

Messenger



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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# EASTER SUNDAY

"Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been rolled away..."

ou are invited to come and celebrate Jesus' resurrection and God's great gift of new life and new beginnings! Sunday, April 1 at 10:00 am.

#### **MN Annual Conference**

he 164th session of the Minnesota Annual L Conference is scheduled for May 29 to June 1 at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud, MN. It is also the 50th anniversary (April 23, 1968) of the formation of The United Methodist Church.

The three-day conference session is a time for Minnesota United Methodists to worship and enjoy fellowship, learn from teaching sessions, seek God's guidance as we make decisions about ministry direction, determine budgets, ordain and commission



clergy, and receive the bishop's clergy appointments. Again this year, those who can't attend in person are invited to watch the key sessions including the bishop's episcopal address and the teaching sessions—online via live streaming.

Rev. Olu Brown, founding and senior pastor of Impact Church near Atlanta, GA, will be our conference teacher as we explore how to live more fully—more deeply—into Jesus' missional imperative to love God and neighbor.

For more info visit: www.minnesotaumc.org/annualconference.

# Cíndy's Corner

e all mark the passage of time in different ways. There are birth-days and anniversaries, celebrations of holidays and school/work schedules, and our traditional days, months and years. Recently, a friend of mine sent a picture of her grandson at his kindergarten roundup with a T-shirt that said "class of 2031"! Yikes!

For me, a "passage of time marker" is our church newsletter. Each month when I receive the email from Shirley reminding us to send our articles to her I think, "What?! I just wrote an article yesterday...could it really be a month ago?!"

In a few days we will begin the week the church calls Holy remembering Jesus' journey to the cross, another passage of time marker. In reality the journey began much earlier for him when he started his ministry of teaching, preaching, healing and challenging those in authority. It seems God's messages of love and justice, peace and equality, hope and compassion are always difficult for cultures and societies to embrace.

But then there is Easter reminding us that Love does conquer all. Easter, the promise of new life and new beginnings. Easter, the amazing gift of God's grace and Love.

As time passes and we move into April and May, there are a few things I want to share with you. I will be taking vacation time April 4-13 to spend time with/support my niece who is having a stem cell replacement procedure for her MS in Chicago. I would appreciate your prayers!

Phyllis Kruell and I are planning a "Sunday of Music" for worship on April 8, led by some of our very capable lay people. It should be a fun,

informative, spirit-filled worship! Then on Sunday, April 15, a musical group called the "Ripple Effects" will be leading worship. That, too, will be an exciting experience!

The fundraiser for the roof repair is going very well, thanks to the generosity of all of you. To date, we have received 13,225 and with the UMW match we are up to \$23,225! Thank you to all who contributed! And if you haven't had the opportunity to give, please consider a donation. Working together we can accomplish great things!

Christian Education is planning a Spring Fest for May 6 and everyone is invited to participate. During Sunday school the children will do crafts and play games. We will join them after worship for a potluck meal. The menu will include a taco bar, salads and of course desserts! A sign-up sheet will be available in April. Everyone is invited!

And lastly, Ruby Slennes, our choir director, will be resigning from her position on May 20. She has been a part of this congregation for years and years and has served in many different areas of ministry. We will miss her leadership and are thankful that she will continue to be present with us here at Asbury for years and years to come! She assures us that she is always willing to help with music when and where she can. There will be a time of celebration to honor her in May.

Please be aware of the many other events happening that are shared in this newsletter. Shirley, our administrative assistant, does an amazing job of keeping us organized and informed!

It is a joy to be in ministry with all of you!



**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 Congregation:

I write this letter in deep emotion and with millions of thoughts. I have decided that the time has come for me to step down from being the adult choir director. It has been such a joy for me to work with such wonderful people for so many



years. I shall miss the fun, the caring and the dry and extremely funny sense of humor at every rehearsal. I have also enjoyed so much working with the youth choir and Sunday school and know how much their singing and antics can brighten our lives.

