



THE MESSENGER



DULUTH FIRST UMC'S NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025

Join Us at Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 26th

Fall is upon us, and you know what that means? It's time for pumpkins, leaves, football, and Trunk or Treat! Trunk or Treat, on Sunday, October 26th, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the church's front parking lot, is an excellent opportunity to gather your friends, family, and neighbors and bring them to Duluth First United Methodist Church for fun, food, and, of course, going trunk to trunk collecting candy. This is such a great way to share your love of church community with others, and "boo-tiful" way to fellowship with one another! Everyone is invited to participate!

Our goal is to have 40 trunks this year - that means we need YOU! Please scan the QR code located to the right with your smart phone or tablet to claim your spot. We hope to have lots of fun, decorated trunks, and even better, decorated trunks with games. We also need volunteers to help set up, break down, donate candy, and take candy refills to our awesome trunks. Set-up time begins at 4:30 p.m. and trick-or-treating begins at 5:00 p.m.



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



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Duluth First United Methodist Church

3208 Duluth Highway 120

Duluth, GA 30096

Phone: 770-476-3776

website: www.duluthumc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/DuluthFirstUMC

Instagram: www.instagram.com/duluthfirstumc

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.

BSA Troop 419's 9th Annual

"Cars for Campouts" Classic Car Show,

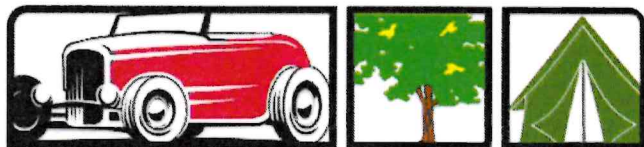
Cruise In, and BBQ: Saturday, October 4th

BSA Troop 419 will hold their 9th Annual "Cars for Campouts" Fundraiser Car Show, Cruise In, and BBQ on Saturday, October 4th, 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 – if it rolls, please bring it and participate.

Preregistration by October 3rd is \$20, and registration on the day of the show is \$25. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/cars4campouts-2025>. 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, 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.



CARS FOR CAMPOUTS

"Blessing of the Animals" Service:

Sunday, October 5th

Bring your pets for our "Blessing of the Animals" service on Sunday, October 5th, 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! Is 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.



Grow One Step Chart

Many folks have found the **Grow One Step** chart helpful for their giving. Most of us know it's best for us to put God first and to move toward tithing (giving God the first 10% of our income). But we find it hard to get started. That's where the chart comes in.

Over a decade ago, a young couple I know with two school-aged daughters wanted to tithe. They were giving, but they didn't know what percentage of their income they were giving.

The grid side of the enclosed chart showed them that they were giving 2%. They decided to grow one step by giving 3% the next year. That worked, and they kept going – the following year – 4%, then 5%, etc. After eight years they were tithing, giving God 10%. They are happy to be continuing that practice today as their daughters graduate from college.

Rev. Terry Tippens,
Senior Pastor



"Coffee Corner" for Parents of

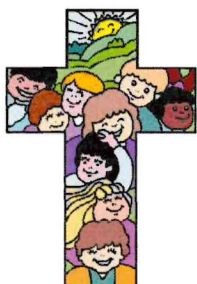
Preschoolers: Tuesday, October 21st

Parents of preschoolers are invited to join us at the "Coffee Corner" on Tuesday, October 21st, at 9:30 a.m. Come connect with other parents at our casual meet-up on the 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center. Being a parent is tough, and we all deserve to drink coffee while it is still hot!



For more information, please contact Rev. Dr. AnnaKate Rawles, Associate Pastor, by e-mail at arawles@duluthumc.org, or call 770-476-3776, ext. 128.

