

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/

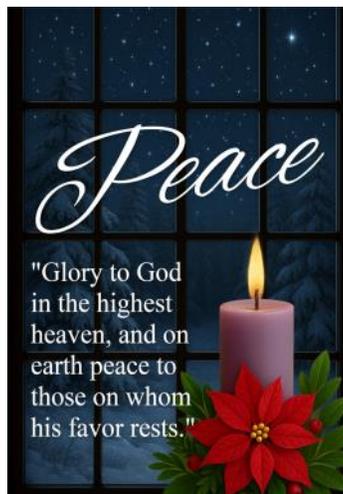
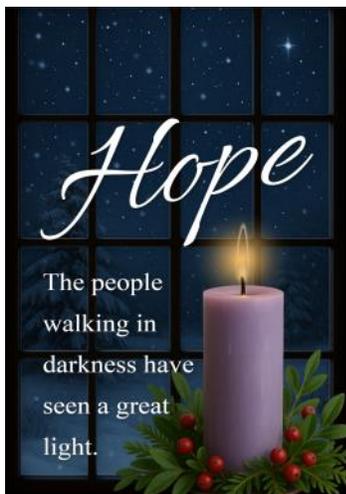
Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 10:00 am to 3:30 pm
Closed Fridays and
1st Monday of each month.



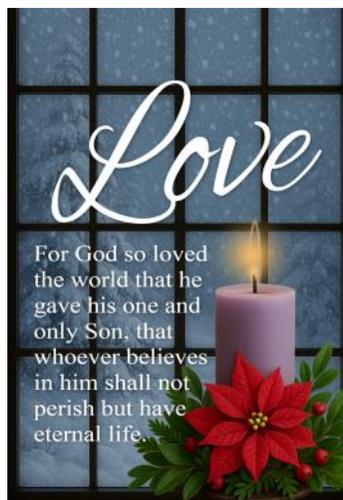
Messenger

SEASON OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS



November 30
1st Sunday of
Advent/HOPE
10:00 am Worship/
Hymn Sing

December 7
2nd Sunday
of Advent/PEACE
10:00 am Worship/
Communion



December 14
3rd Sunday of
Advent/JOY
10:00 am Worship
Christmas Program
Asbury Singers

December 21
4th Sunday of
Advent/LOVE
10:00 am Worship
Praise

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December 24
4:00 pm
Candlelight Worship
Lessons & Carols

December 28
10:00 am Worship
Stories & Songs



A Penny For Your Thoughts

Take Time To Pause and Notice

Advent is here! Christmas is coming! The church has been decorated — perhaps your own house will soon receive lights and wreaths. The nights come quickly and stay long. Snow is covering the ground. People are turning their attention to holiday festivities, checking off their shopping lists, listening to Christmas music, and sending Christmas letters and cards. December is always a full month.

And yet, as always, our faith invites us into a different rhythm, a different pattern. Our faith invites us to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, not with fanfare and filling of our time, but by holding space and time. Space in our days to notice and have compassion for people around us. Time to ponder and receive God's presence and good news for ourselves so that we may then make use of our social engagements to celebrate and invite others into that same relationship.

This intentionality in the midst of the fullness is not always easy, but that is why we light candles each week and have Advent calendars that count the days to Christmas — to help us remember to pause and notice. At Asbury, as we worship together, we light our Advent wreath candles, we celebrate with our children and we appreciate the beauty, time and talent of our quilters as they share their creations each week.

All of these activities help us notice and remember God's coming to be with us, and hopefully enrich our lives on Sunday mornings so that we can carry the light and images throughout the week, helping us with our intentional pauses.



So I invite you to make the time and space in your life this December. Time to pause and notice, time to take a deep breath. I'm not suggesting that we not celebrate with fun outings and festive gatherings. Rather I'm suggesting that we put a priority on creating the space to be filled with God's Holy Spirit in this season so that we are more likely to notice God's presence as we go about the rest of our schedules.

Jesus has come and is coming, how will we be ready to see him and welcome him in the faces of our neighbors?

Blessings and Peace
and Merry Christmas!
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.

Asbury News

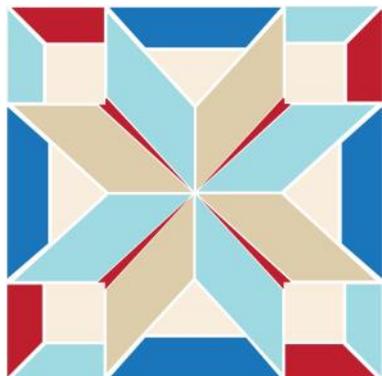
Our December Outreach Free-Will Offering collection is for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund

2026 Offering Envelopes Available Soon

Offering envelopes for 2026 will be out on the credenza by the church office soon. They will be available for pickup starting December 14.