Important Addendum: I would be remiss if I didn't express my love and gratitude for two ladies of music in my past 50+ years. Aileen VanKleek was so helpful, fun and gracious to me in the beginning of my singing in the Central Avenue Choir. I shall love her forever as a church Mother. Another lady, Maxine Young, offered me free organ lessons

and music if I could come when she was done with her Saturday rehearsal. She offered so many do's and don'ts and reassurance. She gave me such an adventure and love of music in my life and she will always be in my heart.

I do have one question: "Where did 50 years go?"

Thank you Asbury Congregation for so many years of your friendship and love. Keep the faith; Keep the love; Give of each to all those you know.

— Ruby Slennes

#### Dear Asbury Family,

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, calls and cards I have received while I am recuperating. You never know when your life will change. In a matter of days or hours your life is completely different. It's like turning the corner and you're not the same person. I'm doing everying I'm told to do and slowly it's getting better. I miss my church and everyone there. I'm hoping to be back in church by May.

— Bernice Seehus

#### Dear Asbury Family,

We'd like to extend our thanks for your continued support in our Girl Scouting adventures! We very much appreciate you purchasing Girl Scout cookies during cookie season over the last 9 years! We have used our profits to enjoy camp, kayaking and next summer (2019) we'll be visiting San Francisco with other Girl Scouts from Minnesota! So again, we thank you!

— Lily Ann and Emma Jo Vanneste

#### Dear Asbury United Methodist:

Thank you for your donation of socks to the Damiano Center. These will keep our guests' feet warm for the rest of the winter! Warm regards!

— Damiano Staff

#### Dear Friends in Mission:

Thank you for your recent monetary gift to The Advance, the designated giving channel of The United Methodist Church. We are pleased to share that 100% of your contribution will support UMCOR's U.S. disaster training and response. The Advance enables United Methodist to partner with one another in mission and ministry around the world. Thank you for joining with us in God's mission.

— General Board of Global Ministries.



#### Outreach/

### Communion Offering . . .

February's offering of \$327 went to UMCOR (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing.) March's offering of \$82.91 went to the Valley Youth Center. April's offering will go to Second Harvest Food Bank.

#### Attendance . . .

March 4	88
March 12	83
March 18	80
March 25 (Palm Sunday)	104

#### Scripture Readers . . .

April 1	Leo Lambert
April 8	Barbara Little
April 15	Shelly Vanneste
April 22	Carrie Sutherland
April 29	Ruth Thorpe



- 1 Sheila Fox
- 2 Alan Johnson
- 3 Larry Scanlon
- 9 Patty Bennett Alexandra Kokotovich Sharon Picconatto Dick Wolden
- 12 Bev LeClair
- 14 Sarah LeClair-Erola
- 16 Colleen Kirkman
- 20 Pat Ballantine Bill Schultz
- 21 Cindy Rasmussen
- 23 Keith McGraw Peter Thibault
- 26 Rob Karwath
- 27 Louise Anderson Sue Carlson Judy Pearson

