



Asbury

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

6822 Grand Avenue
Duluth, MN 55807

**The Reverend
Cindy M. Rasmussen**

Sunday Worship — 10:00 am

Office Hours
Mon-Weds-Friday 9:00 am—1:00 pm
Tues-Thurs 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

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“The Miracle of a Christmas Snowflake”

The sanctuary was turned into a beautiful snowflake theme with the Nativity scene at the center on December 17. Thank you to everyone who helped make the Sunday school Christmas program such a huge success. The children did a wonderful job!

Many members/friends of Asbury helped put up the glistening snowflakes, decorate the church, participate in the program and helped with and donated to the potluck lunch after the program. A HUGE thank you to all!

Thank you, too, to our parents and grandparents who bring and share their children/youth with Asbury and THANK YOU to our children and youth for doing such a fantastic job!

Special thanks go to Pastor Cindy, Phyllis Kruell & Dennie Elder, Ruby Slennes and the Sunday school Christian Education Committee.

We had over 130 in attendance and we were lucky that “Santa” was able to visit with the children and the adults for awhile!



Cindy's Corner

Lighting Candles

The theologian, author, educator and civil rights leader Howard Thurman writes:

"I will light candles this Christmas.

*Candles of **joy** despite all the sadness.
Candles of **hope** where despair keeps watch.
Candles of **courage** where fear is ever present.
Candles of **peace** for tempest-tossed days.
Candles of **grace** to ease heavy burdens.
Candles of **love** to inspire all of my living.*

Candles that will burn all the year long."

After all of the excitement and celebrations of Christmas, I often feel one of the challenges we have as people of faith is how to keep the experience, the hope, the peace, the goodwill and the love present all the year long.

Recently on a drive up the North Shore we stopped at the Temperance River and braved the cold weather to walk down by the falls. I was amazed to see an open area of water at the bottom of a waterfall with round pieces of ice floating around in a circular motion. It seemed that the chunks of floating ice would hit the outer portion of the open water and the contact of the two would smooth out the rough edges of the ice chunks and make them round. Even though the temperature was frigid, I stood there watching and thinking about rough edges and smooth circles.



In spite of feeling cold to the bone, I "pondered" people and life, and rough edges being made smooth.

For me, that is what happens at Christmas. The rough edges of life, and people and experiences smooth out a bit. If we allow it, the Spirit of God once again opens up our life and our world, and offers more joy, hope, courage, peace, grace and love.

As we move into this New Year, perhaps we can light candles to remind us how God's great gift of love/light was and is made known to us. Then we can smooth out our rough edges and become carriers of that Light bringing kindness, compassion, hope and care to ourselves, others and the world.

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 Friends in Mission:

We are grateful that you are partnering with us through The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Thank you for your generous gift to help with Hurricane Harvey relief. One hundred percent of your gift will go toward this ministry.
— General Board of Global Ministries, UMCOR

Dear Rev. Rasmussen and Asbury UMC members:

What a blessing it was to receive your donation for the LSS Crisis Nursery for Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota. We are able to help so many families in need in our community with diapers, wipes, clothes and emergency childcare because of generous donors like you. Thank you very much for supporting our program.
— Rev. Kathryn A. Tiede, Dir. of Church Partnerships, LSS of MN

Dear Asbury Outreach Volunteers:

A HUGE thank you to all the volunteers who have participated in Asbury's Outreach activities during 2017. We have had great response from congregation members for: Second Harvest NAP food distribution, the Damiano Center and several others.
— Outreach Team

Dear Members of Asbury UMC:

Thank you for the backpacks and school supplies and all that you do for Stowe School.
— Stowe Staff and Students

Dear Asbury UMC:

Thank you so much for your generous gift and your continued support.
— Amy White, Development Officer, The Life House

Dear Asbury Members and Friends:

Thank you to everyone who donated toys to the Salvation Army Toy Drive. Your generosity will make Christmas a bit happier for many children.
— Dennie and Sharon Parendo

Dear Asbury United Methodist Church:

On behalf of the Duluth Public Schools, we wish to thank you for the donation of school supplies and backpacks to Stowe Elementary. The entire staff works hard to inspire every student to achieve their potential and prepares students to lead productive, fulfilling lives. Your thoughtfulness will help us in our efforts to provide the highest quality of education to our students.
— William Gronseth, Superintendent, Duluth Public Schools

Offering Envelopes Now Available to Pick-Up

Offering envelopes are in alphabetical order according to your name. If you don't see your name, or if you don't have an envelope number assignment but would like one, please let Shirley know.

