



CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2025

4:00 & 6:00 PM

✠ Rise in body or in spirit

The congregation sings / speaks the text in **bold type**.



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

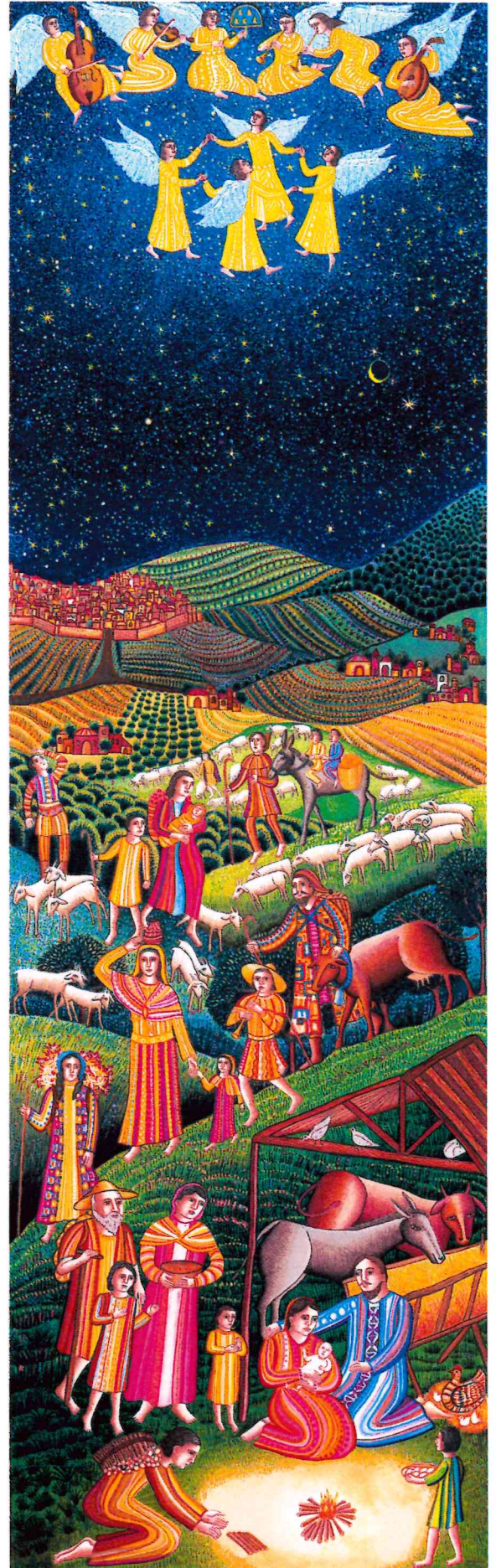


Children of all ages are welcome in worship!
Children's activity sheets & crayons are available at the main entrance to the sanctuary to help guide them in active participation of worship.

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



Listening devices are available.
Please see an usher or greeter for assistance.



Nativity. © 2018 John August Swanson | Eyecons

GATHERING

Chiming the Trinity

✠ Welcome & Greeting One Another

Rev. Terry Tippens
Senior Pastor

Announcements

Voluntary | *Canon in D* – Johann Pachelbel

Emily Anne Klayman, *Violinist*, Joseph Lee, *Clarinetist*, Seoyoung Lee, *Organist*

PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

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

✠ Lighting the Christ Candle

The Fuino Family/The Rawles Family

Today, we gather to remember with the prophet Isaiah:

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. 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.

We gather to once again bask in the glory that visited a stable and a manger, shepherds watching their flocks, and a young couple cradling the newborn Messiah.

We light the Christ candle as a sign of the glory that came among us in unexpected places and to unexpected people, that we may be people who seek and follow the glory of the Christ child here and now.



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



Anthem | *Lully, Lulla, Lullay* – Philip Stopford

Chamber Chorale

Receiving God's Tithe and Our Offering

Rev. Dr. AnnaKate Rawles
Associate Pastor

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Offertory | *My Lord Has Come* – Will Todd

Chancel Choir

✠ Doxology | *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* – THE FIRST NOEL

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

WORD & RESPONSE

✠ Scripture | Luke 2:1-20

Rev. Dr. C. Kay Fuino, Associate Pastor

Common English
Bible

² In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. ² This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. ³ Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. ⁴ Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. ⁵ He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. ⁷ She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

⁸ Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. ⁹ The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified.

