

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025
8:30 AM



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



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



Children are welcome in
worship!

Children's activity sheets
& crayons are available at
the main entrance 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. See an usher or
greeter for assistance.

ENTRANCE

Prelude

Seoyoung Lee, *Pianist*

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Dr. AnnaKate Rawles
Associate Pastor

✠ Hymn 196 | *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* – HYFRYDOL

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

Judy Slater & Bobbie Heard

Advent reminds us that we are people who share a story, the story of Jesus, who enacts peace by judging in favor of the poor and deciding with equity for the meek of the earth. We long for the day when “the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them”

Today, we choose to live the story of peace, believing that true peace comes when we seek the flourishing of all God's creation.

We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to bring Light to the places the world seeks to hide until that day when all creation lives together in harmony and abundance.

✠ Sung Response

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

WORD & RESPONSE

✠ Scripture | Matthew 3:1-12

Amy Burk

Common
English Bible

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the desert of Judea announcing, ² “Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!” ³ He was the one of whom Isaiah the prophet spoke when he said:

*The voice of one shouting in the wilderness,
“Prepare the way for the Lord;
make his paths straight.”*

⁴ John wore clothes made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. ⁵ People from Jerusalem, throughout Judea, and all around the Jordan River came to him. ⁶ As they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. ⁷ Many Pharisees and Sadducees came to be baptized by John. He said to them, “You children of snakes! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? ⁸ Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. ⁹ And don’t even think about saying to yourselves, Abraham is our father. I tell you that God is able to raise up Abraham’s children from these stones. ¹⁰ The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn’t produce good fruit will be chopped down and tossed into the fire. ¹¹ I baptize with water those of you who have changed your hearts and lives. The one who is coming after me is stronger than I am. I’m not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹² The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can’t be put out.”

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon | *Signs from God: Signs and Stories* Rev. Dr. C. Kay Fuino, Associate Pastor

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon

Holy One, You call us to wake from sleep, to become aware to our surroundings. The dawn of a new time of preparation is upon us. Forgive us when sleepiness takes its toll, when our discussions become battles, when our judgment and self-judgement outweigh our faith. Let us put on the light of Christ and live as You have called us in respect, in mutual dialogue, and in healthy living. Help us so that everything we do reflects Christ’s light. Amen.

✠ Sharing the Peace of Christ

Ministry Moment | *AIDS Awareness Offering*

Receiving God's Tithe & Our Offering

Offertory | *Carol of the Bells* – arr. Arnold Sherman Hand Bell Choir
Johnathan Ancell, *Director*

✠ Doxology | *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* – OLD 100TH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

THANKSGIVING

✠ The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

...

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer our ourselves in praise and thanksgiving,
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

...

All honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.
Amen.

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.**



Your giving is the
sole support of the
ministries of
Duluth First UMC.
For online giving,
go to
[duluthumc.org/
online-giving](http://duluthumc.org/online-giving), or
scan the QR code
with your
mobile device.



Breaking the Bread, Receiving the Bread & Cup

Prayer after Communion

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Invitation to Christian Discipleship & Church Membership

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

Audio/Visual Team:

Charlie Greene
Johnathan Ancell
Ian Toole

Usher Captains:

David Burleson
Charlie Doerlich

SENDING

✠ Hymn 203 | *Hail to the Lord's Anointed* – ELLACOMBE

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

...

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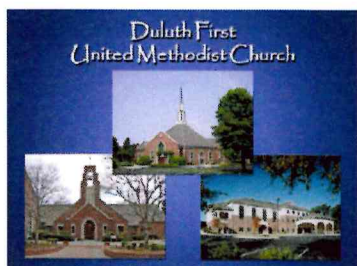
The Sunday Supplement



DECEMBER 7, 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.



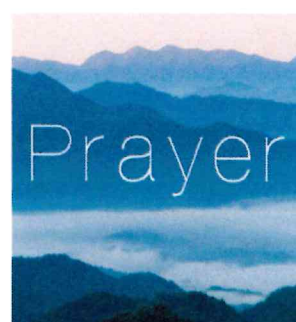
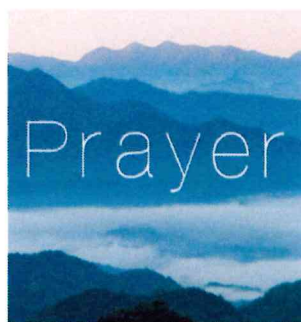
To join Duluth First United Methodist Church, please come forward as we sing the song that follows the Invitation to Church Membership.