PLEASE NOTE: If you would like your contributions to be reflected on your quarterly/annual giving statements, all checks should be made out to Asbury United Methodist Church, instead of the individual charity, etc.

For tax purposes, all 2017 year-end giving must be in the church office no later than January 7, 2018. Thank you!

New Church Office Hours for 2018

The church office will have new hours for 2018. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, office hours are 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, office hours are 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Outreach/

Communion Offering . . .

December's offering of \$179.00 went to Asbury's Discretionary Fund. January's offering will go to AEOA Heating/Energy Asst.

Attendance . . .

December 3	131
December 10	97
December 17	150
December 24 (10:00 am)	72
December 24 (4:00 pm)	127
December 31	30

Scripture Readers . . .

Jan. 7	Leo Lambert
Jan. 14	Jan Akervik
Jan. 21	Ruth Thorpe
Jan. 28	Ripple Effects



- 4 Jacob Gutowski
Justin Gutowski
- 9 Debbie Merrick
Dave Stromgren
- 10 Eli Kokotovich
- 17 Jim Gimpel
- 18 Ron Brosdal
Sue Soder
- 20 Mike Akervik
Phyllis Mullen
- 22 Tim Kokotovich
- 23 Kevin Behn
Audrey Johnson
Lindsey Miller
Angie Thibault
- 25 Queneth Youngren
- 26 Kaylee Randa
Cathy Strunk
- 27 Aidan Thibault
- 28 Kathy Downs
- 31 Alice Brenny
Nicholas Kirkman

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

Calendar

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY Office Closed	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 & Lunch, 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	6 8:30 am to 1:30 pm Damiano Center Volunteers
7 EPIPHANY SUNDAY BAPTISM OF THE LORD 10:00 am, Worship/ Communion/SS 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship,	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 5:30 pm Finance, WR	10 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 6:00 pm, Youth Choir 6:30 pm Worship, GR	11 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR	12 Office Closed 8:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 125, FH Dumpster Pick Up	13 Boy Scout Troop 125, FH Leaving Sunday am
14 UMW Sunday 9:15 am Adult Choir 10:00 am, Worship/B'day/ Children's Church 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship, FH 6:00 pm, BS Troop 16, FH	15 Martin Luther King, Jr, Day 9:30 am, Green Door Book Club, WR 6:30 pm Praise Team	16 9:00 am Kiwanis, FH 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR 1:00 pm Love/Hope Circle, WR 7:00 pm Charge Conference, Ad Council, WR	17 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 8:30 am, Pastor Cindy @ CHUM Clergy 6:00 pm, Youth Choir	18 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR 4:00 -6:00 pm Kiwanis Pancakes 7:00 pm Faith Circle, WR	19 Office Closed	20
21 10:00 am, Worship/Praise/SS 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship, 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	25 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR	26 Office Closed Dumpster Pick Up	27 PASTY SALE
PASTY WEEK						
28 Ripple Effect musical group 10:00 am, Worship/SS 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship, FH 11:15 am Outreach, WR 3:00 pm, TPUMMs at Faith 6:00 pm, BS Troop 16, FH	29 6:00 pm, CS Pack 3116, FH 6:30 pm Praise Team	30 9:00 am Kiwanis, FH 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR PASTOR CINDY ON VACATION January 30 through February 7	31 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 6:00 pm, Youth Choir MESSENGER EMAILS/MAILS	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 2nd Sunday 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 info.		

Asbury News



Six new members recently joined Asbury UMC. From L to R: Kendra & Tom (not pictured) Sharkey, Mary Jo & Ted Plys, Cherie Blazevic (sponsor), Dawn Jones & Stephanie Reinsch-Peterson.

Welcome New Members

On Sunday, December 10, Asbury UMC welcomed the following people into membership.

Dawn Jones has been so active at Asbury that many thought she was already a member. No matter what is happening at the church, you can count on her being there to help. Dawn is married and lives in Twig. She loves spending time with her grandsons, Logan and Brendyn, and enjoys cooking, sewing, quilting and gardening. Many Asbury members fondly remember Dawn's dad, Don Youngdahl, when Don and Dawn both attended Asbury years ago after Riverview Methodist Church closed.

Stephanie Reinsch-Peterson is Dawn's daughter. She is known to many of us as the church directory photographer, when she devoted her time and talents to taking the pictures for Asbury UMC's directory. She is married and has two children, Logan and Brendyn. When she is not working or busy bringing her boys to their several activities, Stephanie enjoys canning, photography, scrapbooking, hiking and exploring. She says that when she attends Asbury, she can still feel her Grandpa Don's presence with her. Stephanie also says that Asbury feels like family.

