



FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 14, 2025
11:00 AM



For information about the ministries, mission, and activities of Duluth First United Methodist Church, please visit duluthumc.org.



Children of all ages are welcome in worship.

Children's activity sheets & crayons are available at the main entrance to the sanctuary to help guide them in active participation of worship.

Children newborn through Pre-K are invited to go to Childcare Corner, near the Gathering Room.



Listening devices are available during all worship services. Please see an usher or greeter for assistance.

✠ Rise in body or in spirit
The congregation speaks / sings the text in **bold type**.

GATHERING

Chiming the Trinity

✠ Welcome, Greeting One Another

Rev. Dr. AnnaKate Rawles
Associate Pastor

Attendance Registration, Announcements

Voluntary | *Through the Wilderness* – Jin S. Chang

Seoyoung Lee
Organist

✠ Call to Praise

The way of God is narrow, but it leads to life.

We will strive to walk faithfully in God's path.

We cannot earn God's kingdom, but we can live as citizens of it.

With humility and hope, we do our part and trust God for the rest.

Let us worship the One who opens the door wide for all who seek.

PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

✠ Hymn 617 | *I Come with Joy to Meet My Lord* – DOVE OF PEACE

✠ Affirmation of Faith | *The Apostles' Creed*

Hymnal pg.881

✠ Response 70 | *Glory Be to the Father* – MEINEKE

Glo - ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the
Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now and ev-er
shall be, world with-out end. A - men. A - men.

Anthem | *The Servant Song* – arr. Francis Patrick O'Brien

Cheryl Greene, Vicki McLemore, Sara Brewer
Verena Anders, Gail Waigand, Mark Wettlaufer, Vocalists



Your giving is the sole support of the ministries of Duluth First United Methodist Church. For online giving, go to duluthumc.org/online-giving, or scan the QR code.



Receiving God's Tithe and Our Offering

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Offertory | *Hear My Prayer* – Moses Hogan

Chancel Choir

O Lord please hear my prayer, in the mornin' when I rise.
 It's your servant bound for glory, O dear Lord please hear my prayer.
 O Lord please hear my prayer, keep me safe with in your arms.
 It's your servant bound for glory, O dear Lord please hear my prayer.
 When my work on earth is done, and you come to take me home,
 Just to know I'm bound for glory, and to hear you say well done.
 Done with sin and sorrow, have mercy. Amen.

✠ Doxology | *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* – LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
 Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
 Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

WORD & RESPONSE

Hymn | *Where Children Belong* – RITCHIE

This, this is where chil-dren be-long, wel-comed as part of the
 wor-ship-ping throng. Wa-ter, God's Word, bread and
 cup, prayer, and song: This is where chil-dren be-long.

✠ Scripture | Luke 13:22-30

Rev. Terry Tipples
Senior Pastor

New Revised
Standard Version,
Updated Edition

Jesus went through one town and village after another, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. ²³ Someone asked him, "Lord, will only a few be saved?" He said to them, ²⁴ "Strive to enter through the narrow door, for many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able. ²⁵ Once the owner of the house has got up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us,' then in reply he will say to you, 'I do not know where you come from.' ²⁶ Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.' ²⁷ But he will say to you, 'I do not know where you come from; go away from me, all you evildoers!' ²⁸ There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrown out. ²⁹ Then people will come from east and west, from north and south, and take their places at the banquet in the kingdom of God. ³⁰ Indeed, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon | *Strive! (to Do Your Part, Not God's)*

Hymn 413 | *A Charge to Keep I Have* – BOYLSTON

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to Christian Discipleship & Church Membership

SENDING

✠ Hymn | *The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve*— LAND OF REST

For questions regarding membership, contact
Rev. Dr. AnnaKate Rawles-
arawles@duluthumc.org
or 770.476.3776, x. 128.

Those who wish to join
the church today are
invited to come forward
as we sing the final hymn.

ALSO SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Acolyte &
Cross Bearer:
Grace Saxelby
Chase Parrish

Audio/Visual Team:
Frank Loose
Bryan Johnson
James Lee

Usher Captains:
David Burleson
Charlie Doerlich

Flower Team:
Pam Logan



1. The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we
2. We go to com - fort those who mourn and
3. We go to be the hands of Christ, to
4. Then let us go to serve in peace, the

go in Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings
set the bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to
scat - ter joy like seed and, all our days, to
gos - pel to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -

to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.
share a dream and help the blind to see.
cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.
pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

Reception of New Members (as applicable)

Hymnal, pgs. 34, 38

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

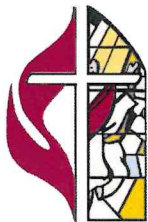
✠ Benediction

✠ Postlude



CHANCEL FLOWERS

are given today in loving memory of Archie Davis, by his sister, Jeanine Gullet.



