

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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UWF 2024 Awards

The UWF 2024 awards were presented on January 26 for UWF Sunday. The Special Mission Award was awarded to Leila Lundberg. Gifts to Missions honorees were Sue Baker, Al and Anita Fagerstrom, Paul and Barb Rigstad. Gifts in Memory remembered Audrey Johnson, Ardelle Peterson and Phyllis Mullen.

Leila Lundberg was introduced to Asbury UMC by Linda and Dick Warner in the fall of 2021 by way of helping to make pasties. Leila said she had never made a pasty in her life but would give it a try. Before long, Linda and Dick asked if she would help with donuts, **sure**; apple pies, **sure**; meatballs, **sure**. From there Leila was asked about joining the Faith Circle, the Green Door Book Group, helping with the rummage sale, Fall Pantry and hosting a table at the Advent Tea. All of this led to attending church services and in time Jan Akervik asked if Leila would be interested in helping her, Judy Pearson and Dawn Jones drape the altar, hang banners and decorate wreaths. She thought that would be fun, so, **sure**.

Sue Baker began her journey at Asbury about 4 years ago. She said it is her nature to be involved in as many groups as possible and so has found her niche serving on the Outreach Committee, the Communications Committee and the Christian Education Committee. She also sings with the Asbury Singers and belongs to the Love/Hope Circle.

Barb and Paul Rigstad participate in worship, Bible and book studies, Church-To-School Partnership (including food distribution, teacher appreciation and holiday gift distribution), CHUM Breakfast Bags, pasties, apple pies, the meatball dinner and Hanging of the Green. Paul also sings with the Asbury Singers and Barb reads from the Asbury UWF Library. Barb is also a member of the Love/Hope Circle and works on the Rummage Sale and the Fall Pantry.

Anita and Al Fagerstrom participate in worship, work on pasties, the meatball dinner, donuts, apple pies, the Fall Pantry, the National Night Out picnic and Hanging of the Green. Al also sings with the Asbury Singers, attends Men's Coffee and helps with Second Harvest Food Distribution the first Thursday of each month.



From L to R: Leila Lundberg and UWF co-presidents Bev LeClair and Dawn Jones.



Sue Baker



From L to R: Anita and Al Fagerstrom; Paul and Barb Rigstad.



A Penny For Your Thoughts

What Makes Your Heart Sing?

This is a question I've pondered. The Lilly Foundation asks this question of all pastors applying for a Clergy Renewal Leave. The stated purpose of the program offers: "The Lilly Endowment National Clergy Renewal Program at Christian Theological Seminary (CTS) seeks to strengthen Christian congregations by providing opportunities for their pastors to step away briefly from the demands of daily parish life and engage in a period of renewal and reflection. We recognize that clergy take on a variety of pastoral roles within their congregations: preacher, teacher, spiritual guide, counselor, friend, confidant. The demands of ministry can feel relentless. Keeping pace with these demands can be tiring. Drawing on practices of sabbath rest, we recognize that pastors occasionally need time to replenish their spiritual reservoirs and regain energy and strength for their calling. Sabbath rest includes time for pastors to renew themselves physically, emotionally, relationally and spiritually."

Throughout the Bible, God commands humans to take regular times of rest and renewal. In the Ten Commandments, we see the importance of weekly renewal in a day of rest. In Leviticus 25, God commanded the Israelites to observe a "sabbatical year" every seventh year. It would be a year without sowing, harvesting or pruning. It would be a year when even the land would be given sabbath, which farming has since learned is an excellent agricultural practice. Our denomination and conference ask pastors to take a sabbath every seven years for renewal and to fight against burnout. This is also excellent practice. In 2026, I approach seven years as your pastor. I hope to mark the time with an extended leave made possible by the Lilly Foundation Clergy Renewal Program so that I might continue to produce "good fruit."

Let us return to the original question: What makes your heart sing? For Asbury, relationships are central to who we are as a congregation. Time after time, the comments of those encountering Asbury

reflect our warm and welcoming atmosphere. It is relationships forged through work projects and service opportunities, worship, fellowship, and small group gatherings at the heart of Asbury UMC. Our mission statement says Asbury UMC is an active, welcoming congregation that exists to serve, grow, build, and bless our congregation, community and the world. We have an excellent foundation and are now called to expand on that foundation.

