



THE MESSENGER



DULUTH FIRST UMC'S NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2021

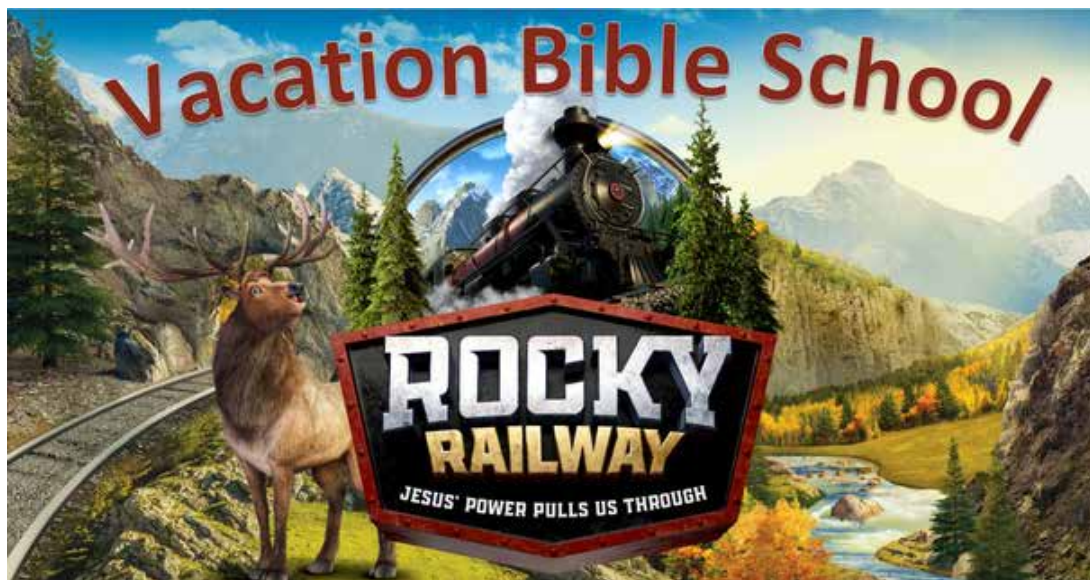
Vacation Bible School 2021 "Rocky Railway" - June 21st - 25th:

Free and Online!

Registration will open soon for Duluth First UMC's Vacation Bible School 2021 – **Rocky Railway: Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through!** You and your family can enjoy VBS together this summer with our **FREE all-virtual** VBS the week of June 21st through 25th. Kids in Pre-Kindergarten through rising 6th graders will be able to enjoy the Bible stories, songs, crafts, and snacks at home this year. All participants who register by Wednesday, May 19th, are guaranteed a t-shirt and CD as well as all of the supplies needed for the crafts and snacks, plus a few surprises.

Each morning the week of June 21st, a new video will be posted to the church's **YouTube** channel to lead your kids in song, give them directions on making their craft, and share a new Bible story. Rising 5th and 6th graders will participate in the same VBS but will also have the opportunity to participate in a mission project.

We hope you and your family will be able to join us for **Rocky Railway** this summer. **Online registration will begin on Wednesday, April 7th.** To register online, please go to the church's website - duluthumc.org - and click on the **Vacation Bible School** slide on the homepage. If you have any questions, please contact Leslie Yokeley, Director of Children's Ministries, by e-mail at lyokeley@duluthumc.org or call 770-476-3776, ext. 138.



INSIDE THE MESSENGER

News & Announcements.....1-8

Prayer Requests.....8

Finances.....8

Attendance.....8



Duluth First United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 699, 3208 Duluth Hwy. 120,
Duluth, GA 30096
Phone: 770-476-3776
website: www.duluthumc.org

Sunday Mornings

8:30 a.m.—Traditional Worship service

11:00 a.m.—Contemporary Worship service

11:00 a.m.—Traditional Worship service

*All services can be viewed online at www.duluthumc.org
or on the Duluth First UMC Worship channel on YouTube –
search for Duluth First UMC Worship.*

Wednesday Night Drive-Thru Dinners

We know you love our Wednesday night dinners at Duluth First UMC. Due to social distancing and wearing masks, eating together in Hinton Hall is not a viable option at this time, so we are offering **Wednesday Night Drive-Thru Dinners!** They are similar to curbside pick-up at your favorite restaurant where you order ahead, pay online, and drive by to get your dinner.