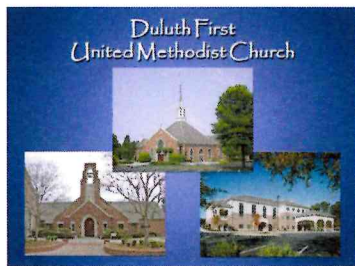
The Sunday Supplement



SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

Welcome to Duluth First United Methodist Church!

We are glad that you came to worship with us today. The mission of Duluth First United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. If you are looking for more information about Duluth First United Methodist Church and its ministries, Bible studies, and other programs and events, please be sure to visit our church's website at www.duluthumc.org.



To join Duluth First United Methodist Church, please come forward as we sing the song that follows the Invitation to Church Membership.

If you have any questions regarding membership or you are visiting and would like additional information, please contact Rev. Dr. AnnaKate Rawles, Associate Pastor, by e-mail at arawles@duluthumc.org, or call 770-476-3776, ext. 128.

Prayer Concerns



- Kathy Anderson • Reed Balkcom • Doris Brackett • Sara Brewer
- Gen Butterworth • Marie Griffin • Erica Hall • Rosemary Hall
- Shamain Hallett • Carol Hitchcock • Linton Jones
- ShirleyGrace Madajewski • Lynne Ometter • Tom Owens
- Mike Ramstead • Henry Roerig • Jeff Schulz
- Clara Truesdell • Dale VanPelt • Betty Worthington
- Tracy Balkcom & family in the death of her father.



STEPHEN MINISTRY

HELP — HOPE — HEALING

Stephen Ministers are here for you when life gets difficult.

For more information or to request the support and care of a Stephen Minister, contact Rev. Dr. C. Kay Fuino by e-mail at ckfuino@duluthumc.org or call Stephen Leader Ann Fleming at 678-644-9108.



Youth Ministry Sunday Night Gatherings

Students in the 6th through 12th grades are invited to join us on Sunday nights for **Sunday Night Gatherings** from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Youth Center ("The Fish Tank"), located on the 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center. **Sunday Night Gatherings** include great dinners, fun games, amazing worship, inspirational and relevant messages and life-changing small groups.

Our schedule for the month of September is:

- **Sunday, September 14th:** Sunday Night Gathering at 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Center ("The Fish Tank");
- **Sunday, September 21st:** Sunday Night Gathering at 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Center ("The Fish Tank");
- **Sunday, September 28th:** Sunday Night Gathering at 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Center ("The Fish Tank").

Please visit the **Youth Ministry's** website at <https://dfumcstudents.org> for more information. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Min Lee, Director of Youth Ministries, by e-mail at mlee@duluthumc.org, or call 770-476-3776, ext. 119.



Happy Sacks: Helping Children in Our Community

A growing number of school children in our community rely on free and reduced priced meals at school for their main daily meals. However, there may not be enough food to go around over the weekend. The goal of the **Happy Sacks** mission outreach program is to provide healthy snacks for school children over the weekend. We pack approximately **150 Happy Sacks each week**, which are then delivered to the schools on Friday, and given out by the school counselors to the appropriate children.



For the 2024-25 school year, we packed and delivered **4,943 Happy Sacks**. Since the program began in the Fall of 2012, we have delivered **40,044 Happy Sacks** to children in our community. The need continues to grow as does the cost of filling the bags. The **Happy Sacks** program is not a part of the church's regular budget, so we depend on your donations.



As we get ready to begin our 14th year of the **Happy Sacks** program, please consider picking up a few extra items the next time you're at the store or making a financial donation to support the **Happy Sacks** ministry. For more information, please visit the **MISSIONS** page under the **MINISTRIES** tab on the church's website - duluthumc.org, or scan the QR code located to the right with your smartphone or tablet. Thank you for your continued support of this mission!

Wednesday Night Dinner in Hinton Hall: September 17th

Our Food Ministry staff, along with the amazing Dinner Belles and Beaus, prepare excellent meals at very reasonable prices. Enjoy fellowship around the table with family and friends. **Join us on Wednesday, September 17th, for "Breakfast for Dinner" night! The menu includes assorted quiche, choice of sausage or bacon, cheese grits, tater tots, French toast sticks, biscuits, and dessert. For the kids – the same.**

Dinner service hours are 5 to 6:30 p.m., with to-go boxes available from 6 to 6:30 p.m.

