



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

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 by May 11 to make your reservation for the luncheon!



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Adventure Day Camp 2017

Our Twin Ports United Methodist Ministries: Asbury, Faith, First, Forbes, Hillside, Hope, Lester Park and Norton Park United Methodist Churches present Adventure Day Camp 2017. Camp dates are

Camp Out with Jesus!



July 24 to July 27 from 10:00 am to 3:15 pm each day at Horace Johnson Boy Scout Camp, Island Lake. Bussing will be provided. Eligible campers are those finishing Kindergarten through 7th

grade. There will be canoeing, arts and crafts, story/drama, swimming, games, an exploration station and snacks. Registration forms are on the table in the Narthex. Please contact Pastor Cindy with questions.

Volunteer opportunities are also available. A Volunteer Expectations informational sheet and sign-up sheets are on table in the Narthex. We are looking for counselors and youth volunteers. Training will be on Sunday, July 23, from 6:00 to 7:15 pm at Hillside UMC, 1801 Piedmont Ave., Duluth. Please contact Pastor Cindy with questions.

Spring Fest On May 6 — Everyone Welcome!

The Christian Education Team will be hosting a Spring Fest from 4:00 to 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, May 6.

Everyone is welcome to attend this fun event! There will be a craft for kids, Communion Bingo, a lesson on Communion and a potluck supper. A sign-up sheet for the potluck will be available in the Narthex.



Cindy's Corner

As the dawn began to make its way through the darkness, Mary went to the garden and saw the stone rolled away. She runs and tells the others and after they see for themselves, they leave full of grief.

Mary, however, is unable to walk away. She stands there in her deep grief until she hears a voice asking her why she is crying. It is the voice that speaks to each and every one of us who has ever known what it is like to be helpless, unable to affect one's destiny.

In her anguish, Mary is blind to the reality before her until she hears her name, "Mary." It is then she sees him.

I sometimes wonder if Jesus spoke Mary's name, if she was the first one to recognize the resurrection because she was the one that stayed with her pain, refusing to run away from the hurt and confusion of the moment. I wonder if this was the first sign that the Risen Christ would always be present when pain and fear threaten to rule the day.

In many ways Easter began the moment the voice said, "Mary" and she knew who he was. It is where the miracle happened and goes on happening – in the encounters with the Living Christ.

Encounters with the Divine, encounters with the Risen Christ can happen in very simple and yet very profound ways.

* It can be through the brilliant colors of the sun rising or the sun setting, inviting us to be amazed and awed by God's creation.



* It can be an unexpected kind word when we are feeling tired and weary and lonely.

* It can be the deep joy and love of a parent or grandparent showing a picture of a new baby.

* It can be sitting with someone who is near death. She smiles, squeezes my hand and softly whispers, "It is so beautiful, I am not afraid."

* It can be sitting on a rock by Lake Superior, gazing out over the water and thinking "oh my goodness I am a part of this whole, huge creation and I have place in it."

Encounters with the Divine, encounters with the Risen Christ, they happen in very simple and very profound ways in our lives. We can be changed by them, becoming stronger, wiser, more kind and daring. With new eyes we can come to know God's promise – that pain, sorrow, suffering or even death will not be the last word.

What Easter does, is to take us by the hand, and lead us to a garden, a tomb, to a deep place right at the center of our soul. What Easter says is, "Clear out that space, open your eyes and ears and heart because I have a new thing to show you, a new life, a new hope. For he is not here, he is Risen and found among you!"

This is our hope; this is God's promise!

Easter Blessings,

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



Teacher Appreciation — May 14

Our last day of Sunday school will be May 14. We will celebrate Mother's Day that Sunday plus it is Teacher Appreciation Sunday. An Ice Cream Social will be held for the children in the Fellowship Hall during Sunday school.

Additionally, the Christian Education Team would like to thank everyone who participated in the Palm Sunday Service. The children did a great job!

Thank you also to all the helpers and teachers and Pastor Cindy who helped throughout the year. Sunday

school will reconvene on Rally Day, September 10.



