

**SEVENTEENTH
SUNDAY
AFTER
PENTECOST**

SEPTEMBER 20, 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

Vicki McLemore, *Liturgist*

✠ Call to Worship

How good it is when we gather in unity and love.

How beautiful is this body of Christ.

How good it is when we gather in mercy and grace.

How beautiful is the love we have come to share.

✠ Hymn 568 | *Christ for the World We Sing* – ITALIAN HYMN
(verses 1 & 2)

WORD & RESPONSE

Common English
Bible

✠ Scripture | Jonah 3:8 -- 4:11

Charlene Gordon

^{3:8} Let humans and animals alike put on mourning clothes, and let them call upon God forcefully! And let all persons stop their evil behavior and the violence that's under their control!" ⁹ He thought, Who knows? God may see this and turn from his wrath, so that we might not perish.

¹⁰ God saw what they were doing—that they had ceased their evil behavior. So God stopped planning to destroy them, and he didn't do it.

^{4:1} But Jonah thought this was utterly wrong, and he became angry.

² He prayed to the Lord, "Come on, Lord! Wasn't this precisely my point when I was back in my own land? This is why I fled to Tarshish earlier! I know that you are a merciful and compassionate God, very patient, full of faithful love, and willing not to destroy. ³ At this point, Lord, you may as well take my life from me, because it would be better for me to die than to live."

⁴ The Lord responded, "Is your anger a good thing?" ⁵ But Jonah went out from the city and sat down east of the city. There he made himself a hut and sat under it, in the shade, to see what would happen to the city.

⁶ Then the Lord God provided a shrub, and it grew up over Jonah, providing shade for his head and saving him from his misery. Jonah was very happy about the shrub. ⁷ But God provided a worm the next day at dawn, and it attacked the shrub so that it died. ⁸ Then as the sun rose God provided a dry east wind, and the sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he became faint. He begged that he might die, saying, "It's better for me to die than to live."

⁹ God said to Jonah, "Is your anger about the shrub a good thing?"

Jonah said, "Yes, my anger is good—even to the point of death!"

¹⁰ But the Lord said, "You 'pitied' the shrub, for which you didn't work and which you didn't raise; it grew in a night and perished in a night.

¹¹ Yet for my part, can't I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than one hundred twenty thousand people who can't tell their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon | *God Is Concerned!*

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

Ministry Moment | *Trunk or Treat*

Receiving God's Tithe & Our Offering

Offertory | *Light of a Clear Blue Morning* – arr. Wailin' Jennys

Clare & Kristin Shappert, Cheryl Greene, Judy Greene,
Eva Mayfield, Diane Near, Katie Jones, Verena Anders, *Vocalists*

✠ 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.**

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.**



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.



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 181 | *Ye Servants of God* (verses 1 & 2) – HANOVER

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

Flower Team:

James Dykes
Susan Johnson

✠ Benediction

✠ Postlude

• • •

CHANCEL FLOWERS

are given today to the glory of God
in honor Michael Fuino for his birthday
from his wife, children, and grandchildren. You are loved so much!

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DULUTH FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Website: www.duluthumc.org

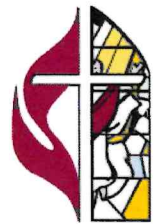
YouTube: DuluthFirstUMCWorship

Facebook: DuluthFirstUMC • Instagram: duluthfirstumc





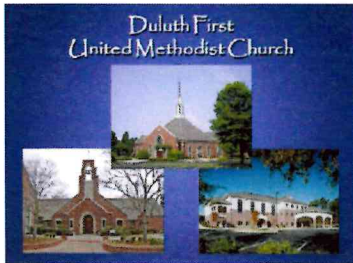
The Sunday Supplement



SEPTEMBER 20, 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 • Sheryl Fowler • Lawrence Gibbs
- Shamain Hallett • Carol Hitchcock • Judy Lutz
- Polly Sanders • Marilyn Scheiwe • Jim Waid

- Jennifer Taylor & family in the death of her mother.
- Mike Stansbury & family in the death of his mother.



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.*



Wednesday Night Dinner in Hinton Hall: September 23rd

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 23rd is country fried steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, creamed corn, collard greens, biscuits, and dessert. For the kids – hamburgers 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.

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 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@duluthmc.org, or call 770-476-3776, ext. 119.

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.

43rd Annual Duluth Fall Festival: September 26th & 27th

Mark your calendars and save the dates for the **43rd Annual Duluth Fall Festival** being held Saturday, September 26th, and Sunday, September 27th. Duluth First United Methodist Church and its congregation take an active roll in the **Fall Festival** each year.



The **Fall Festival** kicks off on Saturday, September 26th, with a parade through downtown beginning at 10 a.m.

On Sunday, September 27th, the **Duluth 5K Donut Dash** race, a qualifier for the Peachtree Road Race, starts at 8 a.m. The race attracts both the serious competitive racer and the occasional runner/walker, and provides an opportunity for participants of all ages to help this year's race beneficiary, **Wellroot**

Family Services, supporting their vision of a world where every child is raised in a loving, compassionate, and nurturing home. For additional information about **Wellroot Family Services**, please visit their website at www.wellroot.org. To sign up for the **Duluth Donut Dash**, please go to www.duluthdonutdash5k.org.

