

**TWENTY-
FIRST
SUNDAY
AFTER
PENTECOST**

OCTOBER 18, 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

John Chase, *Guest Organist*

Welcome & Announcements

Vicki McLemore, *Liturgist*

✠ Call to Worship

We rejoice greatly in the Lord, who gathers us together today.

In times of plenty and in times of need, God is with us.

We do not rely on our own strength or worldly wealth.

For we have learned the secret of contentment in every circumstance.

Whether filled or hungry, abased or abounding—

We can do all things through Christ who gives us strength!

Come, let us worship the Lord together.

✠ Hymn 578 | *God of Love and God of Power* — UNSER HERRSCHER
(verses 1 & 2)

WORD & RESPONSE

New Revised
Standard Version,
Updated Edition

✠ Scripture | Philippians 4:10-13

Ethel Sales

¹⁰ I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned for me but had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹ Not that I am referring to being in need, for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. ¹² I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

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

Sermon | *Contentment As a Remedy*

Richard Rawls, *Lay Speaker*

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 | *Youth Fall Retreat*

Receiving God's Tithe & Our Offering

Offertory | *Be the Light of Christ* – Wes Cameron

Members of the Chancel Choir;
John Chase, *Guest Pianist*



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.



✠ 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.**

✠ Prayers of the People

God of expansive grace,
hear our prayer, and ground us in love.

✠ 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.

Invitation to Christian Discipleship & Church Membership

SENDING

✠ Hymn 582 | *Whom Shall I Send?* (verses 1 & 2) – DEUS TUORUM MILITUM

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.

✠ Benediction

✠ Postlude

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.

ALSO SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Audio/Visual Team:
Mark Wettlaufer
Joel McLemore
Ian Toole
Johnathan Ancell

Usher Captains:
David Burleson
Charlie Doerlich



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DULUTH FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

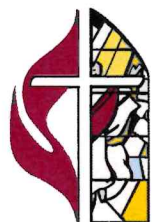
3208 Duluth Hwy. 120, Duluth, GA 30096

Office Phone: 770-476-3776

Website: www.duluthumc.org

YouTube: [DuluthFirstUMCWorship](https://www.youtube.com/DuluthFirstUMCWorship)

Facebook: [DuluthFirstUMC](https://www.facebook.com/DuluthFirstUMC) • Instagram: [duluthfirstumc](https://www.instagram.com/duluthfirstumc)



The Sunday Supplement



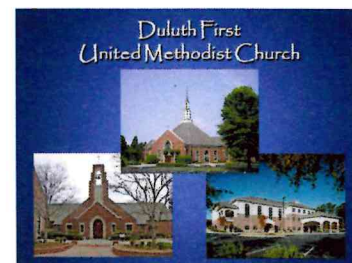
OCTOBER 18, 2026

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

- Doug Bridges • Larry Bunten • Dale Burns
- Ann Fleming • Lawrence Gibbs • Jim Green
- Sherry Griffeth • Shamain Hallett • Bryan Johnson
- Linton Jones • Judy Lutz • Marilyn Scheiwe
- Mike Montgomery & family in the death of his brother.
- The family of Dr. Lynn Zahner in her death.



OVERWHELMED AND STRUGGLING?

There's Stephen Ministry.

Request a Stephen Minister to help you find hope and healing.

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.



An Opportunity to Serve - Packing Thanksgiving Boxes: Tonight!

If you're looking for an opportunity to serve those around you in our community, we've got just the thing for you. Join us on this evening in the Youth Center ("The Fish Tank") at 5:30 p.m. and join those of all ages to help pack boxes for the Thanksgiving season for those being served at the **Hands of Christ-Duluth Co-op**. It's going to be a lot fun for everyone. We hope to see you there!



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 October is:

- **Sunday, October 18th:** Packing Thanksgiving boxes for the **Hands of Christ Duluth Co-op** at 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Center ("The Fish Tank");
- **Sunday, October 25th:** **Trunk or Treat** from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the front of the church.



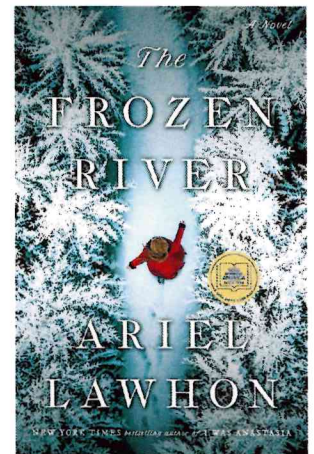
Please visit the **Youth Ministry's** website at <https://dfumcstudents.org> for more information. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Min Lee, Director of Youth Ministries, by e-mail at mlee@duluthumc.org.

Library Book Club to Discuss "The Frozen River" by Ariel Lawhon": Monday, October 19th

The **Library Book Club** will meet on Monday, October 19th, 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, **The Frozen River** by Ariel Lawhon.

