

**ANNANDALE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

250 OAK AVENUE NORTH

PO BOX 329

ANNANDALE, MN 55302

(320) 274-5127

**The Grapevine
July - 2019**

Pastor Paul Baker

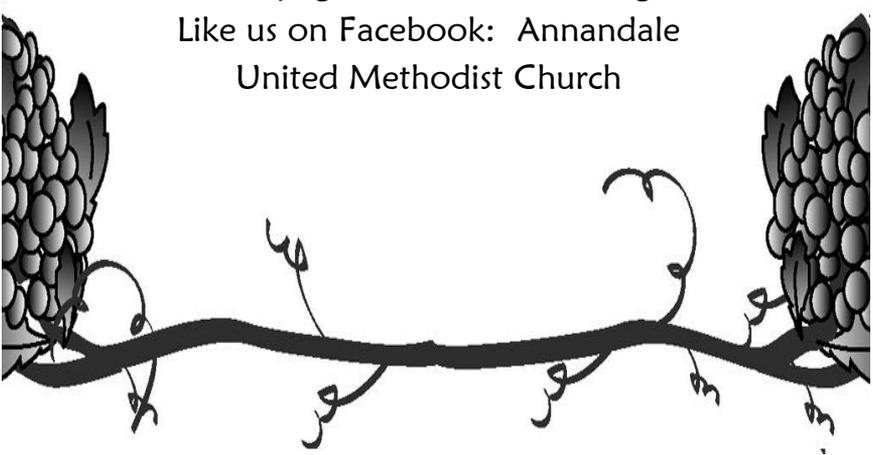
(Pastor) am.umc.pastor@gmail.com

(Office) aumc@lakedalelink.net

Webpage: annandaleumc.org

Like us on Facebook: Annandale

United Methodist Church

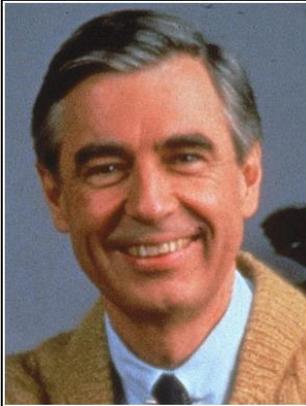


July 2019 Grapevine

Forgiveness is a Favor You do for Yourself

Harold Kushner, the author of *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*, writes, “Revenge – getting even with someone who has done us wrong – is everybody’s favorite sin.”

I’m presently reading another of his books, “*Nine Essential Things I’ve Learned about Life*.” He has one whole chapter on the topic of forgiveness, and how hard it is for us as human beings to let go of the hurts that have come our way.



Forgiveness is a strange thing. It can sometimes be easier to forgive our enemies than our friends. It can be hardest of all to forgive people we love. Like all of life's important coping skills, the ability to forgive and the capacity to let go of resentments most likely take root very early in our lives.

— Fred Rogers —

AZ QUOTES

From almost the start of the Bible we are told that revenge is not the way to go, yet, we have a hard time letting go of things. Leviticus 19:18 tells us, “*You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against your neighbor, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself.*”

So we are commanded not only, “do not take revenge”, but also “do not hold a grudge.” God knows the power that holding on to any negative feeling can have over our lives. And God wants our lives to be the best they can possibly be. Negative feelings can steal away the life that God desires for us. In John 10:10 we are

reminded, “*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it **abundantly**.*”

I often look to the life of Joseph and his brothers when I think of the difference between revenge and forgiveness. You may remember that Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers because they wanted revenge upon him for many things. Much later, Joseph became a ruler of Egypt, and his brothers had to come to him to beg for food during a time of famine. Joseph could have easily had his revenge upon them. And, you may remember, he did make them squirm a bit. But, in the end, he welcomed them into his life once again as family.

Joseph found faith enough to let go of his desire for revenge, and because he replaced that desire with the action of forgiveness, this family was made whole again. The power of love, God’s love, the love of Christ is enough to work many miracles in the lives of us measly human beings. Allow Christ to soften your heart today in the places that this world has made it hard. Find the gift of peace and hope that Christ offers, and then share it with others, because there is a drastic shortage of hope in this world. The world needs to find hope.

We are only human; Christ can help us make the leap from revenge to forgiveness. It worked for Joseph, and it can work for the world we live in as well.

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 fluid.

