

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 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

Keenan Klayman
Liturgist

✠ Hymn 211 | *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* v. 3 & 4 – VENI EMMANUEL

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

Sharon Robertson & Jacque DuToit

In the midst of our waiting and longing for God to make the world right again, we cling to the truth that God has saved, God is saving, and God will save. So today, we join our voices with the prophet Isaiah, who calls us to live in the joy of the truth of God's salvation.

We choose to believe that the day is coming when “the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away”.

We light this candle of joy as a sign of the Truth that sets us free to live in joy as we wait and work for the day when all creation will flourish together.

✠ Sung Response

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

WORD & RESPONSE

✠ Scripture | Matthew 11:2-11

Beth Mozley

Common
English Bible

² Now when John heard in prison about the things the Christ was doing, he sent word by his disciples to Jesus, asking, ³ “Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?” ⁴ Jesus responded, “Go, report to John what you hear and see. ⁵ *Those who were blind are able to see. Those who were crippled are walking. People with skin diseases are cleansed. Those who were deaf now hear. Those who were dead are raised up. The poor have good news proclaimed to them.* ⁶ Happy are those who don’t stumble and fall because of me.” ⁷ When John’s disciples had gone, Jesus spoke to the crowds about John: “What did you go out to the wilderness to see? A stalk blowing in the wind? ⁸ What did you go out to see? A man dressed up in refined clothes? Look, those who wear refined clothes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ He is the one of whom it is written: *Look, I’m sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you.* ¹¹ “I assure you that no one who has ever been born is greater than John the Baptist. Yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon | *Signs from God: Signs and Truth*

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 | *The Hands of Christ Duluth Co-op Christmas Shop* Scott Rawles
Director of Hands of Christ Duluth Co-op

Receiving God’s Tithe & Our Offering



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



✠ 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.**

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.**

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:

Daniel Lee
Johnathan Ancell
Ian Toole

Usher Captains:

David Burleson
Charlie Doerlich

Invitation to Christian Discipleship & Church Membership

SENDING

✠ Hymn 238 | *Angels We Have Heard on High* – GLORIA

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

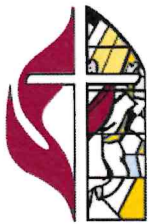
✠ Postlude

• • •

Chancel Flowers

are given today in honor of the dedicated Christian Beginnings
Preschool & Kindergarten staff, by the SOS Sunday School class.

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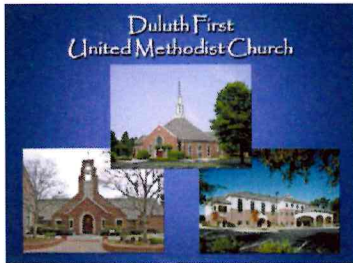
The Sunday Supplement



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.



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 • 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 or call Stephen Leader Ann Fleming at 678-644-9108 for more information.



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 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 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 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 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!

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.

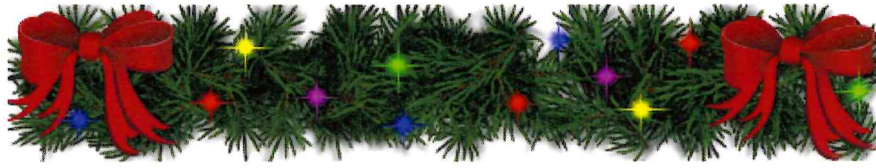
If you would like to help us provide Christmas for all of these children in our community, your generosity can make sure that happens. Beginning Sunday, November 30th, you can bring in **unwrapped toys** and place them under the Christmas tree in the Veterans Memorial Gathering Room, or under the Christmas 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!



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!



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**!



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 14th (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 27th and January 3rd

Scout Troop 419 is holding their annual **Christmas Tree Pickup and Recycling event** on Saturday, December 27th, and Saturday, January 3rd, 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.

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 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 24th, through Wednesday, December 31st.

We will also receive donations on Sundays, December 14th, 21st, and 28th, at all of our morning worship services (8:30 Traditional, 11:00 Contemporary, 11:00 Traditional), as well on Wednesday, December 24th, 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 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

Facebook: DuluthFirstUMC • Instagram: duluthfirstumc

Church Staff Directory

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& Christian Beginnings*
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**Louise McDaniel Memorial
Church Library**
library@duluthumc.org

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

Today Is the Final Day to
Order Your Christmas Poinsettias: 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.
PLEASE NOTE: All orders must be received by today - Sunday, December 14th - by 5 p.m.