



Asbury

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
A Place For All. No Exceptions.

6822 Grand Avenue, PO Box 7135
Duluth, MN 55807
218-624-0061

The Reverend Katherine Cornell

In-Church & Online
Sunday Worship 10:00 am
asburyduluth.org/about-us/worship/

Office Hours
Monday-Thursday:
10:00 am to 3:30 pm
Closed Friday

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Messenger

Asbury UMC Christmas Program

Asbury UMC held its Christmas Program on December 17 followed by lunch in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you to everyone for stepping up and helping the Christian Education Team in making "It Happened One Star-Filled Night" a beautiful celebration.

Photos by Karen Gokey and Dawn Jones



The mosaic art pieces for Advent were made by Phyllis Kruell. Thank you, Phyllis.





A Penny For Your Thoughts

The Wonder and Truth To New Beginnings

This week I went to the gym. The class was packed because it is the beginning of January. Right now, everyone is motivated to start fresh and do it right this time. My hunch is that by mid-February or March, the class might not be so full. The newness wears off and we fall into the old habits we were trying to change.

But... what if we could have that new start, a fresh beginning again and again? What if we could keep that momentum through January, February, and March until we have the new habit and have made a step forward in our goals?

That's the beauty of life as a disciple of Jesus Christ. That's the power of participating in a community of faith that regularly reminds us of new life, new beginnings, and fresh starts throughout the year.

Each month we begin our Sundays by celebrating communion which reminds us of God's grace available for all. This month in particular we are reminded also of the Baptism of Jesus and the fact we are claimed by God and loved. No matter how many new starts we need, God is willing to claim and love us.

Each day we have the opportunity to offer ourselves for God's work of love — experienced and lived through us. Last Sunday we prayed the Wesleyan Covenant Prayer which is a prayer of surrender to God trusting that God truly wants the best for us in our lives.

On January 14, we will recognize and bless the leadership of the church in this new year. We will then celebrate the work of the United Women in Faith on January 21. The Asbury Singers and Praise Team are learning new songs to celebrate and praise God.

We are people who do not give up but continue to



walk with one another in this life journey of discipleship, growing, stumbling, refreshing, and renewing every day. Do you need that refresher and reminder of God's love and community of support? I know I do.

Come join us this month as we celebrate, worship, praise, and encourage one another. New beginnings are wonderful. New beginnings are our reality in our walk of faith. New beginnings don't have to stay in January.

Blessings and Peace,
Katherine

Pastoral Care: 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 case of emergency and there is no answer at the church, please contact Pastor Katherine at 828-263-2035 or email at kcornell@wnccumc.net.
Pastor's day off is on Friday and she works from home on Mondays.



Thank You!

Dear Asbury Family:

A heartfelt thank you for all the cards, phone calls, messages and hugs after the loss of my mother. You have touched my heart and helped me through this huge loss. Thank you from the bottom of my heart! — Dawn Jones

Dear Asbury Family:

Our annual Christmas Program turned out perfectly. Thank you to Alice Brenny for coordinating the program and all the hard work of the children and adults. Thanks to all who helped make it a success and to those who helped with lunch and cleanup. — Sandy Winklesky

Dear Asbury Family:

Because of your commitment to the success of the Asbury Christmas program, everyone had a great experience! All feedback received was very positive, including comments about having the children portray the program's roles while the adults narrated. Attendees enjoyed the family meal after the program and look forward to having the luncheon next year. Many families were thrilled to have Santa visit, too! The children were excited to see him and get a treat box. In appreciation and gratitude for everyone's hard work in making the 2023 Christmas Program successful. — Alice Brenny

Dear Asbury Members and Friends:

Thank you to everyone who donated toys and money to the Salvation Army Toy Drive. Your generosity has made Christmas more joyful for many children. — Dennie and Sharon Parendo

Dear Reverend Katherine and Phyllis Kruell:

We are truly thankful to you for generously donating your time to our residents to help fulfill their need for spiritual guidance and fellowship. — Farren Ronning, Therapeutic Recreation Director, The North Shore Estates

Dear United Women in Faith:

