



**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



**Palm Sunday, April 9, 10:00 am**  
**Holy Thursday w/Communion, April 13, 6:30 pm**  
**Good Friday Community Service, April 14, 7:00 pm**  
**Easter Sunday is April 16, 10:00 am**

**L**ent is the season in which we prepare for the great festival of Easter by reflecting on our lives and faith. It is 40 days (and six Sundays) beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending with Holy Saturday.

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## Asbury United Methodist Church Celebrating 25 Years

Join us Sunday, May 21st to celebrate Asbury's 25 years of Ministry! We will worship, share stories and pictures, and have a light lunch together. Please call 624-0061 or email [asburyumcduluth@hotmail.com](mailto:asburyumcduluth@hotmail.com) by **May 11** to make your reservation for the luncheon!



# Cindy's Corner

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I just returned from a glorious week on Isla Mujeres (which means “Island of Women”) in Mexico. It was a week of rest, warm sunshine, conversation, yoga, swimming, laughter and delicious, fresh food! I have returned with wonderful memories and a group of new friends who shared the amazing experiences of the island.

This was my third trip to Isla for the retreat “Portals to the Self,” and I went back and forth trying to decide whether I wanted to attend this year. When I arrived and stepped off the ferry I knew it was the right decision. Then, later in the week we found out that the beautiful, quaint retreat center where we were staying had been sold. In February it will be torn down to build new condos and timeshares. At the end of the week, stepping back onto the ferry and saying goodbye held a different kind of meaning this year.

As always, one of my favorite memories is the morning we all get up at 5:30 a.m. and pile into taxis to take us to the southern most tip of the Island. With our eyes still heavy

with sleep, we walk through a garden of sculptures and down some very steep, uneven steps to a flat rock cliff below. There we stand shoulder to shoulder as the waves splash up against the rock sending a mist of water over us, gently touching our skin with grace.

With great anticipation, we witness the very first light of day. This year my new friend Carol raised a conch shell to her lips and blew loud and fierce. We watched as the sun made its way up the morning sky with the promise of a new day. It was a holy moment for me.

In a few short weeks Easter will arrive with a first ray of sunlight announcing the resurrection of Jesus and proclaiming that suffering and death will not have the last word. Easter’s message is one of grace and joy and hope in the face of emptiness and grief. Easter invites us to open our hearts to God’s great gift of a new day and deep, deep abiding presence and love! It is a gift and we are blessed.

*Peace and 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



## Thank You!

Dear Asbury United Methodist Church and UMW Members:

My name is Lena Pat Johnson. In 1932 I was married in Central Avenue Methodist Church to Ralph M. Johnson. We were active members for many years. I am now 103 years old and living at Viewcrest Health Center. I want to thank Asbury UMC and those responsible for continuing to send me The Messenger, and your cards signed by the UMW to which I once belonged. I enjoy them very much. I am not able to attend church activities any more, but I feel like I am still a member of Asbury UMC. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

— Thoughts from Lena, written for her by son Dale

Dear Pastor Rasmussen and Friends at Asbury UMC:

On behalf of Major Bill Cox and all of us at the Duluth Salvation Army, thank you for your generous support. You gift was a big part of providing 1,880 people with emergency assistance (680 households); 749 people with rent assistance (242 households); 493 people with utility assistance (162 households); 104,105 meals through Food Shelf, Medical Food Shelf and Hot Meals; 16,972 person/days of transitional housing (homeless families); 1,536 people with Thrift Store clothing/household items (11,424 items) and 569 youth participating in Rookie Basketball. We are already into a busy 2017 and grateful for your partnership. We will work to be good stewards of the resources you have entrusted to us. Blessings to you all in 2017.

— Gordon Mesedahl, Salvation Army Director of Development

Dear Pastor Rasmussen and Asbury United Methodist Church:

Thanks to your support we rescued and distributed a record 5.5 million pounds of food or enough food for 4.4 million meals in 2016. Your help and ontribution of 33 hours of volunteer service in 2016 resulted in meals for over 44,000 NE Minnesota and NW Wisconsin residents in need. In 2016 nearly 1,200 regional volunteers contributed 12,780 hours of volunteer service — the equivalent of over six full-time positions and an estimated savings of \$172,000 in staff expense. Your contribution to our work ensured children in our BackPack Program received weekend meals, families at our food shelf and Mobile Food Pantry Programs had enough food for every meal and seniors receiving our monthly food boxes didn't have to choose between heat or food. We thank you for your ongoing commitment to assist our Northland neighbors in need.

— Shaye Morris, Exec. Dir. and Jill Ruthford, Volunteer & Dev. Coordinator

### Outreach/

#### Communion Offering . . .

March's offering of \$1686.76 went to the CHUM Food Shelf. April's offering will go to Second Harvest Food Bank.