Prices are: adults - \$6; seniors - \$5; family - \$19 (parents and their children only); children (ages 11 years and younger) - \$4. **In order to keep everyone safe, we are taking orders for meals and payments online only.** A link to the online order and payment form can be found by clicking on the **Wednesday Night Drive-Thru Dinner slide** on the homepage of the church's website – www.duluthumc.org.

All reservations must be received by 5 p.m. on the Friday prior to the date of the dinner. Please pick up your meals between 5 to 6 p.m. Enter the rear parking lot from the rear-side entrance off of Norman Circle and pick up your meals at the side entrance of the Family Life Center near the playground.

UPCOMING WEDNESDAY NIGHT

DRIVE-THRU DINNER MENUS

NOTE: Menus are subject to change.

For a specific date's menu, please visit the church's website at www.duluthumc.org.

April 14th

Lemon garlic chicken, rice pilaf, sauteed squash, broccoli, rolls, dessert.

For the kids - chicken tenders and fries.

All reservations must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, April 9th.

April 21st

Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, turnip greens, fried okra, biscuits, dessert

For the kids - hamburgers and fries.

All reservations must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, April 16th.

April 28th

Fried catfish, au gratin potatoes, cole slaw, green beans, butter peas, hushpuppies, dessert

For the kids - fish sticks and fries.

All reservations must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, April 23rd.

May 5th - Cinco de Mayo

Chicken fajita with peppers and onions, soft flour tortilla, yellow rice, black beans, dessert.

For the kids - soft taco and yellow rice.

All reservations must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, April 30th.

Duluth First UMC Provided Easter Baskets for Wellroot Family Services

A huge **THANK YOU** to the Christian Beginnings Preschool & Kindergarten teachers, students and their families, as well as the Chancel Choir and other groups in the church for sponsoring and providing 45 Easter baskets for Wellroot Family Services, formerly The United Methodist Children's Home. For more information about Wellroot Family Services, please visit their website at wellroot.org.

Thanks to the generosity of so many from our church family, a child in foster care through Wellroot Family Services was able to experience the joy of waking up on Easter morning to a personalized Easter basket!



Easter baskets provided by Christian Beginnings teachers, students, and their families.



Rev. Beth Brown Shugart delivering the Easter Baskets donated by Duluth First UMC to Wellroot Family Services.



Alyson Ackerman from Wellroot Family Services receiving the Easter Baskets donated by Duluth First UMC.

“The Bible and a Book” Online Study

Begins April 18th

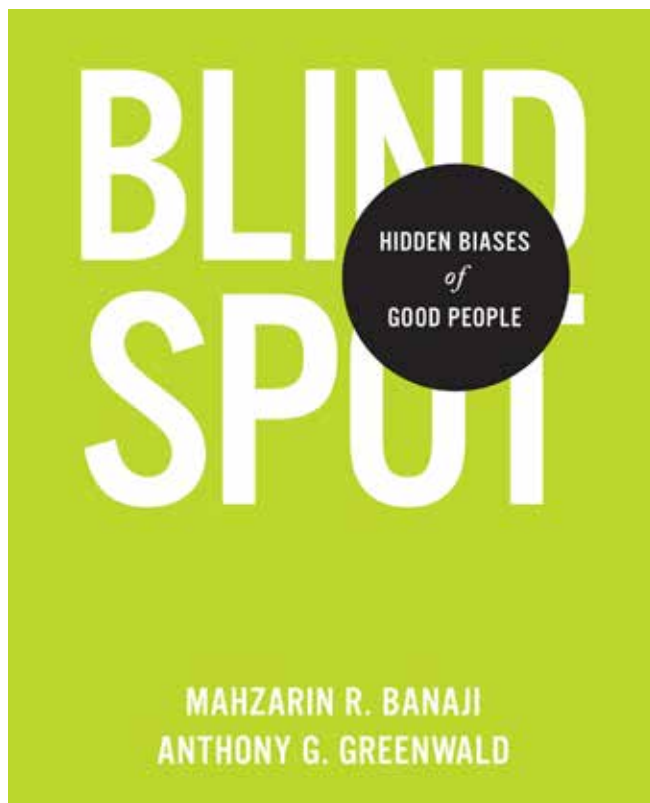
***Blind Spot (Hidden Biases of Good People)** is one of the most eye-opening and most helpful books I have ever read. I am grateful to Rev. Beth Brown Shugart for introducing me to it.*

