



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 V. Cornell

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

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 am to 2:30 pm
Closed each Friday
and the 1st Monday of the month.

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Messenger

National Night Out — August 4

Our annual National Night Out picnic is on August 4 from 5:00 to 6:30 pm. We hope you will join us for a great night of visiting, eating, games and our Special Outreach Project for CHUM!

We will deliver Door Hanger Invitations after church on August 2 and are looking for volunteers to help distribute them.

We could also use help with set up, take down and serving food. Please call Steve Kokotovich if you would like to help, 218-213-0205.

Thanks to all of the people who have already signed up to contribute food products. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Currently we still need one cold salad.

Hope to see you there!

— The Outreach Committee



Summer
WORSHIP



Summer Worship/Blessing of the Pets/Potluck

Do you consider your pet as a member of your family? Please join us on Wednesday, August 26 at 6:00 pm in celebrating and blessing pets by bringing a **picture(s)** of your pet to our Asbury Summer worship! God's care for all of creation includes our beloved animals.

We will join together and share a bit about our pets during a time of worship outside, and then go inside the Fellowship Hall for a potluck meal of delicious foods. Bring your favorite dish to share!

A sign-up sheet for the potluck is on the table in the Narthex.



Mark the date!
RALLY SUNDAY
September 11
More info to come in the September Messenger.



A Penny For Your Thoughts



Lessons from Sabbatical or “Why ‘Taking Time For Tea’ Is Important.”

On July 21, I returned to the church from my 15-week Sabbatical leave. It has been great to be back and so wonderful to see “all y’all” again!

During my Sabbatical, I had the chance to step away from the rhythms and responsibilities of Asbury UMC. I, of course, learned a few things.

First of all I was reminded that I do truly love serving as a pastor, and particularly, as Asbury’s pastor. Your heart for ministry, love for all people, and desire to fulfill Asbury’s mission to serve, grow, build, and bless this congregation, community and the world is apparent as you gather together and serve throughout the year. I am thankful to serve with you!

I also was reminded of the importance of taking time to be present where we are. I read a book called “Sabbath” by Wayne Muller that encouraged us to reclaim the practice of resting and finding joy. In our society, whether consciously or unconsciously, we place value and importance on getting things done. This tendency to value output leads to a sense that we can never rest. There is a subtle undercurrent that our worth is tied to what we produce. However, we all know that God does not love us more because of what we do, rather, God created us to be present with God.

Do you remember God’s desire to walk with Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden? God’s original design was that we are to be joyfully present to God

and one another. Now we all know that there is work that needs doing, but when we are at our best, we can remember and take time each day, each week, and each year to pause and enjoy. That is the spirit of Sabbath.

While my family and I were in China for our oldest son Michael’s graduation from college, we had several times where we paused to drink tea with those around us. The tea was served in tiny cups that were filled again and again. It was not just pouring a big cup of tea and going off by yourself. Rather the interaction was the important part, sitting and drinking tea together until the tea leaves ran clear.

Do you find these times of rest? I think that resting and participating in things that delight our spirits is stepping into God’s economy of abundance. We are enough. There is enough time. There are enough resources. In fact, God’s desire for us is to experience life abundantly (see John 10:10). And so, my hope is to continue having tea time each day as a reminder of God’s abundance. Will you join me?

Blessings and Peace,
Katherine

P.S. My desire is to have tea at two on most Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. I would be honored if you joined me.

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 Friends at Asbury,

I want to send my heartfelt thanks for your meaningful send-off and generous gift. Our time together was definitely a highlight of my year! May God continue to bless you all as you serve in the name of Christ. Your ministry is a bright light in a world that desperately needs it. Keep shining!
— Rev. MaryAnne

Dear Asbury and the VanKleek Family,

Thank you for the scholarship. It will help me so much in my education.
Thank you again for your support through the years.
— David Cornell



A Support Circle for Families and Friends of Loved Ones Living with Dementia

You are warmly invited to pull up a chair in the Fireside Room or pull up the link on Zoom.

First UMC (Coppertop) Welcomes Members & Friends of ASBURY UMC in-person and/or online.
We are a collaboration of several area churches.
Our August Circle Will Be Special!

After the Visit

Summer visits from family and friends can create a variety of situations and stresses for a family dementia caregiver whether it's preparing for a planned visit, reacting to an unexpected one or dealing with all of it afterwards. At one Table of Eight circle it went this way.

Laura began quietly. "Sometimes I wonder if my situation is different from everyone else's—or if it's just me."

