

The Grapevine September 2025

Pastor Mark Schlasner

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United Methodist Church

September 2025 Grapevine

Whenever you cry out to me,

I'll answer.

I'll be with you in troubling times.

I'll save you and glorify you.

Psalm 91:15 CEB

In times of profound sorrow and confusion, we often find ourselves at a loss for words. The recent horrific school shootings in Minneapolis have left our nation grieving and searching for answers that seem painfully out of reach. In these moments, we are called to remember the ancient practice of the Psalms, which gives voice to our deepest laments. The Psalms do not ask us to hide our pain or our anger from God; instead, they invite us to bring our raw, honest cries into God's presence, trusting that we are heard and known even in our despair.

This deep knowing is at the heart of our relationship with God. Psalm 139 reminds us that we are fully seen and fully loved by our Creator, who searches us and knows us intimately. In the shadow of such senseless violence, it can feel impossible to believe that God is present. Yet, the witness of scripture is that God meets us precisely in the rubble of our brokenness. We are not called to understand, but to trust that God's love encircles us—ahead and behind—even when the path forward is shrouded in grief.

Our faith does not offer easy answers, but it does offer a refuge and a hope that the world cannot give. Psalm 91 speaks of abiding in the shelter of the Almighty, a promise not of a life free from trouble, but of a God who is with us in the midst of it. This is the "but God" moment we cling to: the world is filled with fear, *but God* is our refuge; the news is overwhelming, *but God* promises to answer when we call. This hope equips us not to ignore the pain around us, but to face it without falling into despair, supporting one another as a community that grieves together and hopes together.

As we move forward, let us be a people who call upon the Lord, not only for our own comfort but for the strength to be agents of God's healing and peace. Let us extend the safety we find in God's shadow to those around us who are fearful and vulnerable. May we, empowered by a God who knows our name and calls us beloved, have the courage to work for a world where such tragedies are no more, reflecting God's glory through acts of love, compassion, and relentless hope.

With love and blessings,

Rev. Mark Schlasner

Annandale UMC Giving and Attendance

Giving -Aug. 2025 Attendance -Aug. 2025

Aug. 3, 2025 \$3,078.00 24- in-person

90- online

Aug. 10, 2025 \$2,145.60 27 - in-person

64- online

\$252.00 August Mission March - Apportionments

\$10.00 Corn Feed Dinner Fund donation \$150.00 Building/Maintenance Fund

Aug. 17, 2025 \$1,890.00 25 - in-person

91 - online

\$400.00 School Backpack Fund

\$75.00 Rent Fund - Christian Women's Group

Aug. 24, 2025 \$771.00 20 - in-person

\$1,773.50 Rummage Sale Fund

General funds needed each week: \$2,638.78 August income as of 08/28/25: \$10,998.10

August expenses as of 08/28/25: \$7,906.67

2025 apportionments = \$11,690.00 Apportionments paid YTD = \$1,857.00



Our September Mission March, which will be taken during the first hymn on Sunday September 14, 2025, will go to apportionments. Apportionments are the share each annual conference or local church pays to support international, national, and local missions.



September Worship Themes

September 7, 2025 - God Knows My Name

Scripture Reading: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

September 14, 2025 - Our Hope is in the Lord Scripture Reading: Psalm 14

> September 21, 2025 - For the Glory Scripture Reading: Psalm 79:1-9

September 28 - Pastor Paul Baker Preaching



Blood Drive - Friday, September 5, 2025

The next Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at our church on Friday, September 5 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).



Linda will be on vacation from September 10 until September 24. The office will be opened on a limited-time basis while she is gone as follows:

9/12, 9/16, 9/23 – Joni in the office 9/17, 9/18 – Pastor Mark in the office



Coffee Fellowship Serving Groups

September 7, 2025: Judd & Barb Owen

September 14, 2025: Garry & Linda Elfstrand

September 21, 2025: Sally Smith

September 28, 2025: Barb McNellis and Betsy

Gridley



Usher Schedule

September 7, 2025: Gerry Bahe

September 14, 2025: : Judd & Barb Owen

September 21, 2025: Gerry Bahe

September 28, 2025: Shelly Anderson



Pastor Mark will be on paternity leave from September 22, 2025 – November 9, 2025. Pastor Paul Baker will be our guest speaker during his leave. If you have any pastoral needs during Pastor Mark's absence, please contact Linda in the church office and she will contact Rev. Cassi Betker who is on call for Pastor Mark during his paternity leave.



September Birthdays

September 3	Emily Heitkamp
September 6	Mike Sommers
September 7	Brad Williams
September 15	Bill Smith
September 18	Rebecca Mix
September 19	Paige Sommers
September 23	John Bishop
September 27	Dianne Engler
September 27	Sarah Frank



- A big shout out of thanks to everyone who helped make this year's corn feed such a big success. We served a record number of people and no one went away hungry! A special thank you to Norm for donating and cooking the corn for all these years. Many guests stated that they look forward to this event every season. Many thanks from the Outreach Committee
- We would like to thank you for allowing us to use your church facility to host our Christian Women's brunches in June and August. It has been greatly appreciated. You have been most accommodating. Thank you! Christian Women's Group

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