Our world is rife with questions about race, gender, and other classifications. God calls us to do our part to make our world more just and free for all of us. I cannot think of a better response to God’s call than educating ourselves with this book and joining this discussion together.

Rev. Terry Tippens

The Bible and a Book, a weekly online course which combines reading the book **Blind Spot: Hidden Biases of Good People** with a study of I John, will be led by Rev. Beth Brown Shugart. The class will be offered online via Zoom on Sunday afternoons from 4 to 5 p.m. beginning Sunday, April 18th, continuing through Sunday, May 23rd.

Please register with our receptionist, Tracy Brinker, by e-mail at tbrinker@duluthumc.org. To participate you will need to purchase the book **Blind Spot** by Banaji and Greenwald. It is highly recommended that you purchase a hard copy, rather than an e-book. **The class is limited to 15 people. Registration closes when full or Wednesday, April 7th, whichever comes first.**



Blood Drive: April 14th

An American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at Duluth First United Methodist Church on Wednesday, April 14th, from 3 to 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

The benefits of donating blood are:

- It feels great to donate!
- You get free juice and delicious cookies.
- It’s something you can spare. Most people have blood to spare...yet, there is still not enough to go around.
- You will help ensure blood is on the shelf when needed. Most people don’t think they’ll ever need blood, but many do.
- You will be someone’s hero! In fact, you could help save more than one life with just one donation.

If you are already committed to giving a gift of life, please:

- Make an appointment online by visiting the American Red Cross’ website at www.redcrossblood.org and entering **dufumc** in the sponsor code box;
- Make an appointment by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767);
- Contact Tracy Brinker by e-mail at tbrinker@duluthumc.org, or by calling 770-476 3776, ext. 112.
- Last, but not least, as a “walk-in” on Blood Drive Day.

*“...use your hands for good hard work,
and then give generously to others in need.”
Ephesians 4:28b (NLT)*



Tea for You: April 14th

Since we are unable to have our annual High Tea this year, the United Methodist Women of Duluth First UMC have put together a booklet that we hope inspires you to have your own tea with friends or family. In the booklet you will find information on how to plan a tea, as well as some favorite recipes for scones and other traditional foods served with tea. We also think you would enjoy reading about High Tea traditions and an interesting history about the origins of Afternoon Tea.

Spring is the perfect time for having an afternoon tea party, so pick up a copy of the booklet at the Wednesday Night Drive-Thru Dinner on Wednesday, April 14th, or outside on the office on the 1st floor of the Family Life Center, or in the Narthex in front of the Sanctuary, and plan your own afternoon tea.

As we usually donate a Love Offering from our annual High Tea to one of our many mission programs, we invite you to donate to Happy Sacks:

- Online at duluthumc.org/online-giving and selecting **Miscellaneous Gift**;
- By check made payable to **Duluth First UMC** with **Happy Sacks** in the memo section.



Susan Jones & Ron Seeger
2639 Cardinal Lake Circle
Duluth, GA 30096

William & Megan Saxelby
2736 Saxon Drive
Duluth, GA 30096

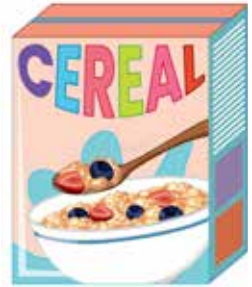
William & Megan's children are Grace & Miller.