Pastor Paul D. Baker

Annandale UMC Giving and Attendance

Giving – June 2019 Attendance – June 2019

June 2, 2019	\$1,426.00 \$17.00 Love offering	38
June 9, 2019	\$2,873.72 \$156.00 Mission March – Love Offering	44
June 16, 2019	\$1,462.00 \$37.00 Mission March – Love Offering	29
June 23, 2019	\$1,405.07 \$52.00 Peace With Justice Offering	38

General funds needed each week: \$2,523.38

June income as of 06/27/19: \$8,028.79

June expenses as of 06/27/19: \$7,910.82

2019 apportionments = \$16,526.00

Monthly apportionments = \$1,377.16

Apportionments paid in June = \$40.00 YTD = \$2,225.14



Communion Preparation

We are looking for individuals who are willing to help set up communion on a rotating basis. Communion is served the

first Sunday of each month and is prepared, set out, and taken down by volunteers. It's very easy to do. If interested, please let Linda in the church office know.



Summer Worship Themes

Short Stories by Jesus

Sunday, July 7 “The Rich Man and Lazarus” Luke 16:19-31

Sunday, July 14 GUEST SPEAKER

(Dan & Lois Baker’s 65 Anniversary Celebration)

Christianity’s Family Tree

Sunday, July 21 Orthodoxy: Mystery, Liturgy, Tradition

Sunday, July 28 Catholicism: Sacrament and Mass

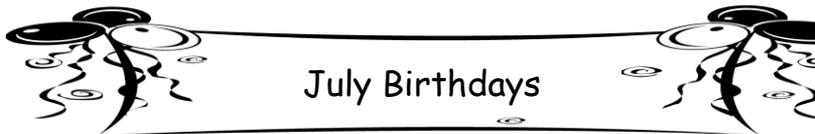
Sunday, August 4 Lutheranism: Word and Faith

Christianity’s Family Tree

When I was younger, I was fascinated by world religions. Later, I even took college courses on world religions, and in seminary I spent a semester in Germany studying the same topic. Then it hit me. *I don’t even know the timeline of my own religion, Christianity. Maybe I should learn that first.* Since then I continue to explore the depths of how Christ’s love moves in the community. I have found that God truly works in mysterious ways!

You are going to love our next sermon series. Even if you already know a bit about the origin and beliefs of the various Christian denominations, you will be amazed at how the Spirit of God has moved in the lives of people throughout time. The Holy Spirit meets us where we are and supports us as we move on to where God wants us to be.

Allow God to speak to you in ways that will touch our heart. Christ’s love is personal enough that it can heal your soul, and it is universal enough that it can heal this great creation. Simply stated, it is a miracle.



July Birthdays

July 3	Bekah Mix
July 11	Maverick Woyke
July 13	Stephanie Prinsen
July 16	Avery Sommers
July 20	Beth Young
July 22	Aria Woyke
July 24	Joe Hill

General Conference 2020 Volunteers

The Dakotas-Minnesota Area Host Team welcomes you to General Conference 2020 (May 5-15) in Minneapolis! Volunteering will provide a tremendous opportunity to see the United Methodist connection up-close and extend hospitality to siblings in Christ from around the world. The Dakotas-Minnesota host team is looking for volunteers of all ages, interests, and abilities. The team's primary goal is to extend radical hospitality to guests so that they feel welcomed and safe, and can focus their full attention on participating in the gathering and discerning God's vision and direction for our denomination.

You can [indicate interest in volunteering with the Dakotas-Minnesota host team](https://gc2020welcome.org/volunteers) at gc2020welcome.org/volunteers. Most host team volunteers will select three-hour shifts during the 10 days of General Conference. There will also be opportunities to help with General Conference preparation and training prior to the event itself.



We are praying for:

Willard Weller

Rose O'Fallon

Paula Petty

Muriel Rudolph

Sonja Roller

Bev Noble

Cody Grossinger

Helen Allen

Kathy Allen

Kodie Sickmann, LeRoy Roller's friend

Jamie, Beth Young's daughter-in-law

Dale Grant, Linda Williams' uncle



4th of July Refreshment Stand

We will be selling grilled brats and hotdogs, chips, pop, and water at our refreshment stand on Thursday, July 4 starting at 9:00 a.m. If you are making

cookies or bars, please put two large or three to four medium cookies to a bag. We will be selling the cookies for \$1.00/bag. Don't forget to stop by and enjoy refreshments while watching the parade!



On Saturday July 20, Annandale United Methodist Church will enjoy a picnic meal at 5:30pm. Bring your

favorite side dish to share. Brats, hotdogs, and beverage will be provided. Following our meal we will have a family-friendly informal worship experience.

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