



Asbury

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

6822 Grand Avenue
Duluth, MN 55807

The Reverend
Cindy M. Rasmussen

Sunday Worship — 10:00 am

Office Hours
Mon-Thurs 9:00 am—2:00 pm

Messenger

The Season of Advent/Christmas at Asbury

DECEMBER 4

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Worship at 10:00 am
with Communion

DECEMBER 11

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“It Happened on a Star-Filled Night”
— The children and youth will
explore the gifts of Christmas found
among the stars.



DECEMBER 18

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Worship at 10:00 am
with the Praise Team



Christmas Eve
CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

Worship at 4:00 and 10:00 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

Worship at 10:00 am



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Cindy's Corner

Once upon a star-filled night, a baby was born that brought a new sense of hope and promise to our world. It happened in a stable with only Mary and Joseph there to witness and bless his humble beginning. I can only imagine how they must have felt, birthing this new child into the world and wondering what life would hold for him.

When I read and reread the story of Jesus' birth, I always smile and pause at the words: "But Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart." It reminds me of the precious experiences and words that I treasure in my heart. Sometimes that is all we can do. And it is enough.

Advent and Christmas can be a very rich time in our faith journeys. When we step back from the busy secular schedules that hold so many unrealistic expectations, we can find a sense of peace in times of quiet reflection. It can be as simple as lighting a candle in the dark, holding a sleeping child, sitting quietly with a loved one, or just stopping in the midst of the chaos to ground ourselves with our breath.

During this season as we once again listen to the stories of Jesus' birth and life, we come to know our God in a deeper, more intimate way. We become aware of the true depth of love God has for us, all of us, each one of us. And we learn about the kind of life we are



called to live as followers of this one called Jesus.

May these be your gifts during Advent and at Christmas – the love of family and friends, a renewal of faith and hope, and an awareness of God's presence and deep love this day and always.

Peace & Joy!

Cindy

PASTORAL CARE: Because of the privacy act, hospitals no longer telephone churches to let us know that one of our members have been admitted. Please notify the church office (218-624-0061) if you or someone you know is in need of pastoral care for illness, hospitalization or surgeries. In the case of an emergency and there is no answer at the church, call Pastor Cindy at 218-464-0304.

Asbury News



The Asbury UMC Finance Committee's responsibility is to manage and direct the financial affairs of the church and provide leadership for the Fall Financial Stewardship Drive. The committee meets quarterly to review the budget, both income and expenses, and more often in the fall during our stewardship drive.

We have a total of \$118,290 pledged so far for our 2017 Operating Budget from 57 pledge units compared to \$112,668 pledged from 59 pledge units in 2016! If you have not returned your pledge card yet, please do so as soon as possible. There are cards available on the back table in the Narthex.

Thank you for the many ways you support the ministries and programs at Asbury United Methodist Church!

— The Finance Team

Thank You!

Dear Asbury Family:

Thank you to everyone for your prayers, phone calls, cards of well wishes and visits. I am feeling better. You are such an encouraging church family.

— Sharon Parendo

Directory Update

Completion of the directory is getting closer. We are using Servant Keeper, an already purchased church computer program to format the directory, and thanks to Shirley's and Stephanie Reinsch Peterson's expertise, we think you will be happy with the user-friendly, finished product.

Once all of the information has been entered into the program, we will be ready to edit, then go to the printers. That is when we will have a better idea of the printer's cost. Because there is no money budgeted for this project, we will break down the cost of each individual directory and we will be asking for a donation.

When the printing is complete, a table will be set up at the back of the church where you can pick up your directory and hopefully make a donation. We will keep you updated on when this will happen.

Men's Ministry Retreat — February 10-11, 2017

We're planning for YOUR participation on top of the 16 (male adult men/senior high youth) who attended last year at Camp Amnicon in South Range, WI (just a 30-minute drive out of Duluth-Area). Great food, fellowship, faith learning and fun await your participation so mark the date on your calendar. More details will be forthcoming to Area-UMC church offices. This event is sponsored by Twin Ports United Methodist Ministries (TPUMM) which makes it more affordable to attend.

Feel free to contact Pastor Sam at 218-349-5334 (calls/texts) or umcpastor-sam.kautz@gmail.com with early questions, concerns, and/or to get on an interested mailing list!