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

# Calendar

# **April 2018**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 EASTER 10:00 am, Worship	2 6:30 pm Praise Team	3 9:00 am Kiwanis, FH 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR	4 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 9:30 am UMW Board Meeting, WR 6:00 pm, Youth Choir 6:30 pm, Adult Choir	9:30 am Bone Builders, WR  10:00 to 11:00 am, 2nd Harvest Food Dist	Dumpster	7
9:15 am, Adult Choir 10:00 am, Worship/Birthday/ Children's Church 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship, FH 6:00 pm, BS Troop 16, FH	9 6:00 pm, CS Pack 3116, FH 6:30 pm Praise Team	9:00 am Kiwanis, WR 9:30 am Bone Builders, GR 4:30-6:30 pm Meatball Dinner, FH	11 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 10:30 am The Turquoise Table, Hillside UMC 6:00 pm, Youth Choir	12 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR	13	14
RIPPLE EFFECTS 10:00 am, Worship/ Sunday school 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship, FH 6:00 pm, BS Troop 16, FH	16 9:30 am, Green Door Book Club, WR 6:00 pm, CS Pack 3116, FH 6:30 pm Praise Team	17 9:00 am Kiwanis, FH 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR 5:30 pm Finance, WR	18 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 8:30 am Pastor Cindy @ CHUM 10:30 am The Turquoise Table, Hillside UMC 6:00 pm, Youth Choir	19 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR 4:00-6:00 pm Kiwanis Pancakes	20  Dumpster Pick Up	21
22 10:00 am, Worship//SS 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship, FH 3:00 pm, TPUMMs 6:00 pm, BS Troop 16, FH	23 6:00 pm, CS Pack 3116, FH 6:30 pm Praise Team MESSENGER DEADLINE	24 9:00 am Kiwanis, FH 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR 2:00 pm Knitting Klub, WR	25 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 10:30 am The Turquoise Table, Hillside UMC 6:00 pm, Youth Choir 6:00 pm Christian Ed, GR	26 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR	27	8:00 am to 1:00 pm Asbury Rummage Sale
29 10:00 am, Worship/Praise Sunday school 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship, FH 6:00 pm, BS Troop 16, FH	30 6:00 pm, CS Pack 3116, FH 6:30 pm Praise Team 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 second 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 information.				

# **Asbury News**

## Ad Council Meeting Highlights — 03-20-18

#### Opening —

Bonnie Schroeder-Palmi called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Pastor Cindy read a Lenten prayer called "Journey to Jerusalem."

#### Secretary's Report —

Minutes of the January 16, 2018, Administrative Council were reviewed. Jan Akervik made a motion to approve the minutes as read. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

M – Jan Akervik, S – Steve Kokotovich

#### Lay Leader's Report — Steve Kokotovich

The roof replacement fund drive is going well.

#### Treasurer's Report— Pat Anscomb

The February monthly summary was given. Balance on Hand, 2 /28/18 is \$5,790.80.

We have not yet made a payment on our 2018 Apportionments.

Usually we begin paying after the April meatball dinner.

#### Staff Parish Relations Committee —

Pastor Cindy for Cathy Sampson

Ruby Slennes, our choir director, will be retiring on May 20th.

The committee will review her job description and begin a search for a new choir director.

Pastor Cindy is on vacation April 3rd – 14th.

## Trustee's Report — Terry Olson

Primary elections will be held at our church on August 14th.

The regular elections will be held on November 13th.

Jamar will begin working on our roof replacement soon, weather permitting.

Please make sure that the toilets have quite running water before you leave the bathroom. We have had some issues with toilets running impacting our water bill.

#### United Methodist Women — Jan Akervik

Asbury hosted the UMW Prayer and Self Denial on February 21st.

Judy VanDell did an excellent job as the guest speaker. Money collected at the meeting went to the Second Harvest Backpack Program.

The room divider is sold.

Chair racks for the Fellowship Hall have been purchased and will be delivered soon.

UMW will be matching up to \$10,000 for the roof replacement.

So far \$8,830 has been collected.

Meatball dinner is on April 10th.

Rummage sale is on April 28th. (no clothing please)

#### Outreach and Missions Team — Steve Kokotovich

The March food drive for the Food Shelf is ongoing.

Outreach Sunday, held on Sunday, February 18th, went very well and was very informative.

Tomorrow there will be an Age Well program at our church.

They will discuss how to complete a health care directive.

Serving at the Damiano Center is on May  $12^{th}$ . Four people are needed. The next meeting will be on May  $8^{th}$ , at 5:15.

**Education Team** — Cheryl Parendo and Sandy Winklesky The Sunday School is making plans for Palm Sunday.

TREASURER'S REPORT 2/28/18	
GENERAL FUND:	
Beginning Cash Balance, 1/31/18	\$ 8,405.51
Deposits	\$ 12,163.00
Total to account for	\$ 20,568.51
Checks Written	<\$ <u>14,777.71&gt;</u>
Balance on Hand, 2/28/18	\$ 5,790.80
Unpaid Bills through 2/28/18 (includes apportionments) Net Ending Balance at 2/28/18	\$ 5,249.14 \$ 541.66

Spring Fest will be held on May  $6^{th}$ . There will be crafts, games and a taco bar. They are asking for donations of salads and desserts. The next meeting will be on April  $25^{th}$ , at 6:00.

