



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

Messenger



2018 Christmas Program
Sunday, December 16 at 10:00 am

Would It Still Be Christmas?

Late one Christmas Eve, three siblings tuck themselves in bed for their annual reading of the Christmas Story. This year, questions and doubts creep in as they wonder about how it all really happened. As Mary and Joseph, angels, shepherds and kings make their way to Bethlehem, we once again celebrate that God has come to earth to be born among us in baby Jesus.

Come join us on Sunday, December 16, at 10:00 as our children and youth share with us this story of faith and love. After worship, birthday cake will be served in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate!

On Saturday, December 15, there will be a Christmas program dress rehearsal from 10 to noon. We'll have pizza for lunch. :)

Please Note: there will be no Sunday School on December 23 and 30. Classes will resume on January 6.

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The Season of Advent and Christmas at Asbury

First Sunday of Advent — December 2 — "Welcoming Advent"
Worship with Communion.

Second Sunday of Advent — December 9 — Worship

Third Sunday of Advent — December 16
"Would It Still Be Christmas" Children's Program
Birthday Sunday/Praise Team. Birthday cake in Fellowship Hall.

Fourth Sunday of Advent — December 23 — Worship

Christmas Eve — December 24
4:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.
10:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Christmas Eve Services: 4:00 & 10:00 pm

Cindy's Corner

I was at church working in my office when my cell phone rang. I answered it and a recorded voice said, "we have been trying to reach you regarding your car warranty." I hung up. Usually I look at the number before answering and I know this number well because they call at least every other day. A couple hours later my phone rang again. I looked at the number and saw the same area code, 763. I answered the phone and said, in kind of a loud voice, "take me off your calling list!" Then I hung up.

A few minutes later my phone rang AGAIN with the same area code but I looked closer and it was a different number. I decided to answer this time and it was my friend Diane. She said, "the weirdest thing just happened, I thought I called your number but I got this voice yelling 'Take me off your calling list!'" Oh boy! Thank goodness I inherited my Mother's great sense of humor and we had a good, long laugh about it!

In my conversation with Diane we both lamented the fact that in a few days it will be December 1st. Even though our days are full and often seem long, the weeks and months and years can seem to fly by. As we turn the calendar to December, we in the Christian Church begin the season of Advent, the season of waiting and watching and anticipation. The Advent season invites us to slow down and breathe, as the culture around us seduces us to get lost in the hustle and bustle of the secular events and experiences.

During Advent, we are invited to soak in silence whenever we have the opportunity, whenever we become aware that we need it. So this year, when our schedules feel unmanageable, our tasks seem overwhelming and the noise of the season invades the silence, perhaps we can create some space for simplicity, quiet and presence offered and received. Perhaps we can slow down and look



for the God moments in the simplicity of each day, and practice gratitude for all that is and will be as we prepare to celebrate once again Emmanuel God-with-us.

I close with a poem by Tina Datsko de Sánchez who serves as Poet in Residence at the First Congregational Church of Long Beach.

*In this hectic season help us to remember,
even the simplest actions count.
Let us pause and take a breath
to feel the miracle
of air filling and emptying within,
as though God is breathing into us.*

*Let our eyes really see.
How does sunlight glow on tree leaves?
How do stars glimmer in the night sky?
Help us pay attention.
What does an apple really taste like?*

*Let us walk outdoors and feel the air moving,
see clouds shifting or shimmering at sunset.
Help us shake hands or embrace
and feel the warmth of another human being.*

*Let us look a person in the eyes and
discover the sparkle of a fellow soul.
May we give and receive kindness,
for that is where God lives.*

*Blessings,
Pastor 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:

Thank you for your on-going support of the students at Stowe Elementary. The donations of backpacks, school supplies, etc., is very appreciated and has been put to good use.
— Stowe Elementary School Students & Staff

Dear Asbury United Methodist:

On behalf of the Duluth Public Schools, thank you for the donation of backpacks for Stowe School. Your thoughtfulness will help in our efforts to provide the highest quality of education to our students. Thank you again for your generosity. It is truly appreciated.
— William Gronseth, Superintendent