CHUM Donations For the Holidays

Please consider a donation to CHUM for the holidays. Food items may be placed in the shopping cart and personal hygiene items may be placed in the wicker basket, both in the Narthex. Please go to www.chumduluth.org to find out which items are most needed.

Outreach/Communion Offering . . .

November's offering of \$99.00 went to the Bethany Crisis Nursery. December's offering will go to Asbury's Discretionary Fund.

Attendance . . .

November 6	107
November 13	100
November 20	95
November 27	107

Scripture Readers . . .

December 4	Jim Faue
December 11	Ruth Thorpe
December 18	Dave Stromgren
December 25	Leo Lambert



2 Karen Holm
 4 Matt Stromgren
 6 Dawn Jones
 7 Carol Smith
 9 Sandy Winklesky
 10 Denise Hinnenkamp
 13 Carol Peters
 Nikolas White
 15 Alayna McGraw
 16 Ruth Thorpe
 18 Dale Thorpe
 Bill Guldner
 19 Andrew Kirkman
 Rod Ridgewell
 Max Thibault
 23 Judith Skorich
 Shelly Vanneste
 William Winklesky
 27 Aidan Thibault
 28 Erik Akervik
 29 John Strunk
 Max Tollefson
 30 Blaine Green
 Bryson Green
 31 Aleksander White

*Not listed?
 Please contact the church office
 at 624-0061.*

Calendar

December 2016

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Youth choir meets each Wednesday at 6:00 pm</p> <p>Adult choir meets the first Wednesday of the month at 6:40 pm and again on the 1st and 4th Sundays of the month at 9:15 am</p> <p>Praise Team practice is every Monday at 6:30 pm.</p> <p>YOGA classes are held Wednesdays at 5:30 pm in Asbury's Fellowship hall. Contact Cheryl Zupec, 218.343.4478 or czupec@hotmail.com for more information.</p>				<p>1</p> <p>9:30 am Bone Builders, WR 10:00 to 11:00 am, 2nd Harvest Food Dist</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>3</p> <p>!</p>
<p>4</p> <p>2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:15 Adult Choir 10:00 am, Worship/ Communion/SS 11:00 am Scholarship Meeting, WR 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship, 6:00 pm, BS Troop 16, FH</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:00 pm, CS Pack 3116, FH</p> <p>6:30 pm Praise Team</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:00 am Kiwanis, FH</p> <p>9:30 am Bone Builders, WR</p> <p>5:30 pm Finance</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 9:30 am UMW Board Meeting, WR</p> <p>6:00 pm, Youth Choir 6:30 pm, Adult Choir</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:30 am Bone Builders, WR</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Office Closed Dumpster Pick Up</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:00 am to NOON Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal Pizza for lunch</p>
<p>11</p> <p>3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 10:00 am, Worship/B'day 11:30 am, Confirmation, WR 11:30 am Coffee & Fellowship, FH "Special Visitor", FH 6:00 pm, BS Troop 16, FH</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:00 pm, CS Pack 3116, FH</p> <p>6:30 pm Praise Team</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:00 am Kiwanis, FH 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR</p> <p>2:00 pm Knitting Klub, WR</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 9:00 am Pastor Cindy @ West Duluth 11:30 am, Love/Hope Circle luncheon at G. B. Schneider on Grand Ave 6:00 pm, Youth Choir</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:30 am Bone Builders, WR 6:00 pm, Faith Circle Annual Potluck at Sandy Win- klesky's home</p> <p>MESSENGER DEADLINE</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <p>4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT 10:00 am, Worship/Praise/SS 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship, FH 6:00 pm, BS Troop 16, FH</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:30 am Green Door Book Club, WR</p> <p>6:00 pm, CS Pack 3116, FH</p> <p>6:30 pm Praise Team</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:00 am Kiwanis, FH 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 8:30 am Pastor Cindy @ CHUM 6:00 pm, Youth Choir</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:30 am Bone Builders, WR</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Office Closed Dumpster Pick Up</p>	<p>24</p>  <p>Christmas Eve 4:00 & 10:00 pm, Worship</p>
<p>25</p>  <p>9:15 Adult Choir 10:00 am, Worship</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:30 pm Praise Team</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:00 am Kiwanis, FH 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR 2:00 pm Knitting Klub, WR</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 6:00 pm, Youth Choir</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:30 am Bone Builders, WR</p> <p>MESSENGER EMAILS</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>31</p>  <p>NEW YEAR'S EVE</p>

