

The Grapevine May 2025

2025
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Resurrection and Remembrance: Walking with Indigenous Kin in the Season of New Life

This Eastertide, as we celebrate Christ's triumph over death, I've been thinking about how resurrection isn't just a one-time miracle—it's a rhythm woven into creation. Indigenous traditions know this rhythm well. In my conversations with Indigenous neighbors, I've been struck by how their ceremonies—like the Cherokee Green Corn Ceremony or the Lakota Wiwányang Wačhípi (Sun Dance)—honor cycles of dying and rising, of repentance and restoration. Isn't that what Easter invites us into? Not just rejoicing in an empty tomb, but living as people who trust that God can restore what's been broken.

But resurrection hope demands honesty about the wounds that still need healing. For Native communities, that means confronting the legacy of colonialism—land theft, forced assimilation, and even the misuse of Christian doctrine to justify boarding schools. I've been convicted lately by how Acts 4 calls the early church to hold "all things in common," while our Indigenous siblings still fight for basic rights: clean water on reservations, protection of sacred lands like Oak Flat, or the return of ancestral remains. If Easter is about God making all things new, how can we, the Church, be part of repair?

I'm learning from Indigenous theologians like Randy Woodley (Cherokee descendant), who writes that *shalom* isn't just peace between people, but with the land itself. Jesus' resurrected body still bore scars, yet it was whole. Likewise, Native resilience teaches us that justice isn't about erasing

history, but transforming it. This spring, I'm asking myself: Where am I being called to listen, to advocate, or to stand with Native leaders?

Friends, the good news of Easter isn't just for individuals—it's for all creation (Romans 8:19-21). Let's honor this season by supporting Indigenous-led efforts like protecting Oak Flats, protecting wild rice, or by reading works by Native Christians like *Becoming Rooted* by Randy Woodley. Christ is risen—and in Him, may we rise to the work of justice, remembrance, and kinship.

With love and blessings,

Rev. Mark Schlasner

Annandale UMC Giving and Attendance

Giving – April 2025 Attendance – April 2025

April 6, 2025 \$1,530.00 25 - in-person

50- online

April 13, 2025 \$2,020.00 30 - in-person

47 - online

\$246.00 Mission March - Flower Fund

April 20, 2025 \$1,920.60 38 - in-person

55 - online

April 27, 2025 \$885.00 24 - in-person

online

\$25.00 Apportionment Fund

\$20.00 Mission March - Flower Fund

General funds needed each week: \$2,638.78

April income as of 04/23/25: \$6,333.00

April expenses as of 04/23/25: \$8,610.37

2025 apportionments = \$11,690.00

Apportionments paid YTD = \$1,000.00



Our May Mission March, which will be taken during the first hymn on Sunday, May 11, 2025 will go to the Love Offering taken at Annual Conference in June. This year's theme is "Love in Action."

Bishop Lanette Plambeck invites congregations to pray about and participate in the Love Offering as we put love into action. Donations to the 2024 Love Offering totaled **\$142,963.40**, a 78 percent increase from the 2023 total!



May Worship Themes

May 4, 2025 Native American Sunday -Stephen's Witness Scripture Reading: Acts 6:1—7:2a, 44-60

May 11, 2025 Ethiopian Eunuch Baptized Scripture Reading: Acts 8:26-39

May 18, 2025 Council at Jerusalem Scripture Reading: Acts 15:1-18

May 25, 2025 Living by Faith Scripture Reading: Galatians 1:13-17; 2:11-21



Coffee Fellowship Serving Groups

May 4, 2025: Garry & Linda Elfstrand

May 11, 2025: Steve & Laurie Dick

May 18, 2025: Sally Smith

May 25, 2025: Betsy Gridley and Barb McNellis



Usher Schedule

May 4, 2025: Gerry Bahe

May 11, 2025: Garry Elfstrand

May 18, 2025: Shelly Anderson

May 25, 2025: Gerry Bahe



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



Blood Drive - Friday, May 16, 2025

The next Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at our church on Friday, May 16 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).



Yarn Needed. I am still collecting any yarn you might have on hand to make kitty Afghans like the one pictured. I have lost count of how many I have made, but probably over 50 have been donated to the Tri County Humane Society. Thanks for the donations so far. Yarn can be left in the box in Fellowship Hall. Linda Elfstrand







2025 Love Offering

Each year, churches in the Minnesota Annual Conference take a Love Offering for missions in conjunction with our Annual Conference Session, June 11-13, 2025. This year's Love Offering will go to:

- Africa University for student scholarships (30%): Africa
 University, a United Methodist-related school in Zimbabwe,
 currently educates about 2,500 students from 24 African
 countries. With your support, students are equipped to share the
 gospel of Jesus Christ, reduce hunger, improve public health,
 instill hope, and build prosperous and peaceful communities.
- Immigration Law and Justice Network (30%): Immigration Law & Justice Network, an organization first established by The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), supports 19 sites across the country, each providing low-income immigrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers with urgently needed immigration legal services, advocacy, and education. Financial support from the Love Offering is critical at this moment, and every dollar will make a difference to immigrants seeking access to justice.
- OC Ministries (20%): OC Ministries is celebrating its 35th anniversary, supports schools, medical clinics, churches, agriculture projects, vision clinics, curriculum writing, and student scholarships. Your support fulfills children's practical needs, ensuring they have access to food, education, and a nurturing environment to thrive.
- Midwest Mission (20%): Midwest Mission, a depot in the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) relief supply network, brings people together to transform resources into humanitarian relief so that people's lives are changed for the better, alleviating them from poverty and crisis.

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