Volunteer Opportunity! — May 14 & June 11

CHUM Church is a faith-based community which intentionally includes people with disabilities. CHUM Church meets the second Sunday of every month at Peace Church in Duluth. 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. 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 church!

If you can help, please let Pastor Cindy know.



CHUM Spring Assembly — May 25

The CHUM Spring Assembly will be held at Concordia Lutheran Church, 2501 Woodland Ave., Duluth on May 25. Fellowship is 6:30 to 7:00 pm with the meeting at 7:00 to 8:15 pm. The Reverend Thomas Aitken, elected Bishop of the ELCA Northeastern MN Synod will be the keynote speaker. CHUM will also be sharing their 2017-2019 strategic plan, as well as updates on other activities CHUM is involved with. In addition, CHUM will welcome First Presbyterian Church as a new (returning) member.

Questions? or to RSVP, please contact CHUM at 218-720-6521.

Garden Committee Perennial Plant Sale — June 7

The Gardening Committee met April 10 to discuss last year's activities and make plans for the coming 2017 season. The Committee will meet again on May 1 at 8:30 am to do a grounds clean-up, raking and trimming. We welcome anyone with an interest in helping to join us.

As soon as the weather warms up and stays warm, the team will meet Monday mornings at 8:30 am (or later) in the Fellowship Hall unless it is raining or it is a holiday.

Our annual Perennial Plan sale will be held June 7 after the worship service. If you have plants that need to be divided, please consider bringing them to be sold at the sale. If you need help dividing your plants, please call Judy at 722-5818 and arrangements will be made to help. The money raised from this sale is used to purchase the annual flowers for the pots in front of the church and also the large planter under the sign. Everyone is welcome to purchase plants at the sale. Many thanks for your support! — Judy Pearson, Facilitator



Outreach/ Communion Offering . . .

April's offering of \$98.05 went to the Second Harvest Food Bank. May's offering will go to Habitat for Humanity.

Attendance . . .

April 2	104
April 9	109
April 16	166
April 23	91

Scripture Readers . . .

May 7	Barbara Little
May 14	Carrie Sutherland
May 21	Jan Akervik
May 28	Ruth Thorpe



- 3 Caroline Carlson
Matt Nylund
Emily Rager
- 5 Julie Brackett
Terry Olson
- 8 Sharon Parendo
Rod Ridgewell
- 9 Terrie Gimpel
- 10 Daniel Barry
- 12 John Anscorn
- 14 Arianna Thieling
- 16 Ruby Slennes
Phyllis Wolden
- 17 Barb Downs
- 19 Carol Lonetto
- 23 Louise Taraldsen
- 25 Candy Kokotovich
- 27 Pete Paczynski
Bernice Seehus
- 28 Diane Cochran
- 29 Ben Nylund
- 30 Trevor Robinson