¹⁰ The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. ¹¹ Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. ¹² This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger." ¹³ Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."

¹⁵ When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us." ¹⁶ They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. ¹⁸ Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. ²⁰ The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon | *Signs from God: Signs and Glory*

Prayers of the People

Rev. Dr. AnnaKate Rawles
Associate Pastor

The Lord's prayer

During the candle lighting,
please keep the lighted
candle upright, and tip the
unlit candle to receive
the light.

After we sing, please
extinguish your candle
and hold it upright
until the wax has cooled.
Return the candle to the
baskets placed at each exit
as you depart.

ALSO SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Acolyte & Cross Bearer 4pm:
Jacob Downey
Sydney Downey

Acolyte & Cross Bearer 6pm:
Genevieve Taylor
Charlie Greene

Pianist:
Susan Johnson

Audio/Visual Team:
Daniel Lee
James Lee
Joel McLemore
Johnathan Ancell

Usher Captains:
David Burleson
Charlie Doerlich

**Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!**

**Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

**Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!**

SENDING

✠ Benediction

Rev. Terry Tippens, *Senior Pastor*

✠ Hymn 246 | *Joy to the World* - ANTIOCHE

✠ Postlude

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The Christmas Eve Supplement

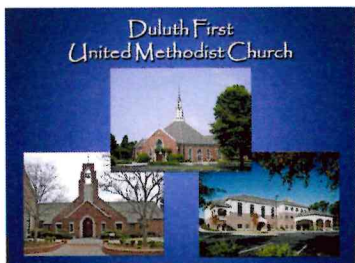


DECEMBER 24, 2025



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.

Church Offices Holiday Closings

The church offices will be closed from Monday, December 28th, through Friday, January 2nd. They will re-open on Monday, January 5th. Have a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Youth Ministry Sunday Night Gatherings for December and January

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

Our schedule for the month of December is:

- **Sunday, December 28th:** No Sunday Night Gathering (Christmas/New Year's break).

Our schedule for the month of January is:

- **Sundays, January 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th:** Sunday Night Gathering at 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Center ("The Fish Tank");

Please visit the **Youth Ministry's** website at <https://dfumcstudents.org> for more information.



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 postmarked by December 31, 2025. The church offices will be closed from Wednesday, December 24th, through Friday, January 2nd.



We will receive donations today at our Christmas Eve services (noon, 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.), as well as on Sunday, December 28th, at all of our morning worship services (8:30 Traditional, 11:00 Contemporary, 11:00 Traditional). 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.

United Women in Faith One-Day Retreat - "How the Stars Get in Your Bones":

Saturday, January 10th

What is it that allowed Mary to say, "Let it be?" Do you remember a time when you received a blessing that helped you be present to a change that arrived? The **United Women in Faith** invite you to join them on Saturday, January 10th, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to take time for one day, after Christmas and during Epiphany, to find a place where other women see you, welcome you and help you to be there for what comes next.

This casual retreat is an opportunity to relax after all the Christmas activities. Lunch, drinks, and snacks will be provided. We will meet from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Dorothy L. Rainey Fellowship Hall. Please sign-up during December at the **United Women in Faith** information tables located around the church to help us prepare for handouts and lunch. Please bring a pint size clear glass jar/Ball jar to use for one of the art projects.

The retreat will include readings and art from Jan Richardson's book **How the Stars Get in Your Bones**. You may bring a donation of \$7 to be sent to Jan Richardson for "Sanctuary of Women" to be shared with the A21 Campaign, an organization devoted to ending human trafficking and providing sanctuary and healing for those rescued from slavery.

Look at the stars of your world, your life, your family and see how they get into your bones. Look around to see another who might need a blessing from you. We will come together with art, readings, comfort, and a challenge to find something of sabbath rest to find the stars of your life. Perhaps there will be something that stretches you to a new place or invites you to think in a direction of an uncharted sky for your spirit. We will delight in blessings and prayers, share in a meal and in conversations of laughter, concern, sighs, and joys.