Children's Ministry and Christian Beginnings Preschool & Kindergarten



Children's Ministry and Christian Beginnings Preschool & Kindergarten



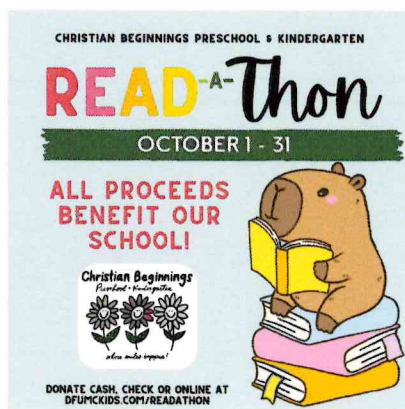
Children's Ministry:

We're Off to a Fantastic Start!

We're off to a fantastic start with **DuluthKids** and the new school year at **Christian Beginnings Preschool & Kindergarten**! From Sunday School and Wednesday night activities (chime and bell choirs included) to the recent church-wide **Block Party** and fun-filled school days, our kids are growing in faith and friendships every week.

This October, **Christian Beginnings** is launching its annual **Read-A-Thon**! Our students, families, and church community will be turning pages and raising support together. Every book read brings us closer to our goal—and every gift makes a difference! Every donation helps **Christian Beginnings** continue building a vibrant ministry for our children.

You can join the fun and give by scanning the QR code located above to the right with your smart phone or tablet. Thank you for your support!



Youth Fall Retreat

We are excited to participate in **The Rooted Retreat** (North Georgia UMC Conference Retreat) hosted by Camp Glisson for our Youth Ministry Fall Retreat from Friday, October 24th, through Sunday, October 26th. It will be an incredible weekend with powerful worship experiences, dedicated youth group time, fun activities, and food and lodging at Camp Glisson!

We are looking forward to a meaningful and fun Fall Retreat together! Please keep our students, adult volunteers, and the retreat in your prayers!



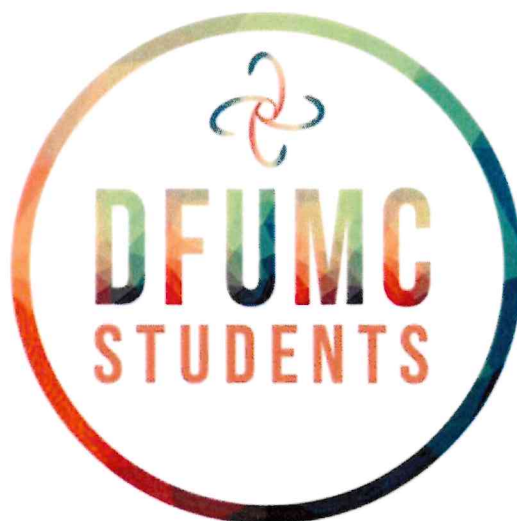
Youth Ministry Sunday Night Gatherings for October

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.

Our schedule for the month of October is:

- **Sunday, October 5th:** Pickleball Night from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Duluth High School tennis courts;
- **Sunday, October 12th:** S'Mores Night from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Outdoor Classroom (back of church property);
- **Sunday, October 19th:** Sunday Night Gathering at 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Center ("The Fish Tank");
- **Sunday, October 26th:** Trunk or Treat at 5:00 p.m. in the church's front parking lot.

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.

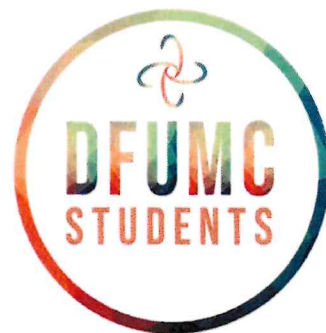
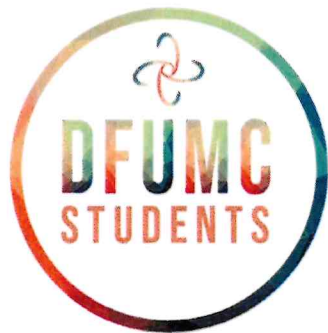


Youth Ministry Launches the “I Love My School Leadership Team”

The **Youth Ministry** is thrilled to announce the launching of the **I Love My School Leadership Team**! This initiative captures the heart of one of our core ministry values—cultivating a lifestyle of service. As our student leaders explore various ways to partner with and meet the unique needs of each school, the Leadership Team will also deepen their understanding of servant-leadership and embody it as they live missionally on their school campuses. We launched this Leadership Team at Duluth High School, and our hope is to reach all the schools our students attend.

