



# Contemporary Worship

DECEMBER 14, 2025: 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT



**Rev. David Burchett**

**“Seen With My Own Two Eyes”**

**Scripture: Luke 2:22-40 (English Standard Version Bible)**

<sup>22</sup> And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) <sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” <sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup> And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. <sup>27</sup> And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup> he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, <sup>29</sup> “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation <sup>31</sup> that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup> And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup> (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

<sup>36</sup> And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, <sup>37</sup> and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup> And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

---

---

## **SERMON NOTES**

---

---

### **Christmas Sweaters/Outfits and Cookies**

If you are planning to attend the Contemporary Worship service on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, and/or the Family Worship Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve - Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at noon in Hinton Hall, we invite you to wear your favorite Christmas sweater or outfit. We also invite you to bring a plate of your favorite Christmas cookies to share with others during a time of fellowship before the worship services. Our time of fellowship will begin at 11:30 a.m. and the worship service will begin at noon. Hot cocoa, juice, and bottles of water will be provided.

---

---

**Next Sunday’s Scripture: Romans 8:18-25**





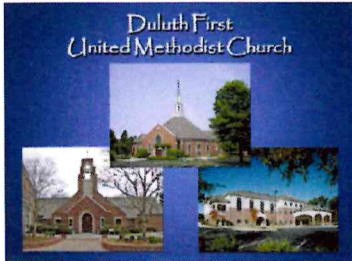
# The Sunday Supplement



DECEMBER 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](http://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](mailto:arawles@duluthumc.org), or call 770-476-3776, ext. 128.

## Prayer Concerns



- |                   |                   |                  |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| • Kathy Anderson  | • Tracy Balkcom   | • Rosemary Hall  |
| • Shamain Hallett | • Carol Hitchcock | • Carol Johnson  |
| • Linton Jones    | • Cheryl Otto     | • Charlie Pierce |
| • Lin Ramstead    | • Ann Reifert     | • Ethel Sales    |
| • Abbie Stein     | • Clara Truesdell | • Dale VanPelt   |



## **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](mailto:ckfuino@duluthumc.org) or call Stephen Leader Ann Fleming at 678-644-9108 for more information.



## Christmas Eve Services: Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

### 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 and 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*.





## **Youth Ministry Sunday Night Gatherings in December**

Students in the 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup>:** Christmas Party at 5:30 p.m. in Hinton Hall;
- **Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>:** Ice Skating from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Atlanta IceForum (2300 Satellite Blvd, Duluth).
- **Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>:** 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](mailto: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 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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!

### **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. Beginning Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 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 18<sup>th</sup>.**

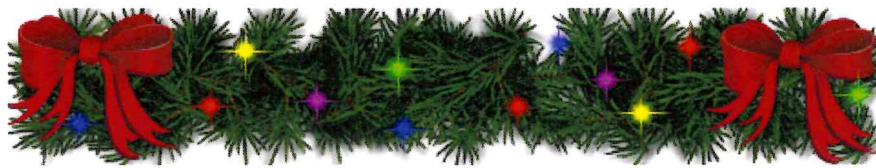
We hope that you will prayerfully consider helping to make Christmas a joyous day for all the families that **Hands of Christ** assists every day and every year. Thank for your generosity and your faithfulness!





### **Christian Beginnings Christmas Program: Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**

All are invited to attend our **Christian Beginnings Preschool & Kindergarten's Christmas Program** on Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 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!



### **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 1<sup>st</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>, 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 19<sup>th</sup>.

Come enjoy the trees December 1<sup>st</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>, 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**!



### **Seeds of Hope: Helping Those in Need**

**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 14<sup>th</sup> (see the Poinsettias article on page xx 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**.

### **Scout Troop 419 Christmas Tree Recycling Fundraiser:**

#### **Saturdays, December 27<sup>th</sup> and January 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Scout Troop 419 is holding their annual **Christmas Tree Pickup and Recycling event** on Saturday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 10 a.m. to noon. The trees are picked up at your curbside and your tax-deductible donation of \$10 minimum per tree is greatly appreciated. Please have your tree curbside by 10 a.m. Please remove all tinsel, decorations, flocking and wire that could clog up the chipper and do not wrap trees in plastic. You can pay:

- At your door. Please leave cash or a check payable to **Troop 419** inside a Ziploc-style bag and place it under your doormat;
- Pay online at <https://paypal.me/bsatroop419>;
- By mail by sending a check made payable to **Troop 419** to Duluth First UMC, Attn. BSA troop 419, 3208 Duluth Hwy. 120, Duluth, GA 30096.

You can sign up to arrange Christmas tree pick up by:

- Going to <https://www.troop419.org/node/5507>;
- Sending an e-mail to [christmastree@bsatroop419.org](mailto:christmastree@bsatroop419.org).