If you have envelopes, but prefer not to have them (i.e., your offering is EFT), please let Shirley know. If you don't have envelopes but would like them, please also let Shirley know.

PLEASE NOTE: For tax purposes, all 2025 year-end giving must be in the church office no later than December 28, 2025. Thank you!



Chum Raffle Quilt Project

The Chum Raffle Quilt project is designed by local artist Jordan Sundberg and crafted by quilters from six congregations and the community at large. This quilt is a fundraising event for CHUM. Tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased from our CHUM representative, Sandy Winklesky. They will be available for sale until January 25. The drawing for the quilt will occur at the CHUM Winter Extravaganza on February 12, 2026.

Attendance . . .

Nov 2	88 In-church/40 views
Nov 9	67 In-church/53 views
Nov 16	65 In-church/34 views
Nov 23	56 In-church/38 views
Nov 30	46 In-church/33 views

Scripture Readers . . .

Dec 7	Dale Thorpe
Dec 14	Terry Olson
Dec 21	Jan Akervik
Dec 28	Candy Kokotovich

REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

Remembering the Saints — We paid loving tribute to Jean Elizabeth Devich Abramson, Ruth Viola Bloomquist, Melvin Gregory Dunkin, Florace "Flossie" Vivian Johnson, Joyce Mae Park, William (Bill) T. Schultz, Michael Philip Town and Barbara Edith Pender Walton at our All Saint's Service on November 2. We remembered also those who are held close and named in our hearts. Family and friends from years past or those who belong to other faith communities were also remembered. Attendees were welcome to come place a heart stone on the altar rail as a gesture of remembrance. After the service, everyone was welcome to take a stone with them.



Meisha Schlies received her Adventure Bible recently.



- Birthdays**
- 4 Steve Hill
 - 5 Scott Plys
 - 6 Dawn Jones
 - 7 Carol Smith
 - 9 Sandy Winklesky
 - 13 Carol Peters
 - 15 Alayna McGraw Dubla
 - 16 Ruth Thorpe
 - 17 Finnegan Miller
 - 18 Bill Guldner
 - Dale Thorpe
 - 19 Rod Ridgewell
 - Max Thibault
 - 23 Judy Skorich
 - Shelly Vanneste
 - Willie Winklesky
 - 29 Max Tollefson
 - 30 Leila Lundberg

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



Asbury News

Worship In December

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.
- 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.

December Worship Theme:

Join us for our exciting times of worship in December! We continue our exploration of the book *All the Good*, light our second Advent candle and celebrate communion on December 7. On December 14 we celebrate with our Asbury Christmas Program and December birthdays. Our Asbury Singers will sing and we will light our third Advent candle. We welcome our Praise Team on December 21 and light our fourth Advent candle. Then on December 24 we worship at 4:00 pm with our traditional Lessons and Carols for our Candlelight Christmas Eve service. Finally, on December 28 we will enjoy a relaxed Sunday with Christmas Stories and Songs. We look forward to worshipping with you!

December 7

Scripture Passages:

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Luke 1:68-79

Message: "Praying In Advent"

December 14

Scripture Passages:

James 5:7-10; Luke 1:47-55

Message: "Practices of Mercy"

December 21

Scripture Passages:

Romans 1:1-7; Luke 2:1-20

Message: "Christmas Is Only the Beginning:
God Sends the Church Into the World"

December 24

Candlelight Christmas Eve service at 4:00 pm
Lessons and Carols

December 28

Scripture Passages:

Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148

Message: Christmas Stories and Songs

Asbury "Mitten" Tree

It's time to start shopping for the Mitten Tree that is in the Narthex for the Advent season. Many elementary school students come dressed unprepared for the cold winter weather. Once again, socks for both young boys and girls are of the greatest need, so we will be focusing on socks again this year. Other winter accessories are helpful and will be happily received. Please shop for donations in children's sizes. We will gratefully be collecting donations through December. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity.



Salvation Army Toy Drive

New, unwrapped gifts for infants/toddlers/children/teenagers may be placed under the Christmas tree at the front of the sanctuary. They will be brought to the Salvation Army on December 15. **The deadline for dropping off toys is Sunday, December 14.**

As in year's past, please no toys suggesting violence such as guns or war toys.

— Outreach Committee



Thank You For Your Pledge Cards!

We have a total of \$148,012.00 pledged so far for our 2026 Operating Budget from 61 pledge units! If you have not returned your pledge card yet, there is still time. Please call the church office at 218-624-0061. We also have an EFT option for those interested. Please call the church office for more information.