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 • Tracy Balkcom • Bill Evans
- Don Greene • Rosemary Hall • Shamain Hallett
- Carol Hitchcock • Carol Johnson • Linton Jones
- Cheryl Otto • Susan Paschal • Charlie Pierce
- Lin Ramstead • Ann Reifert • Ethel Sales
- Abbie Stein • Clara Truesdell • Dale VanPelt

- Donna Bowman & family in the death of her granddaughter.
- Frank Loose & family in the death of his mother.



WE ARE A STEPHEN MINISTRY CONGREGATION.

Duluth First UMC Stephen Ministers provide confidential, one-to-one emotional care and support to those in our church and community who are hurting.

Contact Rev. Dr. C. Kay Fuino by e-mail at ckfuino@duluthumc.org or call Stephen Leader Ann Fleming at 678-644-9108 for more information.



This Morning's Communion Offering: AIDS Awareness Offering

Any gifts left on the altar rail or communion table will go toward this morning's communion offering, the **AIDS Awareness offering**. As United Methodists, we are committed to creating abundant health for all - a global connection striving for mental, physical and spiritual well-being. Lifesaving health ministries are enriching the lives of people around the world.

The communion offering is in addition to your regular giving to the Church.

Christmas Carol Sing-Along: Wednesday, December 10th

Join us Wednesday, December 10th, in Hinton Hall, located on the 2nd floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center, as members of our **Music & Worship Arts Ministry** lead us in a **Christmas Carol Sing-Along**. Caroling will begin at 5:45 p.m. and will feature favorite sacred and secular songs.

We hope that you join us for **Wednesday Night Dinner** beforehand.



Youth Ministry Sunday Night Gatherings in December

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 (unless otherwise noted). **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 December is:

- **Sunday, December 7th:** Sunday Night Gathering at 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Center ("The Fish Tank");
- **Sunday, December 14th:** Christmas Party at 5:30 p.m. in Hinton Hall;
- **Sunday, December 21st:** Ice Skating from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Atlanta IceForum (2300 Satellite Blvd, Duluth).
- **Sunday, December 28th:** No Sunday Night Gathering.

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.

Advent Devotional Videos

The season of Advent is underway and students in our church's **Youth Ministry** are excited to share their Advent devotional videos with you! Every Wednesday (December 3rd, 10th, and 17th) during Advent, we will post a short devotional video by one of our students on our **Youth Ministry's** YouTube channel - **dfumcstudents**. They would love for you to journey with them by watching and sharing these videos with others! Also, please click on the **SUBSCRIBE** button to get notifications whenever they post new content on their YouTube channel.

Advent Prayer Stations

Our **Youth Ministry** students have created **Advent Prayer Stations** to help you engage more deeply with God this season.

Advent Prayer Stations are located:

- In the cul-de-sac area near the offices on the 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center;
- Outside of the main entrance to Hinton Hall;
- In the Veterans Memorial Gathering Room

Each week of Advent you will find a new **Advent Prayer Station** designed to inspire and help you draw closer to God. We invite you to come experience it with us. May this Advent season overflow with hope, peace, joy, and love!

Wednesday Night Dinner in Hinton Hall: December 10th

Our **Food Ministry** staff, along with our amazing **Dinner Belles and Beaus** volunteers, prepare excellent meals at very reasonable prices. Enjoy fellowship around the table with family and friends. **The menu for Wednesday, December 10th, is fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, corn medley, biscuits, and dessert. For the kids – the same.** Dinner service hours are 5:00 to 6:30 p.m., with to-go boxes available from 6:00 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. **PLEASE NOTE: The Wednesday Night Dinner on December 10th will be the final one for the 2025 season.** Wednesday Night Dinners in Hinton Hall will resume on January 7, 2026. Have a blessed and safe Christmas and New Years holiday!

Help Make This Christmas Special for a Child:

Donate a Toy to the Hands of Christ Christmas Shop

Would you like to help make a difference in a child's life this Christmas? Duluth First UMC will be partnering with the **Hands of Christ Duluth Co-Op** this year in a toy drive to help stock the **Hands of Christ Christmas Shop**. The **Christmas Shop** will help families in need provide gifts for their children this Christmas.

If you would like to help us provide Christmas for all of these children in our community, your generosity can make sure that happens. You can bring in **unwrapped** toys and place them under the Christmas tree in the Veterans Memorial Gathering Room, or under the Christmas tree in the back of Hinton Hall. **We will be accepting toy donations through Wednesday, December 18th.**

We hope that you will prayerfully consider helping to make Christmas a joyous day for all the families that **Hands of Christ** assists every day and every year. Thank for your generosity and your faithfulness!

