

**ANNANDALE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

250 OAK AVENUE NORTH
PO BOX 329
ANNANDALE, MN 55302
(320) 274-5127

**The Grapevine
September 2026**

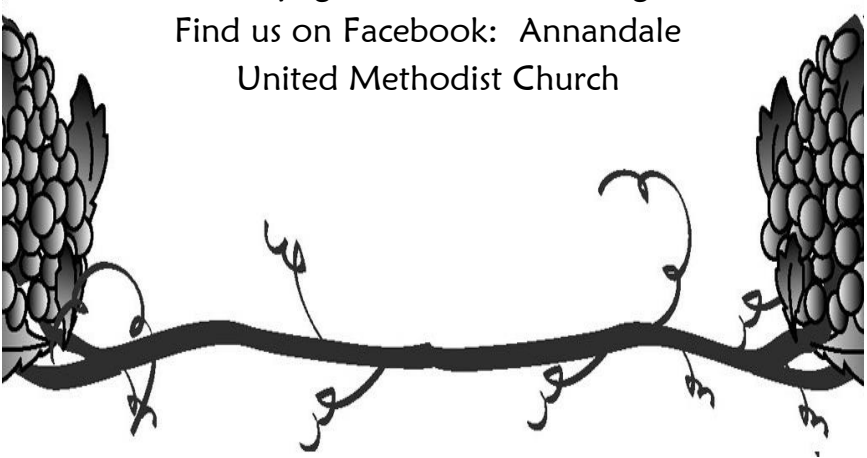
Pastor Mark Schlasner

(Pastor) am.umc.pastor@gmail.com

(Office) aumcsecretary@outlook.com

Webpage: annandaleumc.org

Find us on Facebook: Annandale
United Methodist Church



September 2026 Grapevine

As the leaves begin to turn and the familiar crispness returns to the air, the rhythm of our church life shifts into high gear. It is a season of new beginnings and vibrant activity, a testament to the living, breathing body of Christ at work. Yet, amidst the flurry of sign-up sheets and the hustle of back-to-back meetings, it is easy to let the busyness overshadow the blessing. We can find ourselves running on empty, navigating the logistics of programs rather than experiencing the profound joy of serving the One who calls us.

It is in these moments of holy exhaustion that the ancient words of St. Paul to the Philippians arrive as a timely and much-needed balm. Writing from a prison cell, Paul was no stranger to adversity or the weight of his calling. Yet, his letter is not one of complaint, but of resounding joy and deep, abiding fellowship. He understood that the life of the church is not merely about the execution of tasks, but about the shared participation in the Gospel. Paul's encouragement serves as a gentle reminder that our unity and mutual support in Christ are the very fuel that sustains us through the frantic seasons. We are not merely volunteers on a schedule; we are partners in a divine mission, sharing in grace and striving together for the faith.

This perspective allows us to reframe the chaotic energy of fall not as a burden to be endured, but as an opportunity to "press on." Paul implores us to forget what lies behind and strain forward to what lies ahead, "pressing on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14). This pressing on is not a frantic scramble,

but a steady, purposeful march. It is the commitment to show up, not just physically, but with our hearts engaged, knowing that every nursery duty, every lesson taught, and every meal shared is a step toward that ultimate prize—a deeper communion with God and with one another. It transforms our effort from mere work into an act of worship.

So, as the pace quickens and the to-do lists grow, let us take a moment to breathe and realign our focus. Let us find our strength in the fellowship we share and our joy in the Gospel we proclaim. The road ahead is busy, but we do not walk it alone. We press on together, buoyed by the hope that our labor is not in vain. We invite you to embrace this season not as a gauntlet to be survived, but as a pilgrimage to be savored. Join us, as a church family, in "Pressing On."

With love and blessings,

Pastor Mark Schlasner

Annandale UMC Giving and Attendance

Giving –August 2026

Attendance –August 2026

August 2, 2026	\$2,913.00	28 – in-person 47 – online
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August 9, 2026	\$935.00	16 – in-person 30 – online
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\$284.00 August Mission March – Apportionments

\$1,734.25 Rummage Sale Fund

August 16, 2026	\$1,017.00	27 – in-person 22 – online
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\$50.00 Apportionment Fund

\$20.00 Rummage Sale Fund

\$200.00 Funeral Fund – Richard Peterson funeral

August 23, 2026	\$1,277.00	19 – in-person 30 – online
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\$50.00 Apportionment Fund

\$35.00 Corn Feed Dinner Fund

General funds needed each week: \$2,853.76

August income as of 08/28/26: \$8,373.25

August expenses as of 08/28/26: \$9,473.57

2026 apportionments = \$11,571.00

Apportionments paid in August: \$75.00

Apportionments paid YTD: \$1,301.00



Our September Mission March, which will be taken during the first hymn on Sunday, September 13, 2026, 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 6, 2026 "Conflict"

Scripture Reading: Exodus 12:1-14

September 13, 2026 "Grace"

Scripture Reading: Exodus 14:19-31

September 20, 2026 "Striving Side by Side"

Scripture Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

September 27, 2026 "In Full Accord"

Scripture Reading: Philippians 2:1-13



Thank you for your dedication to delivering Meals on Wheels this past month. We wish to thank Jerry & Joni Walberg, Norm Planer, Alan Isaacson, Garry & Linda Elfstrand, Linda Caldwell, Mike & Barb McNellis, Linda Williams, Debbie McManus, Sally Smith, Mona Steinhau, Sharon Cameron, Dave & Joyce Heberling, and Gerry & Ruth Bahe.



Coffee Fellowship Serving Groups

September 6, 2026: Dave & Joyce Heberling

September 13, 2026: Barb McNellis & Betsy Gridley

September 20, 2026: Gerry & Ruth Bahe

September 27, 2026: Judd & Barb Owen



Usher Schedule

September 6, 2026: Dave Heberling

September 13, 2026: Gerry Bahe

September 20, 2026: Dave Heberling

September 27, 2026: Need



Pastor Mark will be on vacation from September 14 until September 20. If you have any concerns during this time, please contact Linda in the church office.



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

Blood Drive



Blood Drive - Friday, September 4, 2026

The next Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at our church on Friday, September 4 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).

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