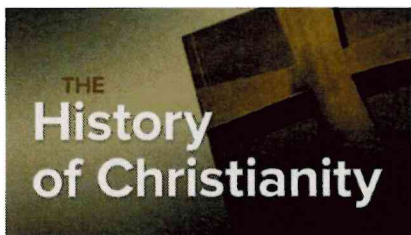
The Frozen River is a gripping historical mystery based on the real-life diary entries of Martha Ballard, an 18th-century midwife who found herself at the center of a murder trial. Maine, 1789: When the Kennebec River freezes, entombing a man in the ice, Martha Ballard is summoned to examine the body and determine cause of death. As a midwife and healer, she is privy to much of what goes on behind closed doors in Hallowell. Her diary is a record of every birth and death, crime and debacle that unfolds in the close-knit community.

Clever, layered, and subversive, Ariel Lawhon's newest offering introduces an unsung heroine who refused to accept anything less than justice at a time when women were considered best seen and not heard. **The Frozen River** is a thrilling, tense, and tender story about a remarkable woman who left an unparalleled legacy yet remains nearly forgotten to this day.



"The History of Christianity" Class Begins October 20th and 21st

A new adult class, **The History of Christianity from the Reign of Theodosius to the Dawn of the Reformation**, will be held on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday evenings beginning October 20th, and October 21st. You are invited to attend whichever day works best for your schedule. The class will last 22 weeks, concluding near the end of March. Each class session will last 1.5 hours and will include a 30-minute lecture by Dr. Luke Timothy Johnson, Professor Emeritus at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, followed by one hour of discussion.



Some of the lectures include Expansion Beyond the Roman Empire, the Rise of Islam, the East-West Split, The Crusades, the Great Plague, and many others. Participants will encounter a thorough grounding in the development of Christianity for its first 1,500 years.

The Tuesday morning class will begin at 10 a.m. in room F153 and the Wednesday evening class will begin at 5:45 p.m. in room F145. Both rooms are located on the 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center. Pete Fleming, our church historian, will lead the class. No books are required, although Pete will introduce a comprehensive bibliography throughout the series, and he will also provide articles from various authors on related subjects from time to time.

People wishing to participate in the **The History of Christianity** class should contact Rev. Dr. AnnaKate Rawles by e-mail at arawles@duluthumc.org, or Pete Fleming by e-mail at lfleming3832@att.net.

Senior Adult Coffee Hour: Wednesday, October 21st

Senior adults are invited to join 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, October 21st, 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@duluthumc.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

Wednesday Night Dinner in Hinton Hall: October 21st

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 October 21st is honey-baked ham, sweet potato soufflé, macaroni and cheese, green beans, rolls, and dessert. For the kids – the same. Dinners are served from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. in Hinton Hall, with to-go boxes available from 6:00 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 October are:

- October 21st: canned fruit;
- October 28th: canned peas.

Please leave your donated food items on the **Food Drive** table located outside of the main entrance to Hinton Hall. 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!



Care Packages for Our College Students: Gift Cards Needed by Sunday, October 25th

As finals weeks are quickly approaching, we want to show our love and care for our college students by sending them care packages to enjoy during their finals! If you would like to donate gift cards to be included in the care packages, please purchase any of these gift cards – Chick-fil-A (most requested by students), Starbucks, or Dunkin' – with the amount of \$25 per card, and drop them off in Rev. Min Lee's office (Director of Youth Ministries), located on the 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center **by Sunday, October 25th**.

If you have a college student (or if you are the college student) who is a member of Duluth First UMC, we ask you to scan the QR code located to the right with your smart phone or tablet and fill out the contact information form and update the student's mailing address.

We appreciate your generosity!



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 front of the church. 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 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.



Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child, our annual participation in **Samaritan's Purse's** mission for God's children around the world, is underway. In 2025, **Samaritan's Purse** delivered **over 12.2 million shoeboxes to 170 countries and territories**. Since the inception of the program in 1993, **over 244 million shoeboxes** have been delivered to children around the world.

By filling shoeboxes with toys, school supplies and hygiene items, you not only give to children in need the only gift they will likely receive for Christmas, but also help deliver hope, joy and the gospel of Jesus Christ to them and their families. Many children who receive these shoeboxes gifts will also enroll in **The Greatest Journey, Operation Christmas Child's** 12-lesson discipleship program. Since 2009, over 52 million children have participated in this program, teaching them about God's amazing love and guiding them through what it means to faithfully follow Jesus Christ.