Thank you for your recent donation of \$500 to the Union Gospel Mission. We are driven by a belief that everyone deserves shelter, food and hope because shelter fills a need, food fills stomachs and hope fills the soul. — Katie Hagglund, Executive Director

Dear United Women in Faith:

Thank you for your recent gift of pasties to Ronald McDonald House Charities, Upper Midwest. Your support will enable us to provide families a comfortable and caring home-away-from-home while they face their child's health crisis. — Jill Evenocheck, President & CEO, RMHC-UM

Dear United Women in Faith:

We are incredibly thankful for your very generous financial donation to Companies To Classrooms. Fifteen area school districts shop at our free store for teachers. Your donation will benefit many of our students and teachers and will make such a difference. — Carolyn Schroeder, Volunteer Store Manager

Dear United Women in Faith:

Thank you for your generous gift of \$1000 to CHUM. Your donation will allow us to continue to provide food, shelter, advocacy and a caring community for some of Duluth's most vulnerable residents. — Gracia Swensen, Development Director

Our 2023 Thanksgiving and Christmas offerings went to TPUMMs in support of local ministries and towards our 2023 MN Annual Conference Apportionments.

Our January Outreach/ Communion Offering collection is for FREE Community Breakfast Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Attendance . . .

Dec. 3	82 In-church/31 views
Dec.10	80 In-church/26 views
Dec.17	115 In-church/34 views
Dec. 24	53 In-church/15 views
Dec. 24	105 In-church/35 views
Dec. 31	60 In-church/31 views

Scripture Readers . . .

Jan. 7	David Stromgren
Jan. 14	Terry Olson
Jan. 21	Jan Akervik
Jan. 28	Carol Johnson



9	Debbie Merrick
	Dave Stromgren
17	Jim Gimpel
18	Ron Brosdal
	Sue Soder
20	Mike Akervik
	Phyllis Mullen
23	Audrey Johnson
	Lindsey Miller
	Angie Thibault
26	Kaylee Randa
27	Michael Cornell
	Aidan Thibault
28	Kathy Downs
29	Bergen Blazevic
31	Alice Brenny

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

Asbury News



Join the Prayer Chain!

Asbury's Prayer Chain is a way to communicate urgent prayer requests to our members and friends. We know that prayer is powerful, so we want to be able to lift up people in prayer as needs arise. We are currently seeking additional team leaders and team members. Here is how you can help:

- Join as a team leader who contacts other Prayer Chain team members with any urgent prayer requests to activate the Prayer Chain.
- Join as a team member who prays when contacted by a team leader. Team leaders also pray.

If you are interested, please call Gary Winklesky, our Prayer Chain facilitator, to let him know you would like to be added as a team leader, team member or both. God chooses to work through us, and prayer is one way in which we can participate in God's work of love in this world. Please join us!

How the Prayer Chain Works

If you or a family member would like to request prayers, contact Gary, 218-390-6384 or email/call the church office at asburyumcduluth@hotmail.com, 218-624-0061.

If you are requesting prayers for someone other than yourself or a family member, **please ask permission to share the information** especially if you are using a person's name in the prayer request. **It is important that "Prayer Requests" remain confidential within our church congregation.**



Healthy Resolutions



2023 Christmas Poinsettias

In Memory of
Myron "Mike" Akervik
In Celebration of
My Family
Jan Akervik

In Thankfulness for
Family & Friends walking with
us on our journey.
Clark and Patty Bennett

In Memory of
Gary Johnson
In Celebration of
My brother Carl's life
Shirley Brandt

In Honor of
Asbury's wonderful staff:
Shirley, Phyllis, Martin
In Celebration of
Asbury's Congregation
Pastor Katherine Cornell

In Memory of
M. George and Barb Downs
Loved Ones
Peter & Kathy Downs

In Memory of
Donald and Jean Youngdahl
Amanda Marzolf
Dawn Jones

In Memory of
Louise Anderson
Steve & Barb Kokotovich

In Celebration of
Christmas
Leila Lundberg

In Celebration of
Our grandchildren
Steve & Donna Mickelson

In Memory of
Rodger & Cheryl Parendo
Dennie & Sharon Parendo

In Memory of
Loved Ones
Joyce Park

In Memory of
Loved Ones
Bonnie Schroeder-Palmi
& Duane Palmi

In Memory of
Our Families
In Honor of
All Servicemen and women
In Celebration of
Mike and Sue's Life
Sue Soder

In Celebration of
Christmas
Larry & Cathy Sampson

In Celebration of
Lucas William Stromgren
David Stromgren

In Memory of
My husband, Roy
Parents Ruth and Oscar Bjerke
Lois Stromgren

In Memory of
Our Grandparents
In Celebration of
Lisa Greene's Life
Gary & Sandy Winklesky

Our Advent and Christmas Eve bulletins were provided by Jan Akervik in memory of her husband, Mike.