My heart sings when I get to nurture relationships with God, with family, with friends, and with you the congregation. In 2026, several significant milestones will be happening in my family. My oldest child will graduate from college in China, and my youngest will graduate from high school. An extended sabbath time would allow me to focus on these momentous occasions. I will also have time for a week of spiritual renewal and time with friends and extended family.

While I am away nurturing relationships, you will continue celebrating the relationships already here and we both can dream of places where we could create depth and breadth of relationships in our congregation, community and the world. God is the God of relationships and community. We see God's purpose in drawing all of creation back to Godself through renewing and restoring relationships. As we come back together after renewal leave, we can highlight and celebrate our time together as we reach out with renewed interest to our community.

Part of the process of receiving a Lilly Foundation Grant requires the encouragement and support of the congregation. There will be a congregational meeting after church on February 16 in which I will speak more fully about the possibilities for my renewal leave and the plans for congregational and pastoral care while I am away. I hope that you will stay after church and that you can joyfully encourage me in this opportunity for renewal and exploration of what makes our hearts sing!

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:

Thank you for all the cards, kind words and prayers after the loss of Steve's brother Roger.
— Steve and Donna Mickelson

Dear Pastor Katherine and Asbury UMC Congregation:

We just wanted to let you know how much we appreciate the donation of \$1,793 to help Henson Chapel. We have been so blessed to have such caring people provide so generously. We are not sure we could have gotten this far in getting Henson Chapel back together without all the help we have received.
—Evita Henson, Henson Chapel UMC

Dear Asbury UMC:

We want to give a huge thank you to everyone at Asbury church. We appreciate all that our Audrey has meant to all of you. She talked often of all the activities she was a part of. You also made her Celebration of Life so special. We as a family know that Audrey is now with her Lord and Savior.
— Audrey Johnson Family

Dear Asbury United Women in Faith:

I appreciated your Christmas card. Your thoughts and prayers are very much appreciated. Our faith was answered. My recovery is going faster than I expected. My next hurdle is to get my driving privilege back. Blessings to you all.
— Dave Stromgren

Dear Asbury United Women in Faith:

We wanted you to know how much we have enjoyed receiving the greeting cards. They definitely bring out the smiles!
— Greg and Jean Dunkin

Dear Asbury United Women in Faith:

We are so grateful for your recent donation of \$1,232 to The Salvation Army. We like to express our sincere appreciation of friends like you who care about vulnerable children, seniors, veterans and other adults here in our community.

Lenten Study Starts March 6

Join Bishop Lanette Plambeck and the Minnesota Conference Appointive Cabinets in a Lenten study around the book *The Third Day*, by Bishop Tom Berlin. The Conference is creating seven videos that will be available online through Lent. To access the videos, go to

<https://www.minnesotaumc.org/2025-lenten-study>



From the publisher: On the third day, he rose again. In *The Third Day: Living the Resurrection*, Bishop Tom Berlin uses his gifts of storytelling and understanding the Scriptures to connect the reader to the experiences of several individuals around Jesus in his final days, focusing on new life and redemption rather than loss. Join Peter, Mary Magdalene and Thomas as they feel the despair of losing Jesus and the surprise and joy that awaits them in the resurrection. This study traces events around these characters, along with Paul and the disciples at Emmaus, and how the resurrection transforms their lives.

At Asbury, we will meet in the Wesley Room on Thursdays during Lent from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm. We will begin on Thursday, March 6 and continue March 13, 20, 27 and April 3, 10 and 17. A sign-up sheet will be on the table in the Narthex. Those who sign up will find books with their names on them on the credenza outside the church office. You may also sign up by calling the church office, 218-624-0061. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Our February Outreach Offering collection is for
Second Harvest Food Bank.

Attendance . . .

Jan. 5	56 In-church/44 views
Jan. 12	52 In-church/66 views
Jan. 19	46 In-church/55 views
Jan. 26	89 In-church/60 views



Scripture Readers . . .

