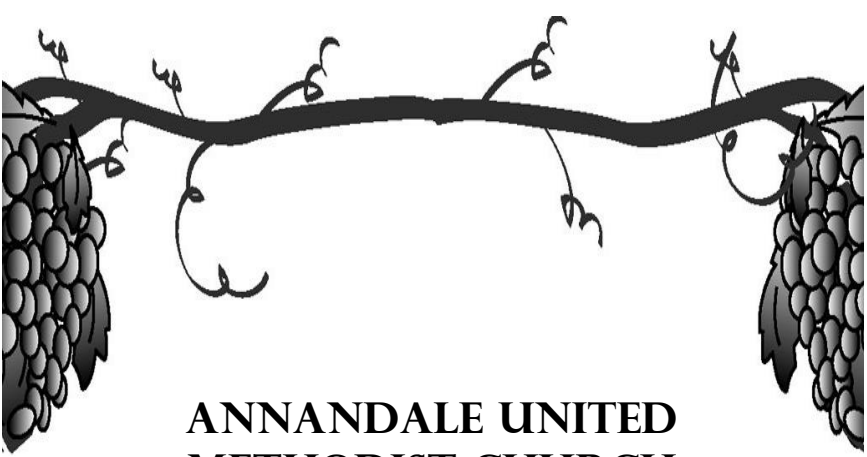




ANNANDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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The Grapevine October 2026

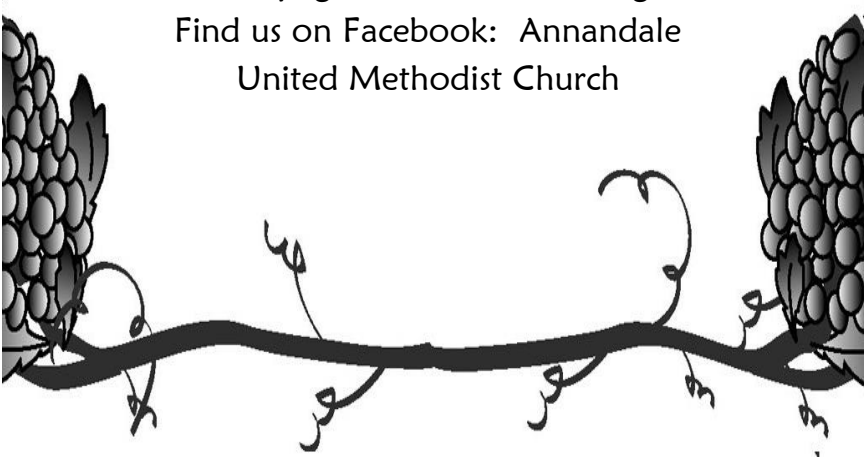
Pastor Mark Schlasner

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United Methodist Church



October 2026 Grapevine

We often treat gratitude like a seasonal decoration. We pull it out of the box when the calendar turns to November, or when we are celebrating a specific milestone, and then we carefully pack it away when the holiday passes. But what if gratitude wasn't meant to be an occasional visitor? What if it isn't just an emotion we feel when things are going well, but rather the very ground we stand on? In the life of faith, giving thanks is less about a reaction to our circumstances and more about the posture of our hearts.

When we view gratitude as a foundation rather than a reaction, it changes how we navigate the world. It becomes the starting point for our journey, a lens through which we view our relationship with God. It is the tool that fortifies us for the long haul. When we begin from a place of thankfulness, we are reminded of who God is and what He has already done. This perspective gives us the strength to remain steady, not just when life is good, but when the path gets steep and the struggle feels heavy.

We must be honest that the road of faith is not paved with constant ease. There are seasons of deep joy, but there are also seasons of profound difficulty. However, in the midst of the unknown, we cling to a promise that changes everything: we are never alone. We are promised His presence. The recognition that God is walking beside us—in the quiet, in the chaos, and in the waiting—is the catalyst for a deep, unshakable thankfulness that transcends our circumstances.

As we look ahead to our time together as a church family, we are preparing to explore what it looks like to build our lives on this bedrock. We want to move beyond the surface level and discover how a lifestyle of thanksgiving equips us to follow Jesus more closely. No matter what this season holds for you, we invite you to join us as we learn to embrace a gratitude that goes deeper than a holiday, anchoring us securely in the presence of the One who never leaves our side.

With love and blessings,

Pastor Mark Schlasner

Annandale UMC Giving and Attendance

Giving –Sept. 2026 Attendance –Sept. 2026

Sept. 6, 2026	\$2,181.00	19 – in-person 31 – online
Sept. 13, 2026	\$503.00	20 – in-person 44 – online
\$250.00 September Mission March – Apportionments		
Sept. 20, 2026	\$2,430.51	27 – in-person 22 – online
\$50.00 Apportionment Fund		
\$50.00 Memorial Fund – Larry Wynia memorials		
\$100.00 Funeral Fund – Larry Wynia funeral		
Sept. 27, 2026	\$808.00	25 – in-person 40 – online

General funds needed each week: \$2,853.76

September income as of 09/24/26: \$7,410.11

September expenses as of 09/24/26: \$8,126.42

2026 apportionments = \$11,571.00

Apportionments paid in September: \$275.00

Apportionments paid YTD: \$2,168.00



This year's Charge Conference will be on October 24th at Buffalo UMC at 9am. The theme is The Great United Methodist Get-Together: 2026 Charge Conference—a 90-minute gathering

with worship, inspiring stories of serving joyfully, and individual church conferences. Bring your pastor, at least 3 people, your forms (bonus for on a stick!), and a blue-ribbon dish to share.



October Worship Themes

October 4, 2026 "Pressing On: The Heavenly Call"

Scripture Reading: Philippians 3:4-14

October 11, 2026 "Pressing On: Rejoice in the Lord!"

Scripture Reading: Philippians 4:1-9

October 18, 2026 "Always Give Thanks: Chosen"

Scripture Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

October 25, 2026 "Always Give Thanks: Tested"

Scripture Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Blood Drive



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](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org), or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).



Coffee Fellowship Serving Groups

October 4, 2026: Berta Monk and Shar Babbitt

October 11, 2026: Berta Monk and Shar Babbitt

October 18, 2026: Need

October 25, 2026: Audrey Jones



Usher Schedule

October 4, 2026: Judd & Barb Owen

October 11, 2026: Need

October 18, 2026: Need

October 25, 2026: Shelly Anderson



This month's mission march on Sunday, October 11 is for Cora Ziedler and Henry Dolan who are both having serious medical issues.

Cora, 3, is battling high-risk neuroblastoma and faces months of chemo, radiation, and surgeries.

Her single father Joe cannot work while caring for her and her brother Carson, so the family urgently needs financial support.

Henry, 10, is back in heart failure after a childhood heart transplant and may need another one. His family needs support for medical and travel expenses as he prepares for care at Mayo Clinic.

Please give as you are able.



October Birthdays

October 9	Shelly Anderson
October 9	Joni Walberg
October 22	Carson Petty
October 26	Mona Steinhaus



Bible Study Is Back!

We're restarting our Bible Study groups **October 12th**—and you can join either in person or online.

In-Person: AUMC Fireside Room – 10:30am

Online: Sign up on our Facebook page.

We can't wait to study God's Word together again. See you there!



Holiday Market & Bake Shop

Annandale United Methodist Church will host a Holiday Market & Bake

Shop on Saturday, October 10, 2026 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. This includes a sloppy joe lunch, bake sale and holiday white elephant sale. The lunch and white elephant sale are free will.

Donations of holiday white elephant items (Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas) are still welcome and can be dropped off any time the church office is open.

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