Blessings and joy for advent as you prepare the way for the Christ child to shine in your heart, to see the stars and count your blessings. Celebrate all you have done with a retreat together on January 10th to find your blessing. For additional information contact Terrie Adkins by e-mail at ttadkins@sprynet.com.

GriefShare Support Group Begins a New Series of Meetings on January 7th

GriefShare Support Group, led by the church's Stephen Ministers, will walk alongside you through the loss of a loved one. Our next session of weekly classes will start on Wednesday, January 7th. Meeting each week from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in room F153, located on the 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center, you will gain access to valuable **GriefShare** resources to help you through your grief.

For more information, please visit the **GriefShare** website at griefshare.org, or contact Tracy Brinker by e-mail at tbrinker@duluthumc.org, or call 770-476-3776.





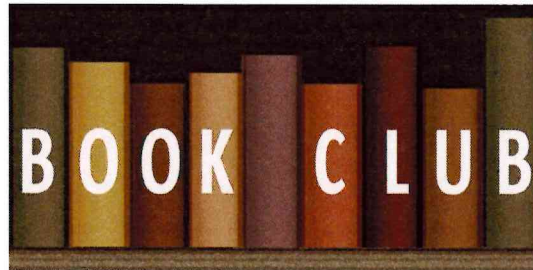
Wednesday Night Activities Resume on January 7th

Join us on Wednesday, January 7th, as the following evening activities resume at Duluth First UMC:

- **Wednesday Night Dinner:** 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. in Hinton Hall, 2nd floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center;
- **Book Bunch for kids (ages 3 – 4):** 6:15 to 6:30 p.m. in The Louise McDaniel Memorial Library, 2nd floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center;
- **DuluthKids (ages Kindergarten through 5th grade):** 5:45 to 7 p.m. in the Dorothy L. Rainey Fellowship Hall;
- **Youth Bible Study (grades 6 – 12):** 6 to 7 p.m. in room F149, 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center;
- **Parent Connection Group:** 6 to 7 p.m., room F207, 2nd floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center;
- **“The History and Archaeology of the Bible” Class for Adults:** 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in room F145, 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center;
- **Yarn Art Ministry:** 6 to 7 p.m. in room F205, 2nd floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center;
- **Happy Sacks:** 6 to 6:15 p.m. in room F152, 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center;
- **Handbell Ensemble Rehearsal:** 6 to 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary;
- **Wednesday Night Food Drive:** 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. outside of the main entrance to Hinton Hall, 2nd floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center;
- **Chancel Choir Rehearsal:** 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Don Lee Music Suite.

Library Book Club to Discuss “Ashes” by Sharon Gloger Friedman: Monday, January 12th

The **Library Book Club** will meet on Monday, January 12th, at 10:00 a.m. in room F145, located on the 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center, to discuss the book **Ashes** by Sharon Gloger Friedman. Sharon will be here in person to discuss her book **Ashes**, the story of a Jewish family flees persecution in Russia to New York, where their daughter works at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory and becomes involved in the workers’ rights movement.



Christian Beginnings Preschool and Kindergarten - Vote Us Best of Gwinnett

Christian Beginnings Preschool and Kindergarten has been nominated for the “Best of Gwinnett” award again and we’d love to have your vote! Please take a moment to scan the QR code located to the right and vote for **Christian Beginnings** as “Best Education & Childcare.”

We have been honored to receive this award in years past and we would love your continued support of our school. Thank you for your vote!



Youth Spring Retreat - “Spiritual Life Retreat”: March 13th - 15th

Please mark your calendars for our Youth Spring Retreat - **Spiritual Life Retreat** - being held Friday, March 13th through Sunday, March 15th and hosted by the North Georgia UMC Conference at the Glisson Camp and Retreat Center in Dahlonega, GA. **Spiritual Life Retreat** digs deep into how God provides support and direction in our spiritual journey through powerful worship, meaningful small groups, and plenty of fun activities that build community.