Wednesday Night Food Drive: December 10th

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 December 10th we ask you to bring cans of vegetables/mixed vegetables.** 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.

Ministry of Music & Worship Arts Christmas Music Program: Sunday, December 14th

On Sunday, December 14th, our **Ministry of Music & Worship Arts** is excited to present its annual Christmas music program during the 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship service in the Sanctuary.



Christian Beginnings Christmas Program: Thursday, December 18th

All are invited to attend our **Christian Beginnings Preschool & Kindergarten's Christmas Program** on Thursday, December 18th, beginning at 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Church members are invited to join our students' families to come and see each grade put on a holiday show. We look forward to seeing you there!

Christmas Eve Services: Wednesday, December 24th

Noon - Family Christmas Eve Service

- The Family Christmas Eve Service, with candlelight to close the service, will be held in Hinton Hall.
 - Music, featuring Christmas carols, will be led by the Contemporary Worship Praise Team.
- The service will be live streamed on the **Duluth First UMC Contemporary Worship** page on **Facebook**.

4:00 and 6:00 p.m. - Candlelight Services

- The Christmas Eve Candlelight Services will be held in the Sanctuary.
- Music, featuring Christmas carols, will be led by members of the Ministry of Music & Worship Arts.
 - The services will be live streamed on the **Duluth First UMC Worship** page on **YouTube**.

NOTE: Children, newborn through pre-Kindergarten, are eligible for childcare at **Childcare Corner**.



Seeds of Hope

Seeds of Hope is a fund that is not a part of our general budget that we use to assist those in our community in need of help. One of the primary sources of funding for **Seeds of Hope** is the purchase of poinsettias through the season of Advent. These poinsettias will be available for purchase through Sunday, December 14th (see the Poinsettias insert for ordering information). We sincerely hope that you will prayerfully consider purchasing some poinsettias in memory or in honor of loved ones this season.

Your generosity and faithfulness in giving above and beyond to **Seeds of Hope** makes it possible for Duluth First United Methodist Church to provide necessities such as groceries, a meal, gas, clothing, and other needs to come about. More importantly, you help provide the resources that allow Duluth First UMC to provide hope for those in our community who are homeless, who are struggling, and who are lost. **Seeds of Hope** is a way to shine the light of Christ in our community and we show love, grace, and compassion to all those who are in search of help and hope. We thank you for your generosity in helping to fund **Seeds of Hope**.

Christian Beginnings Festive Fundraiser

This holiday season, our **Christian Beginnings Preschool and Kindergarten** are kicking off a festive fundraiser to support our general budget. Our talented teachers have been hard at work, turning plain Christmas trees into festive works of art!

From December 1st - 19th, you can support our fundraiser by stepping into a winter wonderland on the Dorothy L. Rainey Fellowship Hall stage and exploring a charming display of beautifully decorated Christmas trees. Purchase \$5 tickets to vote for your favorite—each ticket counts as one vote! And if you fall in love with a particular tree, don't miss the silent auction, where the highest bidder will take home the fully decorated tree by the 19th.

Come enjoy the trees December 1st - 19th, cast your votes, or sign up for the silent auction when our display is open Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cash, card, and check are accepted for both voting and auction bids.

Which tree is the prettiest? You decide! Buy your voting tickets and vote for your favorite. If you want to take one home, participate in the silent auction. All funds raised support **Christian Beginnings Preschool and Kindergarten's** general budget. Thank you for your continued support of our school and **Children's Ministry**!



Duluth First United Methodist Church



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Website: www.duluthumc.org

Facebook: DuluthFirstUMC • Instagram: duluthfirstumc

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**Louise McDaniel Memorial
Church Library**