The prices for Wednesday Night Dinners are:

- \$10.00 for adults (including seniors and from 11 years up);
- \$7.00 for children 10 years and younger;
- \$30.00 for family meals (nuclear family members only – husband, wife, their children under 18 years);
- \$7.00 for salad bar only, which includes the salad bar, a choice of baked potato or sweet potato, dessert and a drink.

Credit/debit card payments, as well as cash and checks, are accepted.



Wednesday Night Food Drive: September 17th

The **Wednesday Night Food Drive** at Duluth First UMC for the **Hands of Christ Duluth Co-Op** is our weekly mission project, combined with the many Wednesday evening activities offered at the church. **On September 17th we ask you to bring oatmeal.** A table for donated items will be located outside of the main entrance to Hinton Hall.

Join us for a delicious dinner and fellowship in Hinton Hall, pick up a to-go dinner for your family, join us for any of our Wednesday evening activities, and drop off food items to help other families in need. We thank you for your support.



Book Club to Discuss "Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again": Tuesday, September 22nd

Join us on Monday, September 22nd, as the Book Club discuss Rachel Held Evans' **Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again**, her book on falling in love with the Bible again. "If the Bible isn't a science book or an instruction manual, what is it? What do people mean when they say the Bible is inspired? When New York Times bestselling author Rachel Held Evans found herself asking these questions, she embarked on a journey to better understand what the Bible is and how it's meant to be read. What she discovered changed her--and it can change you, too."

The **Book Club** will meet from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in room F-145, located on the 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center. If you have questions, please contact Rev. Dr. AnnaKate Rawles by e-mail at arawles@duluthumc.org or call 770-476-3776, ext. 128.



Operation Christmas Child is Underway

Operation Christmas Child, our annual participation in **Samaritan's Purse's** mission for God's children around the world, is underway. In 2024, **Samaritan's Purse** delivered over 11.9 million shoeboxes in over 170 countries and territories, and since the beginning of the program in 1993, over 232 million shoeboxes have been delivered. By filling shoeboxes with toys, school supplies and hygiene items, you not only give to children in need the only gift they will likely receive for Christmas, but also deliver hope, joy and the gospel of Jesus Christ to them and their families.

Many children who receive these shoeboxes gifts will also be enrolled in **Operation Christmas Child's** 12-lesson discipleship program, **The Greatest Journey**, with over 5.5 million children participating last year. Children learn about God's amazing love and what it means to faithfully follow Jesus Christ.

Empty shoeboxes are available in the Veterans Memorial Gathering Room, in the hallway near Hinton Hall, and outside of room F145, located on the 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center. Each box includes ideas on how to pack a shoebox, what not to include, and an adhesive label. A \$10 processing donation for each shoebox you take and fill covers the processing and shipping of the shoebox and shipping, as well as supporting training and materials for The Greatest Journey activities. The adhesive label allows you to register your shoebox(s), make your donation, and track your shoebox on-line. Completed shoeboxes need to be returned to the Veterans Memorial Gathering Room, the Dorothy L. Rainey Fellowship Hall stage, in Hinton Hall, or outside room F145 no later than Sunday, November 16th.

If you prefer to "fill a shoebox" online, there is a special website for you to use. The cost of the **Build Online Shoebox** option is \$30 per online shoebox, and you can also include **The Greatest Journey** materials for an additional \$6. There are two online options: build the shoebox yourself by selecting items to be included in the shoebox, or select the option where the shoebox is built by Samaritan's Purse. Please scan the QR code located to the right with your smartphone or tablet to complete your shoebox online. You can also find a link to fill out a shoebox online by going to the church's website - duluthumc.org - clicking on the **MINISTRIES** tab and then clicking on the **MISSIONS** tab.



Online shoeboxes are delivered to certain locations with special customs and cultural needs. **Take-home instructions for online shoeboxes can also be found at the Operation Christmas Child tables.** This year we hope to fill 80 online shoeboxes. The deadline to complete online shoeboxes is Friday, December 19th.

Operation Christmas Child is a worthwhile and fun project for our Sunday School classes, Women's Circles, Youth Group, and families with their children to undertake. **Let's try to better Duluth First UMC's total of 160 boxes we packed last year!** For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Charlie Doerlich by e-mail at chaz3d@gmail.com or call 678-662-2115.



Share the love of Jesus, through the power of a simple gift, with children around the world.



42nd Annual Duluth Fall Festival: September 27th & 28th

Mark your calendars and save the dates for the **42nd Annual Duluth Fall Festival** being held Saturday, September 27th, and Sunday, September 28th, in downtown Duluth. Duluth First United Methodist Church and its congregation take an active roll in the **Fall Festival** each year.