Dear Asbury UMW:

Thank you for your recent donation of layette items. Your generosity is overwhelming.
— Harbor House Crisis Shelters

Dear Asbury UMW:

Thank you very much for your donation of clothes, quilts and diapers to Bethany Crisis Shelter. It was kind of you to think of the children we serve. On behalf of the staff and the children, thanks again!
— Dawn Shykes, Director

Dear Asbury Friends:

It is a testament to the love and compassion and friendship of the Asbury congregation now and going back for my mom, Bernice's, entire 89 years, that she was grounded and never wavered in her faith. What an amazing foundation she built for our family and what an example of Christian love. I am humbled by the outpouring of love from everyone! In friendship and gratitude on behalf of the Seehus family, we thank you.
— Leanne Stauduhar



Thank you to all those who came and helped get the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall ready for the Advent season on Saturday, November 24. It was very much appreciated.

Lay Readers For First Half of 2019

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

Asbury Singers' Music Plan

Our Asbury Singers are scheduled to sing:

- December 9 – Advent
- December 24 – Christmas Eve
- February 24
- April 21 – Easter Sunday

The Singers will meet to practice for the performances on Monday evenings from 6:30-7:00 pm, before Praise Team rehearsals. **For those who cannot attend on Monday nights**, there will be an additional rehearsal every Sunday morning from 9:00-9:30 am in the Wesley room (except for the third Sunday of each month when Phyllis will be rehearsing with the Praise Team for worship). This Music Plan will be reviewed in January 2019 and will change as needed.

Outreach/ Communion Offering . . .

November's offering of \$185 went to World Communion. December's offering will go to West Duluth Community Breakfast.

Attendance . . .

November 4	93
November 11	73
November 18	102
November 20	73
November 25	89

Scripture Readers . . .

Dec 2	Terry Olson
Dec 9	Dave Stromgren
Dec 16	Christmas Program
Dec 23	Jan Akervik
Dec 30	Ruth Thorpe



- 2 Karen Holm
- 5 Scott Plys
Tom Sharkey
- 6 Dawn Jones
- 7 Carol Smith
- 9 Sandy Winklesky
- 13 Carol Peters
- 15 Alayna McGraw
- 16 Ruth Thorpe
- 17 Finnegan Miller
- 18 Dale Thorpe
Bill Guldner
- 19 Andrew Kirkman
Rod Ridgewell
Max Thibault
- 23 Judith Skorich
Shelly Vanneste
William Winklesky
- 29 John Strunk
Max Tollefson
- 30 Blaine Green
Bryson Green

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

Calendar

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i> 9:00 am Asbury Singers Rehearsal 10:00 am, Worship/ Communion 6:00 pm, BS Troop 16, FH	3 6:00 pm CS Pack 3116, FH 6:30 pm Asbury Singers & Praise Team	4 9:00 am Kiwanis, FH 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR 7:00 pm Advent Tea	5 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 9:30 am UMW Board Meeting, WR	6 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR 10:00 to 11:00 am, 2nd Harvest Food Dist	7	1/8 December 1 8:30 am-1:30 pm Damiano Center Volunteers
9 <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> 9:00 am Asbury Singers Rehearsal 10:00 am, Worship 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship, FH 6:00 pm, BS Troop 16, FH	10 6:00 pm CS Pack 3116, FH 6:30 pm Asbury Singers & Praise Team	11 9:00 am Kiwanis, FH 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR 10:00 am Pastor Cindy @ North Shore Estates 2:00 pm Knitting Klub, WR	12 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH	13 9:00 am Pastor Cindy @ West Duluth Clergy 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR 6:00 pm, Faith Circle Potluck @ Ruth Thorpe's	14 Dumpster Pick Up	15 10:00 am Children's Program Rehearsal Pizza at Noon!
16 <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> CHILDREN'S PROGRAM 10:00 am, Worship/Birthday/ Praise 11:00 am, Coffee & Birthday Cake, FH 6:00 pm, BS Troop 16, FH	17 9:30 am, Green Door Book Club, WR 6:00 pm CS Pack 3116, FH 6:30 pm Asbury Singers & Praise Team MESSENGER DEADLINE	18 9:00 am Kiwanis, FH 9:30 am, BB, WR 1:00 pm Love/Hope Circle, WR	19 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 8:30 am Pastor Cindy @ CHUM 6:30 pm Service of Hope & Healing	20 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR	21	22 9:00-10:30 am Free Community Breakfast, Our Savior's Lutheran
23 <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> 10:00 am, Worship 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship, FH	24 4:00 & 10:00 pm Worship  Christmas Eve	25  Christmas Day OFFICE CLOSED	26 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH	27 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR MESSENGER EMAILS/MAILS	28 Dumpster Pick Up	29
30 10:00 am, Worship 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship, FH	31  Watch NIGHT		YOGA classes are held Wednesdays at 5:30 pm in Asbury's Fellowship hall unless there is a scheduling conflict. Contact Cheryl Zupec, 218.343.4478 or czupec@hotmail.com for more information.			