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

Calendar

May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:00 pm, CS Pack 3116, FH 6:30 pm Praise Team	2 9:00 am Kiwanis, FH 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR	3 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 9:30 am UMW Board Meeting, WR 6:00 pm, Youth Choir 6:30 pm, Adult Choir	4 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR 10:00 to 11:00 am, 2nd Harvest Food Dist	5 Office Closed 8:00 am to 2:00 pm Kitchen Clean	6 SPRING FEST 4:00 to 6:00 pm Fellowship Hall Potluck/Craft
7 9:15 Adult Choir 10:00 am, Worship/ Communion/Birthday/SS 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship, FH 6:00 pm, BS Troop 16, FH	8 6:00 pm, CS Pack 3116, FH 6:30 pm Praise Team	9 9:00 am Kiwanis, FH 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR 2:00 pm, Knitting Klub, WR	10 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 9:00 am, Pastor Cindy @ West Duluth 6:00 pm, Youth Choir DUMPSTER PU	11 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR	12 Office Closed	13
14 MOTHER'S DAY TEACHER APPRECIATION 10:00 am, Worship//CC Last day of Sunday school/ Ice Cream Social 3:30 pm, CHUM CHURCH	15 9:30 am, Green Door Book Club, WR 6:00 pm, CS Pack 3116, FH 6:30 pm Praise Team	16 9:00 am Kiwanis, FH 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR 11:00 am Love/Hope Circle Sandwich Loaf Lunch	17 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 8:30 am Pastor Cindy @ CHUM 6:00 pm, Youth Choir	18 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR 6:00 pm Faith Circle meeting at the Boat House at Fitgers	19 Office Closed	20 8:30 to 1:30 pm Damiano Volunteers
21 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION 10:00 am, Worship/Praise 11:00 am RECEPTION, FH 6:00 pm, BS Troop 16, FH	22 6:00 pm, CS Pack 3116, FH 6:30 pm Praise Team MESSENGER DEADLINE	23 9:00 am Kiwanis, FH 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR 2:00 pm Knitting Klub, WR	24 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 6:00 pm, Youth Choir 6:00 pm, Confirmation DUMPSTER PU	25 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR	26 Office Closed	27
28 9:15 Adult Choir 10:00 am, Worship 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship, FH	29  Office Closed	30 9:00 am Kiwanis, FH 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR	31 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 6:00 pm, Youth Choir MESSENGER EMAILS/MAILS	After Sunday, May 14, Youth & Adult Choirs will reconvene again on Wednesday, September 6. After Sunday, May 21, Praise Team will meet at 6:30 pm on the Monday prior to Praise Sunday each month. 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

AUMC Administrative Council Meeting Highlights — April 18, 2017 — 7:00 pm

Opening

Bonnie Schroeder-Palmi, Administrative Council facilitator, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Pastor Cindy offered a prayer.

Secretary's Report:

Minutes of the February 21, 2017, Administrative Council were reviewed. Sandy Winklesky made a motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

M – Sandy Winklesky, S – Terry Olson

Lay Leader's Report – Steve Kokotovich

Steve has reported that the Adult Education Classes have a nice format with sessions that are relevant to current events.

We will soon be taking the Love Offering that will be brought to Annual Conference.

Our Holy Week went well and was very meaningful.

Treasurer's Report/Finance Pat Anscomb

The February monthly summary was given. Balance on Hand, 2/28/17 is \$5,384.05. The March monthly summary was given. Balance on Hand, 3/31/17 is \$6,981.27.

We should be able to make two monthly payments towards our Apportionments from profits received from the meatball dinner.

Pat presented the Profit and Loss Performance. We had a Net Income of -\$627 for January through March, 2017. We are a bit over our expenses, but that usually averages out over the summer.

Staff Parish Relations Committee – no report

Trustee's Report – Terry Olson

The committee met prior to our Ad. Council meeting tonight.

We are upgrading our sound system at a cost of about \$20,000. Once we know the exact cost, another Trustee meeting will be held to determine how it will be funded.

United Methodist Women – Pastor Cindy for Jan Akervik

The profits received from the meatball dinner was \$2,988.00. This money will go towards the church apportionments.

There is an Area UMW gathering at Proctor Forbes UMC on Thursday, April 20th. Eight members are going.

UMW will pay for the luncheon for the 25th Anniversary Celebration from funds earned with pasties.

UMW has informed the Trustees that monies from pasties sales will pay for the sealcoating on the church parking lot. We need to make more pasties to keep the fund going!

UMW has also asked the Trustees to get bids on the front door replacement. They will see if funds hold out, or if we wait for next year.

The rummage sale is coming the last week in April. Dates, working times have been posted. We need more help every day, day of sale and for packing down on sale day. Money goes to apportionments.

Outreach and Missions Team – Steve Kokotovich

\$1,635 was collected for the March Food Shelf Drive.

Asbury will be working at Domiano on May 20th.

Second Harvest is always the 1st Thursday of every month, at 10:00 a.m.

There is a sign-up sheet at the church if you would like to participate.

Education Team – Cheryl Parendo and Sandy Winklesky

Palm Sunday went well.