Calendar

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1  OFFICE CLOSED	2 9:30 am Bone Builders, FH 11:30 am, MS Group, FH	3 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 9:30 am UWF Board Meeting, WR 5:30 pm, YOGA, FH 6:30 pm, Praise Team	4 9:30 am Bone Builders, FH 10:00 to 10:45 am, 2nd Harvest Food Distribution	5	6
7 EPIPHANY SUNDAY/ BAPTISM OF THE LORD 9:00 am, Asbury Singers 10:00 am, Worship/ Communion 10:15 am, Sunday school 11:00 am, Fellowship, FH 6:00 pm, Yoga, Narthex	8 2:00 pm Knitting Klub, WR	9 9:30 am Bone Builders, FH 4:30 pm Outreach, WR 6:30 pm Christian Ed, WR	10 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 1:00 pm Membership, WR 5:30 pm, YOGA, FH 6:30 pm, Praise Team	11 9:30 am Bone Builders, FH	12 Dumpster Pick Up	13
14 LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION 9:00 am, Asbury Singers 10:00 am, Worship/Birthday 10:15 am, Sunday school 11:00 am, Fellowship, FH 6:00 pm, Yoga, Narthex	15 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY 9:30 am Green Door Book Group, WR OFFICE CLOSED	16 9:30 am Bone Builders, FH 1:00 pm Love/Hope Circle, WR	17 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 5:30 pm, YOGA, FH 6:30 pm, Praise Team	18 9:30 am Bone Builders, FH 1:00 pm Finance, FH 1:00 pm Faith Circle, WR	19	20
21 UWF SUNDAY 9:15 am, Praise Team 10:00 am, Worship/Praise Debbie Merrick preaching 10:15 am, Sunday school 11:00 am, Fellowship, FH 6:00 pm, Yoga, Narthex	22 MESSENGER DEADLINE	23 9:30 am Bone Builders, FH	24 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 5:30 pm, YOGA, FH 6:30 pm, Praise Team	25 9:30 am Bone Builders, FH	26 Dumpster Pick Up	27 9:00-10:30 am Free Community Breakfast, Our Savior's Lutheran
← Pastor Katherine on vacation January 21-24 →						
28 ASBURY SINGERS 9:30 am, Asbury Singers 10:00 am, Worship 10:15 am, Bible Bingo 11:00 am, Fellowship, FH 6:00 pm, Yoga, Narthex	29	30 9:30 am Bone Builders, FH 6:00 pm Worship Team, WR 7:00 pm Ad Council, FH & Zoom	31 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 5:30 pm, YOGA, FH 6:30 pm, Praise Team MESSENGER EMAILS/MAILS	Gentle Yoga meets on Wednesdays, 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall and Sundays, 6:00 to 7:00 pm in the Narthex (unless otherwise specified). Call Cheryl Zupec at 218-343-4478 for more info. Asbury Singers practice each Sunday except Praise Sunday from 9:00 to 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. They practice at 9:30 am on Sundays they sing. The Praise Team practices each Wednesday at 6:30 pm and on Praise Sunday at 9:15 am.		

Asbury News

Worship In January

There are three ways to participate in worship:

- 10:00 am at Asbury UMC on Sundays. Join us live at 10:00 am and join us for fellowship, coffee and treats in the Fellowship Hall after worship.
- 10:00 am livestream service on Sundays via YouTube as the live service is taking place. An email with the YouTube link and an online worship bulletin is sent out prior to each Sunday.
- Or, you can watch the YouTube service at anytime by logging in using the link provided for each Sunday.