Feb. 2	Jan Akervik
Feb. 9	Sue Soder
Feb. 16	Dale Thorpe
Feb. 23	Ruth Thorpe



2	Scott Tollefson
4	Jeanne Rychlak
6	Peter Downs
7	Melissa Finnelly Harmony Garafalo
11	Craig Vanneste
17	Jean Dunkin
19	Carol Cherne Kim Herring Kendall Lepisto Kathy Levinski
24	Andrea Mattila
25	Jennifer Nylund
28	Christopher DeSantell Kayla Skorich

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

Asbury News

Damiano Center Volunteers

We will continue volunteering at the Damiano Center on Second Saturdays, every other month, throughout 2025. Dates to volunteer in 2025 are January 11, March 8 and 29, May 10 and 31, July 12, August 30, September 13 and November 8 and 29. Two to three volunteers are required for each shift. The first shift is from 8:30 to 10:30 am and the second shift is from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. A sign-up sheet will be out on the table in the Narthex prior to each date to volunteer.



California Wildfires — Ways to Help

Major wildfires in and around Los Angeles, CA have together burned nearly 40,000 acres since the first one ignited January 7. The fires have killed at least 24 people, destroyed more than 12,000 structures — including multiple United Methodist churches, and overwhelmed responders.

Bishop Lanette Plambeck urges Minnesota United Methodists to offer help and hope to those feeling the impact of this disaster by praying for those affected and for the firefighters who are responding, and to give to relief efforts. There are several options to consider:

- Donate to the Los Angeles Recovery Fund created by the California-Pacific Conference of the United Methodist Church. Funds will go toward relief efforts. Please send a check to: California-Pacific Conference, Los Angeles Fires Recovery Fund, P.O. Box 6006, Pasadena, CA 91102-6006.
- Donate to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) U.S. Disaster Response and Recovery. UMCOR has awarded two solidarity grants to the California-Pacific Annual Conference to support immediate relief efforts. This includes evacuee support like food and essential supplies, as well as support for volunteer efforts and other relief activities.

To see more ways to help and a prayer penned by Bishop Plambeck for this crisis, please go to <https://www.minnesotaumc.org/newsdetail/california-wildfires-4-ways-to-help-18874279>

Worship

In February

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.

February Worship Theme: This month our preaching will be on LOVE. Sue Soder begins with the classic passage on love found in First Corinthians. We will then talk about different types of love that Jesus exhibits, sticky love, abiding love and enduring love. Our communion celebration will be on February 9 with some undertones of the Beatles "All You Need Is Love." On February 15 we are led in worship with our Praise Team and with a special presentation by our Sunday School. Our Asbury Singers will sing during worship on February 23. Please join us as we celebrate in worship this month of LOVE!

February 2

Scripture Passages:

Luke 4:21-30

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Message: "Love" Sue Soder preaching

February 9

Scripture Passages:

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

Message: "Sticky Love"

February 16

Scripture Passages:

Luke 6:17-26

Psalms 1

Message: "Abiding Love"

February 23

Scripture Passages:

Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40

Luke 6:27-38

Message: "Enduring Love"