Asbury News

Ad Council Meeting Highlights — 11-15-16

Opening

Rob Karwath called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Secretary's Report:

Minutes of the September 20, 2016, Administrative Council was reviewed. Jan Akervik made a motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. **M – Jan Akervik , S – Cheryl Parendo**

Lay Leader Report – none

Treasurer's Report/Finance – Pat Anscorb and Larry Scanlon

The September monthly summary was given. Balance on Hand, 9/30/16, is \$6,876.51.

The October monthly summary was given. Balance on hand, 10/31/16 is \$9,599.41.

As of this date, we have made 9 payments of our 2016 Apportionments. We voted at the meeting to make 1 more payment this November, bringing our payment up to date so far this year. It is projected that we will be able to pay our Apportionments in total by the end of the year.

Balance Sheet: There is very little change in the Balance Sheet. We continue to be strong on the asset side with zero liabilities.

Trustees Report – Terry Olson

The driveway pavement has been fixed.

Terry will be installing the hot water heater in the Wesley Room himself. Other people have volunteered to help him. The total cost will be about \$250. This project will probably be done in January.

The elevator has been inspected and a few minor changes will be made.

The trustees will be putting up reflectors at the driveway entrances.

The UMW will fund new blacktop for the driveway next year.

The lights in the back of the church are on a timer. They have just been readjusted due to daylight savings time.

The Boy Scouts did not build a shed. They do have a cabinet that will be put in the Sunday School room in the basement.

Sandy Winklesky said the Sunday School needs more storage.

The room divider in the basement will be sold.

UMW Report – Jan Akervik

The pasty profits were \$7,616.92.

The meatball profits were \$3,637.40.

The Area UMW met and \$729 was collected to go toward mission work in Honduras.

The Advent Tea is on November 29th.

UMW is setting its calendar and budget for 2017.

Outreach and Missions Team – Pastor Cindy for Steve Kokotovich

Committee met on November 1st.

They talked about occasionally volunteering at CHUM and/or the Steve O'Neil Apartments.

Damiano fates to serve are Jan. 28th, March 11th, and May 20th. All are Saturdays from 8:30 to 1:30.

Denny and Sharon Parendo will lead the Salvation Army Toy Drive for Asbury.

The next meeting is on Jan. 19th at 5:00 p.m.

Education Team – Cheryl Parendo and Sandy Winklesky

The committee met on Oct. 2nd.

Sunday School is going well.

The Fall Festival went well and was attended by 45 to 50 people. \$55.00 was collected for UNICEF.

The December 11th, Sunday School Christmas Program is titled, *It Happened on a*

TREASURER'S REPORT

10/31/16

GENERAL FUND:

Beginning Cash Balance, 9/30/16	\$ 6,876.51
Deposits	\$ 16,250.98
Total to account for	\$ 23,127.49
Checks Written	<\$ 13,528.08>
Balance on Hand, 10/31/16	\$ 9,599.41

Unpaid Bills through 10/31/16 (includes apportionments)	<\$ 6,715.88>
Net Ending Balance at 10/31/16	\$ 2,883.53

Starry Night. Pastor Cindy is designing the program. It will take place during the worship service. Rehearsal will be Sat., Dec. 10th, 10:00 to noon. Pizza will be served.

Sunday School will be celebrating the first Sunday in Advent, Nov. 27th, with a potluck, Christmas craft and decorating the fellowship hall Christmas tree. The next meeting will be on Sunday, November 20th, after church.

Worship Team – Ruth Thorpe

The committee met on November 5th.

They are in the process of getting estimates to move the sound system to the back of the church.

The committee will be taking a survey this coming Sunday to determine the services for Dec. 24th and 25th.

They are going to try to put the audio of our Sunday worship service on our website.

The Thanksgiving Community service will be on Tuesday, Nov. 22nd at Bethany Baptist.

Nurture/Congregational Care Team

The Scholarship Committee will meet in December to plan a fund raiser.

Pat Nelson has agreed to head the Visitation Committee for next year.

The membership committee has been meeting often to work on the new directory.