January Worship Theme: This month we will explore how the Holy Spirit leads us in many ways. On January 7 we celebrate Christ's baptism and remember our own. On January 14 we remember how the Holy Spirit leads us to an active faith as we celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. On January 21 Debbie Merrick will be preaching and leading services as we celebrate our United Women in Faith. On January 28, we explore how the Holy Spirit empowers us to do good, do no harm and care for others. Please join us!

January 7

Scripture Passages:

Genesis 1:1-5

Acts 19:1-7

Message: "Breath, Wind, and Spirit"

January 14

Scripture Passages:

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Message: "I Have a Dream"

January 21

United Women in Faith Sunday.

Debbie Merrick preaching.

January 28

Scripture Passages:

Psalms 111

Mark 1:21-28

Message: "The Dark Side Of the Force"

Christian Education News

WHAT AN AMAZING CHRISTMAS PROGRAM! We saw people from different age groups and abilities involved, not to mention the wonderful number of children this year. The children were very excited to be part of the Program!

The message of the Program was and will continue to be the message of the season, Jesus' birth, and will be shared throughout the year. The poem below sums this up nicely.

The Miracle of Christmas

by Margaret Peterson

Soft rustling angel wings,
Christmas comes each year.

Hearts that once were cold as ice
Melt when Christ draws near.

For Christmas is a miracle!

Christ was born so we

Could know Him as our Savior

Throughout eternity.

So many people helped with this program, it would be difficult to list them all here. I appreciate everyone that participated in making the Christmas Program such a success. Additionally, the Kokotovich crew did an excellent job with the family meal following the Program. The dining room was packed to the point of people looking for a place to sit. Santa visited to the delight of all the children, giving out 18 treat boxes. The Church-School Partnership Team helped serve and clean up as well. Thanks to all!

Our Sunday School children created projects for our shut-ins and caregivers for Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. These projects were distributed by the Visitation Team. Additional projects are planned starting in February 2024.

— Alice Brenny Christian Ed. Co-Chair

Thank You For Your Pledge Cards!

We have a total of \$128,684 pledged so far for our 2024 Operating Budget from 64 pledge units! If you have

not had a chance to return your pledge card yet, please do so as soon as possible. Please drop it in the offering plate on Sunday, drop it off in the church office or send it to Asbury UMC, 6822 Grand Ave, POB 7135, Duluth, MN 55807. Pledge cards also are available on the table in the Narthex.

Thank you for your generosity and commitment to the ministry, people and programs of Asbury UMC!



Asbury News

Community Services At Asbury UMC

You may have noticed some changes with Asbury's "Green Room" recently. We are so excited to have Asbury UMC members Debbie Merrick and Robin Williams using the space for their respective ministries (see below for a description).

Asbury's Mission Statement is to be a church that serves, grows, builds, and blesses the community. Through these ministries we have an opportunity to reach more people with our hospitality.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Nancy Wagner, Terry Olson, or Pastor Katherine.

In Harmony Reiki & Inner Wellness

Debbie Merrick

Usui Reiki Ryoho Master Reiki Teacher

I am so grateful and excited to be offering my In Harmony services of Reiki energy healing and Intuitive Life Coaching here at Asbury UMC! What a blessing to have space to integrate the love and outreach of Asbury with community services that also promote love and healing.

Reiki and Intuitive Life Coaching services are available on Fridays with direct booking available at www.inharmony.life. You may also email or call me with a request for a session or with any questions about my service options: inharmony.life@gmail.com; 218-391-8778. Sessions must be booked in advance (24-hours notice please). I look forward to serving you and the community right here at Asbury!

Many thanks, Debbie Merrick

Living Hope Counseling and Coaching, LLC

Robin A. Williams, Ph.D.

Licensed Psychotherapist

After some 40 years working as a licensed psychotherapist, I continue to be a witness of how our God works in the lives of people. My approach in talking with others that I work for is to provide education and direction in order to experience renewal, healing and transformation through a biblical perspective. Presenting concerns often include depression or anxiety, excessive worry, relational problems, trauma, and addictions integrated with best clinical practices.

I work with adults from 18 -80 within the Duluth-Superior area, as well as members of the Church or other Christians from the community. I highly value everyone's life experience. It is a tremendous asset in helping reach individual goals along with a person's faith, biblical principles, scripture and individual talents. Therapy is comprehensive and holistic with a Godly perspective that potentially changes lives.