Our Duluth High School student leaders have already started making an impact on their school campus as they encouraged two of the new teachers at their school by celebrating their birthdays!

If you'd like to learn more or explore ways to serve alongside our student Leadership Team, please reach out to Rev. Min Lee, Director of Youth Ministries, by e-mail at mlee@duluthumc.org.



Youth Ministry: Partnering with Coleman Middle School

Our Coleman Middle School students and parents made a great impact on their school campus by helping celebrate the Teacher of the Year and two other finalists! Our students and their parents put together a gift basket to celebrate this occasion and presented those baskets during the school's announcement time. A big thanks to our students and their parents for partnering with their school and serving together!



Wednesday Evenings at Duluth First

UMC: Something for Everyone!

Join us on Wednesday evenings at Duluth First United Methodist Church for activities for everyone:

- **Wednesday Night Dinners:** 5 to 6:30 p.m. in Hinton Hall, 2nd floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center;
- **Book Bunch for kids (ages 3 – 4):** 6:15 to 6:30 p.m. in the Louise McDaniel Memorial Library, 2nd floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center;
- **DuluthKids (ages Kindergarten through 5th grade):** 5:45 to 7 p.m. in the Dorothy L. Rainey Fellowship Hall and Children's (C and D wings) classrooms;
- **Youth Bible Study (grades 6 – 12):** 6 to 7 p.m., room F149, 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center;
- **Parent Connection Group:** 6 to 7 p.m., room F207, 2nd floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center;
- **"The History and Archaeology of the Bible" Class for Adults:** 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in room F145, located on the 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center.
- **Happy Sacks:** 6 to 6:30 p.m., room F152, 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center;
- **Yarn Art Ministry:** 6 to 7 p.m., room F205, 2nd floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center;
- **Handbell Ensemble rehearsals:** 6 to 7 p.m., in the Sanctuary;
- **Chancel Choir rehearsals:** 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Don Lee Music Suite.

Please visit the church's website - duluthumc.org - for additional information.

Troop 419 Eagle Scout Projects

We want to celebrate that we will have three Scouts in Troop 419 completing their Eagle Scout projects around the church and church grounds. We wish these young men - James Dykes, Jacob Downey, and Grant Burkholder - the very best in their projects and celebrate their great accomplishments. Way to go young men!



Join Us for Wednesday Night Dinners in Hinton Hall

October 1st

Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, butter peas, biscuits, and dessert.
For the kids – hamburgers and French fries.

October 8th

Monterrey chicken with BBQ sauce/cheese/bacon, scalloped potatoes, squash casserole, veggies, rolls, and dessert.
For the kids – chicken tenders and French fries.

October 15th

Homemade lasagna, sautéed zucchini, broccoli, garlic bread, and dessert.
For the kids – the same.

October 22nd

Pot roast with gravy, oven roasted potatoes, fresh carrots, peas, rolls, and dessert.
For the kids – hamburgers and French fries.

October 29th

Coq au Vin (chicken braised in red wine), roasted Brussel sprouts, broccoli, rolls, and dessert.
For the kids – chicken tenders and French fries.

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

Dinner is served in the Hinton Hall of the Sheldon Family Life Center. Enjoy fellowship around the table with family and friends.

The Dinner Belles and Beaus prepare excellent meals at very reasonable prices.

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 only – husband, wife, 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.

You can pay using a credit/debit card!

NOTE: Menus are subject to change. For the week's menu please visit the church's website at duluthumc.org.



“Where are you serving?”