Join our August circle where we'll share the rest of this story about the feelings and thoughts that we all have when we need to bite our tongues!

Thursday, August 13
10:00 – 11:00 AM In-Person in the Fireside Room

Saturday, August 15
10:00 – 11:00 AM Join the Zoom online meeting.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83915425498?pwd=sd2OpaPKBAmQ8bc55adYrjPRocnsNk.1>

Meeting ID: 839 1542 5498
Passcode: 747818

Family Friends and Relatives from other cities and states are welcome to join online. Feel free to call or text me with questions. Gary, (612) 810-1683.

Our August free-will Outreach Offering collection is for the Valley Youth Center.

Attendance . . .

July 5	66 In-church/50 views
July 12	50 In-church/56 views
July 19	50 In-church/36 views
July 26	60 In-church/40 views

Scripture Readers . . .

August 2	Judy Hill
August 9	Pam Perich
August 16	Anita Fagerstrom
August 23	Dale Thorpe
August 30	Candy Kokotovich



- 4 Jim Anderson
Cory Plys
Eric Stromgren
- 11 Sarah Herrick-Smisk
Chris Rager
- 16 Barb Kokotovich
- 17 Ian Lewandowski
Mallorie Schwartz
- 18 Dan Herrick
- 20 Kathy Behn
- 22 Leanne Stauduhar
- 25 Amy Kokotovich
Joe Kokotovich
- 27 Steve Bennett
Dennie Parendo
- 30 Al Fagerstrom
Georgia Rager
Lily Ann Vanneste
Emma Jo Vanneste

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

Asbury News

Back to School Supplies Collection

This Fall we will once again support our area schools with donations by uniting with Duluth's Companies to Classrooms, a free supply store for

teachers. **Throughout the month of August**, we are accepting monetary donations which we will then pass on to Companies to Classrooms.

During the month of August, we will have a collection basket in the church Narthex for you to make your monetary donation, or, you may mail your donation to

the church office at 6822 Grand Avenue, PO Box 7135, Duluth, MN 55807 and designate it for our Back To School Supplies Collection.

If writing a check, **please make it out to Asbury United Women of Faith.**

Thank you in advance for your support. If you have questions, please contact Patty Bennett at 218-349-5547.

80+ Luncheon — August 20

The 80+ Luncheon will be held on August 20 in Asbury's Fellowship Hall. Gathering time will start at 11:00 am. The delicious chicken salad lunch followed by strawberry shortcake (yummy!) is at 11:30 am. There will be communion in the Sanctuary after the lunch.

If you have not attended the luncheon in the past and would like to, please let us know if you are, or will be, 80 by August 20. Please call the church office at 218-624-0061. We look forward to hearing from you.



TREASURER'S REPORT: 6-30-26

GENERAL FUND:

Balance on Hand 5/31/26	\$ 17,559.69
Deposits	\$ 19,083.62
Total to Account for	\$ 36,643.31
Checks Written	<\$ 30,734.68>
Balance on Hand, 6/30/26	\$ 5,908.63
Unpaid Bills through 6/30/26 (includes apportionments)	<\$ 3,643.45>
Net Ending Balance at 6/30/26	\$ 2,265.18

Worship In August

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.

August Worship Theme:

During the month of August, we are focusing on the hallmarks of who God is and who we are as a reflection of God's identity. On August 2, we celebrate communion as we discuss how God's sight is one of abundance rather than scarcity. We then return to the story of Joseph to find hope when things look bad and be rooted in our identity on August 9. The story of Joseph continues on August 16 with forgiveness and reconciliation which is at the heart of who we are as people of God. On August 23 we turn our attention to Shiphrah and Puah in another familiar story (do you know which one?). We close the month on August 30 with a Hymn Sing, special music from the Rogers and O'Days and a message from the burning bush. Please join us as we worship together!

August 2

Scripture Passages:

Genesis 32:22-31; Matthew 14:13-21

Message: "What Do You See"

August 9

Scripture Passages:

Matthew 14:22-33; Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Message: "Fancy Threads"

August 16

Scripture Passages:

Psalms 133; Genesis 45:1-15

Message: "Settling"

August 23

Scripture Passages:

Matthew 16:13-20; Exodus 1:8-2:10

Message: "What Do We Know?"

August 30

Scripture Passages:

Romans 12:9-21; Exodus 3:1-15

Message: "Who Am I?"