Please contact me at 218-341-9158 or rawilliams-livinghope@gmail.com to schedule an appointment.



AUMC Upcoming Events

February 2-3, 2024 PASTY SALE
Pasties are \$6.00 each/Gravy is \$1.00 each
Call 218-624-0061 to order.
Deadline to order: **January 28**

April 30, 2024, 4:30 to 6:00 pm
DRIVE THROUGH MEATBALL DINNER
Preorder tickets to reserve dinner —
limited tickets at door
NEW! Preorder container of 5 meatballs.
Preorders call 218-624-0061.
Deadline to preorder and pay: **April 21**
Checks made out to Asbury UWF
or exact cash please!

June 7, 2024 DONUT SALE
Preorders recommended. Call 218-624-0061.
Deadline to order: **June 2**

June 20, 2024 RUMMAGE SALE
9:00 am to 2:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

September 13-14, 2024 PASTY SALE
Call 218-624-0061 to order.
Deadline to order: **September 8**

October 12, 2024 FALL PANTRY
9:00 to 11:00 am, Fellowship Hall
homemade apple pies (frozen to take-and-bake);
freshly fried donuts; 350 pasties (come early!);
pickles, jams, jellies and more;
Cookie Table; breads, baked goods;
craft/knit items

October 22, 2024, 4:30 to 6:00 pm
DRIVE THROUGH MEATBALL DINNER
Preorder tickets to reserve dinner —
limited tickets at door
NEW! Preorder container of 5 meatballs.
Preorders call 218-624-0061.
Deadline to preorder and pay: **October 13**
Checks made out to Asbury UWF or
exact cash please!

Church-School Partnership Team News

The Church-School Partnership Team is active with food bag distribution at Laura MacArthur weekly. A new request from Laura MacArthur was received asking the Team to assist with their Giving Tree this year. This was done the week of December 17. We anticipate continuing the food distribution, as well as fulfilling other requests during 2024! — Alice Brenny

2024 Elected Leadership

*Thank you to all who serve – both those who are going off committee membership and those who are continuing or beginning!
You are an important part of the ministry and organization of our church!*

Administrative Council

FacilitatorSandy Winklesky
Recording Secretary Patty Bennett
TreasurerPat Anscorb
Lay Leader Steve Kokotovich
Lay Delegate to Annual Conference Steve Kokotovich
Pastor Katherine Cornell

Ministry Team Facilitators

Board of Trustees Nancy Wagner, Terry Olson
Finance Judi VanDell
Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Barb Kokotovich
Scholarship Shelly Vanneste
Outreach Steve Kokotovich
Membership Candy Kokotovich
Worship Renee Randa
Youth Council
Christian Education Sandy Winklesky, Alice Brenny
Visitation Karen Gokey
UWF President Bev LeClair, Dawn Jones
Landscaping Judy Pearson
At-Large Member Carrie Sutherland

Christian Education Team

Facilitators Sandy Winklesky, Alice Brenny
Children's ChurchSandy Winklesky
Fall Festival
Christmas Program Christian Education Committee
SS Teachers Sandy Winklesky, Ruby Slennes, Alice Brenny
Adult Education Pastor Katherine
At Large Members Amy Kokotovich, Candy Kokotovich,
..... Sue Baker, Carol Johnson

Worship Team

Facilitator Renee Randa
Members:Phyllis Kruell, Alice Brenny, Kim Herrig,
.....Sue Soder, Cherie Blazevic, Pam Perich, Debbie Johnson
Children's Music Ruby Slennes
Music Coordinator/Organist Phyllis Kruell
Praise Team Leaders Kim Herrig, Phyllis Kruell
Altar Candle Care Pat Nelson
Certified Lay Speaker Debbie Merrick
Communion Stewards Mick & Kathy Levinski, Dawn & Dennie Parendo
Ushers Sue Soder (Head Usher), Steve Kokotovich,
..... Avon Power, Nancy Wagner, Donna & Steve Mickelson,
..... Shelly Vanneste, Mick & Kathy Levinski
Technology Kim Herrig, Phyllis Kruell, Pam Perich, Debbie Merrick,
..... Dawn Jones, Steve Kokotovich, Shelly & Lily Vanneste,
..... Nathan Nylund, James, Paul & David Cornell
Pastor Katherine Cornell