Missions Ministry Fundraiser -

Cinnamon Rolls: Sunday, October 5th

The **Missions Ministry** will be having a delicious fundraiser coming up on **Sunday, October 5th**, 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, or two for \$9, and donations are always accepted. Pre-order forms (paper and online) are available for individuals and Sunday School classes to place their cinnamon rolls orders ahead of time. Paper order forms are available at the **Missions Ministry** bulletin boards located around the church, and online orders can be placed by scanning the QR code located to the right with your smart phone or tablet. **The deadline for placing pre-orders will be Thursday, October 2nd, at noon.**



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!**



Wednesday Night Food Drives

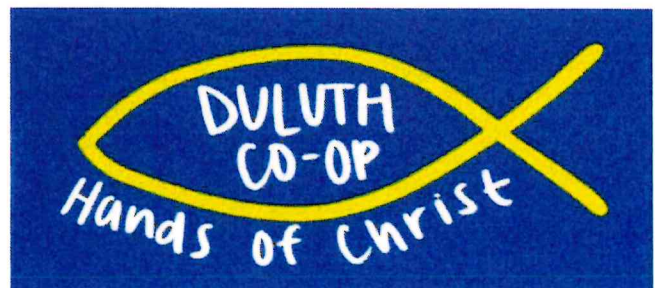
for October

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 1st: Cereal;
- October 8th: Peanut butter and jelly;
- October 15th: Spaghetti and pasta;
- October 22nd: Canned fruit;
- October 29th: Cans of diced tomatoes.

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!





“Where are you serving?”

Supplies Needed for Rainbow Village

Help support our neighbors at Rainbow Village by helping with much needed and critical supplies for the families there. Every donation helps **Rainbow Village** in their mission to end homelessness for families in the Gwinnett County area. Please scan the QR code located to the right with your smartphone or tablet to visit their Amazon wish list. Thank you for your help.



Thank You from Family Promise

Thank you to everyone who donated to **Family Promise of Gwinnett County's Night Without a Bed** fundraiser. The total donated this year was \$7,010. Every penny you donated will help **Family Promise** in their fight against family homelessness in Gwinnett County.



Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child, our annual participation in **Samaritan's Purse's** mission for God's children around the world, is underway. 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 deliver hope, joy and the gospel of Jesus Christ to them and their families.



Empty shoeboxes are available in the Veterans Memorial Gathering Room, in the hallway near Hinton Hall, and outside of room F145, located on the 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center. Each box includes ideas on how to pack a shoebox, what not to include, and an adhesive label. A \$10 processing donation for each shoebox you take and fill covers the processing and shipping of the shoebox and shipping, as well as supporting training and materials for **The Greatest Journey** activities.

You also have the option to “fill a shoebox” online. The cost of the **Build Online Shoebox** option is \$30 per online shoebox, and you can also include **The Greatest Journey** materials for an additional \$6. There are two online options: build the shoebox yourself by selecting items to be included in the shoebox, or select the option where the shoebox is built by **Samaritan's Purse**. Please scan the QR code located to the right with your smartphone or tablet to complete your shoebox online. You can also find a link to fill out a shoebox online by going to the church's website - **duluthumc.org** - clicking on the **MINISTRIES** tab and then clicking on the **MISSIONS** tab.



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.

Crafts, Pieces of Art, and Baked Goods

Needed for "Bundle Up for Buffalo"

Annual Fundraiser: November 15th & 16th

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 15th, and Sunday, November 16th. 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 2025 through April 2026. 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.



*Seneca Street United Methodist Church
in Buffalo, NY.*

Christmas for a Soldier 2025

The **Hugs for Soldiers Ministry** is collecting care package donations for soldiers serving overseas. Take part in **Christmas for a Soldier 2025**, our 22nd Christmas for supporting our troops. Please help us spread some holiday joy to troops who can't be home during the holidays by donating the following items.

Christmas Cards: Deployed service members would love to receive a handcrafted or signed card from you with holiday wishes. Do not seal your cards in envelopes; we do not need envelopes. All cards are mixed and re-boxed into larger boxes so that your cards are received at various military bases. **PLEASE...NO GLITTER on cards!** Glitter will come off during the two-week shipping overseas.