They are using Servant Keeper, an already purchased church computer program to format the directory. (Thanks to Shirley's and Stephanie Reinsch Peterson's help!)

There will be a Membership Sunday on January 29th.

Pastor's Report – Cindy Rasmussen

The Nomination Process has begun. This will be Rob's final meeting as our chair. Thank you VERY MUCH Rob for your 5 years of leadership!

The Thursday Adult Study went well using FaithLink, which addresses current issues from a faith perspective.

Confirmation has met twice and they are scheduled for the year. Six youth!

New TV and VCR in Wesley Room thanks to UMW and Denny, Phyllis and Cindy who made the purchase and set it up.

CHUM Fall Assembly is this Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at First Lutheran Church. The topic is "Where are We Now? America & White Supremacy."

Old Business - none

New Business – none

Closing

The next meeting will be held on Tues., January 17th, at 7:00 p.m. The Charge Conference will be held first with the Ad. Council following.

Pat Anscorb made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. **M – Pat Anscorb, S – Ruth Thorpe.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

THANK YOU AGAIN, ROB, FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP!

Respectfully Submitted, Patricia Bennett, Recording Secretary

Asbury News

Outreach Volunteer Opportunity

We will be serving a Damiano Center meal on January 28 from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm. We need six people to volunteer. If you are interested, a sign-up sheet will be at the back of the Narthex.

IMPORTANT Christmas Choir Reminder

We will be practicing for the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve service on **Wednesday, December 7 at 6:30 pm** in the Wesley Room. Please plan to attend this important rehearsal. Any questions? Please call 628-1165.

— Ruby Slennes, Choir Director

Lay Readers For First Half of 2017

We are updating our list of people who are willing to read Scripture during Worship. **If you would like your name to be added to, or remain on the Lay Reader list please call 624-0061 or asburyumcduluth@hotmail.com by December 5.**



Christmas Program Rehearsal

There will be rehearsal on December 10 from 10:00 to noon with pizza! The Christmas program will be presented on December 11.



The children enjoyed decorating the Christmas Tree in the Fellowship Hall at the Welcoming Advent Potluck on November 27.

Children's Hats, Mittens and Scarves

The Mitten/Hat Tree is once again in the Narthex. Please consider donating purchased or handmade hats, mittens and/or scarves for our area school children. Our thanks to all who participate in this much needed ministry.



All Saint's Day Service of Remembrance

On Sunday, November 6th we gave loving tribute to the members and friends of Asbury United Methodist Church who have died this past year. In Christ's love and with deep gratitude for the lives of our loved ones, we lit a candle in remembrance of:

Janice C. DeGrio
Veronica (Roni) Town
Alfred T. Pederson
John A. Arthur
Harlan T. Behn

Dennis R. Carlson
Leona L. Osborn
Reginald H. Postal
Charles L. Park
Betty M. Lilyquist

Toy Collection



Toy Drive — December 12 Deadline

The Salvation Army Toy Drive is underway. New, unwrapped gift for infants/toddlers/children/teenagers may be placed under the Christmas tree at the front of the sanctuary **through December 12**. As in year's past, please no toys suggesting violence such as guns or war toys.
— Outreach Committee



A Huge THANK YOU Advent Tea Hostesses

A huge thank you to all of our Advent Tea hostesses: Linda Warner; Nancy Olson and Jane Herrick; Sharon Picconatto and Audrey Johnson; Judy Pearson; Sandy Winklesky; Avon Power; Cheryl

Parendo; Patty Bennett, Cherie Blazevic, Dawn Jones; Barb Kokotovich and Julie Arnt; Donna Mickelson; Mary DeMars; Phyllis Faue and Barb Rigstad; and Jan Akervik.

Thanks, too, to Pastor Cindy, Phyllis Kruell our pianist and Michael our

violinist. It was a wonderful evening of sharing in the preparation for Advent and the fellowship of friends and family. We raised \$848 in our free-will offering for the Layette Closet.

This is the 20th annual Advent Tea and the co-chairs are retiring from chairing the event. Your new team will be Cheryl Parendo, Pat Ancomb, and Donna Mickelson. We thank them for taking on this tradition at Asbury and look forward to our 21st Advent Tea.