Calendar

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Gentle Yoga meets on Wednesdays, 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall (unless otherwise specified). There will also be a Sunday class starting February 2 through March 2 from 5:00 to 6:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Call Cheryl Zupiec 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 9:00 am.
2 9:00 am, Asbury Singers 10:00 am, Worship Sue Soder Preaching 10:15 am, Sunday School 11:00 am, Fellowship, FH 5:00 pm, Yoga, FH 5:00-7:00 pm Confirmation/Youth at Norton Park UMC	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4 9:30 am Bone Builders, FH 11:30 am, MS Group, WR	5 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 9:30 am UWF Board Meeting, WR 5:30 pm, YOGA, Narthex 6:30 pm, Praise Team	6 8:00 am Pasty making, FH 10:00 to 10:45 am, 2nd Harvest Food Distribution	7 7:00 am Pasty making,/ baking FH 12:00 to 2:00 pm PASTY SALE	8 7:00 am Pasty baking, FH 10:00 am to NOON PASTY SALE
9 9:00 am, Asbury Singers 10:00 am, Worship/ Communion/Birthday 10:15 am, Bible Bingo 11:00 am, Fellowship, FH 5:00 pm, Yoga, FH	10 2:00 pm Knitting Klub, WR OFFICE CLOSED	11 9:30 am Bone Builders, FH	12 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 9:30 am Trustees, WR 9:30 am Membership, WR 5:30 pm, YOGA, FH 6:30 pm, Praise Team	13 9:30 am Bone Builders, FH 1:00 Communications Team, WR 4:30 pm, Worship, WR	14 	15 Joyce Park Celebration of Life 10:00 am, Visitation 11:00 am, Service
16 9:00 am, Praise Team 10:00 am, Worship/Praise 10:15 am, Sunday School 11:00 am, Fellowship, FH 11:00 am, Congregational Meeting on Lilly Grant 5:00 pm, Yoga, FH 5:00-7:00 pm Confirmation/Youth at Norton Park UMC	17 9:30 am Green Door Book Group, WR 	18 9:30 am Bone Builders, FH 1:00 pm Love/Hope Circle, WR	19 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 1:00 pm, Visitation, WR 5:30 pm, YOGA, FH 6:30 pm, Praise Team	20 9:30 am Bone Builders, FH 1:00 pm Faith Circle, WR 4:30 pm, SPRC, WR MESSENGER DEADLINE	21 Dumpster Pick Up	22 9:00-10:30 am Free Community Breakfast, Our Savior's
23 9:00 am, Asbury Singers 10:00 am, Worship 10:15 am, Sunday School 11:00 am, Fellowship, FH 5:00 pm, Yoga, FH	24	25 9:30 am Bone Builders, FH 6:30 pm Ad Council, WR & Zoom	26 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 5:30 pm, YOGA, FH 6:30 pm, Praise Team	27 9:30 am Bone Builders, FH MESSENGER EMAILS/MAILS	28	



From L to R: Sharon Picconatto, Sue Baker, Spin City Laundry employee Ashley and Donna Mickelson presenting a check for \$1,111.00 for Laundry Love.

Laundry Love and Advent Tea

Asbury UMC is partnering with the West Duluth Churches and CHUM to fundraise and volunteer for the Laundry Love program. This program consists of regular opportunities to come alongside people who are struggling financially by assisting them with their laundry. The Laundry Love program partners with groups and local laundromats in cleaning clothes and linens for low-income or no-income families and person(s).

Spin City Laundry at 232 North Central Ave., Duluth, is open Tuesday mornings as a time to set aside for Laundry Love. Asbury volunteers will team up with staff at Spin City for each Laundry Love session. The dates allotted to Asbury for the 5th Tuesdays in 2025 are: April 29, July 29, September 30 and December 30. Volunteers will arrive around 8:00 am or a little after, bring snacks for the patrons if you want and usually finish around 12:30 pm or so. Everyone is welcome to volunteer! A sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex. Attendees at the Advent Tea collected \$1,000 in a free-will offering for Laundry Love and an additional free-will offering in the amount of \$111 was collected at the Community Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 26 for a total \$1,111.

The Advent Tea was held Saturday, December at 2:00 pm with 60 guests attending. The tables were beautifully decorated, the desserts were delicious and music from Dale and Margaret Rogers was enjoyed. A huge thank you to all the hostesses and everyone who helped make this event a success.

Congregational Meeting — February 16

As you may know from reading A Penny For Your Thoughts in this issue of the Messenger, Pastor Katherine is in the process of applying for a Lilly Clergy Renewal Grant. The Lilly Clergy Renewal Program asks the question “What will make your heart sing?” It is a simple question, but one that holds profound possibilities for renewing the ministries of pastors and congregations.

Drawing on the wisdom of “sabbath” rest traditions within scripture and the life of the church, Clergy Renewal Programs seek to provide opportunities for pastors and congregations to explore this question together and design programs to help their pastors reconnect with their deep roots and sources of joy in ministry and in life. We believe that when pastors have



AUMC 2025 Events

February 7-8, 2025 PASTY SALE
Pasties are \$6.00 each/Gravy is \$1.00 each
Call 218-624-0061 to order.