Empty shoe boxes are available in the Veterans Memorial Gathering Room, in the hallway by the entrance to Hinton Hall, and by the cul-de-sac are located on the 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center. Inside each box you will find ideas on how to pack a shoebox gift, what not to include, and the adhesive box label. There is a \$10 processing donation which supports the in-country ministry training and materials for **The Greatest Journey** activities, as well processing and shipping the shoebox. Using the adhesive labels allow you to register your shoebox(s), make your donation, and track your shoebox online.

Duluth First UMC has a special web site for you to use to complete your shoebox online, and **our goal is 80 online shoeboxes by December 19th**. You can access the web page by scanning the QR code located to the right. You can also get printed instructions for using the goal page at the **Operation Christmas Child** tables.



Please return your completed boxes to the Veterans Memorial Gathering Room, the Dorothy L. Rainey Fellowship Hall stage, inside Hinton Hall, or outside room F145 (located on the 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center) **no later than Sunday, November 15th**.

This is a worthwhile and fun project for our Sunday School classes, Women's Circles, our Youth group, and families with their children to undertake. For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Charlie Doerlich by e-mail at chaz3d@gmail.com or call 678-662-2115. Thank you for your support!

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! Our annual missions fundraiser, **Bundle Up for Buffalo**, will be 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. Last year, we raised enough money to designate this church to be a warming center, where people could come into the building and get a bite to eat if their own heat had been turned off or was not working. This was major – YOU helped do this!

Volunteers are needed on Friday, November 13th, at 2:30 p.m. to help set up the tables and sale items in the Dorothy L. Rainey Fellowship Hall. If you can help with the set up, or have items you would like to donate to the sale, please contact Beth Intondi by e-mail at Beth.intondi@outlook.com. 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.



"Christmas for a Soldier" 2026: 23 Years of Supporting Our Troops

The **Hugs for Soldiers Ministry** is collecting care package donations for service members serving overseas – mostly in the Middle East where many of our troops are facing long deployments. **Over 200 Georgia Army National Guard soldiers have asked for support during their deployment.** They are working long hours, exhausting days, missing precious moments with their loved ones. Help us spread some holiday joy to troops who can't be home during the holidays.

Items that can be donated for the Christmas care packages include:

Christmas cards: deployed troops would love to receive a handcrafted or signed card from you with holiday wishes.

PLEASE...NO GLITTER on cards or any other product that could come loose during the two-week shipment overseas.

Snack Items:

- Individual packets of hot chocolate, apple cider;
- Cereal/granola/energy bars, trail mix, nuts, fruit snacks;
- Holiday candy;
- Slim Jims or Beef Jerky;
- Cookies (small individual packs).

Other Items:

- Puzzle books (crosswords, Sudoku, Word Find);
- A new pair of socks;
- Small holiday-themed items (Dollar Tree is a good source).



The deadline for donations is Friday, November 20th. Donation boxes will be located inside the back entrance to the Sheldon Family Life Center and on the stage in The Dorothy L. Rainey Fellowship Hall. **If you would like help pack the care packages, join us on Saturday, December 5th, at 10:00 a.m. at the Scout Hut, located at the back corner of the church's property.**

Monetary donations are always appreciated to help purchase items not received and for postage. Checks are made payable to **Duluth First UMC** with **Hugs for Soldiers** written in the memo section, or go to the **ONLINE GIVING** page on the church's website – duluthumc.org – click on **MISCELLANEOUS GIFT** and specify **"Support Our Troops/Hugs for Soldiers."**

For further information, please contact: Angie Doerlich by e-mail at hugsforsoldiers@gmail.com or call 404-316-8183. Thank you for your support!

Save the Date - Sweets with Santa: Saturday, December 5th

Mark your calendars, save the date, and invite your family and friends to **Sweets with Santa** on Saturday, December 5th, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the Dorothy L. Rainey Fellowship Hall. This will be a great time for pastries, crafts, fellowship with others, and the chance to meet Santa! Additional information will be available closer to the date of the event.

Christian Beginnings Preschool & Kindergarten Nominated for "Best of Gwinnett"

We're excited to share that our **Christian Beginnings Preschool & Kindergarten** has been nominated for the "**Best of Gwinnett**" award again this year! We would love your support as we work toward another "**Best of Gwinnett**" win. Voting is open now through December 31st, and you can vote once each day. Every vote helps!

If you have a few seconds, please consider voting each day and sharing the opportunity with friends and family who love **Christian Beginnings Preschool & Kindergarten**. To vote, please scan the QR code located to the right with your smart phone or tablet and look for "**Christian Beginnings Preschool & Kindergarten**" under "**Pre-K or Kindergarten Schools**" to vote.

Thank you for supporting our school and helping us spread the word! We are so grateful for our wonderful **Christian Beginnings Preschool & Kindergarten** community.



Duluth First United Methodist Church



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Website: www.duluthumc.org

Facebook: DuluthFirstUMC • Instagram: duluthfirstumc

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Christian Beginnings Preschool & Kindergarten

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