

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

What a Christmas Program! How many times do we hear the Christmas story, sing the carols, or watch a movie of the birth and not consider those impacted on that most holy night! Part of the "A Traditional Nativity" program this year was the reminder to all of us, cast, crew and congregation that we are all a part of the Christmas story. Through us, others are reminded of the blessings received with Jesus' birth.



"A Traditional Nativity" would not have been possible without the support and commitment of our Asbury family. Our Sunday School kids stepped up and volunteered to take speaking parts, as well as singing solos and duets. Their confidence was increased by the adults taking part in the program. Thank you everyone! You make the planning and coordination of the Christmas program less stressful and more fun!

A special thank you to Ali Kokotovich for her diligence as our stage manager; the Kokotovich crew for the delicious meal after worship, those who helped with clean up, and our visit by the man in the red suit!

In January, the Sunday School will return to the study of Jesus' Miracles. Stay tuned for updates!



Photos by Karen Gokey





A Penny For Your Thoughts

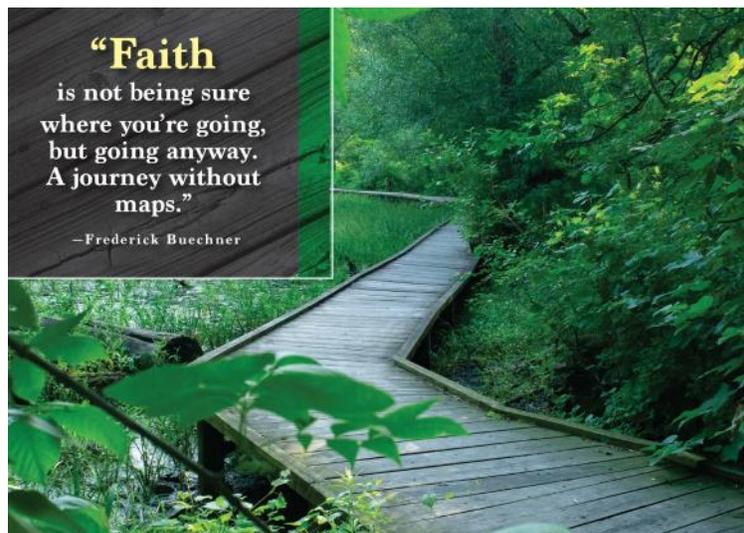
Journeying Together in 2025

As always, with the beginning of a new year, my mind turns from reflection on the old year to anticipation and intentions for the new. In my reflection, and also in setting intentions, there are a few things I want to remember.

First of all, I want to remember whose I am. No matter what happened in the past, or what the future holds, we know we are God's beloved children. We have been adopted into God's own family and, as beloved children of God, we can lean into grace and forgiveness for our past blunders and mistakes. We can claim God's promises for presence in the future — walking with us through the good and the bad. With the reflections on the past, we know grace abounds, and though there might still be restorative work needed, we can trust God to guide us into that work.

As for the future, though I might not know the way forward, I can also trust God for direction, strength and a yoke that is "easy and light."

Secondly, I want to remember the community of faith we rely upon. The community of Asbury UMC is ready to welcome and engage! There are so many opportunities: from serving on a leadership team, singing with our Asbury Singers and Praise Team, joining a small group, exercising with our Bone Builders, or helping with outreach and



work projects. One of the best aspects of groups at Asbury is we find joy together. There is laughter and joy when we gather together for fellowship, study and service.

Finally, I want to remember the fruit of the Spirit — love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control.

In looking back, I want to remember times when this fruit was evident in my life and in the lives of people around me. In looking forward, I want to keep my eyes and heart open to notice these fruits growing in me and cultivate them. I hope you can see these places as well.

So for all of you, I wish you a Happy New Year as we journey together in 2025!

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:

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 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 Members of the United Methodist Women:

Thank you so much for your very generous donation to Companies to Classrooms! Your sponsorship of this organization goes “above and beyond” any of our expectations regarding monies received and our appreciation is truly immense. You are making a remarkable difference in the lives of many students providing them with much needed supplies while in the classroom. This makes many students’ and teachers’ lives so much better and more productive. — Paula Leland, C2C Board of Directors.