## **The End of the Year is Upon Us. Your Year-End Giving Makes a Difference!**

As we move into the Christmas season, we are reminded that another year is coming to a close. The Finance Office of the church is ready to assist you with your year-end giving! There's still time to make a gift of stock—you may contact Benjamin Rah via e-mail at [brah@duluthumc.org](mailto:brah@duluthumc.org) or call the church at 770-476-3776, ext. 120. All stock transactions must be completed no later than Wednesday, December 31, 2025, in order to receive tax credit.

If you're over 72 years old, year-end giving is a great opportunity to have your Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA contributed directly to the church also. It's a win-win. When you contribute your RMD that way, you save money by paying no taxes on it, and the church gets the full use of your gift because the church pays no tax on it, either.

As stipulated by IRS regulations, the church will be able to give year 2025 contribution credit (for tax purposes) for all donations received or post marked by December 31, 2025. The church office will be closed from Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, through Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.

We will also receive donations on Sundays, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup>, at all of our morning worship services (8:30 Traditional, 11:00 Contemporary, 11:00 Traditional), as well on Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, at our Christmas Eve services (noon, 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.) You may also mail your donations. In addition, we accept credit/debit card contributions online! Just go to the church's website at [duluthumc.org](http://duluthumc.org) and click on the **ONLINE GIVING** tab.

If you have a special need regarding your year-end contributions, please contact Benjamin Rah as soon as possible. Thank you so much for making a difference in this church and this community through your generous giving.



**YOUR YEAR-END**

**GIVING**

**MAKES A DIFFERENCE**



# Duluth First United Methodist Church



3208 Duluth Hwy. 120, Duluth, GA 30096

Office Phone: 770-476-3776 • Fax: 770-623-8511

Website: [www.duluthumc.org](http://www.duluthumc.org)

Facebook: DuluthFirstUMC • Instagram: duluthfirstumc

## **Church Staff Directory**

### **Johnathan Ancell**

*Director of Worship Technology*  
[jancell@duluthumc.org](mailto:jancell@duluthumc.org)

**Verena Lucía Anders,** Ext. 116  
*Minister of Music & Worship Arts*  
[vanders@duluthumc.org](mailto:vanders@duluthumc.org)

**Tracy Brinker,** Ext. 112  
*Receptionist*  
[tbrinker@duluthumc.org](mailto:tbrinker@duluthumc.org)

**David Burchett,** Ext. 124  
*Assistant Pastor*  
[dburchett@duluthumc.org](mailto:dburchett@duluthumc.org)

**C. Kay Fuino,** Ext. 117  
*Associate Pastor*  
[ckfuino@duluthumc.org](mailto:ckfuino@duluthumc.org)

**Sherry Griffeth,** Ext. 110  
*Executive Assistant*  
[sgriffeth@duluthumc.org](mailto:sgriffeth@duluthumc.org)

**Susan Johnson, Pianist**

**Jan Jones,** Ext. 113  
*Financial Assistant*  
[jjones@duluthumc.org](mailto:jjones@duluthumc.org)

**Min Lee,** Ext. 119  
*Director of Youth Ministries  
& Contemporary Worship Music Director*  
[mlee@duluthumc.org](mailto:mlee@duluthumc.org)

**Seoyoung Lee, Organist**

**Benjamin Rah,** Ext. 120  
*Church Administrator*  
[brah@duluthumc.org](mailto:brah@duluthumc.org)

**AnnaKate Rawles,** Ext. 128  
*Associate Pastor*  
[arawles@duluthumc.org](mailto:arawles@duluthumc.org)

**Marilyn Scheiwe,** Ext. 111  
*Event Coordinator*  
[mscheiwe@duluthumc.org](mailto:mscheiwe@duluthumc.org)

**Lee Stribling,** Ext. 136  
*Director of Maintenance/Security*  
[lstribling@duluthumc.org](mailto:lstribling@duluthumc.org)

**Pat Szathmary,** Ext. 131  
*Christian Beginnings Assistant Director*  
[pszathmary@duluthumc.org](mailto:pszathmary@duluthumc.org)

**Terry Tippens,** Ext. 114  
*Senior Pastor*  
[ttippens@duluthumc.org](mailto:ttippens@duluthumc.org)

**Linda Wettlaufer,** Ext. 213  
*Childcare Director*  
[lwettlaufer@duluthumc.org](mailto:lwettlaufer@duluthumc.org)

**Ken Willi,** Ext. 127  
*Director of Communications*  
[kwilli@duluthumc.org](mailto:kwilli@duluthumc.org)

**Leslie Yokeley,** Ext. 138  
*Director of Children's Ministries  
& Christian Beginnings*  
[lyokeley@duluthumc.org](mailto:lyokeley@duluthumc.org)

**Louise McDaniel Memorial  
Church Library**  
[library@duluthumc.org](http://library@duluthumc.org)

**Christian Beginnings Preschool & Kindergarten**  
Office Phone: 770-497-1743



**Today Is the Final Day to**  
**Order Your Christmas Poinsettias: Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**

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 21<sup>st</sup>, 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 21<sup>st</sup>, 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](http://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.  
**PLEASE NOTE: All orders must be received by today - Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> - by 5 p.m.**