

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026
8:30 A.M.

✠ 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. Please
see an usher or greeter
for assistance.



ENTRANCE

Prelude

Seoyoung Lee, *Organist*

Welcome & Announcements

Amy Burk, *Liturgist*

✠ Call to Worship

God of life, you created humanity in your own image—equal in beauty,
dignity, and worth.

We come as we are, uniquely made and deeply loved.

You call us out of our rigid social order and invite us into a community
completely rearranged by love.

Where the world builds walls, Christ draws the circle wider still.

No matter our background, race, gender, status, or identity—there are
no outsiders at the table of God.

**Together, we are the Body of Christ. Together, we worship the God of
all grace. Amen.**

✠ Hymn 674 | *See the Morning Sun Ascending* – UNSER HERRSCHER
(verses 1 & 2)

WORD & RESPONSE

Common English
Bible

✠ Scripture | Matthew 18:21-35

Elaine Norton

²¹ Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Should I forgive as many as seven times?”

²² Jesus said, “Not just seven times, but rather as many as seventy-seven times. ²³ Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle accounts, they brought to him a servant who owed him ten thousand bags of gold. ²⁵ Because the servant didn’t have enough to pay it back, the master ordered that he should be sold, along with his wife and children and everything he had, and that the proceeds should be used as payment. ²⁶ But the servant fell down, kneeled before him, and said, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I’ll pay you back.’ ²⁷ The master had compassion on that servant, released him, and forgave the loan.

²⁸ “When that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred coins. He grabbed him around the throat and said, ‘Pay me back what you owe me.’

²⁹ “Then his fellow servant fell down and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I’ll pay you back.’ ³⁰ But he refused. Instead, he threw him into prison until he paid back his debt.

³¹ “When his fellow servants saw what happened, they were deeply offended. They came and told their master all that happened. ³² His master called the first servant and said, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you appealed to me. ³³ Shouldn’t you also have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ His master was furious and handed him over to the guard responsible for punishing prisoners, until he had paid the whole debt.

³⁵ “My heavenly Father will also do the same to you if you don’t forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Sermon | *Patience, Pity, Empathy, Forgiveness*

Rev. Dr. C. Kay Fuino,
Associate Pastor

✠ Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, Declaration of Forgiveness

God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore let us confess our sin.

Holy One, help us be still and know that you are God. Too often we move at such a hectic pace that we neglect our relationship with you. Our lives become full of distractions that are nothing but shifting sand. Restore and strengthen us, O God, to rebuild our lives on the foundation of your Word, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Friends, hear the promise of our faith: God hears us when we cry for help and shows us steadfast love. Therefore let your hearts take courage, for God is faithful to us and has redeemed us.

✠ Sharing of the Peace of Christ

Missions Moment | *Happy Sacks*

Debbie Johnson

Receiving God's Tithe & Our Offering

Offertory | *Surely the Lord Is in This Place* – Herbert Colvin

Members of the Chancel Choir, Seoyoung Lee, *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.

For questions regarding membership, contact
Rev. Dr. AnnaKate Rawles –
arawles@duluthumc.org
or 770.476.3776, x. 128.

Invitation to Christian Discipleship & Church Membership

SENDING

✠ Hymn 547 | *O Church of God, United* (verses 1 & 2) – ELLACOMBE

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

Audio/Visual Team:

Joel McLemore
Mark Wettlaufer
Ian Toole
Johnathan Ancell

Usher Captains:

David Burleson
Charlie Doerlich

✠ Benediction

✠ Postlude

Music reprinted by permission: ONE LICENSE (A-724074)
Streaming license: CCLI (CSPL-137589)

• • •

DULUTH FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3208 Duluth Hwy. 120, Duluth, GA 30096

Office Phone: 770-476-3776

Website: www.duluthumc.org

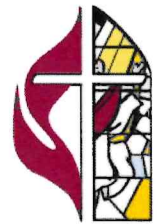
YouTube: DuluthFirstUMCWorship

Facebook: DuluthFirstUMC • Instagram: duluthfirstumc





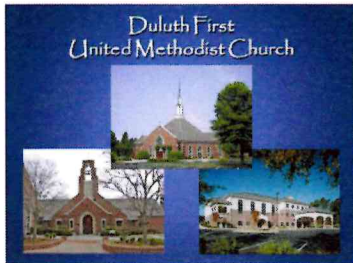
The Sunday Supplement



SEPTEMBER 13, 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

- Jean Adkins • Marty Bush • Madeline Ellis
 - Ann Fleming • Lawrence Gibbs • Shamain Hallett
 - Judy Lutz • Polly Sanders
 - Marilyn Scheiwe • Jim Waid
- Jane Johnson & family in the death of her husband, Jim.
• Staci Castleberry & family in the death of her father.



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.



Church-wide Cookout : Today!

We are holding a church-wide cookout today from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in front of the church under the trees. Invite your friends and neighbors and bring the whole family as there will be something for everyone - hamburgers, hot dogs, inflatables, a DJ, and a lot of fun and fellowship! What a wonderful opportunity to invite our community to join us for a fun and fellowship-filled event at our church!

