

**ANNANDALE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

250 OAK AVENUE NORTH

PO BOX 329

ANNANDALE, MN 55302

(320) 274-5127

**The Grapevine
December - 2019**

Pastor Paul Baker

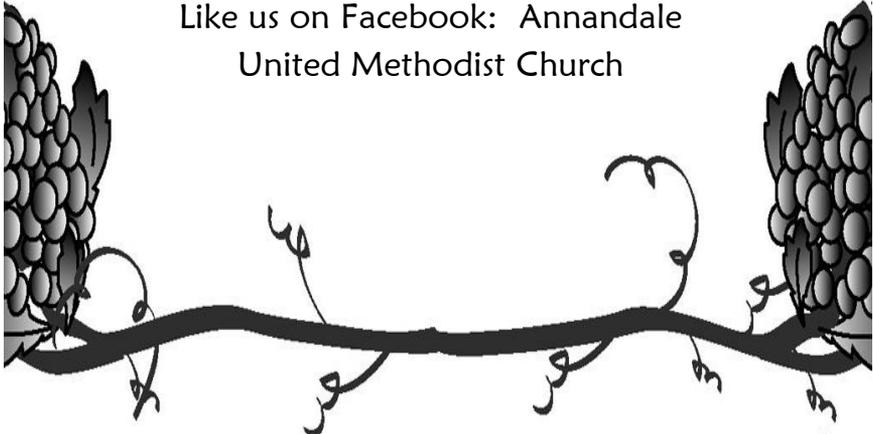
(Pastor) am.umc.pastor@gmail.com

(Office) aumc@lakedalelink.net

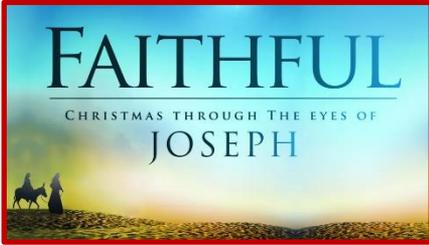
Webpage: annandaleumc.org

Like us on Facebook: Annandale

United Methodist Church



December 2019 Grapevine



16 Verses. That's all we have. That is all we know about the earthly dad of Jesus. He is only mentioned by name in 16 verses of the Bible. And even more astonishing, as a friend of mine recently pointed out, not once do

we have any of his words recorded. Everything we know about him, we know from his actions, nothing from his lips. Amazing.

Some of you may be thinking, a typical man. The strong silent type. And you may be closer to the truth than you might think.

As I think about the fact that Christmas is rapidly approaching, and as I hear the dire predictions of Winter Storm Warnings for Thanksgiving, I am struck by how much information we are bombarded with each day, compared to how little information the people of Joseph and Jesus' time had available to them. .

In today's world, if you want to learn more about Christmas all you need do is to Google it, or pick up any one of the over 50,000 books on Christmas that are available on Amazon. You can get more information than you ever wanted to learn about Christmas, with just a mouse click.

Yet, Christmas is not about information, it is about transformation. And Joseph is a great example of transformation for us. To enter into his story is to allow ourselves to be drawn into the mystery and inspiration of that first Christmas. It is to allow ourselves to be drawn into the mystery and inspiration of who and whose God is transforming us to become.

Allow yourself to be filled with wonder this Advent and Christmas. May this December be the most wondrous December of your life so

far. Allow your life to be filled with the same spirit of openness and generosity that filled Joseph's spirit. And as Joseph did, live out your faith, share your love, and the Spirit will enrich your celebration.

Challenge: Another way to enrich your Christmas celebration, perhaps you could use the Gospel of Luke as your December devotional reading? There are 24 chapters in Luke. I believe that if you were to read all 24, the narrative of his entire life, then you would be better prepared to be transformed as you celebrate Jesus' birth on December 24th. Just think about it.

I'll see you in worship, if not before.

May God's Kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven, and have a blessed day!