TREASURER'S REPORT

3/31/17

GENERAL FUND:

Beginning Cash Balance, 2/28/17	\$ 5,384.05
Deposits	\$ 17,725.86
Total to account for	\$ 23,109.91
Checks Written	<\$ 16,128.64>
Balance on Hand, 3/31/17	\$ 6,981.27
Unpaid Bills through 3/31/17 (includes apportionments)	\$ 5,632.92
Net Ending Balance at 3/31/17	\$ 1,348.35

Sunday School will end on May 12th, which is also Mother's Day and Teacher Appreciation Sunday.

Christian ED. Spring Fest is on May 6th, from 4:00 to 6:00. There will be a potluck, a lesson on communion and a craft.

Worship Team – Pastor Cindy for Ruth Thorpe

The skit that was performed at the March 26th worship service went very well.

The committee is working on the sound system. They will be moving the sound system or operating the sound system from the back of the church.

Options are being explored to put the sermon on the website.

Holy week went well.

Confirmation will be held in the fall.

Mother's Day is on May 14th, which is also our turn to serve CHUM Church held at Peace UCC. June 11th is our other date for serving CHUM Church.

Graduation Sunday will be held sometime in June.

Everyone is welcome to the Christian Ed. Spring Fest on May 6th.

Nurture/Congregational Care Team – Sandy Winklesky

There was no report from the Visitation Committee.

Carrie Sutherland has offered to be the facilitator for the Scholarship Committee. So far, we have two applications for scholarships.

Patty Bennett reported that the Membership Committee has five people who are interested in joining the church. She also reported that the church directory is still in the works, but coming along.

Pastor's Report – Cindy Rasmussen

Offering collected at the Good Friday Service was \$428.96. This will go to the West Duluth Clergy Fund.

All of the invitations have been sent out for the 25th Anniversary Celebration on May 21st. Please RSVP if you are coming.

We will be doing CHUM Church on Mother's Day. We will also be doing a craft and serving Sloppy Joes.

Pastor Cindy will be attending a continuing education class that will be a writer's retreat called *Wonders and Witness*.

Since we are not using the nametags in church, Pastor Cindy is suggesting that we remove the nametag holder at the entrance to the church. She will also discuss this with a few other committees.

Old Business - none

New Business

We are looking for the large rack that held the confirmation pictures and we are hoping that someone will be able to help us with this.

The clothing rummage sale will be held on Thursday, August 17th, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. and Friday, August 18th, from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Closing

The next meeting will be held on Tuesdays, June 13th, at 7:00 p.m.

Steve Kokotovich made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. **M – Steve Kokotovich,**

S – Pat Anscomb. The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patricia Bennett, Recording Secretary

Asbury News

MN Annual Conference

The 163rd 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 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" Worship 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.



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.

Board of Trustees . . .

The Trustees function as Christian stewards of property God has entrusted to the congregation. This includes supervising and maintaining both the physical property of the congregation and gifts made to the congregation so that the ministries of the congregation can be effective and all legal requirements related to the property are satisfied.

Responsibilities of the Trustees:

- This team, subject to the direction of the charge conference, has oversight and care of all local

church property, buildings and equipment to further the mission of the church. This work is done in consultation with the pastor.

- Trustees receive and administer all gifts made to the congregation and make certain that trust funds of the congregation are invested properly.
- Trustees ensure that the Articles of Incorporation of the congregation are kept up-to-date.
- Trustees annually review property, liability, and insurance coverage on church-owned property, buildings and equipment. They also review personnel insurance for protection against risk and consult with the Staff-Parish Relations team about other personnel insurance.
- Trustees conduct an annual accessibility audit of buildings and grounds to discover and then work toward eliminating barriers that impede the full participation of all people.
- The team submits annual budget requests to the committee on finance for property maintenance and improvement and new property purchases.
- Trustees are accountable to the charge conference and the church council.

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

2017 Love Offering for Mission

The Love Offering for Missions is collected within Minnesota United Methodist churches and delivered to the annual conference session. It benefits international, national and Minnesota Missions.

