



**ANNANDALE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

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**The Grapevine
November - 2021**

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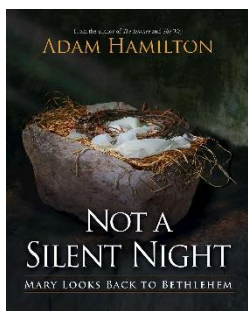


November 2021 Grapevine

Commercials!

What commercial is your favorite? Well, I have to admit that some of those Doritos ones, that were produced for the Super Bowl have always been among my favorites. DO you remember, the little boy who built the time machine? Or the two little boys competing to help their mom bring in the groceries, so they can get the Doritos? Or the youngster that is told by the farmer that he can have a Dorito when pigs fly? You may remember them, or maybe not. After all, I didn't say they were your favorites!

As I write this it isn't even Halloween yet! But, it has started already, my least favorite commercials. Anything having to do with the commercialism of Christmas. They all seem to promise the same thing. Joy and peace will be yours, if only you had this, or that, or the other thing. We all know that message isn't true, but, the hope for joy and peace and love, is strong. And sometimes, we can slip into believing a little bit of that commercial message, without us even realizing it.



That is why, this year I would like to focus my December messages, my Advent messages, on what that first Christmas may have been like. And who better to use as an anchor for this exploration of the past than Jesus' own mother, Mary. We will be centering ourselves on the scripture and using a book titled, "Not a Silent

Night" to do that. If you would like us to order a copy for you, it is well worth the time it takes to read the book.

We will also be offering a devotional book by James W. Moore to follow along with during Advent. Please contact me right away if you would like me to order a devotional for you. My email is am.umc.pastor@gmail.com or text 320-455-7314.



Invite someone you care about to join us this Advent season as we prepare ourselves to Celebrate the gift of life itself, and the gift of the eternal life that comes through the Son of God. It is not to be taken for granted. It is to be shared.

So put your trust in 1st John 4:7-8,

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

And may your life itself be a fantastic advertisement! - Not for things that won't last, but for the joy of an eternity with Jesus of Nazareth.

May God's Kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven!

Pastor Paul

Pastor Paul D. Baker

Annandale UMC Giving and Attendance

Giving –Oct. 2021 Attendance –Oct. 2021

Oct. 3, 2021	\$2,003.00	18 – in-person 40 – online
	\$65.00 World Communion Special Offering	
Oct. 10, 2021	\$1,681.00	25 – in-person 10 – online
	\$62.00 October Mission March – UMCOR	
Oct. 17, 2021	\$1,067.00	20 – in-person 37 – online
Oct. 24, 2021	\$703.00	20 – in-person 42 – online
	\$150.00 Apportionment Fund	

General funds needed each week: \$2,519.00

October income as of 10/21/21: \$4,178.00

October expense as of 10/21/21: \$5,617.05

2021 apportionments = \$14,020.00

Monthly apportionments = \$1,170.00

Apportionments paid YTD = \$8,207.00



Our November Mission March on Sunday, November 14, 2021 will go to apportionments. Apportionments are the share each annual conference or local church pays to support international, national, and local missions.



Phased Re-Gathering Plan for Churches
The suggestions in the phased plan below are driven by our Three Simple Rules:

- **We are a people that do no harm.** We practice physical distancing to minimize harm to others, especially the vulnerable.
- **We are a people that do all the good we can.** We care for the spiritual and physical needs of our neighbors, providing food, emotional support, and supporting our health care system.
- **We are a people that stay in love with God.** When we love God through prayer, praise, and worship, we grow in love of our neighbor. Love of God and love of neighbor are inseparable.

We are currently in the **YELLOW Phase**. For more information on the various phases, go to our Minnesota Conference webpage <https://www.minnesotauc.org/regatheringplan>

For Our Specific County: We have been asked to make safe decisions based on the positive test rate for our county. If the positive test rate is over 5% then we are asked to consider whether we need to initiate more precautions. At this point Wright County is consistently hovering around the 10% level. Some churches in Wright County have gone back to wearing masks indoors, however at the time of this writing, our churches have opted to continue with the precautions we have in place. Please check in from time to time to see if things have changed to be either more lenient, or more restrictive.

The following is the Bishop's pastoral letter on October 21, 2021 concerning COVID precautions amid surge in cases.

In light of the increase in COVID-19 cases in Minnesota, Bishop David Bard issued the following pastoral letter to Minnesota United Methodists in which he encourages vaccinations and masking, and points out that the United Methodist tradition does not provide much support for religious exemptions for vaccinations:

I greet you in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the peace and power of the Holy Spirit.

At the beginning of this week, three news items in particular captured my attention. I would ask us all to continue to pray for Haiti, and include prayers for the missionaries recently kidnapped there. Pray for their safe release, and pray for a Haiti that is safer and turning a corner toward peace and shared prosperity.

