



Contemporary Worship



JULY 12, 2026

Rev. David Burchett

“God’s Math”

Scripture: Acts 6:1-15 (English Standard Version Bible)

¹ Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ² And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³ Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” ⁵ And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶ These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷ And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸ And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹ Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. ¹⁰ But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking. ¹¹ Then they secretly instigated men who said, “We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.” ¹² And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, ¹³ and they set up false witnesses who said, “This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law, ¹⁴ for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses delivered to us.” ¹⁵ And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

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

SERMON NOTES

Next Sunday’s Scripture: Acts 7:1-60 (selected verses)



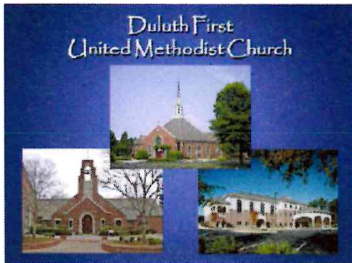
The Sunday Supplement



JULY 12, 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



- Pat Brannon • Ann Fleming • Jae Hallett
- Shamain Hallett • Marion Harley • Linton Jones
- Luke Livingston • Pam Logan • Barbara Martin
- Tom Martin • Bette Pickin • Jan Rawls
- Jeff Schulz • Pam Tuggle



• Pat Burden & family in the death of her brother.

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.



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>.



Share Your 250th Anniversary of Independence Day Celebration at Duluth First UMC Photos

If you joined us on Sunday, June 28th, for our **250th Anniversary of Independence Day Celebration**, a time filled with delicious food, wonderful fellowship, and excellent music, and took photos of the event, we would like it if you could share a few of your favorite photos with the church. Please e-mail your favorite photos (5 max) from the event to Ken Willi, Director of Communications, by e-mail at kwilli@duluthumc.org. Thank you!



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 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.

“Women Studying Together” to Begin “Names of God” Study on Thursday, July 16th

Our Thursday morning **Women Studying Together** study group will begin a “**Names of God**” study on Thursday, July 16th. Names in the ancient world carried for more significance than they do in the modern world. It was often thought that the

name described the essential nature and character of a person. God revealed himself to people in various ways, often with a different facet of his character as part of the name. Why so many? Why not just the word ‘God’?

How does my relationship change with the people who know my name, what about my nickname? Will knowing more about God’s names and titles help my relationship with Him? That is the purpose of the study—not just to know, but to grow toward our awesome God who has revealed his name to us.

The “**Names of God**” study begins Thursday, July 16th, with an anticipated completion date of August 20th. **Women Studying Together** meets from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. in room F145, located on the 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center.

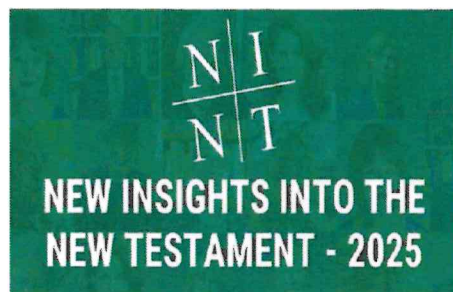
There is no book to buy, just bring your Bible and join us.

There will be assigned Scripture readings for each class, and a discussion of the name/title revealed in that section. Discussion will be led by Jenny Masterson. As we study, we ask questions, search for answers, share our stories, laugh and pray together. We welcome all women. If you have any questions, please contact Jenny by e-mail at jennybobm@comcast.net.



A New Small Group Class, *The Quest for the Historical Jesus: Tuesdays and Wednesday*

A new small group class, utilizing Bart Ehrman's **New Insights into the New Testament Seminar for 2025**, is being offered at the church. Classes, held on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday evenings, began July 7th and 8th. The classes, led by Pete Fleming, feature videos of ten New Testament scholars' lectures on various aspects of the **Historical Jesus Quest**.



2025 Theme.
— THE HISTORICAL JESUS —

Classes are meeting 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@duluthmc.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.

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

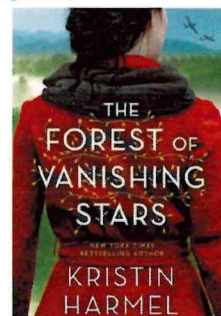
Senior adults are invited to join us once a month this summer for a time of coffee, conversations, and fellowship. Bring a game, something you want to discuss, or just show up to enjoy time together!

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@duluthmc.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.

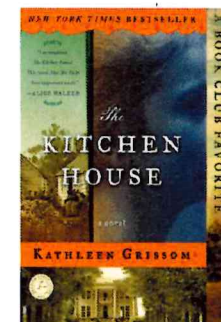
The **Forest of Vanishing Stars** is a World War II historical fiction novel about a young woman, Yona, who was kidnapped as a child and raised in the forests of Eastern Europe, learning to survive off the land. After her kidnapper dies, she encounters Jewish refugees fleeing the Nazis and uses her wilderness 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.



Library Book Club to Discuss "*The Kitchen House*": Monday, August 17th

The **Library Book Club** will meet on Monday, August 17th, at 10:00 a.m. in room F145, located on the 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center, to discuss **The Kitchen House** by Kathleen Grissom.

The Kitchen House is a historical fiction novel set on a Virginia plantation before the Civil War, following orphaned Irish girl Lavinia who becomes an indentured servant and is raised by the plantation's enslaved people, particularly Belle, the master's illegitimate daughter. The story explores themes of race, class, family, and loyalty as Lavinia straddles the worlds of the kitchen and the big house, leading to tragic events that expose the harsh realities of slavery and the bonds between the characters.



Crafts, Pieces of Art, and Baked Goods Needed for "Bundle Up for Buffalo" Annual Fundraiser:

November 14th & 15th

Crafters, potters, artists, and bakers of all kinds – your talents will be needed in November! It may seem a long time from now, but it really isn't and it is not too soon to be thinking about our annual missions fundraiser, **Bundle Up for Buffalo**, on Saturday, November 14th, and Sunday, November 15th. All proceeds from the **Bundle Up for Buffalo** fundraiser help our sister church, Seneca Street United Methodist Church in Buffalo, NY, keep the heat on their facility during the winter months which fall from October 2026 through April 2027. This helps provide a safe, warm, after-school location for neighborhood children to go to.

You have been so faithful in prayer for this "pocket of poverty" in the North for many years. Please consider what you can make, and something that others would enjoy purchasing. Thank you for your support.



Duluth First United Methodist Church



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