Leadership Recognition -- January 12

On January 12 during our Sunday service we will be recognizing and praying for the leadership of our church. If you are involved with any of our leadership teams or serve as the chair of any of those teams, please make a special effort to be in church. We are so thankful for the effort that each of you give and we look forward to recognizing you on January 12.

Leadership Training with TPUMM

This year we will be doing our leadership training with our area churches! Our District Superintendent Laurie Kantonen will lead us in a two-hour session on Sunday, January 26 from 2:00-4:00 pm at Hope UMC, 301 West St. Marie St., Duluth. There will be general training for all positions as well as question and answer time with the DS and sharing of best practices between the churches. If you are a chair or co-chair of any leadership team, please plan on attending.

Pledge Cards Thank You!

We have a total of \$134,476 pledged for our 2025 Operating Budget from 64 pledge units! Thank you for your generosity and commitment to the ministry, people and programs of Asbury UMC!

Church-School Partnership Team News

The Church-School Partnership Team has been busy this month with weekly distribution of food bags to qualified students. A new opportunity for the team is to serve lemonade and cookies once a month for the Peace Maker’s awards. We also assisted with the Giving Tree project again where we handed out gifts to those families that signed up. More opportunities to serve are anticipated in the next few months. — Alice Brenny

Our 2024 Thanksgiving and Christmas offerings went to TPUMM in support of local ministries and towards our 2024 MN Annual Conference Apportionments.

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

Attendance . . .

Dec. 1	70 In-church/56 views
Dec. 8	58 In-church/49 views
Dec.15	102 In-church/68 views
Dec. 22	60 In-church/43 views
Dec. 24	120 In-church/63 views
Dec. 29	51 In-church/50 views

Scripture Readers . . .

Jan. 5	Jan Akervik
Jan. 12	Donna Mickelson
Jan. 19	Terry Olson
Jan. 26	Carol Johnson



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

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



Asbury News

Beautiful Decor

The Christmas Program had a beautiful backdrop with the Sanctuary and Narthex decorated by all who helped with the “fluffing” of all the greenery and the Hanging of the Green including light bursts, stars, lighted trees, the nativity scene, and much more. Thank you!

New banners were purchased using funds from the Memorial account. New flower sprays with white poinsettias were used to enhance the wreaths and angel table.

Thank you also to Dawn Parendo for her spectacular photographs representing Hope, Joy, Peace and Love. (See page 6 of this Messenger.)

And, thank you to all who purchased poinsettias this year to beautify the Sanctuary — there were 26!