Please be on the lookout for more information and registration. Students, we can’t wait to spend the weekend with you at our spring retreat! If you have questions, please contact Rev. Min Lee, Director of Youth Ministries, by e-mail at mlee@duluthumc.org.

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 sign up to arrange Christmas tree pick up by:

- Scanning the QR code located to the right with your smart phone or tablet;
- Sending an e-mail to christmastree@bsatroop419.org.



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. BSATroop 419, 3208 Duluth Hwy. 120, Duluth, GA 30096.

Thank you for your support!



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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Louise McDaniel Memorial Church Library
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Christian Beginnings Preschool & Kindergarten
Office Phone: 770-497-1743

POINSETTIAS ARE GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Doug & Ann Baker, and Vernie & Sarah Davidson, by David & Susan Baker.

Dot & Edgar Batson, by Brian & Jan Batson.

Susan Batson, by Brian & Jan Batson.

Bruce Bell, by Chris, Beth, Rachel, & Rebekah Patterson.

Scott Belleperche, by Lacy & Bill Evans.

Scott Belleperch, by Eleanor McCormack.

Don & Mildred Bennett, by Don & Cindy Bennett.

Bentley, our 10-year old yellow lab who passed away with cancer on August 27, 2025, by the Doerlich Family.

Ed & Bev Bessler, by the Bessler Girls.

Ed & Bev Bessler, and Fred & Marcie Hodoval, by Scott & Suzi Hodoval.

Jack Bluster, by his family.

Cleo Bowden, by Pam & Guy Logan.

Bill, Tim & Cheryl Brackett, and Ruth & Bob Looney, by Doris & Hayden Brackett.

Patricia L. Hansen Braynard, by Dale Braynard.

Ben Bridges, by Doug & Brenda Bridges.

Mae Knox Burge, by Daniel Clayton Knox, Jr. and family.

James & Lucy Camp, by Pete & Ann Fleming.

Gene Cooksey, by Amy Gill.

Archie Davis, by Jeanine Gullett.

Charles & Marion Doerlich, by the Doerlich Family.

Howard R. Dorris, by Pete & Ann Fleming.

Dirk Dutoit, by Sharon Robertson, and Natalie & Jacques Dutoit.

Clinton, Ada & Buddy Dyer, by Merri Loy.

Mr. & Mrs. Henry Edwards, by Daniel Clayton Knox, Jr. and family.

Bill Flynt, by Tina Flynt.

Gary French, by the French Family.

Peter Gill, by Amy Gill.

Steve Goolsby, by the French & Goolsby families.

Parents Bill & Jackie Green, by the Doerlich Family.

Jim Gullett, by Jeanine Gullett.

Mike Gullett, by Jeanine Gullett.

Bebe Heard, by Tim & Bobbie Heard, David & Sabrina & Brianna Heard, and Cole & Julia & Lylagrace Heard.

Shelby Hickam, by Harold & Wynn Hickam.

Darrell & Sally Hipes, by Don & Cindy Bennett.

Cheryl Hoffman, by Lorraine Day.

Eric & Marian Holmes, by Andy, Rhonda, Drew, & Will Holmes.

Robert Issell, by Pam & Guy Logan.

Mary Evelyn & Tuck Jackson, and Eleanor Summerour, by Ann Tiberghien.

Chatt Johnson, by Ashley, McCay, and Riley.

Robert Jones, Sr., by Pete & Ann Fleming.

Daniel Clayton Knox, Sr., by Daniel Clayton Knox, Jr. and family.

Katherine Edwards Knox, by Daniel Clayton Knox, Jr. and family.

Mr. Henry T. Knox, by Daniel Clayton Knox, Jr. and family.

Don Lee, by Sara Lee.

Robert Leftwich, by Kevin Leftwich.

Mary Looney, by Bryan, Debbie, Katherine, and Sarah Johnson.

Loved ones lost, by Chris, Beth, Rachel, & Rebekah Patterson.

Bill, Cora Lee & Steve Loy, by Merri Loy.

Chase Martin, by Nancy Martin.

Robert Martin, by Nancy Martin.

Wayne McCormack, by Lorraine Day.

Wayne McCormack, by Eleanor McCormack.