Thank you for helping to make our church-wide cookout a great community-wide event!



..and YOU'RE INVITED!



..and YOU'RE INVITED!

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 September is:

- **Sunday, September 13th: Church-wide Cookout** at 5:00 p.m. under the trees in front of the church;
- **Sunday, September 20th: Sunday Night Gathering** at 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Center ("The Fish Tank");
- **Sunday, September 27th: Sunday Night Gathering** at 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Center ("The Fish Tank").

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.

Happy Sacks: Helping Children in Our Community

A growing number of school children in our community rely on free and reduced priced meals at school for their main daily meals. However, there may not be enough food to go around over the weekend. The goal of the **Happy Sacks** mission outreach program is to provide healthy snacks for school children over the weekend. **We pack approximately 150 Happy Sacks each week, which are then delivered to the schools on Friday, and given out by the school counselors to the appropriate children.**

For the 2025-26 school year, we packed and delivered 4,133 Happy Sacks. Since the program began in the fall of 2012, we have delivered 44,177 Happy Sacks to children in our community. The need continues to grow as does the cost of filling the bags. The **Happy Sacks** program is not a part of the church's regular budget, so we depend on your donations.

As we get ready to begin our 15th year of the **Happy Sacks** program, please consider picking up a few extra items the next time you're at the store or making a financial donation to support the **Happy Sacks** ministry. For more information, please scan the QR code located to the right with your smart phone or tablet, or visit the **MISSIONS** page under the **MINISTRIES** tab on the church's website - duluthumc.org. Thank you for your continued support of this mission!



Wednesday Night Dinner in Hinton Hall: September 16th

Join us for a time of food and fellowship around the table with family and friends at our Wednesday Night Dinners from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. in Hinton Hall, located on the 2nd floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center. Chef Kenny Lewis, our Food Ministry Manager, along with our very talented and dedicated Dinner Belles and Beaus volunteers, prepare excellent meals at very reasonable prices.



The menu for September 16th is lemon pepper chicken, buttered rice, broccoli, squash casserole, rolls, and dessert. For the kids – chicken tenders and French fries.

Dinners are served from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in Hinton Hall, with to-go boxes available from 6 to 6:30 p.m.

The prices for Wednesday Night Dinners are: \$10.00 for adults (including seniors and from 11 years up); \$7.00 for children 10 years and younger; \$30.00 for family meals (nuclear family members and their children under 18 years); \$7.00 for salad bar only, which includes the salad bar, a choice of baked potato or sweet potato, dessert and a drink.

Credit/debit card payments, as well as cash and checks, are accepted. Please note - menus are subject to change. Please visit the church's website - duluthumc.org - to view upcoming menus.

Wednesday Night Food Drives

The **Wednesday Night Food Drive** at Duluth First UMC for the **Hands of Christ Duluth Co-op** is our weekly mission project, combined with the many Wednesday evening activities offered at the church.

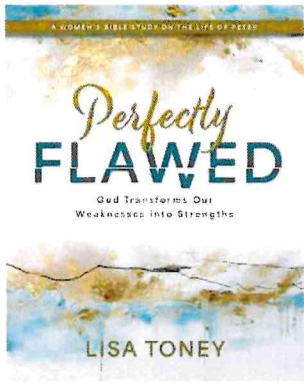
Items needed during the month of September are:

- September 16th: cans of diced tomatoes;
- September 23rd: tuna fish;
- September 30th: cans of mixed veggies.

Join us for a delicious dinner and fellowship in Hinton Hall, pick up a to-go dinner for your family, join us for any of our Wednesday evening activities, and drop off food items to help other families in need. We thank you for your support!



Tuesday Evening Women's Bible Study Resumes on September 15th



Join us for a time of study, fellowship, and prayer! Our Tuesday evening Women's Bible Study meets from 7 to 9 p.m. in room F145 (located on the 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center), primarily following the school year calendar. Together, we explore faith through engaging studies by well-known authors. Some studies are topical and pull from several biblical themes and others are a deep dive into a particular book of the bible. Join us on Tuesday, September 15th, as we resume our studies by studying the book **Perfectly Flawed: God Transforms Our Weaknesses into Strengths** by Lisa Toney.

Studies are normally 6 to 8 weeks and incorporate a book or study guide, an in-class video and group discussion helping us grow deeper in God's Word and in community with one another. All women are welcome—come as you are and be encouraged! For additional information please contact either Ashley Johnson by e-mail at Ashleycscape@outlook.com or Jackie Grube by e-mail at Grubeland@gmail.com.

Senior Adult Coffee Hour: Wednesday, September 16th

Senior adults are invited to join us once a month 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 Wednesday, September 16th, 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. Coffee is provided by **Break Coffee Roasters**. 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!



