



**ANNANDALE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

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**The Grapevine
October
2022**

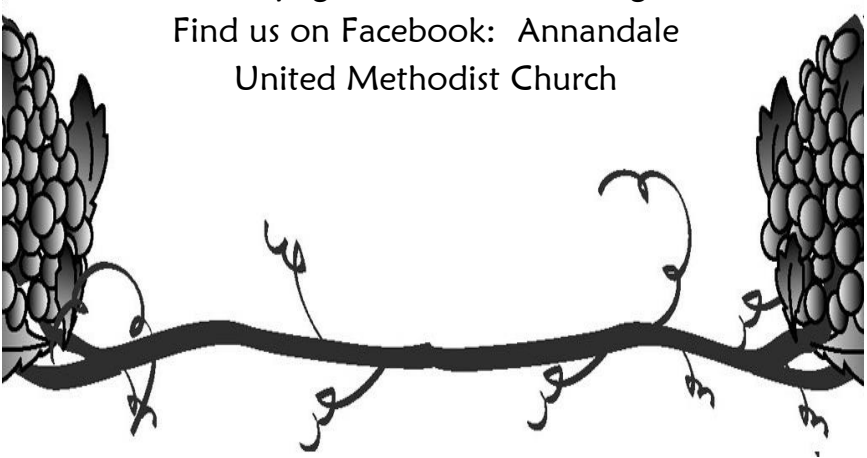
Pastor Mark Schlasner

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Pastor's Page – Rev. Mark Schlasner

“When you pray, don't be like hypocrites. They love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners so that people will see them. I assure you, that's the only reward they'll get. But when you pray, go to your room, shut the door, and pray to your Father who is present in that secret place. Your Father who sees what you do in secret will reward you.” - Matthew 6:5-6

Moses said to the Lord, “Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.” - Exodus 4:10

As a kid, there wasn't a thing I couldn't do! I was great at drawing, math, reading, sports, etc. If I ever was asked if I'm good at something, I'd raise my hand proudly! That list has gotten shorter as I've gotten older. I'm no longer good at drawing, I'm alright at math, and I haven't really played sports in a long time! Part of the reason why I'm not so great at stuff anymore is because I don't have school where time is already scheduled for me to do those kinds of things. Also, it's because I haven't developed past drawing stick figures. One thing that I think most people say they're not good at is prayer.

Prayer, especially public prayer, is a weak spot for most people. It's a weak spot because most people pray privately and rarely ever have to lift up prayer in public. Sometimes when asked to pray in public most people feel like Moses: inept and ineloquent. Well rest assured, you're not the only one! Everyone would love to have an Aaron who could say all of our prayers for us. Part of living a spiritual life is being able to pray whenever and wherever because it's important to connect with God!

This next sermon series, Talking With God, will focus on prayer and some of the misconceptions. Whether you're a prayer warrior or just beginning your prayer life, there will be something to learn and gain from this. We'll talk about what it means to pray, why we pray, how

to pray, and how it can develop a rich spiritual life. In order for us to grow as spiritual beings, we must be able to develop a daily prayer life. How can God answer our prayers if we don't even know what we can ask for or how to ask?

Even I had some misconceptions about prayer life. When I was in seminary, a youth leader at this church I was attending totaled his car. He was having to get rides to church from other youth leaders. The senior pastor helped him and some gracious person gave him a car for free! He kept praising God and thanking God for answering his prayer. As a seminary student who thinks that I know more than this youth leader; I turned to him skeptically and asked, "you think God would give you a car for free while there are people starving in Africa?" That really shut him up. He didn't have a good reply! I smugly thought that I did my job at making him question whether God really answered his prayer or not. It wasn't until later that I learned that I was absolutely wrong.

God had indeed answered his prayer! There was no way that I was an authority to say what God can or can't do! He asked for a car so he could continue to reliably get himself to church and preach the good news of Jesus Christ. Even today I sort of regret saying what I had said. I shouldn't be discouraging others from a life of faith, but instead helping each one of us to go deeper and listen closely to the way the Spirit moves us. Someone was moved by the God of love to give that youth leader a car. It wasn't so that the person could get a pat on the back or get a gold star. The person did it because that was their sincere and honest reaction to Jesus' call to love our neighbor. That's the power of prayer!