Donations to the 2016 Love Offering totaled more than \$96,000. Funds from this year's Love Offering will go to three projects:

- 60% to the United Methodist University of Sierra Leone—School of Applied Health Sciences;
- 30% to Emma Norton Services;
- and 10% to Volunteers in Mission Services.

For more details on each of the projects, please go to: <http://www.minnesotaumc.org/loveoffering>.

The date we will be collecting the Love Offering will be posted in upcoming announcements. Please put your donation marked "2017 Love Offering" (checks should be made out to Asbury UMC) in the offering plate. A check with the total collected will be brought to the Annual Conference in June.

Seeking Confirmation Pictures Rack

We are looking for the large rack that held the confirmation pictures and we are hoping that someone will be able to help us with this.



Area UMW Spring Meeting Held

UMW members met at Forbes UMC in Proctor on Thursday, April 20, to hear from our Big Waters District Shepherdess, Susan Berard who spoke on "Connections."



Following the program a luncheon was served and a special offering was taken to support the Back Pack Program. The offering totaled \$516.86. There were 44 women in attendance with eight UMW from Asbury. Our next meeting will be announced in the fall.

Your Pasty Money At Work

Your participation in working and supporting our annual pasty sales helps to fund necessary and special church projects. We couldn't do many of these things without all of our church family getting involved in working, taking orders and buying our delicious pasties.

One of the special church projects supported by our pasty sales will be to seal-coat the church parking lot. The UMW Board is working with the Trustees to make plans for this to happen as soon as weather permits. Bids are also being pursued to replace Asbury's front doors.

Funds from our pasty money collection will also ensure that all attendees to our 25th Anniversary Celebration on May 21 will enjoy the luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. **Please make your luncheon reservation with the church office by May 11.**

Summer Donut Sale — June 10

Our summer donut sale (\$4.00 per dozen) will be the morning of Friday, June 9 from 7:00 to 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Order sheets will be in the Narthex soon. Donuts can also be purchased at the sale on June 9 from 7:00 to 11:00 am.



Workers are needed to mix batter on Thursday, June 8 at 8:30 am. On Friday, June 9, we need help for donut rolling/cutting out, frying and bagging the donuts. We start at 6:00 am,

but please come when you can. Please consider volunteering some time as it is a lot of fun! Please put your name on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you can help, or call Bev LeClair at 628-2680.

UMW Meetings

- UMW board members will meet in the Wesley Room on Wednesday, May 3.
- Love/Hope Circle will meet at 11:00 am on May 16 in the Wesley Room for a sandwich loaf luncheon. There will be no meetings in June, July, August.
- Faith Circle will have its last meeting before returning to the fall schedule on Thursday, May 18, at 6:00 pm at the Boat House located in the Fitger's Building. **Please respond to Jan at 626 -1359 by Sunday, May 14, if you will be attending.** There will be no meetings in June, July, August.
- 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.

Mark Your Calendar

Asbury's 8th Annual "Clothing Only" Dollar sale will be Thursday, August 17 from 4:00 to 8:00 pm and Friday, August 18 from 8:9 to 11:00 am. More details to come.

Asbury Kitchen Cleaning Scheduled

Our kitchen will be professionally cleaned on Friday, May 5. Please help keep it clean! Take home used towels to wash them and return. Wipe up counters and stove when used. Put items back in place after use. Every person using the kitchen can help to keep it clean. Thanks!

Thank You!

Another huge THANK YOU to all those who helped to make the meatball dinner such a success. These people form what others call "a well oiled machine." Our profit was \$2988.00 which goes to our church apportionments.

And, MANY THANKS to everyone for a great Spring Rummage Sale! Thank you for volunteering, donating and buying items. A rummage sale update will appear in the announcements and in next month's Messenger!



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
Custodian:Dan Mokros
Ad. Council Chair: .Bonnie Schroeder-Palmi
Treasurer:Pat Anscorn
Lay Leader: Steve Kokotovich
Trustees: Terry Olson
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.asburyduluth.org

NEXT MESSENGER DEADLINE: May 22 for June 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.*