Calendar

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Gentle Yoga meets on Wednesdays, 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall (unless otherwise specified). Call Cheryl Zupec at 218-343-4478 for more info.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Praise Team practices each Wednesday at 6:30 pm and on Praise Sunday at 9:15 am.</p>			<p>1</p>  <p>Happy New Year!</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:00 to 10:45 am, 2nd Harvest Food Distribution</p>	3	4
<p>5</p> <p>EPIPHANY SUNDAY 9:00 am, Asbury Singers 10:00 am, Worship/Communion 10:15 am, Sunday School 11:00 am, Fellowship, FH 5:00-7:00 pm Confirmation/Youth at Norton Park UMC</p>	6	<p>7</p> <p>9:30 am Bone Builders, FH</p> <p>11:30 am, MS Group, FH</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH</p> <p>9:30 am UWF Board Meeting, WR</p> <p>5:30 pm, YOGA, FH</p> <p>6:30 pm, Praise Team</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:30 am Bone Builders, FH</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Dumpster Pick Up</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Ruth Bloomquist Celebration of Life 11:00 am, Visitation 12:00 pm, Service</p>
<p>12</p> <p>BAPTISM OF THE LORD LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION 9:00 am, Asbury Singers 10:00 am, Worship/Birthday 10:15 am, Bible Bingo 11:00 am, Fellowship, FH</p>	<p>13</p> <p>2:00 pm Knitting Klub, WR</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:30 am Bone Builders, FH</p> <p>4:30 pm Outreach, WR</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH</p> <p>9:30 am Trustees, WR</p> <p>5:30 pm, YOGA, FH</p> <p>6:30 pm, Praise Team</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:30 am Bone Builders, FH</p> <p>10:00 am Finance, WR</p> <p>1:00 pm Faith Circle, WR</p>	17	18
<p>19</p> <p>9:15 am, Praise Team 10:00 am, Worship/Praise 10:15 am, Sunday School 11:00 am, Fellowship, FH 5:00-7:00 pm Confirmation/Youth at Norton Park UMC</p>	<p>20</p> <p>MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY</p> <p>9:30 am Green Door Book Group, WR</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:30 am Bone Builders, FH</p> <p>1:00 pm Love/Hope Circle, WR</p> <p>6:30 pm Ad Council, WR & Zoom</p>	<p>22</p> <p>8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH</p> <p>5:30 pm, YOGA, FH</p> <p>6:30 pm, Praise Team</p> <p>MESSENGER DEADLINE</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:30 am Bone Builders, FH</p> <p>1:00 pm Communications Team, WR</p>	24	<p>25</p> <p>9:00-10:30 am Free Community Breakfast, Our Savior's</p> <p>Audrey Johnson Celebration of Life 12:00 pm, Visitation 1:00 pm, Service</p>
<p>26</p> <p>UWF SUNDAY ASBURY SINGERS 9:30 am, Asbury Singers 10:00 am, Worship 10:15 am, Sunday School 11:00 am, Fellowship, FH</p> <p>2:00-4:00 pm Leadership Training with TPUMM, Hope UMC</p>	27	<p>28</p> <p>9:30 am Bone Builders, FH</p>	<p>29</p> <p>8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH</p> <p>10:00 am Membership, WR</p> <p>5:30 pm, YOGA, FH</p> <p>6:30 pm, Praise Team</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9:30 am Bone Builders, FH</p> <p>MESSENGER EMAILS/MAILS</p>	31	

Asbury News



Thank you to Dawn Parendo for sharing her beautiful photography with us for Advent/Christmas. Her photo boards were displayed at the front of the Sanctuary. Below, please read her reflections on her photos representing Hope, Joy, Peace and Love.

Hope – The Rainbow

The rainbow is a symbol of hope because it appears after storms and represents the promise of better times after a period of darkness. In the bible, a rainbow is seen as a sign from God to Noah that the great flood is over. Genesis 9:12-15 “I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind.” It represents God’s promise to humankind to remind us to be hopeful for the future. It is a symbol of renewal and a better life.

This is my “once in a lifetime” shot. I was sitting on the rocks below the lighthouse when I got caught in the rain. I wasn’t happy about getting rained on, but I remember thinking, “Rain plus sun = rainbows.” I was looking in the opposite direction of the lighthouse at the pebble beach and when I turned around, I witnessed this magnificent full rainbow through Split Rock lighthouse, itself a symbol of light in the darkness guiding our path. It was a magical, God-filled moment for me.

Joy – Trees

Some of the passages in the bible that refer to trees include Psalm 96:12 “Let all the trees of the forest sing for Joy,” Isaiah 55:12 “You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands,” and 1 Chronicles 16:33 “Let the trees of the forest sing, let them sing for joy before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.”

This photo was taken at the Cloquet Forestry Center. The trees here date back to the 1820s. They didn’t burn in the 1918 fires, although there is evidence of fire at the base of many of them. As years go by, the trees heal themselves, growing fresh wood and the fire scars get smaller. Seeing this beautiful field of asters and the autumn colors bursting around these towering trees that survived these fires many years ago filled me with joy and reminded me of nature’s ability to heal and regenerate itself.

Peace Like a River

The idea of peace like a river is that God’s peace is constant like a river that is always flowing. Even as water

encounters boulders and rocks, it continues to flow around them. God’s peace can quiet our souls even when the world around us is raging. Isaiah 66:12, “Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream.”

This photo was taken at Kingsbury Creek. The trail here follows a series of waterfalls and pools that start at the top of the hill and work their way down through the zoo. I frequently struggle with anxiety, and sitting by a stream and listening to the sound of the bubbling water always carries my anxieties away and fills me with a profound sense of peace.