Deadline to order: **NOON on February 2**

April 29, 2025, 4:30 to 6:00 pm
DRIVE THROUGH MEATBALL DINNER

Preorder tickets to reserve dinner — limited tickets at door

Preorder container of 5 meatballs.

Preorders call 218-624-0061.

Deadline to preorder and pay: April 20

Checks made out to Asbury UWF or exact cash please!

June 6, 2025 DONUT SALE
Preorders recommended. Call 218-624-0061.

Deadline to order: June 1

June 26, 2025 RUMMAGE SALE
9:00 am to 2:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

September 12-13, 2025 PASTY SALE
Call 218-624-0061 to order.

Deadline to order: NOON on September 7

October 11, 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

the opportunity to step away from their congregations and engage in activities that make their hearts sing, the whole church benefits.

Part of a successful application is the encouragement of the congregation for the renewal leave. To that end, there will be a congregational meeting in the Sanctuary after church on February 16 to ask and answer questions regarding the renewal leave. We hope you will join us!

Mitten Tree Drive Thank You

Thank you for your generosity in donating to the UWF Mitten Tree again this year. Elementary schools are always in need of warm winter accessories for their students. Because of your kindness, we were able to collect 4 hats, 5 pairs of gloves, 23 pairs of beautifully made knit mittens and 224 pairs of socks. These articles of clothing were gratefully received at Laura MacArthur, Piedmont and Stowe Elementary Schools.

2025 Winter Out West

2025 Winter Out West

The West Duluth area churches will be participating in the 4th Annual 2025 Winter Out West event hosted by the Riverfront Community Development Group and many other sponsors.

Asbury UMC and Our Savior's Lutheran will participate in the s'mores handout. Church volunteers will be helping with a variety of activities from noon to 4:00 pm on Saturday, February 8 in Memorial Park. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Health Equity Northland

312 N Central Avenue

1:00-4:00pm Health Resource Event | Flu & Covid Vaccines Available (6m-11y & 12+)

Wussow's

324 N Central Avenue

6:00pm **Opening Ceremony**

Mayor Reinert, Councilor Kennedy, President Tomanek, Vice President Nephew, and Russ Salgy opening remarks

6:30-9:00pm **Youth Program**

Dan The Monkeyman | *Showcase Of Stars* | Youth and Young Adults Welcome

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

The West Theatre

319 N Central Avenue

10:00am "Jumanji" (1995) **FREE Movie at The West Theatre**

Memorial Park

5315 Grand Avenue

12:00-4:00pm **Outdoor Activities + Bonfire & S'mores + Vendors**

Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snow & ice sculpting, fat tire biking, and other fun activities
Police Fun-Van with Hot Chocolate

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Zenith Bookstore

318 N Central Avenue

10:30-11:00am **Free Book Reading**

Author Katrina Phillips & Illustrator Sam Zimmerman of the new children's book, "I am on Indigenous Land".

1:00-3:00pm **Author Meet & Greet**

Young Adult Fantasy Author, Vanessa L. Torres. She is the author of the new book, "On the Wings of la Noche".

Spirit Mountain

8551 Grand Avenue

11:00am-3:00pm Skating | Bring your own skates | **Access Near The Lower Chalet Parking**

St. Louis River Alliance

1242 - 88th Avenue West

6:30-7:30pm **Winter Walk - Starry Skies**

Location: Meet at Morgan Park Community Center, walk to Delta Cap along the river

Asbury News

Ad Council Meeting Minutes — 1-21-25

Opening

In Sandy Winklesky's absence, Steve Kokotovitch called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. The council met in the Wesley Room and also on Zoom. Pastor Katherine led us in prayer and followed with Asbury's Vision and Mission Statements.

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the November 21, 2024, Administrative Council were reviewed. Barb Kokotovitch made a motion to accept the minutes as read. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

M – Barb Kokotovitch, S – Pat Anscomb

Lay Leader's Report – Steve Kokotovitch

Steve will be out of town for this year's Annual Conference, June 11-13. He is looking for someone else to go in his place for all or part of the conference. At the November Ad. Council meeting we discussed if the church is taking on too many projects. Steve encouraged members to go back to their committees and discuss this matter.