Fine Arts Team Jan Akervik, Judy Pearson, Leila Lundberg, Dawn Jones

Visitation Team

Facilitator Karen Gokey
Members Pat Anscorb, Phyllis Wolden, Avon Power, Patty Bennett,
..... Jan Akervik, Judy Pearson, Sandy Winklesky, Pat Nelson,
..... Sue Newberry, Kathy Levinski, Sue Baker, Pastor Katherine

Outreach Team

Facilitator Steve Kokotovich
CHUM Representatives Sandy & Gary Winklesky
Team Members Dawn Parendo, Judy Pearson, Barb Rigstad,
..... Judy Hill, Sharon Picconatto, Sue Baker, Pastor Katherine

Membership Team

Facilitators Candy Kokotovich
Team Members Sue Newberry, Sharon Parendo, Pat Nelson,
..... Cherie Blazevic, Karen Gokey, Kathy Behn, Pastor Katherine
Prayer Chain Facilitator Gary Winklesky

Board of Trustees

Co-Facilitators Nancy Wagner, Terry Olson
Class of 2024 Terry Olson, Peter Downs, Jerry Smith
Class of 2025 Nancy Wagner, Jim Anderson, Mick Levinski
Class of 2026 Donna Mickelson, Steve Hill, Joe Kokotovich

Landscaping Team

Facilitator Judy Pearson
Team Members Jeanne Rychlak, Dale Thorpe, Mick Levinski,
..... Jerry Smith, Dick Wolden, Tom Houle,
..... Charles Crumb, Pam Perich, Donna Mickelson

Staff/Pastor Parish Relations

Facilitator Barb Kokotovich
Class of 2024 Matt Wrazidlo, Renee Randa
Class of 2025 Barb Kokotovich, Carrie Sutherland
Class of 2026 Dawn Parendo, Carol Johnson
Lay Leader Steve Kokotovich
Pastor Katherine Cornell

Finance & Stewardship Team

Facilitator Judi VanDell
Team Members Julie Arnt, Larry Sampson, Jan Akervik, Ted Plys
Administrative Council Chair Sandy Winklesky
Treasurer Pat Anscorb
Second Signer Larry Scanlon, Judi VanDell
Trustee Co-Chairs Nancy Wagner, Terry Olson
SPPRC Chair Barb Kokotovich
Lay Leader Steve Kokotovich
Offering Counters Lynn Tollefson (lead counter), Audrey Johnson,
..... Sharon Picconatto, Mary DeMars, Karen Gokey,
..... Kathy Levinski, Sue Newberry, Debbie Houle
Memorials Sharon Picconatto & Audrey Johnson

Communications Team

Team Members Cathy Sampson, Sue Baker, Alice Brenny,
..... Dawn Jones, Robin Williams, Cindy Kari, Pastor Katherine

Scholarship

Facilitator Shelly Vanneste
VanKleek Representative Ruth VanKleek Thorpe
Maida Representative Jeff Maida
Team Members Donna Mickelson, Dennie Parendo.,
..... Sheila Fox, Lynn Tollefson

Lay Leadership (formerly "Nominations")

Facilitator Rev. Katherine Cornell
Lay Leader Steve Kokotovich
Class of 2024 Joe Kokotovich, Ruth Thorpe
Class of 2025 Shelly Vanneste, Dawn Parendo
Class of 2026 Debbie Merrick, Bonnie Schroeder-Palmi
Pastor Katherine Cornell



Successful Advent Tea

The UWF Advent Tea on December 9 was a great success with almost 70 attendees. Beautiful music was provided by Renee Randa and Phyllis Kruell. We raised \$700 for Ronald McDonald House. See next page for presentation info. A huge thank you to all the hostesses, Pastor Katherine, Renee, Phyllis and everyone who helped make this delightful event a success. — The Advent Tea Team



Advent Tea Hostesses TOP (L to R): Judy Pearson, Mary DeMars, Leila Lundberg, Donna Mickelson, Kathy Behn, Pastor Katherine Cornell. BOTTOM (L to R): Dawn Jones, Cherie Blazvic, Audrey Johnson, Sharon Picconatto, Sue Baker, Jean Dunkin, Sandy Winklesky.