Love – Rays of Light

In the Bible, God is described as both light and love. The rays of light shining down through the darkness in this photo, symbolize God’s love radiating out to illuminate our path. No matter how dark life may feel, Christ’s light can be a beacon for us. 1 John 1:5, 4:16 “God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.” “God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.” John 8:12 “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

This photo was taken at the Two Harbors breakwater. I was mesmerized by this beautiful light piercing the darkness and I was reminded of God’s love for us. I could have sat there all day watching God’s glory.

This project was difficult for me as I have thousands of pictures to choose from and several of my pictures evoked multiple feelings for me. When I asked some of my family and friends for their advice, everyone had a different opinion. I hope that in some way, these photos inspired you to think about what your visions of Hope, Joy, Peace and Love are.

For me, being in nature is to be in God’s presence. Several years ago, Jan Evans, a member of Asbury who has passed away, sent me a note saying that the following quote reminded her of me and that my photos helped her to see God’s beauty all around us:

“Never lose an opportunity of seeing anything that is beautiful; for beauty is God’s handwriting – a wayside sacrament. Welcome it in every fair face, in every fair sky, in every fair flower, and thank God for it as a cup of blessing.”
— Ralph Waldo Emerson

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.



Pastor Katherine presenting Ruby Thain with her Adventure Bible during Children's Time on December 8.



LET'S SURPRISE JUDY!
Members of the Landscape/Garden Team had a surprise presentation for Judy Pearson to thank her for her long-time service as chair of the Landscape/Garden Team and her long-time devotion to the gardens of Asbury UMC. Pam Perich has graciously accepted the appointment as new chair. Other members of the team include Jeanne Rychlak, Dale Thorpe, Mick Levinski, Dick Wolden, Jerry Smith, Tom Houle, Charles Crumb and Donna Mickelson.

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: Join us for worship this month as we welcome the new year! On January 5 we will explore how we enter the new year. We will receive communion and offer "star words" for the year. Next we remember our baptism and celebrate the leadership of our church with Leadership Recognition on January 12. We celebrate with our Praise Team on January 19. Then on January 26 we will enjoy the Asbury Singers as we celebrate the work of the United Women of Faith. Please join us for these times of celebration and worship.

January 5

Scripture Passages:

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Isaiah 60:1-6

Message: "Take It All In"

January 12

Scripture Passages:

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Message: "The Beloved"

January 19

Scripture Passages:

Isaiah 62:1-5

John 2:1-11

Message: "Mama Said . . ."

January 26

Scripture Passages:

Psalm 19

Luke 4:14-21

Message: "Just As You Heard It"



2024 Christmas Poinsettias

In Memory of
My husband, sister and
other loved ones

In Celebration of
My children, grands
and great grands
Jan Akervik

In Memory of
Our Parents
Jack and Pat Anscorb

In Memory of
Clark
Patty Bennett

In Honor of
Asbury UMC staff
Shirley , Phyllis , Martin

In Celebration of
The Congregation of Asbury
Pastor Katherine Cornell

In Memory of
Loved Ones
Peter & Kathy Downs

In Memory of
Don Youngdahl,
Jean Youngdahl
Laurie Lindquist,
Amanda Marzolf
Dawn Jones

In Memory of
Our Parents
Steve & Barb Kokotovich

In Celebration of Christmas
Leila Lundberg

In Celebration of
Grandchildren and
great grandson
Steve & Donna Mickelson

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

In Memory of
Power-Dalton Family
In Celebration of
Power-Wrazidlo Family
Avon Power

In Memory of
Our Parents
In Honor of
Our servicemen and women
Sue Soder

In Honor of
The Cornell Family
Thanks to
Shirley Brandt for
the Messenger
Steve Kokotovich for
the curling lesson
Paul and Martha Vickers

In Memory of
Parents and Grandparents
In Celebration of
Daughter Lisa Greene
Gary & Sandy Winklesky



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

UPCOMING



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 3**

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
Pasties are \$6.00 each/Gravy is \$1.00 each
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

October 21, 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: **October 12**
Checks made out to Asbury UWF
or exact cash please!