Two motions were made tonight from the results of the discussion: Steve Kokotovitch made a motion that at the February Ad Council meeting the Council will approve that the Fall meatball dinner be eliminated and part of the pasty money be transferred to apportionments to make up for the lost revenue from the Meatball dinner. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. **M – Steve Kokotovitch, S – Bev LeClair.**

Bev LeClair made a motion that at the February Ad Council meeting, the Council shall approve revising the rummage sale to sell only books, music, DVDs, puzzles and games. Any lost revenue from the rummage sale format change will be made up by transferring money from the pasty sales to apportionments. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. **M – Bev LeClair, S – Pat Anscomb**

Treasurer's Report – Pat Anscomb

The December monthly summary was presented. Balance on Hand, 12/31/2024 is \$10,175.21.

As of 12/31/2024 we have paid 73% of our 2024 Conference Apportionments with a balance due of \$5,387.69.

Pat presented the 2025 Budget. She made a motion to accept the 2025 Budget. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

M – Pat Anscomb, S – Barb Kokotovitch

Staff Parish Relations Committee – Barb Kokotovitch

Barb mentioned that she and Steve will be meeting with Pastor Katherine to discuss the Lilly Grant.

The next SPRC meeting will be in February.

Trustee's Report

Cork strips will be put up in the Fellowship Hall tomorrow. This will avoid tape damage when posters are mounted.

United Women of Faith – Bev LeClair

UWF Sunday is this coming Sunday, January 26.

There will be no Souper Bowl event this year. People are encouraged to send in a contribution, which will go towards the Food Shelf matching donations in March.

A schedule has been put up in the Narthex for people to sign up to work on the pasty sale.

Outreach and Missions Team – Steve Kokotovitch

The Salvation Army Toy Drive went well.

The CHUM muffin bags project also went well.

We are working at the Damiano on the 5th and every other 2nd Saturday of each month.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

12-31-24

GENERAL FUND:

Balance on Hand 11/30/24	\$ 59,124.37
Deposits	\$ 26,830.05
Total to Account for	\$ 85,954.42
Checks Written	<\$ 75,779.21>
Balance on Hand, 12/31/24	\$ 10,175.21

Unpaid Bills through 12/31/24 (includes apportionments)	<\$ 5,387.69>
Net Ending Balance at 12/31/24	\$ 4,787.52

Asbury will be helping out at the Memorial Park winter festivities, "Winter Out West", from noon to 4:00 pm on February 8. There will be more information about this in the *Messenger*.

An anonymous donation of \$50,000 has been made to set up an endowment fund for outreach. According to the terms, 4% of the balance (\$2,000 for this year) needs to be spent by the end of the year.

Education Team

The Sunday School has 4 to 6 children attending each Sunday.

The next meeting will be in February.

Worship Team – no report

Nurture/Congregational Care Team – no report

Pastor's Report – Katherine Cornell

Pastor Katherine Pastor Katherine will be on vacation January 31-February 8. There will be a Lenten Study beginning in March. It will be on Thursdays at 11:00 am.

Confirmation students will be welcomed into the church on Easter Sunday, April 20.

Pastor Katherine is working on an application for the Lilly Grant for clergy renewal and leave. The theme of the grant is on relationships. She will make a presentation to the church on February 16.

Old Business

Pat Anscomb made a motion to remove Cheryl Parendo and Sharon Picconatto as signatures on the Memorial Account. Karen Gokey and Cindy Kari's names will be added instead. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. **M – Pat Anscomb, S – Larry Sampson**

Pat Anscomb made a motion to have Rob Karwath removed as a signature on the General Account. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. **M – Pat Anscomb, S – Larry Sampson**

New Business – none

Closing

The next Ad. Council meeting will be on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 6:30 pm.