The two other news items are related. Former Secretary of State Colin Powell died from complications related to COVID. Though vaccinated, Powell's underlying health conditions contributed significantly to his vulnerability. At the same time that news was being reported, more news about COVID was also being shared. The five states with the fastest rising caseloads for COVID are Vermont, Colorado, New Hampshire, Michigan, and Minnesota. This time of year, you may want to see the Gophers in a top five list for NCAA football. The top five list for rising COVID caseload is a list we would like to avoid. Ninety-six percent of our ICU beds are occupied, and the pressure is expected to continue for the next few weeks, with a current positivity rate of 8.5 percent as reported in the Star Tribune on Wednesday.

Allow me to take this opportunity to remind you of my consistent encouragement to promote public health, further the common good, care for the well-being of others, do no harm, do good, and love your neighbor, all in the name and spirit of Jesus.

Specifically, I encourage you: If you have not been vaccinated and are eligible to receive a vaccine, do it. It is the single most important thing you can do to care for yourself and for others. The unvaccinated remain those most likely to be hospitalized and suffer severe illness or death because of COVID. They are also capable of spreading the disease for longer periods of time. Get vaccinated. Encourage your fellow-church members to get vaccinated. If you are eligible for a booster, get your booster shot.

Due to our positivity rate, we remain in the [Yellow Phase of our Re-Gathering Plan](#), which strongly encourages masking by everyone when meeting in-person and indoors. If you are in a high-risk area, consider mandating masks for indoor, in-person gatherings. After vaccinations, masks are the next best tool we have for slowing the spread of the coronavirus, and slowing the spread also prevents the virus from developing into new variants. Together, masking and vaccinations will help us stem the rising tide of the coronavirus.

Finally, allow me to say a word about religious exemptions for vaccinations. The United Methodist tradition of the Christian faith does not provide much support for a religious exemption for vaccinations. John Wesley promoted the best cures and preventative measures of his day in his work "Primitive Physick." Founding hospitals is a significant part of our history as Methodists. Our Social Principles assert that "health care is a basic human right." I have consistently encouraged Minnesota United Methodists to get

vaccinated. It would be extraordinarily difficult to use our United Methodist tradition to substantiate a religious exemption claim for a COVID vaccination.

Friends, I continue to believe that by God's grace we can muster the resilience, the kindness, and the determination to do what needs to be done to get past this pandemic. As followers of Jesus, we can lead in promoting public health, furthering the common good, and caring for the well-being of others. When we act out of love for neighbor and care for our community, we offer a powerful witness to the grace of God in Jesus Christ.

Pre-Christmas Worship Themes

John: The Gospel of Light and Life

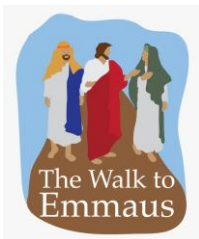
- October 31 "The Arrest, Trial and Crucifixion of the King"
Scripture: John 19:14b-20
- November 7 "Eternal Life"
Scripture: Matthew 21:8-11; John 20:11-18

Trust in Christ's Church

- November 14 "Not One Stone" Scripture: Mark 13:1-8
- November 21 Christ the King Sunday Scripture: John 18:33-37
Also, Thanksgiving Service on Highway 12

ADVENT – Not a Silent Night

- November 28 "Beginning with the End"
Scripture: Acts 1:8-14
- December 5 "The Piercing of Mary's Soul"
Scripture: Luke 2:33-35
- December 12 "Amazed, Astounded, Astonished"
Scripture: Luke 2:41-51
- December 19 "Mary, Full of Grace"
Scripture: Luke 1:26-33
- December 24 "It was Not a Silent Night"
Scripture: Luke 2:1-7
- December 26 "Lost at Home for **Christmas**"
Scripture: Luke 2:41-52



Walk to Emmaus Retreats

While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and walked with them. - Luke 24:1

The walk to Emmaus is an experience of Christian spiritual renewal and formation that begins with a three-day short course in Christianity. It is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in a new way as God's grace and love is revealed to you through other believers. You will enjoy three days of singing, learning, laughing, worshiping, reflecting, praying, and participating in small groups. Discussions center around fifteen talks given by laity and clergy. These talks present the theme of God's grace, how that grace comes alive in the Christian community and how it is expressed in the world. You'll also discover how grace is real in your life, how you live a life of grace, and how you bring that grace to others.

MEN'S WALK 127 - FEBRUARY 3RD-6TH

WOMEN'S WALK 128 - FEBRUARY 10TH-13TH

Pastor Paul and Debbie would be happy to sponsor you for either Walk experience.

("Walk" is just an expression, not much walking required, but there are lots of goodies for your tummy.)



Poinsettias Order Form

If you are interested in purchasing a poinsettia plant to decorate the sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas Season, please fill out this form and place it in the offering plate or turn it in to the church office by **Sunday, November 14**. Cost is \$8.00/plant. Make checks payable to: **Annandale UMC**. Due to the floral department at Marketplace's concerns regarding Covid and shipping, quantities may be limited and substitutions may be necessary.

YOUR NAME: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

NO. PLANTS ORDERED: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

CHOICE OF COLOR (please circle)

red

white

pink

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