The **Fall Festival** kicks off on September 27th with a parade through downtown beginning at 10 a.m. This year's Grand Marshals will be Kathryn Willis and Ann Odum — sisters, long-time members of Duluth First UMC, and long-time residents of Duluth.

On, September 28th the **Duluth 5K Donut Dash** race, a qualifier for the Peachtree Road Race, starts at 8 a.m. The race attracts both the serious competitive racer and the occasional runner/walker, and provides an opportunity for participants of all ages to help this year's race beneficiary, **Wellroot Family Services**, supporting their vision of a world where every child is raised in a loving, compassionate, and nurturing home. For additional information about

Wellroot Family Services, please visit their website at www.wellroot.org. To sign up for the **Duluth Donut Dash**, please go to www.duluthdonutdash5k.org.

Join us for **Worship on the Town Green** on September 28th with a community worship service beginning at 10 a.m. at the Duluth Town Green. Duluth First United Methodist Church's Rev. David Burchett will be leading the morning's worship service, with the church's Contemporary Worship Praise Team leading the worship music.

PLEASE NOTE:

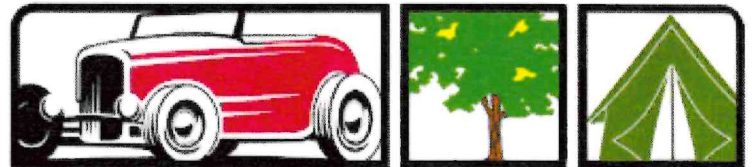
- On September 28th, our Contemporary Worship Service will take place beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Duluth Town Green for the **Duluth Fall Festival's Worship on the Town Green** with Rev. David Burchett preaching.
- The 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship services **WILL MEET** in the Sanctuary with Rev. Dr. AnnaKate Rawles preaching.
- Sunday school classes for children and youth will not be held on September 28th.

For additional information about the **Duluth Fall Festival**, please visit duluthfallfestival.org.

BSA Troop 419's 9th Annual "Cars for Campouts" Classic Car Show, Cruise In, and BBQ: **Saturday, October 4th**

BSA Troop 419 will hold their 9th Annual "Cars for Campouts" Fundraiser Car Show, Cruise In, and BBQ on Saturday, October 4th, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the church's front parking lot. If you have a special vehicle (all years, makes, models) – muscle cars, classics, resto-mods, exotics, bikes, and one-offs – if it rolls, please bring it and participate.

Preregistration by October 3rd is \$20, and registration on the day of the show is \$25. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/cars4campouts-2025>. Sixty participant-judged awards will be presented. If you just want to see some cool vehicles, feel free to attend as admission for spectators is free.



CARS FOR CAMPOUTS

Food and beverages will be available. Enjoy great food, hots dogs, BBQ (available on-site or for take home) snacks and beverages.

If you have any questions, please send an e-mail to carshow@bsatrop419.org, or call Mike Ringham at 770-815-4206. All proceeds from the event help make **BSA Troop 419's** program one of the best in the council, and with your support, will continue to do so.

"Blessing of the Animals" Service: Sunday, October 5th

Bring your pets for our "Blessing of the Animals" service on Sunday, October 5th, at 3:00 p.m. on the Fellowship Terrace, located in front of the Dorothy L. Rainey Fellowship Hall. We will gather for a short service and offer a blessing for each animal individually. All friendly leashed, crated, or contained animals are welcome! Your pet not interested in being with other animals? Bring a photo or a special toy to have blessed!

In case of rain the service will be held under the rear portico entrance of the Sheldon Family Life Center. Please contact Rev. Dr. AnnaKate Rawles by e-mail at arawles@duluthumc.org with any questions.



Crafts, Pieces of Art, and Baked Goods Needed for "Bundle Up for Buffalo" Annual Fundraiser:

November 15th & 16th

Crafters, potters, artists, and bakers of all kinds – your talents will be needed in November! It may seem a long time from now, but it really isn't and it is not too soon to be thinking about our annual missions fundraiser, **Bundle Up for Buffalo**, on Saturday, November 15th, and Sunday, November 16th. All proceeds from the **Bundle Up for Buffalo** fundraiser help our sister church, Seneca Street United Methodist Church in Buffalo, NY, keep the heat on their facility during the winter months which fall from October 2025 through April 2026. This helps provide a safe, warm, after-school location for neighborhood children to go to.

You have been so faithful in prayer for this "pocket of poverty" in the North for many years. Please consider what you can make, and something that others would enjoy purchasing. Thank you for your support.



Duluth First United Methodist Church



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Website: www.duluthumc.org

Facebook: DuluthFirstUMC • Instagram: duluthfirstumc

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Christian Beginnings Preschool & Kindergarten

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