Pastor Paul

Pastor Paul D. Baker



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Tuesday, December 24

Please join us at our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, "A Child is Born!" on Tuesday, December 24 at 4:30 p.m. Our Christmas offering will support Annandale Free Store and the UMCOR Disaster Response.

Annandale UMC Giving and Attendance

Giving –Nov. 2019 Attendance –Nov. 2019

Nov. 3, 2019	\$1,654.80 \$60.00 Apportionments	41
Nov. 10, 2019	\$3,066.49 \$69.00 Mission March – Reach, Renew, Rejoice Campaign \$772.90 Craft & Bake Sale \$200.00 Share Your Christmas donation	31
Nov. 17, 2019	\$1,923.00 \$89.50 Craft & Bake Sale \$500.00 Memorial Fund	36
Nov. 24, 2019	\$8,861.12 \$500.00 Share Your Christmas donation	43

General funds needed each week: \$2,523.38

November income as of 11/21/19: \$9,935.89

November expenses as of 11/21/19: \$8,187.70

Apportionments paid in November = \$96.00 YTD = \$3,866.14



December Mission March on Sunday, December 8, 2019 will go towards the pledge to the Minnesota Annual Conference Reach/Renew/Rejoice campaign. Our pledge is for a total of \$2500, \$500 each year for the next five years. We are on our last year of that pledge!



December Worship Themes

From his beginnings as a humble carpenter to his all-important role as the earthly father of Jesus Christ, Joseph's place in the nativity story is sometimes overlooked but contains valuable lessons for all of us. Join Adam Hamilton as he examines Christmas through the eyes of Joseph. Absent from much of the biblical narrative, Joseph never spoke a word, but his courageous actions were crucial to the birth of Christ and God's salvation plan for humanity.

ADVENT = Faithful: Christmas through the Eyes of Joseph

Sunday, December 1, 2019 1st Sunday of Advent

“A Carpenter Named Joseph” Scripture: Matthew 13:54-56

Sunday, December 8, 2019 2nd Sunday of Advent

“Whose Child is This?” Scripture: Matthew 1:18-19

Sunday, December 15, 2019 3rd Sunday of Advent

“Raising a Child Not Your Own” Scripture: Matthew 1:18-21

Montrose - Short Kid's Program

Friday, December 20, 2019 @ 7:00pm

Blue Christmas / Travelers Worship In Montrose

Sunday, December 22, 2019 4th Sunday of Advent

“On to Bethlehem” Scripture: Luke 2:1-5

Tuesday, December 24, 2019 **Christmas Eve Candlelight**

“The Rest of the Story!” Scripture: Luke 2:21-24

Annandale – 4:30 PM Montrose - 7:00 PM

Sunday, December 29, 2019 1st Sunday after

Christmas Day “We Must Flee to Egypt”

Scripture: Matthew 2:13-23



And Coming in January

January *Making Sense of the Bible*

Sunday, January 5, 2020 Epiphany Sunday
“Old Testament” Scripture: Luke 4:3-4

Sunday, January 12, 2020 1st Sunday after the Epiphany
“New Testament” Scripture: Matthew 22:37-40

Sunday, January 19, 2020 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany
“The Nature of Scripture” Scripture: Genesis 32:24, 26b

Sunday, January 26, 2020 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany
“Bible and Science” Scripture: 1 Corinthians 10:11

February-

Sunday, February 2, 2020 4th Sunday after the Epiphany
“Violence, Suffering, and other issues” Jeremiah 12:1

Sunday, February 9, 2020 5th Sunday after the Epiphany
“Wrestling with Sexuality & Relationships”
Scripture: Genesis 1:27 Gal 3:28

A brief description of Adam Hamilton’s book, *Making Sense of the Bible*. Denominations from evangelical to mainline continue to experience deep divisions over universal social issues. The underlying debate isn’t about a particular social issue, but instead it is about how we understand the nature of scripture and how we should interpret it. The world’s bestselling, most-read, and most-loved book is also one of the most confusing. In *Making Sense of the Bible*, Adam Hamilton, one of the country’s leading pastors and Christian authors, addresses the hot-button issues that plague the church and cultural debate, and answers many of the questions frequently asked by Christians and non-Christians alike. In approachable and inviting language, Hamilton addresses often misunderstood biblical themes leading readers to a deeper appreciation of the Bible so that we might hear God speak through it and find its words to be life-changing and life-giving.