Asbury News

Ad Council Meeting Minutes — 11-27-18

Opening

Steve Kokotovich called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Secretary's Report:

Minutes of the October 16, 2018, Administrative Council were reviewed. Jan Akervik made a motion to accept the minutes as read. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. **M – Jan Akervik, S – Cheryl Parendo**

Lay Leader's Report – Steve Kokotovich

Steve stated that fall has been a busy time for us, including Pastor Cindy. As we move into Advent Season, though we are very fortunate to have so many events happening, we need to be mindful not to over extend ourselves and our pastor.

Treasurer's Report/Finance – Pat Anscorb

The October monthly summary was given. Balance on Hand, 10/31/18 is \$16,432.08.

As of 10/31/18, we have paid \$11,516.10 of our 2018 Apportionments with a balance due of \$11,515.90. This is 50% of our 2018 Apportionments.

Pat mentioned that in November, 4 more monthly payments have been made, with only 2 payments left to complete the year.

The Finance Committee is working on the 2019 budget. So far, we have 52 units pledged with a total of \$95,336.

Staff Parish Relations Committee – Cathy Sampson

Cathy has been busy collecting information to create a church profile that lists our common values and goals. This will be helpful in the appointment process for our new minister. From the information that she has collected, she will present a summary draft to the SPPRC meeting tomorrow.

Trustee's Report – Terry Olson

The Trustees are creating a list of long and short term projects and maintenance needs of the church.

United Methodist Women – Jan Akervik

The Pantry has made over \$6,000 to date.

The UMW Board is developing their 2019 budget.

The kitchen has been cleaned and the UMW is very pleased with the work done. A lower bid has come in, so we will try that cleaner for next Spring. The UMW will then make a decision on which cleaner they will choose for future cleanings.

Faith Circle has decided to discontinue the layette project due to lack of need. Leftover layette items have been distributed to area agencies that serve young children.

The UMW will continue to serve children and families through donations raised at the annual Advent Tea.

We will be having a Spring rummage sale on April 27th.

Outreach and Missions Team – Steve Kokotovich

We will be serving at the Damiano Center on December 1st.

Asbury is participating in the Salvation Army Toy Drive.

Education Team – Cheryl Parendo and Sandy Winklesky

The Sunday School is having great attendance.

The Sunday School Christmas Program is on December 16th. The title of the program is "Would it Still Be Christmas?"

Rehearsal for the program is Saturday, Dec. 15th, at 10:00 to 12:00.

The next committee meeting is January 9, 2019.

Worship Team – Ruth Thorpe

The West Duluth Thanksgiving service went very well. Thank you to all who

TREASURER'S REPORT

10/31/18

GENERAL FUND:

Beginning Cash Balance, 9/30/18	\$ 13,463.96
Deposits	\$ 14,448.15
Total to account for	\$ 27,912.11
Checks Written	<\$ 11,480.03>
Balance on Hand, 10/31/18	\$ 16,432.08
Unpaid Bills through 10/31/18 (includes apportionments)	\$ 8,210.52
Net Ending Balance at 10/31/18	<u>\$ 8,221.56</u>

participated and helped serve refreshments.

