



Contemporary Worship



JULY 5, 2026

Rev. David Burchett
“Treasure Within”

Scripture: Acts 5:17-42 (English Standard Version Bible)

¹⁷ But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy ¹⁸ they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. ¹⁹ But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, ²⁰ “Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life.” ²¹ And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach.

Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together the council, all the senate of the people of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. ²² But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported, ²³ “We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one inside.” ²⁴ Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them, wondering what this would come to. ²⁵ And someone came and told them, “Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people.” ²⁶ Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.

²⁷ And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.” ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰ The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

³³ When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. ³⁴ But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. ³⁵ And he said to them, “Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. ³⁶ For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. ³⁷ After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. ³⁸ So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; ³⁹ but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!” So they took his advice, ⁴⁰ and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹ Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. ⁴² And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

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

SERMON NOTES

Next Sunday’s Scripture: Acts 6:1-15



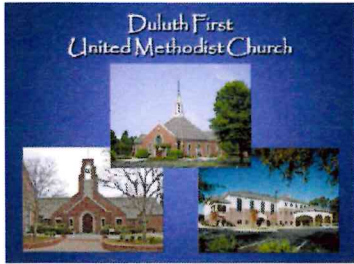
The Sunday Supplement



JULY 5, 2026

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

- Ann Fleming • Jae Hallett
- Shamain Hallett • Cheryl Jackson
- Linton Jones • Luke Livingston
- Pam Logan • Barbara Martin
- Tom Martin • Bette Pickin
- Jeff Schulz • Pam Tuggle • ShiQuita Ward



STEPHEN MINISTRY

HELP — HOPE — HEALING

Stephen Ministers are here for you when life gets difficult.

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.



This Morning's Communion Offering: Murphy-Harpst Children's Center

Any gifts left on the altar rail or communion table this morning will go toward the communion offering for the **Murphy-Harpst Children's Center**. Over the last 100+ years, the **Murphy-Harpst** has provided hope and healing to hundreds of Georgia's children.



Murphy-Harpst

LIFE AND HOPE FOR CHILDREN

A related-agency of the North Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church, **Murphy-Harpst** serves Georgia's most-vulnerable children, youth, and young people who have experienced abuse and neglect. **Murphy-Harpst** provides residential treatment, specialized foster care placements, and community programs that support at-risk children and their families. The stable environment of the Cedartown campus is a vital part of the recovery so that children can thrive and heal. For additional information about **Murphy-Harpst**, please visit their website at murphyharpst.org.

The communion offering is in addition to your regular giving to the Church.

Youth Ministry Sunday Night Gatherings

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.

The **Sunday Night Gathering** schedule for July is:

- **Sunday, July 5th:** Hang out at the Duluth Town Green. Meet at LR Burger for dinner at 5:30 p.m. Please bring \$20 for dinner and dessert. Pick up time will be at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Green.
- **Sunday, July 12th:** **Sunday Night Gathering** at 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Center ("The Fish Tank");
- **Sunday, July 19th:** **2026 FIFA World Cup Final Watch Party** at 3:00 p.m. in the Youth Center ("The Fish Tank");
- **Sunday, July 26th:** **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.



Pack a Backpack with School Supplies for a Child at Seneca Street UMC

Over the last six years it has been a joy for our congregation to be part of the **Summer Reading Camp** at Seneca Street UMC in Buffalo, NY, by packing backpacks here in Duluth with school supplies for the children in Buffalo. After being shipped to Buffalo, backpacks are distributed to children at the end of the two-week camp for use in the upcoming school year. A portion of the backpacks will be processed as we have done in the past, while for the rest of the backpacks we will buy and collect school supplies and have a packing party for filling them with collected school supplies.

If you would like to pack a backpack:

- **Grades 1 – 8:** Select one or more school supply cards to be used to buy supplies with. School supply cards will be available for pickup in the Veterans Memorial Gathering Room. Please return all school supplies **by today, Sunday, July 5th**. The packing party will be held **on Saturday, July 11th**, beginning at 10 a.m. in Hinton Hall, where you can come and fill backpacks with collected school supplies.
- **Kindergarten and grades 9 – 12:** Select an empty backpack which will include a school supplies list and note on the return process. Backpacks will be available for pickup in the Veterans Memorial Gathering Room. Shop for school supplies to fill it with and return completed backpacks **no later than Sunday, July 12th**.

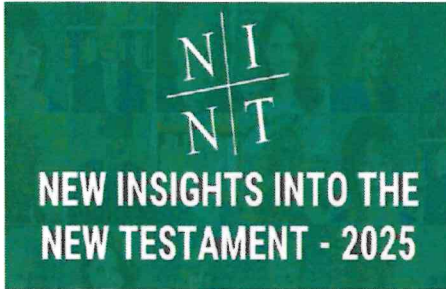


This approach was very successful last year as it allowed a greater number of our members to participate in the ministry. Backpacks and school supplies can be left in the collection areas located on the Dorothy L. Rainey Fellowship Hall stage, and outside of room F145, located on the 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center.