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

Calendar

December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 9:30 am, Bone Builders, FH 11:30 am MS Support Group, FH	3 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 9:30 am UWF Board Mtg, WR 1:00 pm Finance Team, WR 5:30 pm, YOGA, FH 6:30 pm, Praise Team	4 9:30 am, Bone Builders, WR 10:00 to 10:45 am, 2nd Harvest Food Distribution 11:00 am, Advent Book Study	5 OFFICE CLOSED	6 2:00 pm Advent Tea, FH
7 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00 am, Asbury Singers, FH 10:00 am, Worship/ Communion 10:15 am, Program rehearsal 11:00 am, Fellowship, FH	8 2:00 pm Knitting Klub, WR	9 9:30 am Bone Builders, FH	10 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 9:30 am Trustees, FH 5:30 pm, YOGA, FH 6:30 pm, Praise Team	11 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR 11:00 am, Advent Book Study	12 OFFICE CLOSED Dumpster Pick Up	13 10:00 am Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal Pizza at noon
14 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT ASBURY SINGERS 9:30 am, Asbury Singers, FH 10:00 am, Worship/Birthday 11:00 am, POTLUCK, FH Please join us for lunch!	15 9:30 am, Green Door Book Group, WR	16 9:30 am Bone Builders, FH 1:00 pm Love/Hope Circle will meet at the Tappa Keg	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 11:00 am, Advent Book Study 11:30 am Faith Circle will meet at Blackwoods/ Proctor. RSVP by December 14	19 OFFICE CLOSED	20
21 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00 am, Praise practice 10:00 am, Worship/Praise 10:15 am, Bible Bingo 11:00 am, Fellowship, FH	22 MESSENGER DEADLINE	23 Bone Builders will return on January 6.	24 8:30 am Men's Coffee 4:00 pm Christmas Eve 	25  OFFICE CLOSED	26 OFFICE CLOSED Dumpster Pick Up	27 9:00-10:30 am Free Community Breakfast, Our Savior's Lutheran
28 9:00 am, Asbury Singers, FH 10:00 am, Worship 11:00 am, Fellowship, FH	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 5:30 pm, YOGA, FH 6:30 pm, Praise Team MESSENGER EMAILS	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. Asbury Singers practice each Sunday except Praise Sunday from 9:00 to 9:30 am in the FH. 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.		

Asbury News

Ad Council Meeting Minutes — 11-18-25

Opening

Sandy Winklesky, Ad. Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:58 pm. The council met in the Wesley Room. We read the Vision and Mission Statements and reflected on how we have fulfilled those statements this past year. Pastor Katherine led us in prayer.

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the October 21, 2025 Ad. Council were reviewed. Steve Kokotovich made a motion to accept the minutes as read. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

M – Steve Kokotovich, S – Bev LeClair

Lay Leader's Report – Steve Kokotovich

No report.

Treasurer's Report – Pat Anscomb

The monthly summary was presented. Balance on Hand, 10/31/2025, is <\$223.39>.

As of 10/31, 2025 we have paid 40% of our 2025 Conference Apportionments with a balance due of \$11,294.28.

Pat made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

M – Pat Anscomb, S – Steve Kokotovich

Staff Parish Relations Committee – Barb Kokotovich

The committee met on October 30.

They went over staff reviews for 2025 and brainstormed solutions to concerns the staff were encountering.

They developed a non-salary budget for 2026 to present to the Finance Team.

The Pastor's Compensation package was presented and passed at the Cluster/Charge Conference last Sunday.

Trustee's Report - Nancy Wagner

A question was asked about the conditions of the church toilets because they were running water long after they had been flushed. Nancy will be presenting this concern to the Trustees.

United Women of Faith – Bev LeClair

Advent Tea is December 6.

The church carpet will be cleaned this coming Thursday.

The church made meatballs on October 27 and 28. The proceeds will go to Apportionments.

Outreach and Missions Team – written report from Steve Kokotovich

Damiano continues.

The Thanksgiving food bags were made and will be distributed again this year.

Socketober in October was a success. A large collection of socks was brought to CHUM.

The Salvation Toy Drive will start for this December.

Checks have been written for the remainder of the Outreach Endowment Fund to be distributed for this year.

Steve made a motion to agree to host the Rhubarb Festival again in 2026, and possibly in 2027, but to cap it at three years. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. **M – Steve Kokotovich, S – Candy Kokotovich**
Our CHUM representative, Sandy Winklesky is selling CHUM raffle tickets.

Education Team – Sandy Winklesky for Alice Brenny

The Sunday School Christmas Program is on December 14. A potluck will follow.