Calendar

August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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. Our Asbury Singers will be back in September. Praise Team practice will begin again in September. Bone Builders will resume meeting in September. Hope/Love Circle will resume meeting in September.						1
2 10:00 am, Worship/ HOLY COMMUNION 11:00 am, Fellowship, FH	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4 8:30 am Landscape/Garden Team, FH 11:00 am, MS Support Group, FH Bone Builders will resume again in September.	5 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 9:30 am UWF Board meeting, WR Advent Tea Meeting, WR 5:30 pm, YOGA, FH	6 Bone Builders will resume again in September.	7 OFFICE CLOSED Dumpster Pick Up	8 Damiano Center Volunteers 8:30—10:30 am 11:00 am—1:00 pm
9 10:00 am, Worship/ BIRTHDAY 11:00 am, Fellowship, FH	10 2:00 pm Knitting Klub, WR	11 7:00 am — 8:00 pm ELECTION 8:30 am Landscape/Garden Team, FH Love/Hope Circle does not meet in August	12 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 1:00 pm Visitation, WR 4:00 pm Education Team, WR 5:30 pm, Yoga, FH	13 12:00 pm Faith Circle will meet at Sandy W's house at noon for a potluck luncheon. RSVPs will be sent out shortly.	14 OFFICE CLOSED	15
16 10:00 am, Worship/PRAISE 11:00 am, Fellowship, FH	17 Green Door Book Group does not meet in August.	18 8:30 am Landscape/Garden Team, FH 4:30 pm Ad Council, WR	19 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 5:30 pm, YOGA, FH	20 11:00 am 80+ Luncheon, FH MESSENGER DEADLINE	21 OFFICE CLOSED Dumpster Pick Up	22 9:00-10:30 am Free Breakfast, Our Savior's Lutheran
23/30 10:00 am, Worship 11:00 am, Fellowship, FH Hymn Sing on the 30th.	24	25 8:30 am Landscape/Garden Team, FH 4:30 pm SPRC, WR	26 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 5:30 pm, YOGA, Narthex 6:00 pm Summer Worship Virtual Blessing of Pets Potluck, FH	27 MESSENGER EMAILS/MAILS	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29

Asbury News/Kid's Corner

Christian Education Team Report

Rally Sunday is coming up on September 11, 2026. Sunday School letters and registration forms will be emailed to families soon and will also be available in the Narthex on Rally Sunday.

The Christian Education Team will meet August 12, 2026 at 4:00 pm to prepare for the upcoming Sunday School year. This year's focus will be on the Beatitudes (found in Matthew 5:1-12).

Our Christmas Program is in the planning stage. More information will be in upcoming announcements and Messengers.

— Alice Brenny, Christian Education Coordinator

Additional Counters Needed on Sundays

Our Finance Team is recruiting a few more counters who could help count the offering each week after worship. It's not a complicated job, and best practice would be to have two people attending to the task regularly.

If you would be willing to assist with this project, it would mean a commitment of 15-20 minutes after worship, working with a partner, to count and record the offering so that Shirley has the information she needs each week to make the bank deposit.

Please reach out to Larry Sampson or any member of the Finance Team if this is something you could do on a rotating schedule. Thank you for considering this as a way to support the ministries of Asbury UMC.

Church-School Partnership Team Report

The Church-School Partnership Team will meet at the end of August, beginning of September to prepare for the 2026-2027 school year.

Due to funding cuts, Laura MacArthur Elementary School does not know if there will be funding available for the Food Distribution Program (backpack program) for this school year.

I will be researching grants available from the Minnesota Conference to see if there is anything available to help with this shortfall. Many families depend on the Food Distribution Program. It would cause some hardship if it were to end.

Asbury Volunteer badges are available for anyone volunteering on behalf of Asbury UMC. Please see Alice.

— Alice Brenny, Church-School Partnership Team Coordinator

JUMPIN' JEHO SAFATS AT HOPE UMC

**301 West St. Marie St.
August 18 at 7:00 pm**

**For a guaranteed toe-tappin' time,
Hope UMC will be hosting the renowned Jumpin' Jehosafats.
Mark your calendars and bring a chair!**

Make a postcard PUZZLE

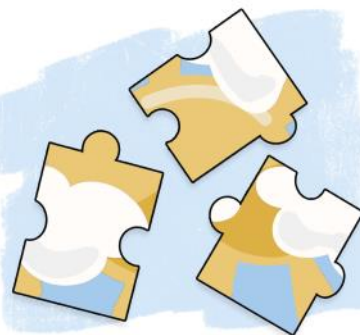
Summer is full of little moments that remind us that God is guiding each step. Like a puzzle, he brings every piece together in his time.