We're all connected, and in order for us to truly be able to see prayers answered, we have to have an active prayer life. I ask you to pray that God will reveal some amazing stuff during the next four weeks. As we gather again in small groups beginning the week of October 16th, we will go deeper into how an active prayer life can not only change our spiritual life but also the spiritual life of those around us!

Annandale UMC Giving and Attendance

	<u>Giving -Sept. 2022</u>	<u>Attendance -Sept. 2022</u>
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Sept. 4, 2022	\$2,387.00	23 – in-person 7 – online
	\$25.00 Parsonage Project Fund	
Sept. 11, 2022	\$715.95	22 – in-person 15 – online
	\$95.00 Mission March – Love INC	
Sept. 18, 2022	\$1,580.59	24 – in-person 8 – online
	\$100.00 Thanksgiving Dinner donation	
Sept. 25, 2022	\$867.62	25 – in-person 12 – online

General funds needed each week: \$2,523.38

September income as of 09/15/22: \$3,222.95

September expenses as of 09/15/22: \$3,349.99

2022 apportionments = \$12,673.00

Monthly apportionments = \$1,056.00

Apportionments paid in September = \$200.00

Apportionments paid YTD = \$3,385.00



Talking With God Sermon Series

October 2, 2022 “Saints Around The Edges”

Scripture Reading: Acts 12:1-17

October 9, 2022 “This Changes Everything”

Scripture Reading: Acts 16:16-33

October 16, 2022 “The God We Talk With”

Scripture Reading: Genesis 18:10-15

October 23, 2022 “The Way We Pray”

Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:7-15

November 6, 2022 “How To Pray When...”

All Saints Sunday

Scripture Reading: Mark 4:35-41

November 13, 2022 “Only The Beginning”

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Blood Drive



Blood Drive - Friday, November 18

The next Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at our church on Friday, November 18. 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). Their goal is to collect 32 units of blood!



Coffee Fellowship Serving Groups

- October 2, 2022: Audrey Jones
- October 9, 2022: Barb McNellis
- October 16, 2022: Joni Walberg and Dianne Engler
- October 23, 2022: Betsy Gridley
- October 30, 2022: Need



Usher Schedule

- October 2, 2022: Need
- October 9, 2022: Need
- October 16, 2022: Need
- October 23, 2022: Need
- October 30, 2022: Need



Our October Mission March on Sunday, October 9, 2022 will go to apportionments. Apportionments are the share each annual conference or local church pays to support international, national, and local missions.

All Saints Sunday



On Sunday, November 6, 2022 we will honor those from our church community that have died since All Saints Day 2021. We are grateful for their contributions to our community and can feel their absence.

We remember Joel Thomas Williams January 7, 1956 – December 16, 2021. Joel lived in Bloomington and in 2002 he and Linda moved their family to their lake home on Sugar Lake. Joe enjoyed working hobby jobs, excavating, cutting wood, growing pumpkins, and wintering in Florida. He had a joy for things that went “boom” and was even a member of the Pyrotechnics Guild.

We remember Viola M. Novotne October 9, 1930 – June 21, 2022. Vi lived in Rochester and Golden Valley, MN and a short time in Columbus, Ohio prior to moving to their lake home on Clearwater Lake. Upon the death of her second husband, Lee, Vi moved to Anthem, AZ in order to be closer to family. Vi’s greatest enjoyment in life was spending time in the presence of her family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We remember Sonja June Roller June 18, 1941 – September 21, 2022. Sonja was born in Duluth, MN and moved to St. Louis Park as a young girl. She married John Roller in 1959 and moved their young family to Annandale in the 1970s. Sonja was a longtime, faithful member of the Annandale United Methodist Church. She had a green thumb and took care of the church and parsonage flowers for many years. Nothing brought Sonja greater joy than being in the presence of her family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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