ANNANDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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The Grapevine
November 2026

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November 2026 Grapevine

As the leaves turn and we enter a season of thanksgiving, it's natural to pause and reflect on the landscape of our lives and our world. It feels like a time of immense questioning, a moment when the foundations seem to be shifting. We hear competing voices telling us who we should be and what truly matters. In the midst of this noise, we are presented with a profound opportunity to turn inward and ask the essential questions of our faith: Who are we, really? What does it mean to follow Christ in this specific, complicated moment? This November, we are exploring these very questions through the lens of Matthew 25, a chapter that speaks with startling clarity to a world in crisis.

These ancient stories—of wise and foolish bridesmaids, of talents invested and buried, of the hungry, the stranger, and the imprisoned—are often framed as being about the distant future. But what if we read them again, not as a roadmap to the afterlife, but as a blueprint for living with integrity and hope right now? They challenge us to consider what it means to be citizens of a nation while holding fast to our identity as citizens of a kingdom and kin-dom of heaven. They call us to stand against the misrepresentations of our faith that are so often used for power and position, and instead, to embody the radical, self-giving love of Jesus.

This isn't just about understanding the text; it's about claiming a vision for our shared life. It's about seeing the face of Christ in the overlooked and the vulnerable, and responding with action. It's about recognizing the gifts we've been given and boldly investing them in God's work of restoration. When we do this,

we are not just waiting for the world to come; we are actively participating in its arrival here and now. We are learning, together, what it looks like to live as a people of hope in a world that is so often defined by fear.

As we gather around the table this Thanksgiving and look toward the season of Advent, we hold onto the promise that gives shape to our entire journey. We are not left to navigate this identity crisis alone. We have a vision, a calling, and a Savior who shows us the way. So, as we seek to be faithful in this in-between time, we remind one another of the promise that anchors our souls. As Jesus said to us, "It will be like this."

With love and blessings,

Pastor Mark Schlasner

Annandale UMC Giving and Attendance

	Giving –Oct. 2026	Attendance –Oct. 2026
Oct. 4, 2026	$2,352.00	24– in-person 64 – online
	$70.00 Special Sunday Offering Fund – World Communion	
Oct. 11, 2026	$1,275.81	26 – in-person 45 – online
	$728.00 October Mission March – Annandale Children $1,264.50 Holiday Market & Bake Shop sales $20.00 Special Sundays Offering Fund – World Communion	
Oct. 18, 2026	$1,443.00	21 – in-person 30 - online
	$50.00 Apportionment Fund	
Oct. 25, 2026	$1,401.02	23 – in-person 36 – online
	$110.00 Rent Fund – Al-anon rent	

General funds needed each week: $2,853.76

October income as of 10/15/26: $6,906.31

October expenses as of 10/15/26: $6,054.29

2026 apportionments = $11,571.00

Apportionments paid in October: $50.00

Apportionments paid YTD: $2,168.00



Our November Mission March, which will be taken during the first hymn on Sunday, November 8, 2026, will go towards our Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, November 26, 2026. This Mission March will help with the cost of the dinner.



November Worship Themes

November 1, 2026 "Witnesses"
Scripture Reading:1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

November 8, 2026 "Keep Awake"
Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:1-13

November 15, 2026 "Enter the Joy"
Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:14-30

November 22, 2026 "Come, You Blessed"
Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

November 29, 2026 "Bah! Humbug!"
Scripture Reading: Mark 13:24-37

Blood Drive
American Red Cross

Blood Drive - Friday, November 13, 2026

The next Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at our church on Friday, November 13 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

November 1, 2026: Joni Walberg & Dianne Engler

November 8, 2026: Steve & Laurie Dick

November 15, 2026: Garry & Linda Elfstrand

November 22, 2026: Dan & Mona Roller

November 29, 2026: Judd & Barb Owen



Usher Schedule

November 1, 2026: Judd & Barb Owen

November 8, 2026: Garry Elfstrand

November 15, 2026: Shelly Anderson

November 22, 2026: Gerry Bahe

November 29, 2026: Gerry Bahe



Thanksgiving Dinner

The Outreach Committee reminds you that we will host our community Thanksgiving Dinner with all the trimmings on Thursday, November 26th serving at noon. A clipboard will be passed asking for volunteers and your donations of side dishes and desserts. Turkey, dressing, potatoes and gravy will be provided.



Poinsettias Order Form

Pre-orders for poinsettias were taken in September. If you missed preordering, you can still purchase a poinsettia plant to decorate the sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas Season as extras were ordered. Please fill out this form and place it in the offering plate or turn it into the church office by **Sunday, November 15.** Cost is $10.00/plant. Make checks payable to: **Annandale UMC.**

YOUR NAME: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

_____

_____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

_____

_____

NUMBER PLANTS ORDERED: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

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