Donate Boxes of Cereal and Help

Christian Beginnings Celebrate

Duluth First UMC's 150th Birthday

Duluth First UMC's **Christian Beginnings Preschool & Kindergarten** program is celebrating our church's 150th birthday! Please help us celebrate by donating unopened boxes of cereal. **Our goal is 150 boxes!** The boxes of cereal will be donated to the Hands of Christ Duluth Co-op. **Please put your boxes of cereal in the wagons located in the Atrium and inside the back entrance to the Family Life Center by Wednesday, April 14th.**



Baby Recognition Sunday: April 25th

Baby Recognition Sunday at Duluth First UMC will be held on Sunday, April 25th. The United Methodist Women (UMW) will welcome and recognize all new babies born to our church family during the past year. If your family (immediate or extended) has welcomed a new addition between March 2020 and March 2021, please let us know by completing a Baby Recognition Sunday form, available for download on the church's website - duluthumc.org - go to the **RESOURCES** page and click on the **FORMS** tab. Please provide complete information so that invitations may be sent to the parents. All babies will be honored and welcomed at the 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship service. A donation to missions may be made in honor of a specific baby or in honor of all new babies collectively.

This time of recognition is open to all our church family and parents do not have to be members of our congregation. Jesus said, "Let the little children come unto me." We want to echo that invitation. The JAM (Jesus Among Mommies) Circle sponsors this special ceremony along with the entire UMW unit. All babies signed up will be honored, and a donation is not required. Please put your completed form in the Baby Box in the Gathering Room, in Hinton Hall, or in the collection plate on Sunday mornings. **The final day to submit names is Sunday, April 18th.** Please contact Victoria Ladd by e-mail at victoriasladd@gmail.com for additional information.



Register for the Christian Beginnings

Preschool and Kindergarten

2021-2022 School Year

Spots are currently available for the **Christian Beginnings Preschool and Kindergarten 2021-2022** school year. What better way for your child, or a friend's child, to learn their ABC'S, numbers, shapes, God's love for us and so much more, than in a caring, loving, Christian environment.

They will have fun and make friends while attending our accredited, award winning school. We have won the "Best of Gwinnett" award three years in a row and we were awarded the "Gwinnett Daily Post Reader's Choice Award for 2019!" We hope you will come join us! If you know of anyone looking for a wonderful preschool, please send him or her our way.

Our Preschool and Kindergarten program is for children ages 6 weeks (by September 1, 2021) through Kindergarten. Registration is underway and the registration fee is \$180.00 per child.

If you would like more information regarding **Christian Beginnings Preschool and Kindergarten**, or if you would like to schedule a tour, please contact Pat Szathmary by e-mail at pszathmary@duluthumc.org or call 770-497-1743.



ENROLL NOW!

Preschool & Kindergarten Registration



GriefShare Support Group Sessions

Begin May 5th

The next **GriefShare Support Group** sessions at Duluth First United Methodist Church will begin on Wednesday, May 5th, at 6:30 p.m. **GriefShare** is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. **GriefShare** support groups are led by people who understand what you are going through and want to help.



We will start these sessions online with Zoom. You must download the Zoom app and have internet capability at the time of the meetings. Also, you will need to go on the **GriefShare.org** website and register under the Duluth First United Methodist Church group so you will be able to watch the online video each week before you come into the Zoom meeting room. Once you sign up on the website we will be able to send you the link to both the video and Zoom.

You can register for these sessions by contacting Brenda Bridges by e-mail at bridb@bellsouth.net or call 770-313-6002, or Sue French by e-mail at bramsu@bellsouth.net or call 770-476-9106.

Calling All Small Groups:

Share Your History

This year marks Duluth First United Methodist Church's 150th anniversary – our Sesquicentennial. Part of the celebration will be a celebration of your story. We want to share your group's history — through word and picture — with the entire church as part of the Sesquicentennial Celebration on September 19th.

We're hoping to share scrapbooks from all of our "small groups." Consider what you can include — when and how the group began, who were your first members, how you've grown and changed over time, your activities, etc. We can't wait to read your story and we would love to see lots of pictures!

Please have your scrapbooks ready to share by August 1st. On the first Sunday in August, I'll have a box in the Fellowship Hall for you to place them. Starting in September, they will be on display throughout the church. We will return the scrapbooks to you after the celebration! Please make sure you include a point of contact for your group. These scrapbooks are sure to become valued keepsakes.