Mary Jo and Ted Plys joined Asbury together. They have two grown sons, Cory and Scott. Now that Mary Jo and Ted are retired, they enjoy traveling, volunteering, spending time with family and friends and being at the beach. Mary Jo also enjoys playing bingo and shopping. Ted's driftwood art is a must see and he also enjoys fishing and gardening. They are both thankful to their good friends who told them about Asbury and say they have "found a real home here at Asbury – like family."

Kendra and Tom Sharkey also joined Asbury together. Now that they have retired, they have relocated to Duluth. Tom's hobbies include reading, playing bridge and collecting stamps. Kendra enjoys sewing, reading and gardening.

Asbury UMC welcomes all of our new members! We feel blessed to have them join our church family.

2017 Christmas Poinsettias

In Celebration of

My Family
Jan Akervik

In Memory of

Wilbur Anderson

In Celebration of

Jim Anderson
Barb & Steve Kokotovich
Family & Friends
Louise Anderson

In Celebration of

Family & Friends
Clark & Patty Bennett

In Memory of

Pat & Dick Puhl
Cherie Blazevic

In Memory of

Gary Johnson
Parents & Grandparents
Shirley Brandt

In Memory of

Our son Mike
Bob & Carol Cherne

In Memory of

Georgia Kokotovich
Wilbur Anderson
Steve & Barb Kokotovich

In Memory of

Leo L. Lambert, Sr
Loved Ones Gone

In Honor of

My wife, Cheryl
Leo L. Lambert, Jr

In Honor of

Our Asbury Church Family
Dad & Mom Don and Marilyn Lutz
Mom Donette Bushman
Karter & Arya
Pastor Cindy
All Our Children
Happy Birthday to Our
Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ
The Lambert Family

In Memory of

My husband Charles Park

In Celebration of

Family
Joyce Park

In Memory of

Joseph Dudley

In Celebration of

My Family
Avon Power

In Memory of

Our Loved Ones
Duane & Bonnie Schroeder-Palmi

In Memory of

Loved Ones
Tom & Kendra Sharkey

In Memory of

Fedo Family
Dick Simmons,
Soder Family
Susan Soder

In Celebration of

The Marriage of
Eric Stromgren & Susan King
David Stromgren

In Memory of

Roy Stromgren & Parents

In Honor of

Matt, Zak & Max

In Celebration of

Eric & Susan Marriage
Lois Stromgren

In Memory of

Loved Ones

In Honor of

Jesus' Birth
Dale & Ruth Thorpe

In Memory of

Roy Stromgren, Barbara Anderson
& Grandparents

In Celebration of

Lois Stromgren
Zak, Max & Family
Scott & Lynn Tollefson

In Memory of

Our Parents and Grandparents

In Celebration of

Our Daughter Lisa Greene
Gary & Sandy Winklesky



Our Advent and Christmas bulletins were provided by Jan Akervik in memory of her husband, Mike. Jan Akervik and Judy Pearson created the matching banners.



UMW Sunday Set For January 14

On January 14, UMW will celebrate the following awards during UMW Sunday. Pat Anscomb and Lynn Tollefson will be presented with the Special Mission Award; the Children's/Youth and Adult Choirs, and the Praise Team will receive the Thank You Awards and a Mission Gift will be made in their name; Gifts in Memory will honor Georgia Kokotovich, Mary Ann Behn, and Lena Pat Johnson. The UMW women will provide support during the service.

UMW Reading Program Deadline

If you have been reading from the UMW Reading Program library, you need to know that the 2017

Reading Program lists are due no later than Sunday, January 8. 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 2013 to 2017 qualify for the 2017 reading list.

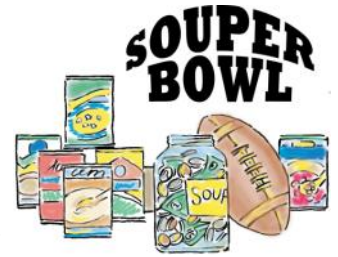


UMW Meetings

- UMW board members will meet in the Wesley Room on Wednesday, January 3 prior to going out for lunch.
- Love/Hope Circle will meet at 1:00 pm on January 16 in the Wesley Room.
- Faith Circle will meet in the Fellowship Hall on January 14 following services to begin pledge collection and plan for "Soup"er Bowl Sunday which is February 4. Get your coffee and join members at the tables marked Faith Circle.
- 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.