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)
Beverly Noble
Jenna Woelfel
Tammy Grossinger



We are praying for:

Bev Noble	Paula Petty	Kathy Allen
Muriel Rudolph	Sonja Roller	Pastor Paul
Laurie Dick	Alan Isaacson	Joe Hill
Jamie, Beth Young's daughter-in-law		
Dale Grant, Linda Williams' uncle		
Kate Schulz, Adeline Anderson's granddaughter-in-law		



Thanks for making the Craft &
Bake Sale a success!

It started as a casual conversation between Sonja Roller & Linda Elfstrand on Linda said it is kind of late to think about this for this year, but it would be fun to do a craft & bake sale now that the Stop & Shop is not going to be held in our church. Sonja did not think it was too late and said, let's do it this year. We picked a date, got the needed approvals and we were off and running. Sonja took charge of the sloppy joe lunch and Linda took charge of the craft & bake sale.

We want to thank you for donations of food, crafts and white elephants that led to us making over \$800. Special thanks to those who set up on Friday and came in early on Saturday to finalize preparations in the sales area and in the kitchen. We had a goal of \$500 and if we did that it would be worth repeating. That said, it is our plan to do this again in 2020.

Sonja Roller and Linda Elfstrand
Craft & Bake Sale Coordinators

Pathways 4 Youth

For Youth Experiencing Homelessness

To All Church Members:

Donations Needed for Pathways 4 Youth

Pathways 4 Youth is a youth resource center in St Cloud for young people experiencing homelessness ages 16 to 24. Please help our church youth in collecting needed items for Pathways 4 Youth. The following link provides information on the organization

<https://www.pathways4youthmn.org/>

Attention Youth:

We will be visiting Pathways 4 Youth on Sunday, December 15 at 1:00 p.m., which will serve as our Family Night for December. We will be touring the center and cleaning it also as needed. We will also bring the donated items from our church family at the same time. If you need a ride, please let Laurie Dick know at

laurierd62@gmail.com by that Sunday morning worship service. For those who want to meet at the church we will leave at noon and should return at approximately 4:00 p.m. Please contact Laurie if you have questions - 320.492.0417.

THANKS FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO HELP THESE LESS FORTUNATE YOUTH IN OUR AREA!

- Pastor Paul and Laurie Dick

Pathways 4 Youth

For Youth Experiencing Homelessness

*****All clothing must be new or gently-used. All clothing must be age-appropriate for the youth we serve (16-24 years)*****

Clothing

Small, medium & large bras
All sizes (S-XXL) t-shirts
All sizes (S-XXL) boxer briefs
Black ankle socks
Winter coats/gear
Sports bras (S-XXL)
Hairbands/ponytails
Men's belts
Men's and women's sweatpants
Women's underwear (S-XXL)
Women's yoga pants/leggings (S-XXL)

Pantry

Quick meals
Pasta & noodle sides
Wet wipes
Snack crackers
Jelly
Shampoo & conditioner (all types)
Chili & soups
Paper towels
Sturdy combs/hairbrushes
Peanut butter
Pancake mix & Syrup

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Call our office to arrange for a time to drop your donation:

320.316.1635

***Pathways 4 Youth Donations 203 Cooper Avenue N., Suite 260,
St. Cloud, MN 56303***

Annandale UMC
250 Oak Avenue North
PO Box 329
Annandale, MN 55302