If you have any questions or need any assistance, please contact Ellouise Daniel by e-mail at weeziedaniel123@gmail.com or call 703-477-4438.

A Message from Dr. Young Joe Harrington III,
Retired Elder North Georgia Conference UMC and Duluth Native

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. [Philippians 1:3-5]

I thank God for the people and ministry of Duluth First United Methodist for sharing with me the gospel from the first day Rev. Bob Cherry entered my name on the Duluth Methodist Cradle Roll in 1949 until now. Although I was never a full member of Duluth First UMC, the ministry of this church has had a significant influence on my life and family for over seventy years. My wife Faye and I look forward to sharing in your celebration of the 150th anniversary this fall.

My Methodist grandparents (Y J Sr. and Nelle—church leaders who will be remembered by many of the older members) would often take us to church with them at Duluth First Methodist. Because the Methodist Sunday School was open to all, it became a large part of my Christian education. The Junior Boys Sunday School Class had to meet in a closet, so we were featured in the Capital Campaign brochure showing the need for the move to Lawrenceville Highway.

Young Methodist pastors like Gilbert Steadham and J.B. McNeil and their families were part of my neighborhood growing up. They lived in the old parsonage on West Lawrenceville Street, only three doors away from our house. But my close connection to Duluth First UMC began in the mid-1960s when I became a regular part of the Methodist Youth Fellowship group led by Rev. Wilton Moulder. Through his guidance I learned that God was more about love and grace than wrath and punishment. I became thoroughly Methodist as a teenager. In 1970 I was married to Faye Garmon (a Baptist, but now Methodist) and said our vows before Rev. Clyde Lancaster in the first sanctuary at the current location on Lawrenceville Highway. We returned last fall to quietly (due to the pandemic) celebrate our 50th anniversary by worshiping with you at Duluth First UMC. One of our prize possessions is a cross made by Tom Wood from the prayer rail in that sanctuary.

After living several years out of state my family returned to Gwinnett County. We moved to Lawrenceville and felt called to be members of the United Methodist Church there; but Duluth First UMC remained part of our lives. Our oldest son attended Duluth High School, so he visited DUMY (the youth group) and loved the group and Bobbie Etheridge. As soon as he was able to drive, he moved his membership to Duluth First UMC.

Duluth First UMC has been a great supporter of scouting programs. Both of our sons participated in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts here. Our entire family became involved, and I served as Scoutmaster of Troop 419 for three years. Our oldest son's Eagle Scout court of honor was held at Duluth First UMC in 1992. When our younger son was a Cub Scout, he wanted the God and Family badge. Dr. Harvey West was willing to present the entire three-month program one-on-one for our son. Scouting is just another example of how important nurturing community youth has been to this church.

Even though I was never a member, Duluth First United Methodist Church nurtured me as a child, educated me as a youth, and continued to influence my family's growth as members of the greater community. This church was instrumental in starting me on the path that eventually led to my call into pastoral ministry. Faye and I are thankful for Duluth First UMC's influence in our lives. We look forward to celebrating the 150th anniversary of the church which is more concerned with reaching people in the community than with serving just its own. May it ever be so.



Young Joe Harrington and his wife Faye. The middle photo is from their wedding in our former Sanctuary (now our Fellowship Hall) on September 13, 1970. The third photo is when they celebrated their 50th anniversary on September 13, 2020, by joining us for worship at our church.

Sesquicentennial Celebration:

Duluth First UMC Turns 150!

Save the Date – September 19, 2021! On that date we will celebrate with:

- A church-wide celebration with Bishop Sue Hauptert Johnson leading us in worship;
- A dinner on the church grounds;
- Tours of the church's buildings.

Be sure to invite former members and friends to this event. If you would like to make a financial contribution to assist in funding the celebration, you can make a gift in one of two ways. You can make gifts online at duluthumc.org/online-giving and clicking on **Miscellaneous Gift**, or you can send a check, made payable to **Duluth First UMC** with **"150 Celebration"** in the memo section to the church at Duluth First UMC, PO Box 699, Duluth, GA 30096.