Barb Kokotovitch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

M – Barb Kokotovitch, S – Bev LeClair

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patricia Bennett, Recording Secretary

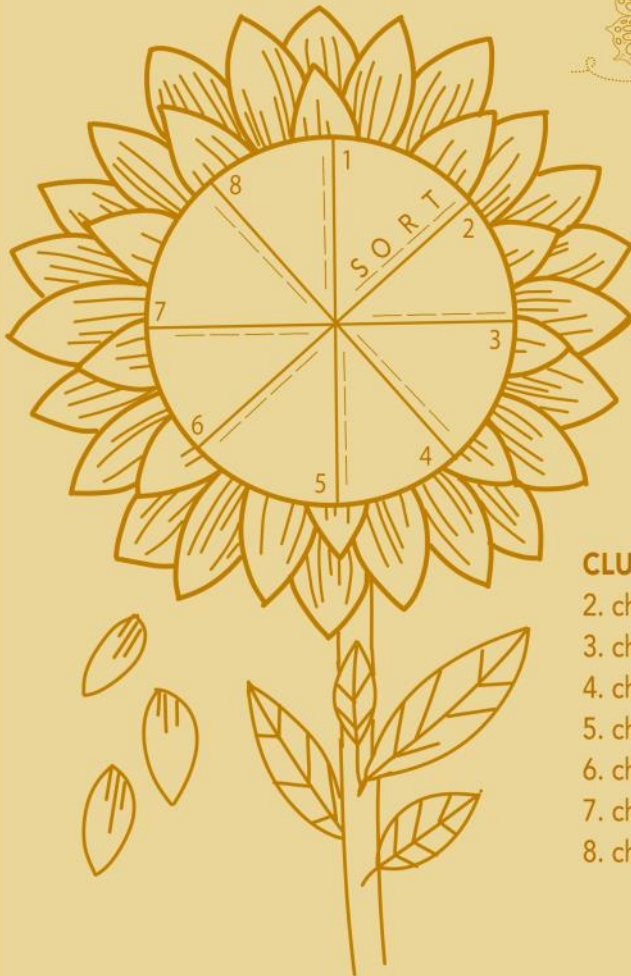
Kid's Corner



THE LOVE CYCLE

In 1 John 4, God instructs us to love other people. Where does our love come from?

Directions: Starting at #1 and going clockwise, solve each clue to create a new four-letter word. Then write the eighth word in both blanks below to complete 1 John 4:19, NIV.



We _____
because [God] first _____ d us.

1 John 4:19, NIV

CLUES

2. change 1 letter: a tent to play in
3. change 2 letters: a crease in paper
4. change 1 letter: a precious metal
5. change 2 letters: a beautiful dress
6. change 1 letter: opposite of up
7. change 2 letters: a type of bird
8. change 1 letter: God is this
(see 1 John 4:16).

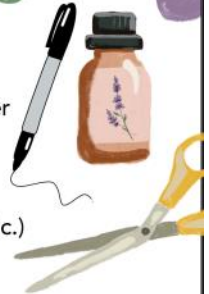
Answers: fort, fold, gold, gown, down, dove, love; We love because [God] first loved us. 1 John 4:19, NIV



Make this sweet-smelling gift for a friend or valentine.

What you need:

- Colored felt
- Scrap paper
- Permanent marker
- Scissors
- String
- Essential oils (rose, lavender, etc.)



What you do:

1. Draw a flower shape on paper and cut it out.
2. Place the flower template on felt and draw around it with the marker.
3. Cut out the felt flower. Then cut a small slit or hole through it.
4. Cut 8 inches of string. Thread it through the felt flower and tie to form a loop for hanging.
5. To the felt, add 3 to 5 drops of essential oil. This air freshener will last about 2 weeks.
6. Revive the scent, as needed, by adding a few drops of essential oil.





No Soup on February 9

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 in 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!



Pasty Sale — February 7-8

It's time for pasties again! February 6-8 will be pasty making time. Sale days are the 7th and the 8th. Your help is needed for this huge project.

We peel veggies and make dough on Thursday, February 6. On February 7-8 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 Noon on February 2.
No orders will be accepted after that date!