James E. McLean, Sr., by Andy, Rhonda, Drew, & Will Holmes.

Goff McMahon, by Keenan, Sarah, Emily Anne, Caleb, and John Marvin Klayman.

My parents, Titus & Kay Muzi, by Dianne Ogden.

Our parents, Margaret Newsome, and Pete & Wanda Peterson, by Bob & Cynthia Peterson.

My granddaughter, Nicole, by Donna Bowman.

Greg Norton, by Elaine Norton.

My parents and brother, by Lynne Ometer.



POINSETTIAS ARE GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF

John & Lucille Pennington, Tim & Bobbie Heard, David & Sabrina & Brianna Heard,
and Cole & Julia & Lylagrace Heard.
Our daughter, Elizabeth Ann, by Bob & Cynthia Peterson.
Emily Grace Powell, Grace Noelle Church, Harrison Adams Dent, & Morgan Elyse Clement,
by Chris, Beth, Rachel, & Rebekah Patterson.
Bernard Robertson, by Sharon Robertson, and Natalie & Jacques Dutoit.
Joyce & Richard Rotach, by Beth Intondi.
Jack Sanders, by Polly Sanders.
Charene Smith, by Gary Smith.
Wade & Mary Nell Sprouse, by Nancy Howard, Zack & Tawny, Lee McCanless, and Tom Sprouse.
Gail Taylor, by Tim & Bobbie Heard, David & Sabrina & Brianna Heard, and Cole & Julia & Lylagrace Heard.
Evelyn Triana, by Toni Livingston.
My Dad, Kenneth S. Willi, by Ken Willi.
Scott Wills, by the Wills Family.
Harry & Jeannine Wootan, by Brian & Jan Batson.
Juanita Yearwood, by Pam & Guy Logan.
Helen Zelinka, by the Wills Family.



POINSETTIAS ARE GIVEN IN HONOR OF

The Abundant Life Sunday School Class, by Jim Woods.
TJ, Alison, & Arthur Ackerman, by Doug & Brenda Bridges.
Acolytes and Cross Bearers... past, present, and future, by Charlie Doerlich.
Kelly, Ben, Sam, & Will Adkins, by Arwyn Raina.
Verena Lucía Anders - "Welcome", by Jim & Terrie Adkins.
Verena Lucía Anders, by Robert & Pam Gates.
Palmer Baker, Winston Baker, & Edie Baker, by David & Susan Baker.
Gloria Bell, Tom & Linda Patterson, and Herb & Ramona Ricks, by Chris, Beth, Rachel, & Rebekah Patterson.
Jack & Pat Brannon, by Lorraine Day.
My children and grandchildren, by Merri Loy.
Donna Clark, by Polly Sanders.
Lorraine Day, by Eleanor McCormack.
The Duluth First UMC staff, by Pete & Ann Fleming.
The Duluth First UMC staff, by Jim Woods.
Vicki Frost, by Ann Tiberghien.
Bryan Johnson, by Robert & Pam Gates.
Carol Johnson, for her faith and courage fighting her cancers, by Ashley, McCay, and Riley.
Doug & Todd Judy, and Michael Griffeth, by Sherry & Bob Griffeth.
Nancy Livingston, by Toni Livingston.
Carol & Don Page, by Polly Sanders.
Charlie & Annette Pierce, by Lorraine Day.
Charlie & Annette Pierce, by Polly Sanders.
Asha, Azariah, & Anora Raina, by Arwyn Raina.
Rev. Dr. AnnaKate Rawles - "Welcome", by Jim & Terrie Adkins.
Rev. Dr. AnnaKate Rawles, by Robert & Pam Gates.
Anne Therese Saxelby, by Bill & Megan Saxelby.
The S.O.S. Sunday School Class, by Carol Stalcup.
Sally Southerland, by Carol & Don Page.
The Stephen Ministers, by Pete & Ann Fleming.
Bettie Stoneking, by Polly Sanders.
Grant, Kate, Jackson, Tommy, and Doug Tiberghien, by Ann Tiberghien.
Kathryn Willis, by Kay & Mike Montgomery.
Betty Worthington, by Sara Lee.



Seeds of Hope 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.