



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT WITH CHRISTMAS LESSONS & CAROLS

December 14,
2025
11:00 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 UMC,
please visit duluthumc.org.



Children of all ages are
welcome in 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.

Chiming the Trinity

✠ Welcome, Greeting One Another

Verena Lucía Anders
Director of Music & Worship Arts

Attendance Registration, Announcements

Rev. Dr. AnnaKate Rawles
Associate Pastor

Voluntary | *Widor Toccata No.5 with Adeste Fideles* – arr. Paul Fey

Seoyoung Lee, *Organist*

✠ Hymn 234 | *O Come, All Ye Faithful* v. 1-3 & 6 – ADESTE FIDELES

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

John & ShirleyGrace Madejewski

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.

Lessons & Carols

Lesson | Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Rev. Dr. C.Kay Fuino, *Associate Pastor*

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders,
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Great will be his authority,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
for Jesus Christ our Savior was born upon this day,
to save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray:
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy!

From God our heav'nly Father a blessed angel came,
and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same,
how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name,
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy!

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,
and left their flocks a-feeding in temper, storm and wind
and went to Bethlehem straightway this blessed babe to find:
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy!

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
and with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace,

this holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface:
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy!

✠ Lesson | Luke 2:8-16

Jim Adkins

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger.

Carol 217 UMH | Away in a Manger – MUELLER

Children's Chime Choir
Sara Burns, *Pianist*

Ministry Moment | *The Hands of Christ Duluth Co-op Christmas Shop*

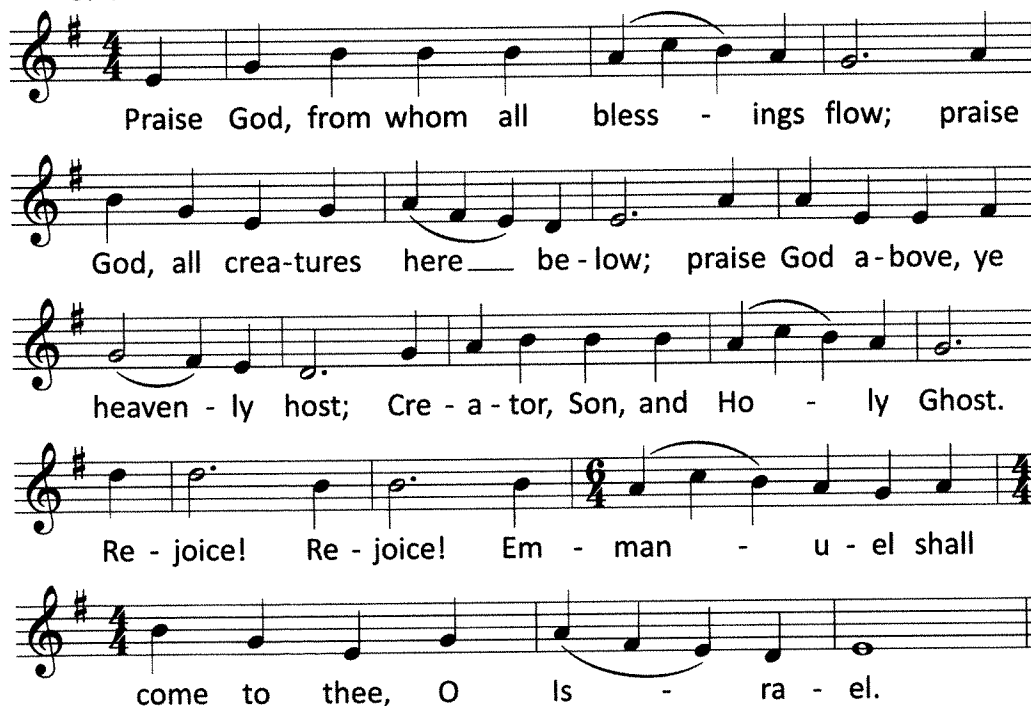
Scott Rawles, *Director of Hands of Christ Duluth Co-op*

Receiving God's Tithe and Our Offering, Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Dr C. Kay Fuino, *Associate Pastor*

Carol 238 UMH | *Angels We Have Heard on High* - GLORIA

✠ Doxology | *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* – VENI, EMMANUEL



Your giving is the sole support of the ministries of DFUMC. For online giving, go to duluthumc.org/online-giving, or scan the QR code.