Join us for **Worship on the Town Green** on Sunday, September 27th, with a community worship service beginning at 10 a.m. at the Duluth Town Green. Duluth First United Methodist Church's Rev. David Burchett will be leading the morning's worship service, with the church's Contemporary Worship Praise Team leading the worship music.



PLEASE NOTE:

- On September 27th, our Contemporary Worship Service will take place at Duluth Town Green for the **Duluth Fall Festival's Worship on the Town Green** with Rev. David Burchett preaching.
- The 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship services and **WILL MEET** in the Sanctuary with Rev. C. Kay Fuino preaching.
- Sunday school classes for children and youth will not be held on September 27th.

For additional information about the **Duluth Fall Festival**, please visit duluthfallfestival.org.

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 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!



BSA Troop 419's 10th Annual "Cars for Campouts" Classic Car Show, Cruise In, and BBQ: **Saturday, October 3rd**

BSA Troop 419 will hold their **10th Annual "Cars for Campouts" Fundraiser Car Show, Cruise In, and BBQ** on Saturday, October 3rd, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the church's front parking lot. If you have a special vehicle (all years, makes, models) – muscle cars, classics, resto-mods, exotics, bikes, and one-offs – please bring it and participate.

Preregistration by October 2nd is \$20, and registration on the day of the show is \$25. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/carsforcampouts2026>. Sixty participant-judged awards will be presented. If you just want to see some cool vehicles, feel free to attend as admission for spectators is free.

Food and beverages will be available. Enjoy great food, hot dogs, pulled pork BBQ (available on-site or for take home), snacks and beverages.

If you have any questions, please send an e-mail to carshow@bsatrop419.org, or call Mike Ringham at 770-815-4206. All proceeds from the event help make **BSA Troop 419's** program one of the best in the council, and with your support, will continue to do so.



Missions Ministry Fundraiser - Cinnamon Rolls: Sunday, October 4th

The **Missions Ministry** is having a delicious fundraiser on **Sunday, October 4th, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** in The Dorothy L. Rainey Fellowship Hall. We invite you to come help support Duluth First UMC in being the hands and feet of Christ in our community by stopping and enjoying some hot, delicious cinnamon rolls.

Cinnamon rolls will be \$5 each, and donations are always accepted. All proceeds will go toward supporting our local mission efforts which our general giving goes towards in the Duluth/Gwinnett County areas, such as the Hands of Christ Duluth Co-Op, the Duluth Care Team, Rainbow Village, Family Promise, and others. **Thank you for your support!**



Join Us for Our Annual Trunk or Treat: Sunday, October 25th

Bring your friends and family to our **Trunk or Treat** event on Sunday, October 25th, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the church's front parking lot. Come in costume, park your car, and pop the trunk! Volunteers are needed to host a trunk at **Trunk or Treat** as we welcome our community to Duluth First UMC for an afternoon of fun. We hope to have at least 35 trunks and YOU can be one! Decorate and/or have a game at your trunk for the opportunity to win the soon to be coveted Golden Pumpkin prize! **Set-up time begins at 3:30 p.m. and trick-or-treating begins at 4:00 p.m.**

Volunteers are also needed to help with set up, refill candy, run carnival games, and clean up. You sign can sign up to reserve a trunk space and/or to volunteer by scanning the QR code located to the right with your smart phone or tablet.

Candy donations (bags of individually wrapped candies) are needed for **Trunk or Treat**. Drop off any candy starting Thursday, October 1st, in the **Trunk or Treat** bins located around the church. You can help us be sure we have enough to share with our community!

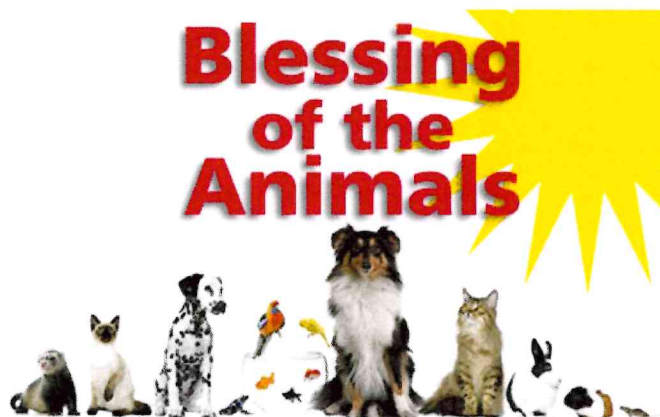
Please contact Rev. Dr. AnnaKate Rawles by e-mail at arawles@duluthumc.org or call 770-476-3776, ext. 128, with any questions.



"Blessing of the Animals" Service: Sunday, October 4th

Bring your pets for our "Blessing of the Animals" service on Sunday, October 4th, at 3:00 p.m. on the Fellowship Terrace, located in front of the Dorothy L. Rainey Fellowship Hall. We will gather for a short service and offer a blessing for each animal individually. All friendly leashed, crated, or contained animals are welcome! Your pet not interested in being with other animals? Bring a photo or a special toy to have blessed!

In case of rain the service will be held under the rear portico entrance of the Sheldon Family Life Center. Please contact Rev. Dr. AnnaKate Rawles by e-mail at arawles@duluthumc.org with any questions.



Duluth First United Methodist Church



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