

# Family Candlelight Worship Service

DECEMBER 24, 2025: CHRISTMAS EVE



**Rev. David Burchett, Assistant Pastor;**

**Rev. Min Lee, Director of Youth Ministries & Contemporary Worship Music Director;**

**Leslie Yokeley, Director of Children's Ministries & Christian Beginnings;**

**Emily Smith, Children's Ministry Social Media Coordinator**

**"Among Us"**

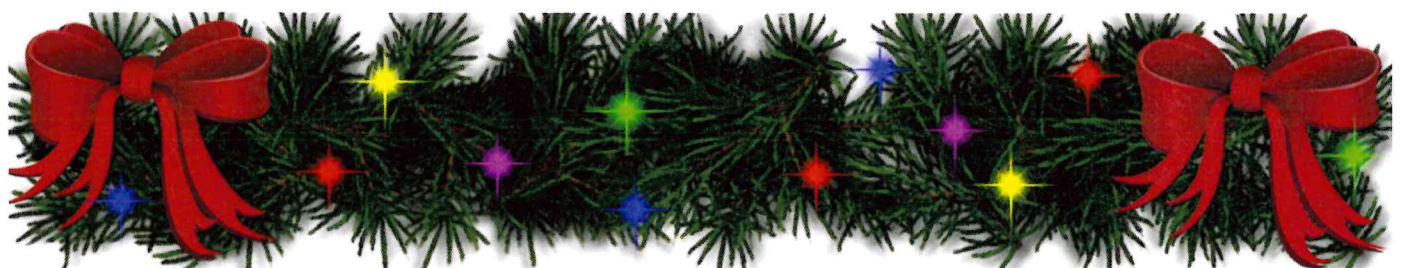
**Scripture: John 1:14 (New Revised Standard Version Bible, Updated Edition)**

<sup>14</sup> And 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.

The Word of God for the people of God.  
Thanks be to God.

---

## SERMON NOTES





# The Christmas Eve Supplement

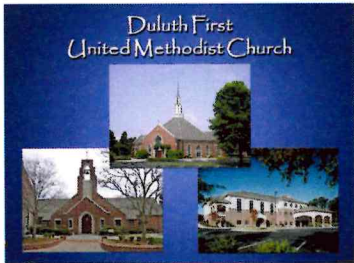


DECEMBER 24, 2025



## **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](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.

## **Church Offices Holiday Closings**

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

## **Youth Ministry Sunday Night Gatherings for December and January**

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. **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 28<sup>th</sup>:** No Sunday Night Gathering (Christmas/New Year's break).

Our schedule for the month of January is:

- **Sundays, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>:** 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](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 postmarked by December 31, 2025. The church offices will be closed from Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, through Friday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>.



We will receive donations today at our Christmas Eve services (noon, 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.), as well as on Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, 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](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.

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

**Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup>**

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 10<sup>th</sup>, 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 10<sup>th</sup> to find your blessing. For additional information contact Terrie Adkins by e-mail at [ttadkins@sprynet.com](mailto:ttadkins@sprynet.com).

## **GriefShare Support Group Begins a New Series of Meetings on January 7<sup>th</sup>**

**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 7<sup>th</sup>. Meeting each week from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in room F153, located on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://griefshare.org), or contact Tracy Brinker by e-mail at [tbrinker@duluthumc.org](mailto:tbrinker@duluthumc.org), or call 770-476-3776.







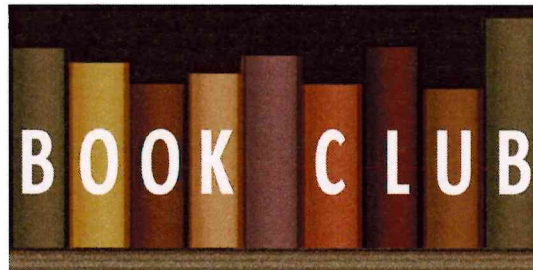
### **Wednesday Night Activities Resume on January 7<sup>th</sup>**

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

- **Wednesday Night Dinner:** 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. in Hinton Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center;
- **DuluthKids (ages Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> 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, 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center;
- **Parent Connection Group:** 6 to 7 p.m., room F207, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center;
- **Yarn Art Ministry:** 6 to 7 p.m. in room F205, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center;
- **Happy Sacks:** 6 to 6:15 p.m. in room F152, 1<sup>st</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup>**

The **Library Book Club** will meet on Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. in room F145, located on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>**

Please mark your calendars for our Youth Spring Retreat - **Spiritual Life Retreat** - being held Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:mlee@duluthumc.org).



## 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 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](mailto: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](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](mailto:library@duluthumc.org)

**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.