What you need:

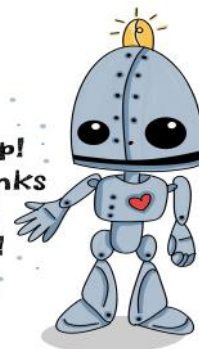
- A postcard or printed picture
- Scissors
- Pencil (optional, for guiding your cuts)
- Envelope or small bag (for storing pieces)

What you do:

1. Flip your postcard over and lightly draw puzzle shapes or cut freely.
2. Cut the postcard into a mix of big and small pieces.
3. Mix up the pieces and try to put the picture back together.
4. Store the pieces in an envelope so you can use it again later.



**Beep boop!
Jesus thinks
you're
awesome!**



United Women in Faith



United
Women
in Faith



Fall Pantry — Save the Date

Please mark your calendars for UWF's Fall Pantry from 9:00 to 11:00 am on October 10.

As you are growing your gardens this summer, please think about making a batch of jam or perhaps some pickles or other canned delicacy,



or a batch of zucchini muffins or bread. **We especially need jams and jellies and items for the bake sale such as baked breads, bars and other treats which sell quickly, and cookies for the cookie table.**

Cash donations are also most welcome!

Please make checks out to Asbury UWF and give checks or cash to our UWF treasurer, Lynn Tollefson.

We also are planning ahead asking for help with pie making, donut making or share your special talent in baking, knitting or crafting.

UWF's budget is established for the next year as a result of the Fall Pantry sales of all the delicious homemade items including baked goods, craft items and our Silent Auction baskets! The Silent Auction was a big hit last year!

Thank you all for participating in this event as it helps us do many good ministries throughout the year. We appreciate everyone's talent.

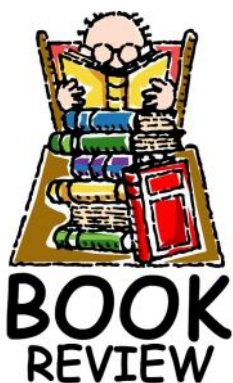
UWF Reading Library Book Review

Something, Someday

Amanda Gorman, presidential inaugural poet, has another book in the UWF Reading Library.

Something, Someday, is a children's book for all to enjoy. She gives a message of hope when sometimes problems seem too big to fix. With a little faith, and maybe a little help from a friend, we can find beauty and create change. *Something, Someday* will take you just a few minutes to read, but you will see how even the smallest gesture can create a lasting impact.

This book is in the UWF Reading Library located in the Wesley Room. If you have any questions about the Library, please feel free to ask Patty Bennett.



THINK PASTIES!

**The Fall Pasty Sale will be September 11-12.
More info to come in the September Messenger.**

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 August 5.** Phyllis Kruell will share devotions and be our hostess. Fall event planning will begin.
- Love/Hope Circle meets at 1:00 pm in the Wesley Room on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. **NEW MEMBERS WELCOME. Love/Hope Circle will not meet again until September 15.**
- Faith Circle meets at 1:00 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Wesley Room. **NEW MEMBERS WELCOME. PLEASE NOTE: Faith Circle will meet on August 13 instead of August 20 with a potluck luncheon at noon at Sandy Winklesky's home.** An RSVP will be sent out in early August. The Circle will be discussing fall events, pasties, pies, Fall Pantry items, etc.
- Knitting Klub meets at 2:00 pm in the Wesley Room on the 2nd Monday of the month. **NEW MEMBERS WELCOME. The Knitting Klub will meet on August 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 resume meeting again on September 21.**
- **Bone Builders Plus will be taking the months of June, July and August off from regular meetings on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 am to 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.** Members are encouraged to walk and do exercising on their own. The group will resume meeting in September on Tuesdays and Thursdays. More information will be emailed to members in late August regarding a start date in September. Questions, call Jan at 218-626-1539 for more info.

Asbury United Methodist
PO Box 7135
Duluth MN 55807

Return service requested

Meet Our Staff



Reverend 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 Larry Sampson
Lay Leader/Outreach: Steve Kokotovich
Trustees: Nancy Wagner, Terry Olson
UWF 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
Landscaping/Garden..... Pam Perich

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

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

CHURCH OFFICE:

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

NEXT MESSENGER DEADLINE: August 20 for September 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.