#### Attendance . . .

March 5	65
March 12	79
March 19	75
March 26	72

#### Scripture Readers . . .

April 2	Ruth Thorpe
April 9	Dave Stromgren
April 16	Leo Lambert
April 23	Ruth Thorpe
April 30	Alan Johnson



2 Alan Johnson  
 3 Larry Scanlon  
 9 Patty Bennett  
 Alexandra Kokotovich  
 Sharon Picconatto  
 Dick Wolden  
 12 Bev LeClair  
 14 Sarah LeClair-Erola  
 16 Michael Cochran  
 Colleen Kirkman  
 20 Pat Ballantine  
 Bill Schultz  
 21 Evan Ridgewell  
 Cindy Rasmussen  
 23 Christine Ridgewell  
 26 Cale Huie  
 Rob Karwath  
 27 Louise Anderson  
 Judy Pearson  
 28 Kyle Akervik  
 30 Jordyn Olson-Merrick

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



### PLEASE NOTE!

On Wednesday April 5 at 6:30 pm we will have a very important Adult Choir rehearsal. We will rehearse an anthem for Palm Sunday, April 9; an anthem for the Good Friday Community Service on April 13 and an anthem for Easter Sunday, April 16.

If you wish to sing only on Easter Sunday you may join us at 7:00 pm.

I do hope for a good turnout.

In Faith, In Love,  
 Ruby Slennes, Choir Director

# Calendar

## April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>2</b> <b>FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT</b> 9:15 Adult Choir 10:00 am, Worship/ Communion/SS 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship, FH 6:00 pm, BS Troop 16, FH	<b>3</b> 6:30 pm Praise Team	<b>4</b> 9:00 am Kiwanis, FH  9:30 am Bone Builders, WR  <b>4:30-6:30 pm</b> <b>Meatball Dinner, FH</b>	<b>5</b> 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH  9:30 am UMW Board Meeting, WR  6:00 pm, Youth Choir 6:30 pm, Adult Choir	<b>6</b> 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR <b>10:00 to 11:00 am,</b> <b>2nd Harvest Food Dist</b> 10:30 am 25th Anniversary Meeting, WR <b>1:00 pm,</b> <b>Faithlink, WR</b>	<b>7</b>  Office Closed	<b>1/8</b>
<b>9</b> <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 10:00 am, Worship/B'day/CC 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship, FH 11:30 am Confirmation, WR 6:00 pm, BS Troop 16, FH	<b>10</b> 6:00 pm, CS Pack 3116, FH  6:30 pm Praise Team	<b>11</b> 9:00 am Kiwanis, FH 9:00 am, Pastor Cindy @ Faith Haven 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR 10:00 am, P. Cindy @ North Shore Estates 2:00 pm, KK, WR	<b>12</b> 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH  9:00 am, Pastor Cindy @ West Duluth  6:00 pm, Youth Choir	<b>13</b> 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR  <b>6:30 pm</b> <b>Maunder Thursday</b>	<b>14</b>  Office Closed Dumpster Pick Up  <b>7:00 pm</b> <b>Good Friday</b>	<b>15</b>  <b>Holy Saturday</b> <b>Easter Vigil</b>  10-2 Easter at the Zoo overflow parking
<b>16</b> <b>EASTER</b> 10:00 am, Worship/Praise	<b>17</b> 9:30 am, Green Door Book Club, WR  6:00 pm, CS Pack 3116, FH  6:30 pm Praise Team	<b>18</b> 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR 1:00 pm Love/Hope Circle 6:00 pm Trustees, GR 7:00 pm Ad Council, WR	<b>19</b> 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 8:30 am Pastor Cindy @ CHUM 6:00 pm Christian Ed., GR 6:00 pm, Youth Choir	<b>20</b> 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR <b>4:00-6:00 pm</b> <b>Kiwanis Pancakes</b> 7:00 pm Faith Circle, WR <b>MESSENGER</b> <b>DEADLINE</b>	<b>21</b>  Office Closed	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:15 am, Adult Choir 10:00 am, Worship/SS 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship, FH 6:00 pm, BS Troop 16, FH	<b>24</b> 6:00 pm, CS Pack 3116, FH  6:30 pm Praise Team	<b>25</b> 9:00 am Kiwanis, FH 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR  2:00 pm Knitting Klub, WR	<b>26</b> 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH  6:00 pm, Youth Choir  6:00 pm, Confirmation	<b>27</b> 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR  <b>MESSENGER</b> <b>EMAILS/MAILS</b>	<b>28</b>  Office Closed  Dumpster Pick Up	<b>29</b>  <b>8:00 am to</b> <b>1:00 pm</b> <b>Asbury</b> <b>Rummage</b> <b>Sale</b>
<b>30</b> 9:15 Adult Choir 10:00 am, Worship/SS 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship, FH 6:00 pm, BS Troop 16, FH			Youth choir meets each Wednesday at 6:00 pm  Adult choir meets the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm and again on the 1st and 4th Sundays of the month at 9:15 am  Praise Team practice is every Monday at 6:30 pm.  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.			

