

**ANNANDALE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

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**The Grapevine
January - 2020**

Pastor Paul Baker

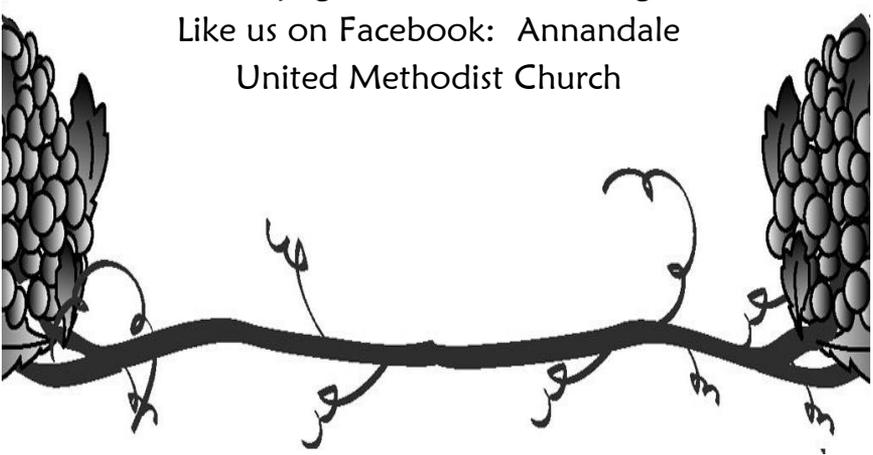
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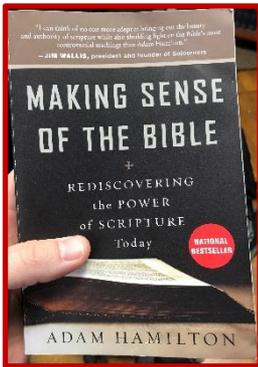
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United Methodist Church



January 2020 Grapevine



December 31 marks the end of a decade, and the beginning of a new one. As we come closer to entering this new decade, I find myself both looking ahead and also reflecting back on the past. It is almost 2020! How did that happen? Time just seems to fly faster and faster.

I am beginning to understand in a more meaningful way the words of 2 Peter 3:8, "but do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day." Time is all relative. The past is important because we have learned much from it. The future is important, because Christ walks with us into a future filled with Hope.

But, the present is where we live, and where we share the good news of love and forgiveness that comes with God's kingdom. This is an important mission for us, it is an important purpose for living, because sin is still in the world, and all around us. Evil seems to be separating us like never before in my lifetime. We are told that people who think differently than we do are evil, and it seems that once we here that over and over, it seems easier to believe it.

Do Christians have a **“God Gap?”** Where do our differences in understanding life come from? Many places of course, we all have different experiences in life. But we are Christians, don't you think all Christians should think alike? That would be ideal wouldn't it.

In January we will be exploring just that question by taking a look at how we interpret scripture. Not all Christians read the Bible in the same way. I believe that is the root of many of our disagreements when we try to put the principles of the Bible into practice in our everyday life.

This may be the most important sermon series and study I have ever offered. Please join us in worship and in our study group as often as

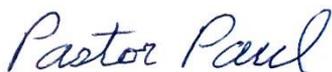
you possibly can. And remember to keep each other in prayer, even if we happen to disagree on how the Bible calls us to respond to one or two social issues.

If you would like to order a book, contact me soon, **Making Sense of the Bible: Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today.**

We have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, and yet Christ loved us enough as we are to live and die and be resurrected for us. That gift gives me hope for the future, hope for the decade of 2020.

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 D. Baker

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.

Annandale UMC Giving and Attendance

Giving -Dec. 2019 Attendance -Dec. 2019

Dec. 1, 2019	\$1,854.81	20
Dec. 8, 2019	\$2,603.50 \$139.00 Mission March - Reach, Renew, Rejoice Campaign \$50.00 Share Your Christmas donation	44
Dec. 15, 2019	\$7,720.66 \$25.00 Apportionments	40
Dec. 22, 2019	\$4,565.29 \$907.55 Share Your Christmas donation	47

General funds needed each week: \$2,523.38

December income as of 12/27/19: \$17,865.81

December expenses as of 12/27/19: \$9,463.84



In Search Of:

Many of you know that I weave rag rugs as a hobby. I am just getting started for the winter weaving season and I could use your help. I am

in need of old jeans, pants, sheets, curtains, etc. to use in my weaving. If you are cleaning things out, don't put your discarded clothing, etc. in the garbage. I might be able to use it, and what I am unable to use, I donate. I can also use fabric remnants of any kind. Thanks, Linda Elfstrand



Winter Worship Theme

January *Making Sense of the Bible: Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today*

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

Sunday, January 12, 2020 Baptism of the Lord
“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 2, 2020 4th Sunday After the Epiphany
“Violence, Suffering, and Other Issues”
Scripture: Jeremiah 12:1

February 9, 2020 5th Sunday After the Epiphany
“Wrestling with Sexuality and Relationships”
Scripture: Genesis 1:27 Galatians 3:28



Our next Family Night is Wednesday, January 8, 2020 @ 6:30 p.m. More information coming. Put this date on your calendar! See you then!



January Birthdays



January 7	Nola Walberg
January 18	Laurie Dick
January 19	Ashley Gillham
January 23	Bruce Karg
January 31	Kyle Bahe



We are praying for:

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

Thanks to all who donated money, food, personal items, clothes etc. to PATHWAYS 4 YOUTH! We collected approximately eight boxes of items and brought them with us on Sunday, December 15 when we both toured, and helped clean the center. Pathways truly appreciates any type of donation they get which helps the homeless youth of the area and including the children of some homeless youth. We will be collecting donations again this coming year as the organization coordinator shared donations are needed throughout the year!

- Laurie Dick

Making Sense of the Bible – Video & Book Study

Have you ever thought, *I just don't get the Bible?*

Mondays at 6:30 PM. Join us starting January 6th for this video and book study on how we interpret scripture. This will be a whirlwind of a journey through the scriptures, but hopefully this time together will help you to build your foundation for future biblical study. Invite a friend as we use this time together to grow in our faith. – Pastor Paul



Pathways 4 Youth

I'm very proud, as well as we all should be, of our young people and their commitment to helping others. From the first time we

introduced this St Cloud organization that provides resources for the areas homeless youth, our youth showed a passionate interest in learning more about Pathways 4 Youth and what we could do to help these less fortunate individuals. We decided to collect items needed and donate our time to assist with cleaning the facility.

On Sunday, December 15 a group of 10 from our church including parents and youth, brought all the collected items including winter clothing, food, and cleaning items to the center. We toured the center and found out even more about how these youth live their lives being homeless and what the center offers them. We were informed of more volunteering opportunities and will definitely provide more donations etc. in the future to help.

What a blessing it is having these young people a part of our church family! – Laurie Dick

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