

**ANNANDALE UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**

250 OAK AVENUE NORTH

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ANNANDALE, MN 55302

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**The Grapevine  
January - 2018**

Pastor Mary Keen

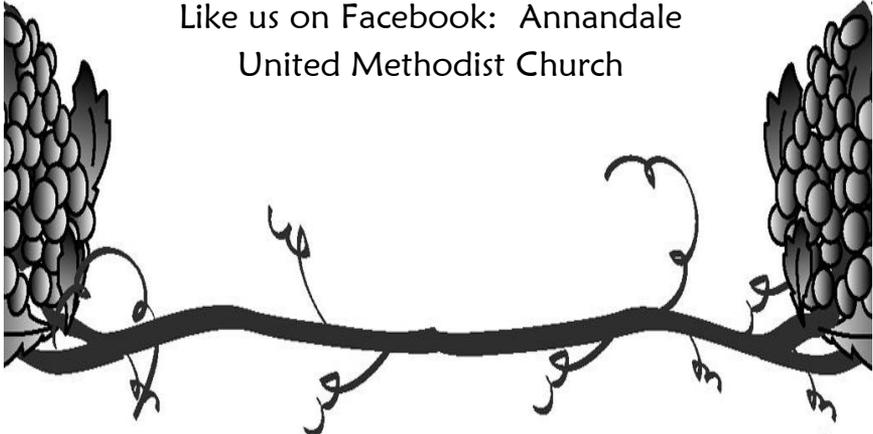
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United Methodist Church



**January 2018 Grapevine**  
"Pastor's Page"

Now the Work of Christmas begins

By Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
the work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost,  
to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry,  
to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among the people,  
to make music in the heart.



Note of Thanks

Many thanks for your generous Christmas gift to Dave and me! I was surprised and touched by your generosity. Plans are to put it towards our January vacation to Colorado! Thanks so much!

-Pastor Mary



We are praying for:

Willard Weller	John Roller	Rose O'Fallon
Muriel Rudolph	Tom Ponsford	Jim Jackson
Barry, Jim & Shelly Anderson's brother-in-law		

**Annandale UMC Giving and Attendance**

Giving – Dec. 2017      Attendance – Dec. 2017

Dec. 3, 2017	\$4,053.50	44
Dec. 10, 2017	\$1,455.98	45
Mission March	\$276.00	Apportionments
Dec.17, 2017	\$3,640.10	42
Dec. 24, 2017	\$8,667.75	59 a.m. 60 p.m.
Christmas offering	\$989.00	
Dec. 31, 2017	\$655.75	26

General funds needed each week: \$2,674.00

December income: \$19,738.08

December expenses: \$11,806.73

Monthly apportionments = \$1,290.33

Apportionments paid in December = \$1,002.00

Year-to-date apportionments = \$4,751.62



## January Scriptures Lessons

January 7 Epiphany

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 72:1-8; Matthew 2:1-12  
Holy Communion

January 14 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 139  
Human Relations Sunday  
Mission March

January 21 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 62:5-12; Mark 1:14-20

January 28 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 111; Mark 1:21-28  
Musical presentation by Garry Elfstrand  
Sharing by Ruth Bahe on her trip to Haiti



### Report of the Vision Team

In November, 2017, Pastor Mary Keen announced her intention to form a "vision team" of church member volunteers to develop and recommend the first one or two steps of a renewed life for our church emphasizing "Kingdom work" or mission work outside the walls of our church. This team was organized at the end of November and has met three times with the fourth meeting scheduled for Thursday evening, January 4th, 2018. The planned meeting schedule is usually 6 to 6:30 pm on Thursdays in the Fireside room. The volunteer members of the team are:

Pastor Mary Keen  
Ruth Bahe  
Laurie Dick  
Aleta Isaacson  
Norm Planer  
Sally Smith  
Larry Wynia

The team first reviewed discussions of the book, "Kingdom Come" by Reggie McNeal which has been called "a call to Jesus followers to shift their focus from 'Churchianity' (fixing the church) to the Kingdom of God--*life as God intends it.*" There was an early consensus by the team that we should focus more energy on community service, serving those in need in our surrounding community. To this end, we brainstormed and researched appropriate contacts and needs in our community.

The team has established guidelines for any proposed "Kingdom work" for the congregation:

- Start small
- Work that will engage the congregation
- Work that fits with who we are as a congregation
- Collaborate with other organizations to leverage our activities when it makes sense
- Service that is sustainable
- Leadership is available either within our church or within a collaborative organization
- It is truly "kingdom work" aligned with our Christian mission

Also, a very important complimentary guideline is that we define the Kingdom work that our church already is doing and build on that.

Another guideline for the vision team is to keep the congregation informed of the team's activities and progress. To that end, updates will be included in future newsletters, and you are invited to ask the team members listed above what is happening with the vision team. And you are invited to participate in the Thursday evening meetings.

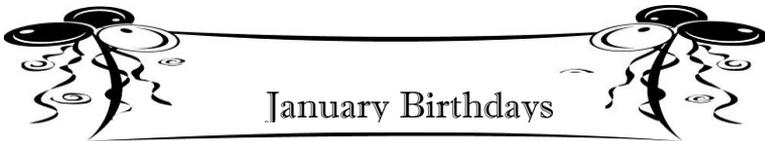
The vision team plans to have recommendations ready for review by the congregation within the next few weeks.

## The Faith We Sing hymn book

Administrative Council has been discussing purchasing the United Methodist hymn book, *The Faith We Sing*, which was published in 2000. We sung a few from the book, and will be singing more in January.

The book includes many contemporary songs like *Lord, I lift your name on high* and *Shine Jesus Shine* as well as some gospel favorites like *His Eye is on the Sparrow* and *They'll know we are Christians by our Love*. There are many songs you may not know but will come to love, like *I was there to hear your bornin' cry* or *In the Midst of New Dimensions*.

Having this available for Sunday Morning Worship will enhance the experience for those present. The individual pew copies are around \$10.00 each. Please consider contributing to this addition to the worship experience. More details will follow as the process unfolds.



### January Birthdays

Nola Walberg

Judy Howard

Laurie Dick

Ashley Gillham

Bruce Karg

Kyle Bahe

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