Photos by Pat Anscomb



UWF Meetings

- UWF board members meet at 9:30 am in the Wesley Room on the 1st Wednesday of each month. **The UWF Board will meet January 3.** Dawn Jones will provide devotions.
- Love/Hope Circle meets at 1:00 pm in the Wesley Room on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. **Love/Hope Circle will meet on January 16.** Devotions by Barb Rigstad and treats by Audrey Johnson.
- Faith Circle meets at 1:00 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Wesley Room. **Faith Circle will meet on January 18.** Cathy Sampson will share devotions and be our hostess. We will begin to collect our 2024 UWF pledges for the new year. We will be discussing preparing for the pasty sale on February 2-3.
- Knitting Klub meets at 2:00 pm in the Wesley Room on the 2nd Monday of the month. **The Knitting Klub will meet on January 8.**
- Green Door Book Club meets at 9:30 am in the Wesley Room on the 3rd Monday of each month. **The Green Door Book Club will meet on January 15.**
- **Bone Builders Plus meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Fellowship Hall from 9:30 to 10:30 am.** They do not meet on holidays or if there is a special event at Asbury. Bone Builders Plus is a program to improve balance, muscle strength, bone density and increase energy. It helps to prevent falls and improve dexterity. Participants enjoy increased socialization. Call Mary Kay at 651-206-9874 or Jan at 218-626-1539 for more information.



Pat Anscomb (R), Asbury UWF Co-Treasurer and Advent Tea Co-Coordinator, presented a check for \$700 to Paula Broschofsky (L), Program Manager of the Ronald McDonald House Northland. The monies were collected at the UWF Advent Tea on December 9. Paula said, “The money will be used as needed to keep the House supplied for families who stay there while their children receive medical care.” While staying at the House, families pay for nothing. It is one less worry as they navigate a child’s health situation or crisis.

Photo by Cathy Sampson

UWF 2023 Awards — January 21

The UWF 2023 awards will be presented on UWF Sunday, January 21. The **Special Mission Recognition Award** will be awarded to Dawn Jones. **Gifts to Missions** honorees are Steve Kokotovich and Terry Olson. **Gifts of Memory** will remember Phyllis Faue, Barbara Downs, Louise Anderson, Sharon Packerham and Sue Stebner.

All honored persons will have a gift made to UWF Missions in their name.

New Year’s Resolutions

If part of your New Year’s resolutions are to do some winter cleaning, closet organizing, purging and downsizing (or even if not), please keep the UWF Annual Asbury Rummage Sale on June 20, 2024 in mind. Please set aside your items until June as Asbury does not have storage ability.

A schedule of when to drop off items will be in upcoming announcements and Messengers.

A successful sale is dependent on donations – both large and small. We appreciate all donations. Please remember we do not accept clothing or electronics such as microwaves, TVs, or personal grooming/personal care items such as electric shavers, blood pressure cuffs or hair cutting sets.

All sale proceeds help with our 2024 MN Annual Conference apportionment payments.

Pasty Sale — February 2-3

It’s time for pasties again! February 1-3 will be pasty making time. Sale days are the 2nd and 3rd. Your help is needed for this huge project.

We peel veggies and make dough on Thursday, February 1. On February 2-3 the crew will roll out crusts, fill crusts, crimp, bake, cook and package.

We also need a clean-up team—not hard but necessary! Please see schedule below for times to help!

There will be a sign in the Narthex to sign-up plus an order form on the table where you can place your order for pasties. Be sure to order your pasties early by the deadline. Pasties are \$6.00 each/gravy \$1.00 each.

ORDER DEADLINE is January 28

Pick Up Times:

Friday, February 2 from NOON to 2:00 pm
Saturday, February 3 from 10:00 to NOON
All pasty orders need to be picked up by NOON on February 3.

Pasty Sale Work Schedule

Thursday, February 1

8:00 am Mix crust. This is not hard and we will teach you.
Men and women peel veggies.