2025 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 Anscomb
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 Larry Sampson
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 Pam Perich
At-Large Member Amy Kokotovich

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 Patti Barber, Beth Peterson,
..... Sue Baker, Carol Johnson

Worship Team

Facilitator Renee Randa
Members:Phyllis Kruell, Alice Brenny, Kim Herrig, Sue Soder
..... Cherie Blazevic, Pam Perich, Debbie Johnson, Drew Lundgren
Children's MusicRuby Slennes
Music Coordinator/Organist Phyllis Kruell
Praise Team LeadersKim Herrig, Phyllis Kruell
Altar Candle CareLeila Lundberg
Certified Lay SpeakersDebbie Merrick, Sue Soder
Communion Stewards · Mick & Kathy Levinski, Dawn & Dennie Parendo
Ushers Sue Soder (Head Usher), Steve Kokotovich,
..... Nancy Wagner, Avon Power, 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, David Cornell, Amy & Ale Kokotovich
Pastor Katherine Cornell

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

Visitation Team

Facilitator Karen Gokey
Members Pat Anscomb, Phyllis Wolden, Avon Power,
..... Patty Bennett, Jan Akervik, Cindy Yewell, Sandy Winklesky,
..... Sue Newberry, Kathy Levinski, Pastor Katherine

Outreach Team

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

Membership Team

Facilitators Candy Kokotovich
Team Members Sue Newberry, Sharon Parendo, Patty Bennett
..... Cherie Blazevic, Bonnie Schroeder-Palmi, Pastor Katherine
Prayer Chain Facilitator Gary & Sandy Winklesky

Board of Trustees

Co-Facilitators Nancy Wagner, Terry Olson
Class of 2025 Nancy Wagner, Jim Anderson, Mick Levinski
Class of 2026 Donna Mickelson, Steve Hill, Joe Kokotovich
Class of 2027 Terry Olson, Peter Downs, Evan Town

Landscaping Team

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

Staff/Pastor Parish Relations

Facilitator Barb Kokotovich
Class of 2025 Barb Kokotovich, Renee Randa
Class of 2026 Dawn Parendo, Carol Johnson
Class of 2027 Dennie Parendo, Ruth Thorpe
Lay Leader Steve Kokotovich
Pastor Katherine Cornell

Finance & Stewardship Team

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

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 2025 Shelly Vanneste, Dawn Parendo
Class of 2026 Debbie Merrick, Bonnie Schroeder-Palmi
Class of 2027 Joe Kokotovich, Sue Soder
Pastor Katherine Cornell



UWF 2024 Awards

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

Successful Advent Tea

Our Advent Tea was held Saturday, December 7 at 2:00 pm with 60 guests attending. We gathered in the Sanctuary for our program and enjoyed music from Dale and Margaret Rogers. Later, everyone gathered in the Fellowship Hall to view the beautifully set tables and partake of delicious desserts each hostess provided for her guests.

Our free-will offering this year went to Laundry Love. **What is Laundry Love?** More information about Laundry Love and the free-will offering will be in the February Messenger.

A huge thank you to all the hostesses, Pastor Katherine, and everyone who helped make this delightful event a success.

— The Advent Tea Team

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!

A pasty work schedule will be in upcoming announcements and the February Messenger.

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. No orders will be accepted after 12:00 pm on February 3.

Pasties are \$6.00 each/gravy \$1.00 each.

**ORDER DEADLINE Noon on February 3.
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 orders need to be picked up by NOON on February 8.

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 8.** Bev LeClair will be our hostess and 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 21.** Barb Rigstad will share devotions and Nancy Wagner 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 January 16.** We will start to collect our yearly pledges. Patty Bennett will be our hostess and share our devotions. UWF Sunday is scheduled for January 26. We will also discuss the pasty time of February 7-8. If any member was unable to get their December Christmas gift money to Patty, you may do so in church or at the January meeting.
- 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 13.**
- 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 January 20.**
- **Bone Builders Plus meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Fellowship Hall from 9:30 to 10:30 am. They will resume meeting on January 7.** 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.

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
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
Scholarship Shelly Vanneste
Membership Candy 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: January 22 for February 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.