shape our thoughts, actions, and relationships. Let us be rooted in love, knowing that we are cherished beyond measure by a God whose love knows no limits.

Together, let's embrace the reckless love of God and share it with the world around us.

With love and blessings,

Rev. Mark Schlasner



Ian Schlasner Baptism

Sunday, May 19, 2024 @ 9:30am

Please join us on Sunday, May 19 as Ian Schlasner, infant son of Pastor Mark and Amy Jo, will be baptized in the name of the Lord. We will have a guest speaker that morning, and the Montrose United Methodist Church will be joining us. Our worship service will start at 9:30am in lieu of it's usual 8:30am start time.

Annandale UMC Giving and Attendance

Giving –April 2024 Attendance –April 2024

April 7, 2024	\$3,659.00	26 – in-person 29 – online
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April 14, 2024	\$1,573.00	23 – in-person 20 – online
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\$496.00 Mission March – Apportionments

\$100.00 Special Sunday offering – Native Am. Ministries

April 21, 2024	\$1,215.00	26 – in-person 21 – online
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April 28, 2024	\$694.00	26 – in-person 17 – online
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General funds needed each week: \$2,491.70

April income as of 04/18/24: \$6,277.00

April expenses as of 04/18/24: \$7,341.94

2024 apportionments = \$12,946.00

Monthly apportionments = \$1,078.83

April apportionments paid = \$600.00

Apportionments paid YTD = \$1,885.00



May Worship Themes

May 5, 2024 “Begin with Love”
Scripture Reading 1 John 4:7-8

May 12, 2024 “Expand the Circle”
Scripture Reading: Luke 5:27-32

May 19, 2024 worship service @ 9:30am “Lavish Love”
Scripture Reading: Luke 6:27-28

May 26, 2024 “Openhearted Love”
Scripture Reading: Luke 10:25-37



Coffee Fellowship Serving Groups

May 5, 2024: Barb McNellis & Betsy Gridley

May 12, 2024: Sally Smith

May 19, 2024:

May 26, 2024: Ruth Bahe



Usher Schedule

May 5, 2024: Garry Elfstrand

May 12, 2024: Shelly Anderson

May 19, 2024: Gerry Bahe

May 26, 2024: Gerry Bahe



- Jessica, Steve & Laurie Dick's daughter who has been diagnosed with melanoma, and due to her pregnancy, there are limitations to what can be done until her baby is born and prayers for keeping the baby safe and healthy now and when it is born.



Our May Mission March, which will be taken during the first hymn on Sunday May 12, 2024, will support the 2024 Love Offering. Bishop Lanette Plambeck writes, "The 2024 Love Offering invites us to walk alongside our neighbors near and far, reminding them through our tangible actions that they too are worthy, loved, and beloved. Our generosity will have a lasting impact on each recipient. Thank you for your extravagant generosity, your commitment to loving your neighbors and delivering hope to a hurting world, and the countless ways you live out your faith in Jesus Christ every day. I give thanks for you, and I'm grateful to be in ministry with you."



May Birthdays

May 5	Dave Heberling
May 6	Linda Elfstrand
May 10	Bonnie Ponsford
May 14	Jen Sommers
May 17	Steve Dick
May 28	Dan Roller
May 30	Diana Heitkamp



Each year, churches in the Minnesota Annual Conference take a Love Offering for missions. The offering is brought to annual conference session—a gathering of United Methodist clergy and laity from across the state. The theme of the 2024 Annual Conference session—taking place in Bloomington on May 29-30—is “Jesus. Redeemer.”

The Love Offering this year will help our neighbors—in Minnesota and around the world—heal from trauma and find safety. The funds from this year’s offering will go to a new United Methodist trauma care center in Ukraine, immigration legal support in partnership with Volunteer Lawyer Network, special programming aimed at reducing trauma at Emma Norton Services’ new Restoring Waters development, and Volunteers in Mission Scholarships

- Thirty percent of the Love Offering will go to a new trauma care center in Ukraine. These funds will be used for accessibility renovations, staff salaries, and training.
- Thirty percent of the Love Offering will go to immigration legal support in partnership with Volunteer Lawyer Network. This portion of the funds will help our neighbors across Minnesota who have legal needs around immigration, citizenship, seeking asylum, and other types of humanitarian relief.
- Thirty percent of the Love Offering will go to special programming aimed at reducing trauma at Emma Norton Services’ new Restoring Waters facility.
- Ten percent of the Love Offering each year goes to Volunteers in Mission scholarships, which support first-time mission trip participants. Scholarships awarded range from \$200-\$400 per application.

2023 Recap Donations to the 2023 Love Offering totaled \$80,143, an 11 percent increase from the 2022 total. 60 percent of the funds will go to a grant for churches offering mental health support to their communities. The remaining funds were divided among Mental Health Connect, Mental Health Minnesota, Minnesota Association for Children’s Mental Health, and Volunteers in Mission scholarships.

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