We now have our new sound system! Ruth mentioned that Phyllis Kruehl was very instrumental in spearheading this project. The new "mixer" is installed and the new speakers will temporarily be set up for the next two Sundays for the congregation's input.

The total for the sound system is \$7,517.50. Pastor Cindy proposed that we use undesignated memorial funds to pay for the project cost. Cathy Sampson made a motion and it was unanimously approved. **M – Cathy Sampson, S – Pat Anscorb**

Nurture/Congregational Care Team – Sandy Winklesky

No reports from the Scholarship or the Visitation Committees.

For the Membership Committee, Patty Bennett mentioned that the one year and two year membership reports were approved at tonight's charge conference.

Pastor's Report – Cindy Rasmussen

Pastor Cindy reported that new front doors have been ordered from Northern Door and Hardware. They will arrive in about 6 to 8 weeks and will be installed by Holm Construction Company in the next few months, depending on the weather. Louise Anderson has generously offered to donate the funds to pay for this project.

There will be a Nominating Committee meeting next week.

The Service for Hope and Healing will be on Wednesday, December 19th, at 6:30 p.m.

Adult Education opportunities will be offered in January using FaithLink and also a class on writing an obituary and planning a funeral/memorial service. There will also be a Lenten study.

Trustees remind us that we need to remember to keep the second doors to the church entrance closed in the cooler months as well as the doors to classroom and meeting rooms. This will help cut down on our church heating costs.

Old Business – none

New Business

The committee discussed ways to provide reflective lighting for our driveway entrances. It was also mentioned that we need better lighting near the back of the church.

Closing

Next Ad Council meeting is January 15th, at 7:00 p.m.

Jan Akervik made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. **M – Jan Akervik, S – Sandy Winklesky.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patricia Bennett, Recording Secretary

Asbury News

Congratulations!

Kaylee Randa was selected to participate in the 30th Annual Björling Music Festival at Gustavus Adolphus College, November 4-5, 2018. She was among 282 high school musicians from 65 schools from Minnesota, Iowa, North & South Dakota and Wisconsin.



Collection

Toy Drive — December 13 Deadline

New, unwrapped gifts for infants/toddlers/children/teenagers may be placed under the Christmas tree at the front of the sanctuary **through December 13**. They will be brought to the Salvation Army on December 14 as per their request. As in year's past, please no toys suggesting violence such as guns or war toys. — Outreach Committee



Children's Hats, Mittens and Scarves

Once again, Asbury is collecting winter accessories for the children in our area elementary schools. The cold winter months are upon us and many children go to school unprepared for the outdoors. Since Pat Seguin, a friend of the church and very avid knitter generously donates over 150 hats each year, **our schools are especially in need of mittens, gloves and sox**. The Mitten Tree is located in the narthex and is ready for your donations. Thank you for your generosity and kindness.

CHUM Church Christmas Pageant

O Come All Ye Faithful! Join us in worship at CHUM Church's Annual Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 9, 4:30pm at Peace UCC, 1111 N.11th Ave. E., Duluth. This service is open to the community and guarantees to fill you with joys of the Christmas season. A light supper follows the service.



Men's Ministry Retreat — February 22-23

Enjoy time in the great outdoors at Camp Annicon in South Range, WI (just a 45-minute drive out of the Duluth/Superior area). All men associated with, or friends of, the United Methodist Churches of the Twin Ports are invited.

Times are 7:00 pm on Friday, February 22, and 3:30 pm on Saturday, February 23. Cost is \$35.

Great food, fellowship, faith learning and fun await your participation so mark the date on your calendar. This event is sponsored by Twin Ports United Methodist Ministries (TPUMMs).

