



**ANNANDALE UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**

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**The Grapevine  
May 2026**

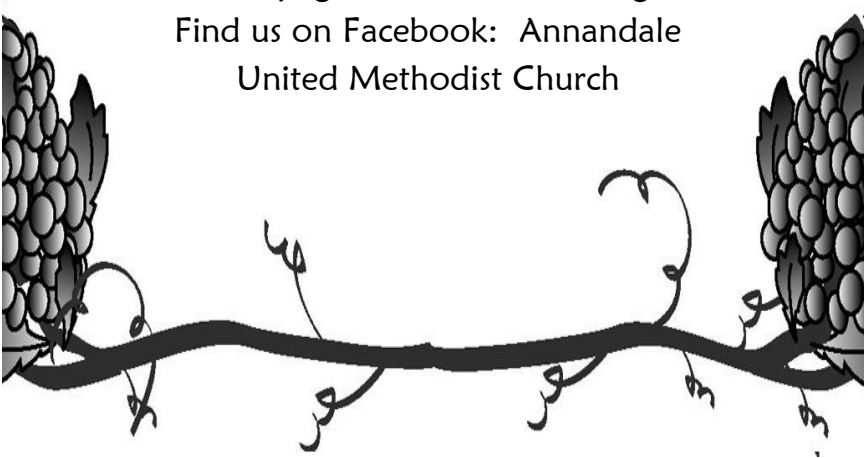
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## May 2026 Grapevine

Something shifts in us when love stops being a reaction and starts becoming a reason. Most of us spend years operating from impulse, preference, or habit, and only gradually do we notice another current moving underneath—quieter, steadier, unconcerned with whether it feels good in the moment. When that happens, we're not just maturing emotionally. We're being anchored in something that doesn't shift with our moods. The strange thing is, we rarely notice the transition while it's happening. Someone looking from the outside might not see any difference at all. But inside, the center of gravity has moved.

That same hiddenness shows up in our praying. We can go a long time believing prayer depends on us—our focus, our words, our ability to show up with something to say. And then, often without fanfare, we stumble into a different experience. Maybe on a quiet afternoon when no profound thoughts come. Maybe in a sanctuary before the service starts. Maybe while folding laundry. We realize we're not performing anything. We're just there. And somehow that's enough. The story of Mary sitting silent at Jesus' feet while her sister busies herself with worthy tasks has always been less about who was right and more about what each was reaching for. One was reaching for something to do. The other was reaching for something to receive.

And we are shaped, more than we know, by the traditions we've stopped noticing. Hebrews speaks of a great cloud of witnesses—not distant heroes on pedestals, but a living surround of faithful presence. For most of us, that cloud looks like the people who taught us hymns we didn't appreciate at the

time, the liturgies that formed our imagination, the ordinary rhythms we absorbed without thinking. These things don't announce themselves. They just keep quietly doing their work until one day we realize they've been carrying us all along.

Then there is the presence we offer one another, which the world is not especially equipped to value. We measure most things by output, growth, visibility. But Jesus speaks of abiding—of a connectedness that bears fruit in its own season, often in ways we never trace. Showing up week after ordinary week is not a small thing. It is how a vine works. It is how a people are formed. And at Pentecost, when the Spirit descends with wind and fire, we see what all that rootedness was for. The disciples weren't given that moment so they could stay in the room. They were filled so they could be sent. That is where the hidden work leads—not to comfort alone, but to a life poured out in places we didn't expect, speaking a language we didn't know we had.

With love and blessings,

Pastor Mark Schlasner

## **Annandale UMC Giving and Attendance**

### Giving –April 2026    Attendance –April 2026

April 5, 2026	\$2,819.00	38 – in-person 63 – online
\$1,000.00 Building/Maintenance Fund – Bell Tower		
April 12, 2026	\$2,719.46	24 – in-person 45 – online
\$646.00 March Mission March – Building/Maintenance Fund		
\$50.00 Apportionment Fund		
\$50.00 Special Sundays Offering Fund – Native Am. Ministries		
April 19, 2026	\$870.00	22 – in-person 50 – online
\$25.00 Apportionment Fund		
\$287.00 Special Sundays Offering Fund – Native Am. Ministries		
April 26, 2026	\$596.00	24 – in-person 44 – online

General funds needed each week:    \$2,853.76

April income as of 04/16/26: \$7,364.46

April expenses as of 04/16/26: \$6,538.55

2026 apportionments = \$11,571.00

Apportionments paid YTD: \$1,459.00



## May Worship Themes

May 3, 2026 “When Love Becomes the Only Reason”

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4:14-16

May 10, 2026 “What If Prayer Isn't About the Words?”

Scripture Reading: Luke 10:38-42

May 17, 2026 “The Gift Hidden in the Familiar”

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 12:1-2

May 24, 2026 “What If Your Presence Is Meant to Be More?”

Scripture Reading: John 15:1-8

May 31, 2026 “The Fire That Sends You”

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:1-21



## 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



## Coffee Fellowship Serving Groups

May 3, 2026: Dave & Joyce Heberling

May 10, 2026: Roberta Monk

May 17, 2026: Joni Walberg & Dianne Engler

May 24, 2026: Dave & Joyce Heberling

May 31, 2026: Betsy Gridley and Barb McNellis



## Usher Schedule

May 3, 2026: Gerry Bahe

May 10, 2026: Cheryl Maki

May 17, 2026: Gerry Bahe

May 24, 2026: Dave Heberling

May 31, 2026: Shelly Anderson

Blood Drive



## Blood Drive - Friday, May 15, 2026

The next Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at our church on Friday, May 15 from 10:00am–4:00pm.

Donors can schedule an appointment now by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org), or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).



Apportionments can be seen as an ugly word, but I can testify that apportionments have helped our church.

Every month, I will be sharing how apportionments help support international, national, and local missions in the United Methodist Church.

The Minnesota Conference is devoted to identifying and empowering local church leadership. Thanks to apportionments, laity receive training through webinars and learning modules designed to help them grow as effective leaders.

The only money collected for apportionments are those indicated as such. So we ask that you prayerfully consider giving whatever you can for apportionments so *we* can pass it on and bless other congregations.

With love and blessings,

Pastor Mark



Our May Mission March, which will be taken during the first hymn on Sunday, May 10, 2026 will go to the Love Offering taken at Annual Conference in June. This year's theme is "Created to Serve Joyfully."

Bishop Lanette Plambeck invites congregations to pray about and participate in the Love Offering. She shares, "This offering is more than a tradition. It is a tangible expression of our connectional life and our shared commitment to Christ's mission. When we give, we participate in ministry that reaches far beyond what any one congregation could do alone."

Your donations to the 2025 Love Offering totaled **\$89,489.88!**

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