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

ALSO SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Acolyte & Cross Bearer:
Grace Saxelby
Caroline Atkinson

Audio/Visual Team:
James Lee
Frank Loose
Lee Castleberry

Flower Team:
Melanie Sheldon
Priscilla Crowgey

Brass Quintet:
Luis DeLira – Trumpet
Will Morgan - Trumpet
Luis Gonzalez - Trombone
Natali Huff - Horn
Grayson Payne – Tuba

Genesis Youth Choir:
Sarah Johnson
Emily Anne Klayman
Eva Mayfield

Children's Chime Choir:
Ethan Eldridge
Jasmine Gordon
Caleb Klayman
John Klayman
Grace Saxelby
Genevieve Taylor
Gus Wolfe

Pianist:
Susan Johnson

Usher Captains:
David Burleson
Charlie Doerlich

✠ Lesson | John 1:1-14

Terrie Adkins

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. ⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Anthem | *What Sweeter Music* – John Rutter

Chancel Choir

What sweeter music can we sing than a carol, for to sing the birth of this our heav'nly King? Awake the voice! Awake thee string!
Dark and dull night, fly hence away, and give the honor to this day that sees December to turn'd to May. Why does the chilling winter's morn smile, like a field beset with corn? Or smell like a meadow newly shorn thus on the sudden? Come and see the cause, why things thus fragrant be: 'Tis he is born, whose quick'ning birth gives life and lustre, public mirth, to heaven and the under-earth. We see him come and know him ours, who, with his sunshine and his show'rs, turns the patient ground to flow'rs. The darling of the world is come, and fit it is, we find a room to welcome him. The nobler part of all the house here, is the heart, which we will give him; and bequeath this holly, and this ivy wreath, to do him honor, who's our King, and Lord of this reveling.

Prayers of the People, The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dr. AnnaKate Rawles

Invitation to Christian Discipleship & Church Membership

✠ Hymn 240 | *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* – MENDELSSOHN

Reception of New Members (as applicable)

Hymnal, pgs. 34, 38

✠ Benediction

Rev. Terry Tippens, *Senior Pastor*

✠ Postlude

Chancel Flowers

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



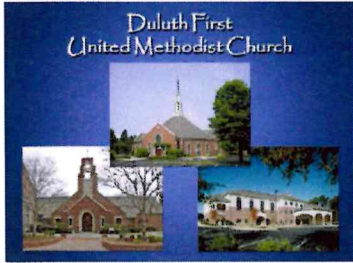
The Sunday Supplement



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.

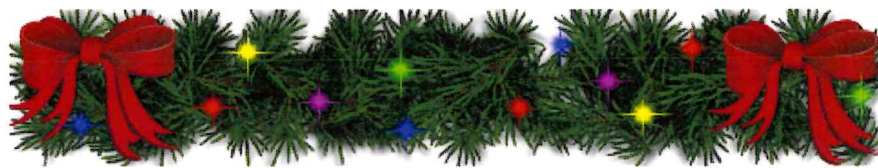
If you would like to help us provide Christmas for all of these children in our community, your generosity can make sure that happens. Beginning Sunday, November 30th, you can bring in **unwrapped toys** and place them under the Christmas tree in the Veterans Memorial Gathering Room, or under the Christmas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



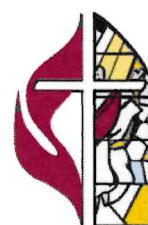
YOUR YEAR-END

GIVING

MAKES A DIFFERENCE



Duluth First United Methodist Church



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Website: www.duluthumc.org

Facebook: DuluthFirstUMC • Instagram: duluthfirstumc

Church Staff Directory

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**Louise McDaniel Memorial
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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.