The Children are studying the miracles of the Old Testament.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

10/31/25

GENERAL FUND:

Balance on Hand 9/30/25	<\$ 1,145.07>
Deposits	\$ 16,773.46
Total to Account for	\$ 15,628.39
Checks Written	<\$ 15,851.78>
Balance on Hand, 10/31/25	<\$ 223.39>
Unpaid Bills through 10/31/25 (includes apportionments)	<\$ 8,875.28>
Net Ending Balance at 10/31/25	<\$ 9,098.67>

The Church-School Partnership is in full swing.

Worship Team – Pastor Katherine

Advent begins November 30. We will have a hymn sing on this first Sunday in Advent.

Hanging of the Green is on November 23.

The Community Thanksgiving Service is at Norton Park UMC on Tuesday, November 25, at 6:00 pm.

Nurture/Congregational Care – Sandy Winklesky

Membership Committee – The committee sent out a Christmas mailing that provided information about what is happening at Asbury during the Advent season.

Visitation /Committee – there is a meeting tomorrow at 1:00 pm.

Scholarship Committee – no report

Pastor's Report – Katherine Cornell

Pastor Katherine thanked us for coming to the Cluster/Charge Conference last Sunday.

Advent begins November 30.

Hanging of the Green is on November 23.

The Thanksgiving bag project began on Saturday, November 15 from 9:00 am to noon at Asbury and will be completed on Tuesday, November 25 after the Community Thanksgiving Service at Norton Park UMC.

Pastor Katherine passed out the 2026 Ministry and Mission Plan form that is to be completed by the end of February. The plan is to have a small group of people meet and compose a first draft that can be discussed and revised at the January Ad. Council meeting.

Pastor Katherine will not be at the November 23 worship service. Amanda Zbacnik will be preaching for her.

The CHUM Winter Extravaganza will be held on February 12. Seven members of Asbury can attend to be the "Rhubarb Ambassadors."

Old Business

none

New Business

none

Closing

The next Ad. Council meeting will be on Tuesday, January 20, at 6:00 pm.

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

M – Barb Kokotovich, S -Pat Anscomb

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Bennett, Recording Secretary



Hanging of the Green Thank You

Thank you to all who helped to hang the green and prepare the Sanctuary for Advent. Special thanks to Sandy and Gary Winklesky for once again bringing all the decorations into the church on the Friday before and to Pat and Jack Anscorb for being the best “fluffers” of all the greens on Saturday before the rest of us worked to get things in place on Sunday after the church service. Everyone who stayed to beautify the church for Christmas, your help was truly appreciated! Fun and fellowship was had by all! And, remember, what goes up must come down. Please consider helping us again when we Unhang the Green!

Fall Pasty Sale Report

Thanks to everyone's hard work, we had another great pasty sale. We raised \$13,650.02 after expenses! Of the \$13,650.02, \$1,350.00 went to the Salvation Army Heatshare Program, \$500 to church utilities, \$4,068.00 to 2025 Apportionments and \$7,642.02 to the UWF Project Fund.

Thank you to everyone that helped make and/or purchased pasties. The money we raise helps in so many ways.

Advent Tea — December 6

The Advent Tea is planned for Saturday, December 6 at 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Our musical entertainment will be by Ripple Effect. Our free-will offering will go toward Laundry Love.

ADVENT TEA SIGN UP TABLE FINERY



UWF 2025 Awards

The UWF 2025 awards will be presented on UWF Sunday, January 25, 2026. The Special Mission Award will be awarded to Donna Mickelson, Gifts to Missions honorees are Cindy Yewell and Sharon Piccannato, Special Recognition honoree is Phyllis Wolden. Gifts in Memory Joyce Park, Flossie Johnson and Ruth Bloomquist.

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 December 3 at 9:30 am.** Jan Akervik will share devotions and be our hostess.
- Love/Hope Circle meets at 1:00 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of each month in the Wesley Room. New members always welcome. **Love/Hope Circle will meet on December 16 at the Tappa Keg for a lunch meeting at 1:00 pm.**
- Faith Circle meets at 1:00 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Wesley Room. New members always welcome. **Faith will meet on December 18 at 11:30 am at Blackwoods in Proctor for lunch. Please RSVP to Jan Akervik by December 14.** We will collect money for our holiday gift and have a brief meeting and devotion.
- Knitting Klub meets at 2:00 pm in the Wesley Room on the 2nd Monday of the month. New members always welcome. **The Knitting Klub will meet on December 8.**
- 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 December 15.**
- Bone Builders Plus meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Fellowship Hall from 9:30 to 10:30 am. **There will be NO meetings on December 23, 25 and 30** — resume meeting on January 6. They do not meet on holidays or if there is a special event at Asbury. The program helps to improve balance, muscle strength, bone density and increase energy. It helps to prevent falls and improve dexterity. Participants enjoy increased socialization. New members always welcome. Call Jan Akervik at 218-390-5866 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: December 22 for January 2026 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.