150 YEARS

Other ways we are celebrating:

- A timeline of the church will be installed in the Fellowship Hall;
- Historical items will be displayed in a variety of areas around the church;
- A new pictorial directory;
- A book about the history of Duluth First UMC.

More information will be shared each month. Mark your calendar now and join in the fun!



Gifts in Memory and In Honor of Others

The following people and groups have given gifts to the glory of God in memory or in honor of others:

In Memory of Dot Batson

Robert & Pam Gates

In Memory of Linda Berry

Wanda Walden

In Memory of John Gilbreath

Sara Bostick; Judy Greene

In Memory of Ray Haman

Steve & Benita Hatch

In Memory of Carolyn Hamrick

Clinton & Mary Anne Thompson

In Memory of Major Morris "Chatt" Johnson

Jennifer Durden; Paul Libretta; The Maxim Family

In Memory of Herb Magnuson

Larry & Marcia Anderson; Betty Switzer

In Memory of Wayne McCormack

Mary J. Shanxon

In Memory of Ramona Meyer

Rosie Coleman and Rosemary Segreti;

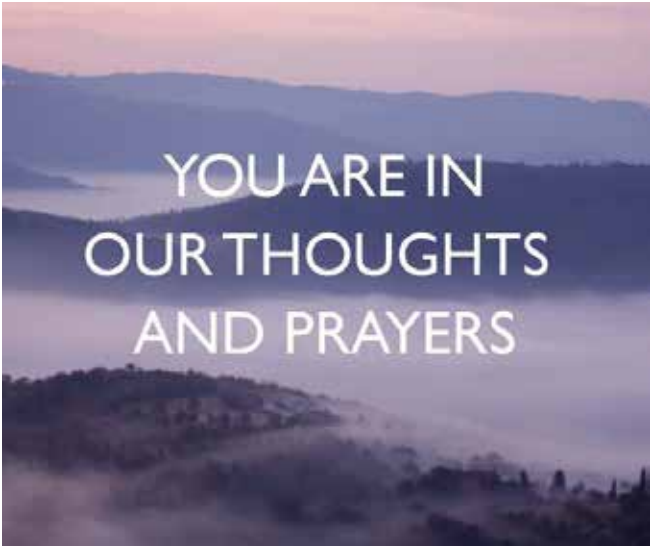
Carolyn Herbig; Judy Johnson;

Bill & Susan Widmayer

In Honor of John & Sam Smith

Jim & Terrie Adkins





Prayers Needed for...

- Pat Akin • Bob Balkcom • Rick Barrientos
- Tara Beauchamp • Joyce Boothe • Jena Cornell
- Carroll Curry • Dottie Hann • Pat Harper
- Carol Johnson • Kelly Kelkenberg
- Barbara Martin • Dottie Moor • Herb Schlubach
- Gail Small • Jan Smid • Gary Smith
- Ginger Summerville • Tommy Summerville
- Kathie Sunnarborg • Doug Tiberghien
- Diann Tyrrell

- The family of June Douglas in her death.
- Lacy Evans & family in the death of her mother.
- Tina Flynt & family in the death of her husband, Bill.
- David Fraser & family in the death of his mother.
 - Ashley Johnson & family in the death of her father, Chatt.
 - Carol Johnson & family in the death of her husband, Chatt.
- David & Robin Scheiwe & family in the death of Robin's mother.

Leslie Yokeley & family in the death of her aunt.



Church Operating Fund

Received on March 7 th	\$35,400.00
Received on March 14 th	\$26,413.33
Received on March 21 st	\$14,189.00

Year-to-Date, 2021

Received as of March 21 st	\$312,002.13
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Building Fund: Year-to-Date, 2021

Received as of March 21 st	\$149,441.74
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Worship Attendance

(includes in-person attendance and online views)

March 7 th	561
March 14 th	584
March 21 st	642

Deadline for the April 2021

Edition of "The Messenger" Newsletter

The article deadline for the April 2021 edition of *The Messenger* is Thursday, April 29th, at 9 a.m.