# Worship Team — Ruth Thorpe

The committee met on March 6th.

They are still looking for song leaders for the church services.

Palm Sunday is on March 25th, Maundy Thursday (29th) service at Asbury at 6:30 p.m., Good Friday (30th) is at Salem Covenant at 7:00 p.m., and Easter Sunday April 1st.

Communion will be moved to April 8th.

May 20th is the last day of Sunday School until fall.

There will be Wednesday summer services on

June 13th, July 11th, and August 8th.

The next meeting is May 9, 2018, at 6:30.

#### Nurture/Congregational Care Team — Sandy Winklesky

The Visitation Committee will meet on March 28th, at 1:00. Carrie Sutherland reported that the Scholarship committee is getting started on the scholarship process.

#### Pastor's Report — Cindy Rasmussen

An area Methodist church adult Bible study, hosted at Hillside UMC will begin on April 11th. They will be studying the book, *The Turquoise Table.* 

We need to upgrade computer programs that our computer cannot handle. As a result, we will be buying a new refurbished computer system and the needed programs for about \$1,814. It was decided that the money will be taken out of the office expenses budget.

Ripple Effect will be singing at the church on April 15th.

Planning has begun for Adventure Day Camp.

Another meeting will be held in May.

We will be able to make an updated visitation list at our Visitation meeting next week.

#### Old Business and New Business — none

#### Closing —

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 15th, at 7:00 p.m. Pat Anscomb made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. M — Pat Anscomb, S — Jan Akervik. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Patricia Bennett, Recording Secretary

# **Asbury News**

#### Spring Fest — Sunday, May 6

The Christian Education Committee is having a Spring Fest on Sunday, May 6 at Asbury UMC.



There will be crafts for the children and games during Sunday School.

We invite everyone to join us in a **potluck** after worship which will include a **Taco Bar, salads and desserts.** There will be a sign-up sheet available in the Narthex in April to help us plan for the potluck.

Spring Fest will be

A LOT of fun and **EVERYONE** is invited! We are also hoping to have **Karaoke** -- so get your voice in tune! Join us in this great way to welcome Spring!



# **Spring Has Sprung!**

The first meeting of the Gardening Committee will be held on Monday morning, April 16, at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Let's get together to discuss last year's expenditures and adventures. Please bring your ideas, requests and your gardening enthusiasm and we will make plans for a successful season!

Asbury gardens' beautification is ahead of us. Everyone is welcome to join this important committee. You will get your exercise, sunshine and most importantly you will be a part of a group of people intent on keeping Asbury's gardens well maintained. Hope to see you at the meeting!

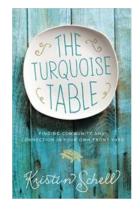
— Judy Pearson, Facilitator, 722-5818

## **Shiny Paper Collection Thank You!**

Boy Scout Troop 16 will no longer be collecting shiny paper as Verso has discontinued its shiny paper recycling program.



BSA Troop 16 would like to thank everyone who brought paper to be ecycled. We truly appreciate your support. We are hoping Verso will be able to reinstate this program in the future. If so, an announcement will appear in a future issue of the Messenger.



## **New Adult Study**

A new adult study, reading the book "The Turquoise Table" by Kristin Schell starts April 11. The book is a collection of readings, recipes and stories of hospitality and finding connection with each other in a busy age.

Please sign up if you want to attend, and if you want Pastor Cindy to order a copy of the book for you. A sign-up sheet is in the

Narthex. The church education fund will pick up the cost of the book.

The study is scheduled for Wednesdays, 10:30 to noon starting April 11 at Hillside UMC, 1801 Piedmont Ave, Duluth.