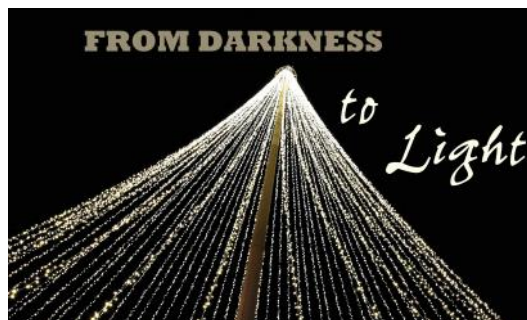
Please contact Pastor Cindy, if you are interested in attending.

A Service of Hope and Healing

From darkness to light on Wednesday, December 19 at 6:30 pm. Advent and Christmas happen during

our season of least light. For many, it can be a difficult time with conflicting emotions of joy and sorrow, loneliness and connection, sadness and hope. It is good

to remember that it was into such a world as this God's love took on flesh in Jesus. What we hang on to and what we let go of, helps us prepare and celebrate the return of the Light to our lives and to the world.





Layette Closet Closed

Asbury's Layette Closet is officially closed. All clothing, diapers, bottles, blankets and infant items have been donated to Bethany Crisis Shelter, Safe Haven, Harbor House Crisis Shelter, West Duluth YMCA, and the Damiano Center.

Without the Salvation Army managing the need for our infant items, the decision was made to donate the layette inventory to other agencies. Your support for the last 26 years has been greatly appreciated. A new UMW project will be decided upon in the future.

UMW Reading Program Deadline

If you have been reading from the UMW Reading Program library, you need to know that the 2018 Reading Program lists are due **no later than**

Sunday, January 5. Your completed lists may 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 2014 to 2018 qualify for the 2018 reading list. Ask Patty Bennett if you need questions answered about the UMW Reading Program.



Kitchen Professionally Cleaned

On Monday, November 12, our church kitchen was professionally cleaned. Please help keep it in great shape by wiping counters, the stove top, taking home the towels you use and washing them and returning them to the kitchen. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Asbury News

New Program of Dementia Friendly Duluth

The Victory Chorus, a new program of Dementia Friendly Duluth, is a structured chorus comprised of persons with dementia, their caregivers or loved ones and volunteer helper singers. The Chorus is led by a professional music director and other professional staff.

Seeking Volunteers: We are seeking volunteers from the community to sing in the Chorus and be paired with a person who has dementia.

Building Community: Residents of Duluth who have been affected by dementia have a unique opportunity to build connections, seek joy and meaningfully engage in their community through song.

Session Info: There will be 3 sessions offered in the spring, summer, and fall of 2019. Each session is 9-12 weeks from 1:30 to 3:30pm on Sundays and will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Duluth, 835 W. College St. For more information contact VictoryChorus@thevictoryfund.

UMW Meetings

- UMW board members will meet in the Wesley Room on Wednesday, December 5.
- Love/Hope Circle will meet on December 18 for a Christmas lunch. Time and location TBD.
- Faith Circle will meet Thursday, December 13, at 6:00 pm in the Community Room at Ruth Thorpe's residence at 1902 St. Louis Ave. for our annual Christmas potluck. **Call Ruth by December 10 if you will be able to attend.** We will collect for an Outreach gift.
- 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. The next meeting is December 17.

Save the Date! — January 30

The annual Prayer and Self Denial meeting sponsored by the Area UMW will be held on January 30 at Hillside UMC, 1801 Piedmont Ave, Duluth. Registration will start at 12:30 pm with coffee and dessert being served. Registration fee is \$8.00.

The program will begin at 1:30 pm with Mimi Stender from Dementia Friendly Duluth as the keynote speaker. Hillside UMC is providing special worship services for persons with dementia once every two months.

A special offering will be taken to support both Dementia Friendly Duluth and the Big Waters District Mission Fund.



Victory Chorus

Asbury United Methodist
PO Box 7135
Duluth MN 55807

Return service requested

Meet Our Staff



Pastor:.....Cindy M. Rasmussen
Administrative Asst.:Shirley Brandt
OrganistPhyllis Kruell
SS Choir DirectorRuby Slennes
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: December 17 for January 2019 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.*