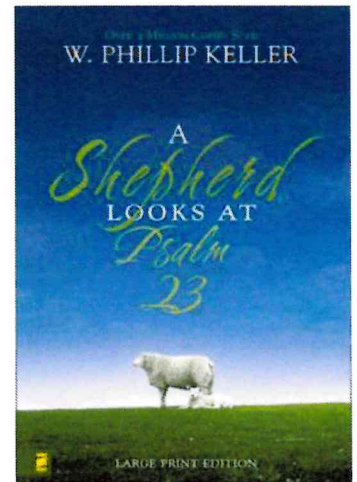
"Women Studying Together" to Study "A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23"

Beginning on Thursday, September 17th

Our Thursday morning **Women Studying Together** group will begin a new study on September 17th, continuing through November 19th. We will use a classic Christian book, **A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23: Discovering God's Love for You** by W. Phillip Keller, along with our Bibles for reference. Author W. Phillip Keller grew up in Africa, the son of missionary parents. He worked in agriculture, owned and worked with sheep, which gave him special insight into the details of Psalm 23. He thoroughly explored the relationship between the sheep and shepherd, giving us reassurance that we are in the care of the Good Shepherd.

A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23: Discovering God's Love for You is available from many new and used bookstores and online as well. The price for new copy is about \$5. There have been many reprints of this book, so do not be concerned over the particular edition you purchase.

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. Class discussion will be led by Jenny Masterson. As we study, we ask questions, search for answers, share our stories, laugh and pray together. All women are welcome to join us. If you have any questions, please contact Jenny by e-mail at jennybobm@comcast.net.



Service and Mission Opportunity at Hands of Christ Duluth Co-op:

Saturday, September 19th

If you're looking for an opportunity to serve your community, we will be having a workday at **Hands of Christ Duluth Co-op** on Saturday, September 19th, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. We will be assisting the **Duluth Co-op**, located at 3649 Rogers Bridge Road in Duluth, in sorting, stocking, and organizing donations as well as cleaning the facility.

If you would like to join us on this day, please scan the QR code to sign up. This opportunity is open to all ages. Children must be accompanied by a parent.



"Men Studying Together" Thursday Morning Bible Study

The **Men Studying Together** group meets for Bible/book studies on Thursday mornings from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in rooms F206/207, located on the 2nd floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center. This study is led by Rev. Terry Tippens. The group is currently studying 2nd Corinthians.

All are welcome to join us, any time, and every class time will allow for individual input and group discussion. Please contact Tracy Brinker by e-mail at tbrinker@duluthumc.org or at 770-476-3776 for more information.

Library Book Club to Discuss "Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine": Monday, September 21st

The **Library Book Club** will meet on Monday, September 21st, at 10:00 a.m. in room F145 (located on the 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center) to discuss the month's book choice, **Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine** by Gail Honeyman.

Meet Eleanor Oliphant: She struggles with appropriate social skills and tends to say exactly what she's thinking. Nothing is missing in her carefully timetabled life of avoiding social interactions, where weekends are punctuated by frozen pizza and phone chats with Mummy.

But everything changes when Eleanor meets Raymond, the bumbling and deeply unhygienic IT guy from her office. When she and Raymond together save Sammy, an elderly gentleman who has fallen on the sidewalk, the three become the kinds of friends who rescue one another from the lives of isolation they have each been living. And it is Raymond's big heart that will ultimately help Eleanor find the way to repair her own profoundly damaged one.



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

Johnathan Ancell

Director of Worship Technology
jancell@duluthumc.org

Verena Lucía Anders, Ext. 116
Minister of Music & Worship Arts
vanders@duluthumc.org

Tracy Brinker, Ext. 112
Receptionist
tbrinker@duluthumc.org

David Burchett, Ext. 124
Assistant Pastor
dburchett@duluthumc.org

C. Kay Fuino, Ext. 117
Associate Pastor
ckfuino@duluthumc.org

Sherry Griffeth, Ext. 110
Executive Assistant
sgriffeth@duluthumc.org

Susan Johnson, Pianist

Jan Jones, Ext. 113
Financial Assistant
jjones@duluthumc.org

Min Lee, Ext. 119
*Director of Youth Ministries
& Contemporary Worship Music Director*
mlee@duluthumc.org

Seoyoung Lee, Organist

Kenny Lewis, Ext. 145
Director of Food Services
klewis@duluthumc.org

Benjamin Rah, Ext. 120
Church Administrator
brah@duluthumc.org

AnnaKate Rawles, Ext. 128
Associate Pastor
arawles@duluthumc.org

Marilyn Scheiwe, Ext. 111
Event Coordinator
mscheiwe@duluthumc.org

Lee Stribling, Ext. 136
Director of Maintenance/Security
lstribling@duluthumc.org

Pat Szathmary, Ext. 131
Christian Beginnings Assistant Director
pszathmary@duluthumc.org

Terry Tippens, Ext. 114
Senior Pastor
ttippens@duluthumc.org

Linda Wettlaufer, Ext. 213
Childcare Director
lwettlaufer@duluthumc.org

Ken Willi, Ext. 127
Director of Communications
kwilli@duluthumc.org

Leslie Yokeley, Ext. 138
*Director of Children's Ministries
& Christian Beginnings*
lyokeley@duluthumc.org

**Louise McDaniel Memorial
Church Library**
library@duluthumc.org

Christian Beginnings Preschool & Kindergarten
Office Phone: 770-497-1743