# Asbury News



## Volunteer Opportunity!

CHUM Church is a faith-based community which intentionally includes people with disabilities. We are people celebrating God's love and acknowledging the goodness of God and all of God's creation.

CHUM Church meets the second Sunday of every month at Peace Church. Two congregations are invited to work together as co-hosts for two consecutive months and divide up the responsibilities for the meal and worship for each month. Both congregations are asked to help with clean-up both months.

Asbury UMC will be partnering up with Norton Park UMC to lead worship and provide dinner on Sunday, May 14 and June 11. We meet at Peace Church at 3:30 pm to get things set up for our time together. It is a really fun and meaningful time! The basic schedule is:

- 4:00 pm  
Pre-worship gathering in the Fellowship Hall.
- 4:35 pm  
Worship in the sanctuary.
- 5:15 pm  
Light supper served in the Fellowship Hall.

We are in need of a few volunteers from each congregation! If you can help with either date, please let Pastor Cindy know. Once we have a group of volunteers and the date gets closer we will have more specifics.



## MN Annual Conference

The 163<sup>rd</sup> session of the Minnesota Annual Conference is scheduled for June 20-22 at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud, MN.

This year's session will begin with worship and a meal at 11:30 am on June 20 and end with worship at 4:00 pm on June 22.

You are invited to connect and worship with colleagues and friends in ministry. Hear compelling TED-style talks from

## TREASURER'S REPORT

2/28/17

### GENERAL FUND:

Beginning Cash Balance, 1/31/17	\$ 8,243.80
Deposits	\$ 13,986.56
Total to account for	\$ 22,230.36
Checks Written	<\$ 16,846.31>
Balance on Hand, 2/28/17	\$ 5,384.05
Unpaid Bills through 2/28/17 (includes apportionments)	\$ 5,576.79
Net Ending Balance at 2/28/17	<\$ 252.74>

several Minnesota United Methodists who will share their vision of how the Acts 2 church is being birthed in our world today. Learn from Discipleship Ministries General Secretary, Reverend Junius B. Dotson, who will talk about the "why" and "how" of evangelism. Participate in a camp revival worship experience with great music, dynamic preaching, games and a hands-on mission project. Attend mini "Get Engaged" Workshops to find people who share your passions and discover new ways to heal a broken world.

**Register by May 15.** For more info visit: [www.minnesotaumc.org/annualconference2017](http://www.minnesotaumc.org/annualconference2017).

## Adult Christian Education — April 6

Our last Adult Christian Education class featuring "Faith Link," Connecting Faith and Current Events and Life Issues will be on April 6 at 1:00 pm in the Wesley Room. Please join us if you are able.

Please call Ruth at 624-4692 or Pastor Cindy with questions. Hope to see you there!

**Johnny's mother looked out the window and noticed him "playing church" with their cat.**

**He had the cat sitting quietly and he was preaching to it. She smiled and went about her work. A while later she heard loud meowing and hissing and ran back to the open window to see Johnny baptizing the cat in a tub of water.**

**She called out, "Johnny, stop that! The cat is afraid of water!"**

**Johnny looked up at her and said, "He should have thought about that before he joined my church."**



# Asbury News



## Committees . . . Councils . . . Work Areas?

Have you ever wondered about the various committees/councils/work areas at Asbury UMC? Have you ever thought about how decisions are made and how you can be involved? If so, this is the column for you! In the next few months we will be highlighting various committees/councils/work areas explaining how they are organized and what they do. If you have questions, feel free to contact Steve Kokotovich, our Lay Leader or Pastor Cindy.

## Staff Parish Relations . . .

Paragraph 258.2 of the United Methodist Discipline states: There shall be elected annually by the charge conference in each local church a committee on pastor-parish relations or staff-parish relations who are professing members of the local church or charge or associate members. The committee shall be composed of not fewer than five nor more than 9 persons representative of the total charge. It shall assist the pastor(s) and staff in assessing their gifts, maintaining health holistically and work-life balance, and setting priorities for leadership and service.

Some of the committees' responsibilities are listed below:

- To encourage, strengthen, nurture, support, and respect the pastor(s) and staff and their family(s).
- To promote unity in the church and address any concerns/conflicts between staff members and the congregation. This committee addresses any concerns raised by the congregation regarding staff members.
- To confer with and counsel the pastor(s) and staff on the matters pertaining to the effectiveness of ministry; relationships with the congregation; and to interpret the nature and function of the ministry.
- To provide evaluation at least annually for the use of the pastor(s) and staff in an ongoing effective ministry and for identifying continuing educational needs and plans.
- To communicate and interpret to the congregation the nature and function of ministry in The United Methodist Church regarding open itinerancy. The committee shall work with the district superintendent and the bishop in securing clergy

leadership. Its relationship to the district superintendent and the bishop shall be advisory only. (See ¶¶ 425-428.)