— Merry Christmas, Jan, Judy, and Linda



Layette Closet Now Only At Asbury UMC

The Layette Closet started in 1984 at Central Avenue UMC and came to Asbury UMC when Asbury was built and the churches merged. At one time, there were several other churches who also helped with this ministry. We are linked with the Salvation Army who distributes the layette bags through their social service program.

Times have changed and we are now the only church providing layette bags for new mothers in need. Each bag contains bottles, diapers, both pinning/receiving blankets and a crib-size blanket, sleepers, onesies, booties, socks, bibs, hats and a snow suit for the winter or a sweater for the summer — bags are valued at approximately \$150-\$175 per layette.

If at any time you have a gently used item in size newborn to 18 months, please feel that you may bring that item to contribute. If you wish to make a monetary donation, please make checks to Asbury UMW or place your offering in the Sunday offering and mark it Layette Closet. All support is appreciated. This is a part of our UMW and church Outreach Missions and one we are very proud to support!

UMW Meetings

- UMW board members will meet in the Wesley Room on Wednesday, December 7 at 9:30 am.
- Love/Hope Circle will meet Wednesday, December 14 at 11:30 am (**please note change from norm**) for lunch at G.B. Schneider on Grand Ave.
- Faith Circle will have their annual Christmas potluck at the home of Sandy Winklesky on Thursday, December 15 at 6:00 pm. Please respond to Sandy, 218-624-9433, and let her know what you will be sharing — casserole, salad, dessert, bread. We will take a special offering for our Christmas project to be decided that evening.
- Knitting Klub members meet at 2:00 pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month in the Wesley Room. Come join us!
- Green Door Book Club members meet at 9:30 am on the 3rd Monday of each month in the Wesley Room. Next meeting is December 19.

UMW Reading Program Deadline

If you have been reading from the UMW Reading Program library, you need to know that the 2016 Reading Program lists are due no later than **Sunday, December 11.**

Your completed lists can be given to Patty Bennett on, or before, that date. For new readers, you still have time to participate in this annual program by completing the short version on the program list. The UMW Reading Library books are located in the Wesley Room. Books dated 2012 to 2016 qualify for the 2016 reading list.



Kitchen Cleaned

Our kitchen was professionally cleaned on November 10. This is paid for with monies from the pasty sale, the meatball dinner, and the Kiwanis Pancake supper. Please help keep our kitchen clean by picking up after any meetings or use of the kitchen. Take the towels home to wash and return them clean. Put items away and take home your leftovers. Please don't leave them in the refrigerator or on the counters. Your help is appreciated!

**Pasty Sale Coming!
January 21, 2016**

Asbury United Methodist
PO Box 7135
Duluth MN 55807

Return service requested

Meet Our Staff



Pastor:.....Cindy M. Rasmussen
Administrative Asst.:Shirley Brandt
Choir Director:Ruby Slennes
OrganistPhyllis Kruell
Praise Team Leader
Nursery Attendant Sue Opferkew
Custodian:Dan Mokros
Admin. Council Chair: Rob Karwath
Treasurer:Pat Anscomb
Lay Leader: Steve Kokotovich
Trustees:Terry Olson/Donna Mickelson
UMW President.....Jan Akervik
SPRC ChairPhyllis Faue
Worship Chair Ruth Thorpe
Christian Education: Cheryl Parendo
Christian Education:Sandy Winklesky

This newsletter is e-mailed/mailed monthly by Asbury UMC, Duluth MN.

EDITORS: The Rev. Cindy M. Rasmussen; Shirley Brandt, Admin. Asst.

CHURCH OFFICE:

218-624-0061 ~ asburyumcduluth@hotmail.com ~ www.asburyumcduluthmn.org

NEXT MESSENGER DEADLINE: December 15 for the January 2017 Messenger.

Please submit all articles of interest to Shirley in the church office by the deadline listed above.
Items may be dropped off, e-mailed or mailed. Thank you.

Worship With Us

Every Sunday at 10:00 am.

NOTE:

1st Sunday of each month we share Holy Communion,
2nd Sunday we recognize those celebrating birthdays.
3rd Sunday our music is led by our Praise Team.
***Every Sunday we give thanks and celebrate
God's great gifts and presence in our lives.***



Asbury's Mission Statement

*Asbury United Methodist is a caring, Christian community which welcomes all persons as God's children.
We will strive to grow in spirit and seek God's vision of hope, love and peace in the community and world.*