If you have any questions, please contact Charlie Doerlich by e-mail at chaz3d@gmail.com or 678-662-2215. Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry.

A New Small Group Class, *The Quest for the Historical Jesus*, Begins July 7th and 8th

A new small group class, utilizing Bart Ehrman's **New Insights into the New Testament Seminar for 2025**, will be offered at the church on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday evenings beginning July 7th and 8th. This class, led by Pete Fleming, features videos of ten New Testament scholars' lectures on various aspects of the **Historical Jesus Quest**.



Classes will meet twice weekly for ten weeks:

- Tuesdays from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.;
- Wednesdays from 5:45 to 7:15 p.m.

Participants may attend either class.

Video presenters include Amy-Jill Levine, Dale Allison, Elaine Pagels, Paula Fredriksen and others. Each class will view one 40-minute lecture, followed by a time of discussion. Participants are encouraged to read E.P. Sanders's book, **The Historical Figure of Jesus**, which presents the basic outlines of the Historical Jesus scholarship. The book can be purchased for under \$10.

Please contact Pete Fleming by e-mail at lfleming3832@att.net or Rev. Dr. AnnaKate Rawles by e-mail at arawles@duluthumc.org to register and also letting them know

which day you will attend. Once the size of each class has been determined, participants will be notified of the classroom location.

Food Drive for Hands of Christ Duluth Co-Op: Sunday, July 12th

Thank you for your outstanding **Food Drive** support during the Wednesday Night Dinners, as your weekly donations enabled **Hands of Christ Duluth Duluth-Op** to serve an increasing demand for food. However, during the Spring and Summer months, a slowdown in donations is experienced. **Hands of Christ's food inventory is at very low levels.** It's not a crisis but is something we need to be attentive of, as more individuals are being served than ever before.



Over 60% of the food distributed by **Hands of Christ** comes from donations. Their current need is based upon the increase in the number of clients served each week. On a typical week, over 125 clients are served, resulting in a weekly distribution of over 4000 pounds of canned and dry products.

Duluth First UMC will be holding a Food Drive for Hands of Christ Duluth Co-Op on Sunday, July 12th, during service hours for the donation of the following items: canned peas, canned fruit, canned tomatoes (diced, whole, stewed), spaghetti/pasta, and jelly (plastic squeeze bottles are preferred). There will be multiple locations around the Sanctuary and in the Sheldon Family Life Center to receive your food donations.

Thank you for your continued support of **Hands of Christ Duluth Co-Op**. If you have any questions, contact Charlie Doerlich by e-mail at chaz3d@gmail.com or call 678-662-2115.

Popsicles on the Playground: Monday, July 13th

The summer is too long to go without seeing our friends! Preschool-aged children, their siblings, and their grown-ups are invited to come play at the church **on Monday, July 13th from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.** We will have popsicles for the kids and iced coffee for the grownups!

Join us on the playground if the weather is nice, and if it is raining or way too hot, we will be in the Dorothy L. Rainey Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Dr. AnnaKate Rawles, Associate Pastor, by e-mail at arawles@duluthumc.org.

Be on the look out for other meet up opportunities this summer by following us on:

- Our church's website – www.duluthumc.org;
- Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/DuluthFirstUMC>;
- Instagram – <https://www.instagram.com/duluthfirstumc>.



Senior Adult Coffee Hour: Wednesdays, July 15th, and August 12th

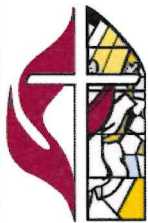
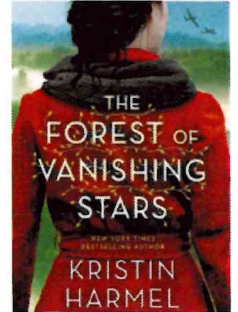
Senior adults are invited to join us once a month this summer for a time of coffee, conversations, and fellowship. Bring a game, something you want to discuss, or just show up to enjoy time together!

We will meet on Wednesdays, July 15th, and August 12th, at 9:30 a.m. in the cul-da-sac area outside of the offices on the 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. AnnaKate Rawles, Associate Pastor, by e-mail at arawles@duluthumc.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

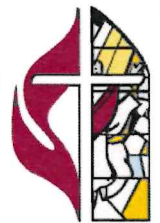
Library Book Club to Discuss "The Forest of Vanishing Stars": Monday, July 20th

The **Library Book Club** will meet on Monday, July 20th, at 10:00 a.m. in room F145, located on the 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center, to discuss **The Forest of Vanishing Stars** by Kristin Harmel.

The **Forest of Vanishing Stars** is a World War II historical fiction novel about a young woman, Yona, who was kidnapped as a child and raised in the forests of Eastern Europe, learning to survive off the land. After her kidnapper dies, she encounters Jewish refugees fleeing the Nazis and uses her wilderness skills to help them survive, while they teach her about love and community, all while she grapples with her past and identity. The story is inspired by true accounts of Jewish partisans and survival groups during the war.



Duluth First United Methodist Church



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