library@duluthumc.org

Advent Calendar
Hope, Peace, Joy and Love
in the *Names of Jesus*



December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>November 30th <i>First Sunday of Advent</i> Advent Candle: HOPE Alpha and Omega "I am the Alpha and Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." (Rev.1:8)</p>	<p>1 HOPE Son of God "The angel answered. 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the most high will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.'" (Luke 1:35)</p>	<p>2 HOPE Cornerstone "So this is what the Sovereign Lord says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed." (Isaiah 28:16)</p>	<p>3 HOPE Jesus "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21)</p>	<p>4 HOPE Light of the World "When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, "I am the Light of the World. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)</p>	<p>5 HOPE Redeemer "The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins," declares the Lord." (Isaiah 9:20)</p>	<p>6 HOPE Messiah "...I know that Messiah (called Christ) is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." (John 4:25)</p>
<p>7 Second Sunday of Advent Advent Candle: PEACE Prince of Peace "And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)</p>	<p>8 PEACE Lamb of God "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29)</p>	<p>9 PEACE Advocate My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." (1 John 2:1)</p>	<p>10 PEACE Mediator "For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ." (1 Timothy 2:5)</p>	<p>11 PEACE Good Shepherd "I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for his sheep." (John 10:11)</p>	<p>12 PEACE Glory of the Lord "And the Glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it." (Isaiah 40:5)</p>	<p>13 PEACE King of the Jews "Where is the one who has been born the king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." (Matthew 2:2)</p>
<p>14 Third Sunday of Advent Advent Candle: JOY The Word "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and mercy." (John 1:14)</p>	<p>15 JOY Branch "In that day the Branch of the Lord will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land will be the pride and glory of the survivors of Israel." (Isaiah 4:2)</p>	<p>16 JOY Author and Perfector of Our Faith "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him, endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:2)</p>	<p>17 JOY The Great High Priest "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin." (Hebrews 4:15)</p>	<p>18 JOY Prophet "I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him." (Deuteronomy 18:18)</p>	<p>19 JOY The Builder "For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything." (Hebrews 3:4)</p>	<p>20 JOY Bread of Life "I am the bread of life. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." (John 6: 48, 51)</p>
<p>21 Fourth Sunday of Advent Advent Candle: LOVE The Way, The Truth, The Life "Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life." (John 14:6)</p>	<p>22 LOVE Living Water "Jesus answered her (Samaritan woman), 'If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.'" (John 4:10)</p>	<p>23 LOVE Sacrifice "And live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.:" (Ephesians 5:2)</p>	<p>24 LOVE Immanuel "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel—which means God with us." (Matthew 1:23)</p>	<p>25 LOVE Savior "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11) <i>Merry Christmas!</i></p>	<p>May the hope, peace, joy and love of our Lord, Jesus Christ be with you this Advent season and always. From The Volunteer Staff of The Louise McDaniel Memorial Library of Duluth First UMC. (Amy, Annette, Megan, Laurie & Mary)</p>	

Order Your Christmas Poinsettias:
Through Sunday, December 14th

The Worship Committee invites you to remember or honor a loved one with a poinsettia this Christmas season. The poinsettias will be used to adorn the Sanctuary and Hinton Hall on Sunday, December 21st, and on Christmas Eve. **The cost per poinsettia plant is \$20. You may pick up your poinsettia/poinsettias following the worship services on Christmas Eve.** Printed copies of the poinsettia Remembrance/Honor listings will be available at the worship services on Sunday, December 21st, and at the three worship services on Christmas Eve.



All proceeds go to **Seeds of Hope**, whose funds are used to help meet the needs of God's people living in Duluth and Suwanee--often strangers, widows, orphans, homeless, those who are lost, and those who are without hope--who come to Duluth First United Methodist Church seeking assistance. **In 2025 the number of assistance requests has been much higher than in the past.** If you would like to contribute extra above/beyond the cost of your poinsettia(s), we thank you for your additional support of **Seeds of Hope**.

You can place your order for poinsettias online with a credit/debit card payment. Anyone wishing to pay by credit/debit card must complete their order form online. To order online, please go to the church's website - www.duluthumc.org - and then click on the **POINSETTIAS** slide on the homepage.

If you wish to pay by check or cash, please complete the order form information below.

In Memory of _____
PLEASE PRINT

In Honor of _____
PLEASE PRINT

By: _____
PLEASE PRINT

Phone #: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Order Total: \$ _____

Please display the poinsettia in the: _____ Sanctuary _____ Hinton Hall. (PLEASE CHECK ONE)

One "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" per form, one form per plant. Additional order forms will be available at the Information Centers in the Narthex (main entrance to the Sanctuary), in Hinton Hall, and in the Atrium.

Please place your completed form/forms, along with a check made payable to **Duluth First UMC** and marked **Poinsettias** in the memo section, or cash, in the Church Staff Drop Box located in the Atrium, or send to Duluth First United Methodist Church, Attn. Ken Willi, 3208 Duluth Highway 120, Duluth, GA 30096. **NOTE: All orders must be received by Sunday, December 14th, by 5 p.m.**