



**ANNANDALE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

250 OAK AVENUE NORTH

PO BOX 329

ANNANDALE, MN 55302

(320) 274-5127

**The Grapevine
December - 2020**

Pastor Paul Baker

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

(Office) aumc@lakedalelink.net

Webpage: annandaleumc.org

Find us on Facebook: Annandale
United Methodist Church



December 2020 Grapevine

Christmas is for Giving

Matthew 1:23b “... and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means God is with us.”

“Since the time the Wise Men came to Jesus bringing gifts, Christmas has been a time of giving... -gifts to our loved ones, gifts to the less fortunate, gifts to the church, gifts to favorite charities, gifts to family, gifts to friends, and even gifts to our pets.” – James W. Moore.

Christmas gives us the gift of Hope. God is with us. There can be no more reassuring words than these. We are not alone, the power of powers beyond the universe has come to be with us. This is the definition of love. This is the gift of Hope.

Do you remember the old poem “Footprints?” I remember when it first came out. What an amazing picture it painted, of us walking in the sand barefoot with Jesus walking at our side. The accompanying photo often showed two sets of footprints in the sand, until the point when one set of footprints seemed to disappear. The explanation would follow, God did not leave her during the difficult times when there was only one set of footprints. No, it was God that picked her up and carried her through those trying times.

This is the message of Christmas. God is with us, but not just with us, God is helping us. Every difficult time we face in life would be much more difficult without the presence of the living God to help carry us through.

During the time of this pandemic, racial strife, and political division, God is carrying us through. We will each be touched by these things in different ways, but we will all share one common experience. We are loved by God, and because God was able to experience life through the baby Jesus, God knows how much that love means to us.

As we celebrate the gift of Christmas this year, let us not take anything for granted. Life is precious, and your life is a life that can help that message shine through for all. The light Shines through the darkness, and the darkness shall not overcome it.

As John Wesley said on his death bed, “The best of all, God is with us still.”

May God’s Kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Paul". The script is cursive and elegant.

Pastor Paul D. Baker



Worship Information and DVD's available

In our safety protocols we have dropped from Phase Yellow to Phase Orange.

As such our in-person worship has been postponed again until the Covid-19 rate of spread has dropped to safe levels.

1)- Our prerecorded video and print worship experiences are still reaching many new people. As in the past, we encourage you to take part in our online worship by going to www.vimeo.com/revwindsurfer and choosing which Sunday worship you would like to watch.

2)-In December we will also offer a Monday evening Adam Hamilton Video Bible Study via Zoom. The Study is titled "Incarnation." If you are on our email list, you will receive an email invitation for that group on Sunday each week. If you don't receive an invitation, please call the Annandale church office (320-274-5127) and let us know your email address. Thank you.

If you would like a DVD of the regular Sunday services or Christmas Eve, please let pastor Paul know at 320-455-7314.



Christmas Schedule and Worship

Our Christmas Eve Services will be online this year. Because this situation varies from day to day, please make note of any possible changes to our schedule in the coming weeks. We will make every effort to keep you informed, by email and also by phone.

The first Christmas was filled with simplicity. Similarly, our celebrations will be much more simple than they have been in the past. We pray that in this simplicity, you will light a candle in your home, to represent Christ's light shining into the darkness of this troubled world.

However we end up celebrating this year, we know that your Christmas will be filled with the Love and the Spirit of the Christ Child. For that we give thanks.

Worship Themes

Advent Begins! - Incarnation!

November 29, 2020 – “Of Presidents and Kings”

Scripture: Micah 5:2 Matthew 2:1-2

December 6, 2020 – “The Savior and our Need for Saving”

Scripture: Matthew 1:20b-21 Luke 2:8-12

December 13, 2020 – “Emmanuel in the midst of a Pandemic”

Scripture: Matthew 1:20b-23 Hebrews 1:1-3

December 20, 2020 – “The Light of the World”

Scripture: John 1:1-5

December 24, 2020 – “The Word made Flesh”

Scripture: Luke 2

December 27, 2020 – “Epiphany, falling to our Knees”

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-2, 8a, 9-11

Blood Drive



Blood Drive - Friday, January 15

American Family is hosting a Red Cross blood drive at our church building on January 15.

The Blood Drives have been full, so please make a reservation online with the Red Cross *soon!* Due to Covid-19, they may not be accepting walk-ins.

Volunteers needed for 2 hour shifts to help check in the blood donors.



December Birthdays

Nathan Bahe
Cody Grossinger
Barb Owen
Barb McNellis
Ruby Struble
Diana Bajari
Steve Prinsen
Betsy Gridley
Jay Jones
Judy Martin
Aloys Olson
Logan Grossinger
Megan Woods
Cassidy Kuyper (Williams)
Jenna Woelfel
Tammy Grossinger

Prayer Requests



- Linda Williams' uncle Dale Grant who is battling cancer.
- The family and friends of Richard Cargill whose memorial service was held this past month.

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