Pick Up Times:

Friday, February 7 from NOON to 2:00 pm

Saturday, February 8 from 10:00 to NOON

**All pasty orders need to be picked up
by NOON on February 8.**

Pasty Sale Work Schedule

Thursday, February 6

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

Friday, February 7

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 8

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!**

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 February 5.** Donna Mickelson will be our hostess and provide devotions. **The Board members will meet from 8:00 to 9:30 am on February 5 to mix ingredients for pasties** before our meeting.
- 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 February 18.** Sue Newberry will share devotions and Barb Rigstad will be our hostess.
- Faith Circle meets at 1:00 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Wesley Room. **Faith Circle will meet on February 20.** Candy Kokotovich will present our devotions and be our hostess. We will continue our discussion on projects and make plans for our next event.
- Knitting Klub meets at 2:00 pm in the Wesley Room on the 2nd Monday of the month. **The Knitting Klub will meet on February 10.**
- Green Door Book Group meets at 9:30 am in the Wesley Room on the 3rd Monday of each month. **The Green Door Book Group will meet on February 17.**
- **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.



UWF Reading Program 2025 Books

The UWF Reading Program has recently added the following 2025 books to their library:

Education for Mission

The Bookwoman's Daughter

by Kim Michele Richardson

The Girl with the Louding Voice by Abi Dare

The Lucky Ones by Linda Williams Jackson

The Witness Blanket

by Carey Newman and Kirstie Hudson

Sitti's Bird: a Gaza Story by Malak Mattar

The Tower of Life by Chana Stiefel

Leadership Development

A Right Worthy Woman by Ruth P. Watson

We're in This Together by Linda Sarsour

Love is Loud by Sandra Neil Wallace

Until Someone Listens by Estela Juarez

Nurturing for Community

All That is Secret by Patricia Raybon

The Light We Carry by Michelle Obama

Starfish by Lisa Fipps

New Kid by Jerry Craft

Berry Song by Michaela Goade

Grandpa's Window by Laura Gehl

Social Action

Our Missing Hearts by Celeste Ng

Solito by Javier Zamora

This is Your Time by Ruby Bridges

Spiritual Growth

Forgiving What You Can't Forget

by Lysa Terkeurst

Whistlestop Tales:

Around the World in 10 Bible Stories

by Krish Kandiah and Miriam Kandiah

The Little Book of Joy

by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and

the Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Please feel free to check out these UWF 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 UWF Reading Program please contact Patty Bennett, 218-349-5547.

Cookbook In the Works

As our Faith Circle gathered together for a holiday potluck, we started talking about all the good food that was brought to share. And so it began . . . a cookbook is in the works — the *Asbury Cookbook*.

Now we are asking you to please submit your favorite easy recipes. If you could print or type them we would appreciate it. Please submit them to our committee members: Cherie Blazevic, 218-390-1193, Dawn Jones, 218-340-0124 or Avon Power, 218-221-4701. Contact us for more information or any questions. We are excited to begin. With thanks and blessings!

Asbury News

Resource for Lent

Experience a transformative Lenten Journey with *The Sanctuary for Lent 2025*. The booklet contains brief readings for each day in Lent, from Ash Wednesday (March 5) through Easter Sunday (April 20), including a suggested scripture, a short devotion, and a short prayer or practice—all based on the Revised Common Lectionary.

This annual favorite helps readers faithfully journey through Lent as they prepare to experience the joy of the Resurrection.

This resource will be available in the Narthex and the Fellowship Hall soon. It was made possible by a generous donation.



Welcome to Brenda Gersich who became a new member on January 12, 2025. Brenda is currently employed at Stowe Elementary and attended school at the University of Phoenix. Her areas of interest are reading and bicycling. Brenda's special reason she chose Asbury UMC is that she felt so welcomed by everyone.

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 Kruehl
Praise Team Leaders.....varies
Custodian: Martin Larson
Ad Council Chair:Sandy Winklesky
Treasurer:Pat Anscomb
FinanceLarry Sampson
Lay Leader/Outreach: Steve Kokotovich
Trustees:Nancy Wagner, Terry Olson
UWF President.....Bev LeClair, Dawn Jones
SPRC ChairBarb Kokotovich
Worship ChairRenee Randa
Christian Ed.: Alice Brenny/Sandy Winklesky
ScholarshipShelly Vanneste
MembershipCandy Kokotovich
VisitationKaren Gokey

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

EDITORS: The Rev. Katherine Cornell; Shirley Brandt, Admin. Asst.

CHURCH OFFICE:

218-624-0061 ~ asburyumcduluth@hotmail.com ~ www.asburyduluth.org

NEXT MESSENGER DEADLINE: February 23 for March 2025 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.