- To develop and approve written job descriptions and titles for associate pastors and other staff members in cooperation with the senior pastor.
- To consult on matters pertaining to pulpit supply, proposals for compensation, travel expense, vacation, health and life insurance, pension, housing in compliance with the policy of the annual conference), and other practical matters affecting the work and families of the pastor and staff, and to make annual recommendations regarding such matters to the church council, reporting budget items to the committee on finance.
- To encourage, monitor, and support clergy and lay staff pursuit of health and wholeness.

*(Portions of SPRC Job Description from The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church - 2016. Copyright 2016 by The United Methodist Publishing House. Used by permission.)*

## #Squashhunger

March was Foodshare Month when all donations to help alleviate hunger were proportionately matched by the Greater Minnesota Council of Churches.

As of March 31<sup>st</sup> Asbury UMC raised \$1,635.26 and collected a multitude of food items. Of that amount, \$674 came from our Spring Pasty sale, \$359.76 came from our February "Soup"er Bowl Sunday free-will collection and the remainder were member contributions. Thank you so much!



## Garden Committee Meeting

The first meeting of this committee will be held on Monday morning, April 10, at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We'll be discussing plans and projects for the coming season so be thinking about not only what needs to be done but also about future projects. All ideas will be considered.

We welcome more volunteers to join us as we maintain the gardens and landscape of Asbury. Come to the meeting on April 10 to see how the garden committee functions and you might have a great idea for further beautifying Asbury's landscape. Thanks in advance and we hope to see you at this meeting.

— Judy Pearson, Facilitator





## What's That Tantalizing Aroma?

It's almost here! Meatballs, meatballs, meatballs! Only \$10.00 at Asbury's Spring Meatball Dinner on



Tuesday, April 4 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Get your tickets from Gary Winklesky and bring the family and your friends! Take out is available and Asbury is handicapped-accessible.

Unsold tickets **NEED** to be turned in to Gary by **Sunday, April 2**, so we have an

accurate count to help sell more tickets on April 4.

We need your support and your help so please also consider volunteering some of your time. There is a sign-up board in the Narthex.

And, we could use gallon ice cream buckets with lids or Cool Whip containers with lids. Please bring to the church kitchen.

All proceeds go towards paying our 2017 Minnesota Annual Conference apportionments.

## Area UMW Spring Meeting

Duluth Area UMW members will meet on Thursday, April 20, at Forbes UMC in Proctor. Registration is 10:30 to 11:00 am. Program at 11:00 am — Our Big Water's Shepherdess, Susan Berard will speak on "Connections." Lunch cost is \$8.00. The Special Offering will go to the Back Pack Program.



Please RSVP to Pat Nelson at 218-391-0957 or to Forbes UMC at 218-624-9390. Please give your name and your church name when leaving a message.

**Registrations are due by April 13.**

## Jewelry Needed For Our "Jewelry Room"



Asbury has the "Best Jewelry Table" in town. People return every year to check out what we have because of our nice variety. Again, we are asking for donations of old, used jewelry to make this year's sale another success. If you have something to donate, please either bring to the church office from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm (Monday through Thursday) or on Sunday

mornings. Thank you for your support!

## UMW Meetings

- UMW board members will meet in the Wesley Room on Wednesday, April 5
- Love/Hope Circle will not meet in April as members will be helping with the Meatball Supper and the Spring Rummage Sale.
- Faith Circle will not meet in April as members will be helping with the Meatball Supper and the Spring Rummage Sale.
- 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.



## Rummage Sale Drop-Off Schedule

Mark your calendar for Asbury's Annual Spring Rummage sale on Saturday, April 29 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All good and barely used items are being sought for the sale. **(NO CLOTHING or ELECTRONICS PLEASE!)** All items can be dropped off at Asbury UMC. Please see the drop-off schedule following for drop-off times.

### DROP-OFF SCHEDULE:

Items may be brought to the church the week of (April 24-28) of the sale. Monday through Friday mornings from 9:00 am to NOON and Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. **Please no drop offs after NOON on Friday, April 28.**

Set up is on-going Monday through Friday from 9:00 to NOON each day. Many workers are needed to make our rummage sale successful. Please consider volunteering some time to help with set-up during the set-up times listed. Help on the day of the sale would also be greatly appreciated.

All proceeds go towards paying our 2017 Minnesota Annual Conference apportionments.

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  
Organist .....Phyllis 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  
UMW President .....Jan Akervik  
SPRC Chair .....Phyllis 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.asburyduluth.org

**NEXT MESSENGER DEADLINE: April 20 for May 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.*