Friday, February 2

7:00 am — 2:00 pm Preparation and baking of pasties.
NOON Four people are needed for clean up, **six volunteers would be great!**

Saturday, February 3

7:00 am — NOON Pasty baking—come and learn how to bake pasties.
NOON Six people needed for clean up, **8 or more would be terrific!**

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

No Soup on February 11

Faith Circle will not be hosting the “Soup”er Bowl Luncheon this year. We encourage everybody who would have attended to make a free-will offering for the Food Shelf which will go towards matching funds for the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign. More information on the campaign will be provided by the Outreach Team for the March Messenger. Asbury UMC has given a substantial donation towards the matching funds campaign each year. Please mark your check “Soup”er Bowl Fund and place it in the offering plate or in the church office. Thank you for your support!

Kid's Corner



HAPPY NEW YOU!

Changing the calendar each January is a reminder that God makes all things new.

Directions: Use the clues and the calendar code to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV.

JANUARY 2024							
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
		1	2	3	4	5	6
	God	night	word	in	love	Jesus	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
glory	therefore	speak	give	light	Christ	a	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
saw	beginning	anyone	waters	help	is	many	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
he	again	through	earth	made	while	back	
28	29	30	31				
new	if	and	creation				



- The second Monday _ _ _ _ _
- The last Monday _ _
- The 16th _ _ _ _ _
- One day before the 20th _ _
- The day before the first Friday _ _
- The last weekday of the second week _ _ _ _ _
- The day after the 20th _ _
- The day after 18th _ _
- The first day of the second weekend _ _
- The last Sunday _ _ _
- The last day of the month _ _ _ _ _

Answers: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.



Geodes look plain on the outside but contain beautiful crystals. Create these "rocks" to show how God makes us new on the inside.

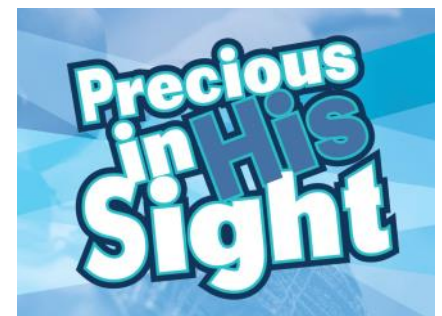
What you need:

- Clean cardboard egg carton
- Scissors (and adult help)
- Epsom salt
- Plastic zippered bags (one per color of dye)
- Food coloring
- Glue
- Paintbrush



What you do:

1. Cut out the tops and bottoms of all the egg compartments so you can make 6 ball shapes.
2. In each bag, put 3 tablespoons of Epsom salt and a drop or two of food coloring. Seal and shake to mix.
3. With the paintbrush, spread glue inside two egg-carton halves. Sprinkle a spoonful of Epsom salt into those halves. Then close and shake.
4. Open your homemade geode and shake out excess salt.
5. Optional: Preserve the crystals with a coat of clear-drying glue.



Asbury United Methodist
PO Box 7135
Duluth MN 55807

Return service requested

Meet Our Staff



Pastor:..... Katherine Cornell
Administrative Asst.:Shirley Brandt
Music Coordinator/Organist:Phyllis Kruell
Praise Team Leaders.....varies
Custodian: Martin Larson
Ad Council Chair:Sandy Winklesky
Treasurer:Pat Anscomb
Finance Judi VanDell
Lay Leader/Outreach: Steve Kokotovich
Trustees:Nancy Wagner, Terry Olson
UMW President..... Bev LeClair, Dawn Jones
SPRC Chair Barb Kokotovich
Worship Chair Renee Randa
Christian Ed.: Alice Brenny/Sandy Winklesky
Scholarship Shelly Vanneste
Membership Candy Kokotovich
Visitation Karen Gokey

This newsletter is e-mailed/mailed monthly by Asbury UMC, Duluth MN.

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CHURCH OFFICE:

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NEXT MESSENGER DEADLINE: January 22 for February 2024 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 Vision & Mission Statement

Vision: At Asbury UMC, we believe God's words and ways are key to abundant life for ourselves and our community.

Mission: Asbury UMC is a welcoming, active church that exists to serve, grow, build, and bless our congregation, community, and the world.