

First Sunday after Christmas

December 28, 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
UMC, 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

Susan Johnson, *Pianist*

Welcome & Announcements

Keenan Klayman, *Liturgist*

✠ Hymn 245 | *The First Noel* verses 1 & 2 – THE FIRST NOEL

✠ Call to Worship

Beloved, we have waited, watched, and witnessed the coming of the Christ child. As we gather today on the other side of Christmas, we might be tempted to ask, "What now?"

We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.

In this season of Christmas, we remember that though Christ has come among us, the good news of freedom for captives, flourishing for the poor, and power returned to the disempowered does not reign in so many places.

We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.

With Mary and Joseph, we listen for God to show us how to protect and advocate for the vulnerable among us.

We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.

As we gather to worship today, may God bind us together in love, empowering us to live as followers of the Christ child who declare good news wherever we go.

We gather today as people who wait, watch, and work for the day that all the earth awaits. Thanks be to God! Amen.

WORD & RESPONSE

✠ Scripture | Luke 2:15-21

Harold Hickam

New Revised
Standard
Version,
Updated
Edition

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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them. ²¹When the eighth day came, it was time to circumcise the child, and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

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

Sermon | *Ponder These Things*

Rev. Dr. AnnaKate Rawles
Associate Pastor

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon

Hymnal pg.12

✠ Sharing the Peace of Christ

Ministry Moment | *Year End Giving*

Receiving God's Tithe & Our Offering

Offertory | *Mary Did You Know* – arr. Lloyd Larson

Tim Near, *Trombonist*, Mark Wettlaufer, *Clarinetist*, Susan Johnson, *Pianist*

✠ 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.



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.



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.

Invitation to Christian Discipleship & Church Membership

SENDING

✠ Hymn 251 | *Go Tell It on the Mountain* – GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

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.

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.

ALSO SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

✠ Benediction

✠ Postlude

Audio/Visual Team:

Charlie Greene
Johnathan Ancell
Ian Toole

• • •

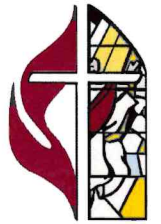
Usher Captains:

David Burleson
Charlie Doerlich

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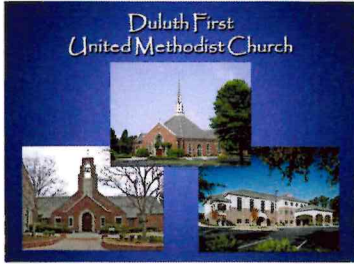
The Sunday Supplement



DECEMBER 28, 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 • Lorraine Day
- Rosemary Hall • Shamain Hallett • Carol Hitchcock
- Carol Johnson • Linton Jones • Cheryl Otto
- Charlie Pierce • Lin Ramstead • Ann Reifert
- Ethel Sales • Clara Truesdell • Dale VanPelt



Want someone to talk to? Stephen Ministers are there for you.

For more information or to request the support and care of a Stephen Minister, contact Rev. Dr. C. Kay Fuino by e-mail at ckfuino@duluthumc.org or call Stephen Leader Ann Fleming at 678-644-9108.



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. The Duluth First UMC staff wish you a safe and blessed New Year!



The End of the Year is Upon Us. Make an Impact with Your Year-End Giving!

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 through Friday, January 2nd.

We will also receive donations today - 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.

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. 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.



GriefShare Support Group to Begin a New Series of Classes 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.



Christian Beginnings Preschool and Kindergarten - Vote Us "Best of Gwinnett"

Christian Beginnings Preschool and Kindergarten has been nominated for "Best of Gwinnett" 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!





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.

United Women in Faith’s 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 all women 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.



United
Women
in Faith

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.

Scout Troop 419 Christmas Tree Recycling Fundraiser:

Saturday, January 3rd

Scout Troop 419 is holding their annual **Christmas Tree Pickup and Recycling event** on 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@bsatroup419.org.

You can pay:

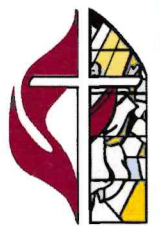
- At your door. Please leave cash or a check payable to **Troop 419** inside a Ziploc-style bag and place it under your doormat;
- Pay online at <https://paypal.me/bsatroup419>;
- By mail by sending a check made payable to **Troop 419** to Duluth First UMC, Attn. BSA Troop 419, 3208 Duluth Hwy. 120, Duluth, GA 30096.



Thank you for your support!



Duluth First United Methodist Church



3208 Duluth Hwy. 120, Duluth, GA 30096

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Website: www.duluthumc.org

Facebook: DuluthFirstUMC • Instagram: duluthfirstumc

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