## **2018 Love Offering for Mission**

One of the most meaningful ways we express our love of God and neighbor is through our annual Love Offering for Missions. The Love Offering is collected within Minnesota United Methodist churches and delivered to the annual conference session. It will be received on Thursday, May 31, during morning worship at the Conference.

Donations to the 2017 Love Offering totaled more than \$92,000. Of that amount 60% went to the United Methodist University of Sierra Leone—School of Applied Health Sciences; 30% went to Emma Norton Services; and 10% went to Volunteers in Mission Services.

Funds from this year's Love Offering will to go three projects:

- 65% to Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery Trips. In response to Hurricane Maria, Volunteers in Mission (VIM) trips from the MN Annual Conference to Puerto Rico will commence in the fall.
- 20% to Park Avenue UMC Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools Program. The Program is a six-week summer day camp experience for children. Love Offering funds will cover expenses for reading curriculum materials and for young adult mentors.
- 15% to NUMAS Haus which provides emergency shelter and support services to homeless single women and their children in New Ulm and surrounding Brown County.

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

We will be collecting the Love Offering on Sunday, May 6. Please put your donation marked "2018 Love Offering" (checks should be made out to Asbury UMC) in the offering plate.

# **United Methodist Women**



# Spring Meatball Dinner — April 10

t's almost here! Meatballs, meatballs, meatballs! Only \$10.00 at Asbury's Spring Meatball Dinner on



Tuesday, April 10 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 handicappedaccessible.

Unsold tickets **NEED** to be turned in to Gary by

#### Sunday, April 8.

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 2018 MN Annual Conference apportionments.

# **NO Clothing Rummage Sale**

The decision has been made to discontinue the clothing rummage sale. Please DO NOT bring clothing items to be stored in the garage. We recommend you donate your clothing items to Savers, Salvation Army, Goodwill, Bethany Crisis Shelter, Union Gospel, Damiano Center, Kid's Closet or the charity of your choice.

## Rummage Sale Drop-Off Schedule

ark your calendar for Asbury's Annual Spring Rummage sale on Saturday, April 28 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 small appliances/electronics please!)

#### **DROP-OFF SCHEDULE:**

Monday, April 23 — 9:00 am to noon
Tuesday, April 24 — 9:00 am to noon
and 5:00 to 7:00 pm
Wednesday, April 25 — NO DROP OFF
Thursday, April 26 — 9:00 am to noon
and 5:00 to 7:00 pm
Friday, April 27 — 9:00 am to noon
Please no drop offs after NOON
on Friday, April 27.

Many workers are needed to make our rummage sale successful. Please consider volunteering some time to help with set-up throughout the week (April 23-27). Help on April 28 would also be greatly appreciated and we need a pack-it-up crew starting at

#### **UMW Meetings**

- UMW board members will meet in the Wesley Room on Wednesday, April 4
- 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.

12:30 pm that day.

We also need jewelry for the jewelry table. Please drop off in the church office Monday, Weds., Friday from 9 to 1 and Tuesday, Thursday from 9 to 2 or on Sundays. Jewelry can be dropped off starting now.



Rummage sale proceeds help

pay our 2018 MN Annual Conference apportionments.

**REMINDER:** Our next rummage sale will be in the spring of 2020. We hope to continue with an every-other-year timeline for the future.

# **Asbury News**

#### Minnesota Foodshare Campaign Thanks!

arch was Foodshare Month when all donations

What to help alleviate hunger were proportionately matched by the Greater Minnesota Council of Churches. As of March 25, Asbury UMC collected 138 pounds of food and raised \$1,523.21 in matching funds. Of that amount, \$605.21 came from



the 10% slated for Missions from our Spring Pasty sale and \$348.00 came from our February "Soup"er Bowl Sunday free-will collection. The remaining \$570 was generously given by Asbury members/friends.

Thank you so very much!

— Outreach Team

## Asbury United Methodist PO Box 7135 Duluth MN 55807

Return service requested



 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 23 for May 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.