"Soup"er Bowl Sunday — February 4

Save the date! The UMW Faith Circle will be serving its "Soup"er Bowl luncheon following services on Sunday, February 4. Mary DeMars' famous soups will be served along with freshly baked rolls. Ice cream and cookies for dessert and a beverage will be available.



A free-will offering will be collected and held until matching fund month for the Food Shelf.

Pasty Sale

Saturday, January 27

Cost: \$4.00 each Gravy: 60¢ each

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! —

Many volunteer opportunities available — there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Pre-order/sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

Please be sure to place your order for pasties before our quota is filled.

Pasty Pick Up Dates/Times:

Friday, January 26 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Saturday, January 27 from 10:00 to Noon

NOTE: Pasty orders not picked up by NOON on January 27 will be sold.

Work Schedule For Pasties

Thursday, January 25

8:00 am Mix crust.

9:00 am Men and women peel veggies.

Friday, January 26

6:00 am Preparation and baking of pasties.

10:00 am **2-3 people** needed for clean up.

Saturday, January 27

6:00 am Pasty baking

10:00 am **4-5 people** needed for clean up.

COME AND WORK WHEN YOU CAN AND STAY FOR AS LONG AS YOU CAN

BROWN PAPER BAGS NEEDED — PLEASE DROP OFF IN KITCHEN.

United Methodist Women

UMW Reading Program 2018 Books

The UMW Reading Program has recently added the following 2018 books to their library:

Education for Mission



Hiding Light – Rifqu Bary
A House in the Sky – Amanda Lindhout & Sara Corbett
Massacre at Sand Creek – Gary Roberts
Without You, There Is No Us – Suki Kim
Growing Peace – Richard Sobol

Leadership Development

50 Women Every Christian Should Know – Michelle DeRusha
Hallow Faith – Stephen Ingram
The Amazing Age of John Roy Lynch – Chris Barton
Feathered – Deborah Kerbel

Nurturing for Community

Detained and Deported - Margaret Regan
On Pluto – Greg O'Brien
Passing It On – Kara Lassen Oliver
The Book of Joy – Dalai Lama & Desmond Tutu
Good Health, Good Life – Joyce Meyer
I am a Bear – Jean-Francois Dumont

Social Action

America's Original Sin – Jim Wallis
One Well – Rochelle Strauss

Spiritual Growth

Adventure of Ascent – Luci Shaw
Bus to Corinth – Ladine Housholder
Tattered and Mended – Cynthia Ruchti

Please feel free to check out these UMW Reading Library books located in the Wesley Room. We also encourage you to participate in the reading program by completing the reading log form available in the library. If you have questions about the UMW Reading Program please contact Patty Bennett, 626-3412.

Advent Tea Thank you

The Advent Tea was held November 28. We had a wonderful turn out. A very special thank you to all the hostesses for their beautiful tables and luscious desserts. Thank you also to Pastor Cindy and Phyllis Kruell and to the evening's entertainment, the Northern Bell Chimes bell choir from Our Saviors Lutheran church under the direction of Anita Fraudorf.

There will be a change in date for our next Advent Tea so mark your calendar for Tuesday, December 4.

— Cheryl Parendo, Pat Anscomb and Donna Mickelson, Advent Tea co-chairs

Asbury News

Pancakes For Supper? — January 18

Come have pancakes for supper on January 18 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm in Asbury's Fellowship Hall sponsored by the Spirit Valley Kiwanis. Tickets are only \$6.00 for adults; \$3.50 for children 4-12; and FREE for 3 and under. Enjoy a delicious meal of pancakes, sausage patties and a beverage. All proceeds are used for Youth Programs.

TREASURER'S REPORT: 11/30/17	
GENERAL FUND:	
Beginning Cash Balance, 10/31/17	\$ 13,703.95
Deposits	\$ 19,396.86
Total to Account for	\$ 33,100.81
Checks Written	<\$ 20,892.11>
Balance on Hand, 11/30/17	\$ 12,208.70
Unpaid Bills through 11/30/17 (includes apportionments)	<\$ 3,563.73>
Net Ending Balance at 11/30/17	\$ 8,644.97



Our 2017 Confirmands from L to R: Chris DeSantell, Emily Rager, Emma Jo Vanneste, Mallorie Schwartz, Lily Ann Vanneste and Ben Nylund.



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 Leadervaries
Custodian:Dan Mokros
Ad. Council Chair: .Bonnie Schroeder-Palmi
Treasurer:Pat Anscomb
Lay Leader: Steve Kokotovich
Trustees: Terry Olson
UMW President.....Jan Akervik
SPRC ChairCathy Sampson
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: January 22 for February 2018 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.*