Snack Items:

- Individual packets of hot chocolate, apple cider, assorted flavors of tea bags individually wrapped;
- Instant Ramen Noodle Soup 3 oz. packets;
- Microwave popcorn;
- Holiday candy (this is a great time to ship chocolate);
- Cereal/granola/energy bars, Trail mix, nuts, sunflower seeds, fruit snacks;
- Slim Jims, beef jerky.

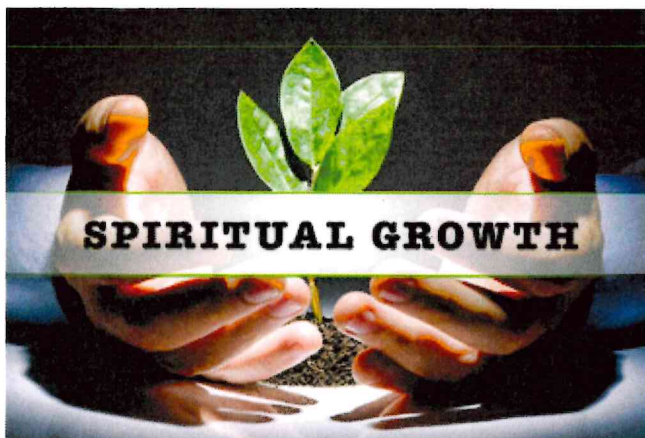
Other Items:

- Handmade holiday ornaments. Use your creativity and skills to make ornaments! From painted wood ornaments to beaded wreaths and everything in between, your ornaments can be anything you like.
PLEASE NOTE: No glitter, no breakable ornaments, nothing dangerously sharp and nothing made out of food/candy.
- A new pair of socks.

The deadline for donations is Friday, November 21st. Donation boxes will be located inside the back entrance to the Sheldon Family Life Center and on the stage in Dorothy L. Rainey Fellowship Hall.

Monetary donations are also 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 – **www.duluthumc.org** – click on **MISCELLANEOUS GIFT** and specify **"Support Our Troops/Hugs for Soldiers."**

For further information, contact Angie Doerlich by e-mail at **hugsforsoldiers@gmail.com** or call 404-316-8183. For additional information about the **Hugs for Soldiers Ministry**, please visit their website at **www.hugsforsoldiers.org**.



Simply Something:
A Weekly Discussion Opportunity
of All Things Theological, Biblical, Social,
Methodist, or Life in Today's World

Have you ever had a topic that you simply wanted to talk about with others at church but there doesn't seem to be a class or group to focus on that one thing? Then ***Simply Something*** is just the place to be. Join Rev. Dr. AnnaKate Rawles and Rev. Dr. C. Kay Fuino on Tuesday mornings from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. in room F145, located on the 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center, for ***Simply Something***, a weekly discussion place to bring up all things theological, biblical, social, Methodist, or simply on your mind about life in today's world.

Each week at ***Simply Something*** will begin with prayer and a short devotion, followed by discussion about a variety of topics chosen by the group. Join us with your list of topics to plan for our future time together. Bring your coffee, tea or water, and your open mind to learn from each other.

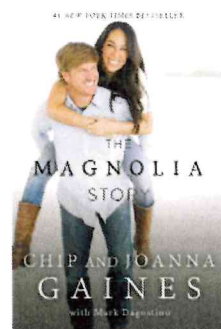
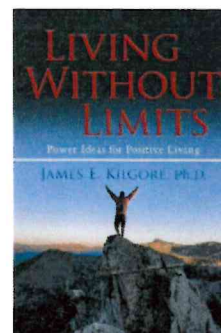
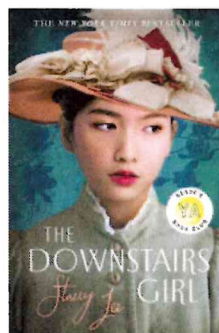
For more information, please contact Rev. Dr. AnnaKate Rawles, Associate Pastor, by e-mail at arawles@duluthumc.org or 770-476-3776, ext. 128.



Excellent Titles in Our Church Library
for Fall Reading

Stop by The Louise McDaniel Memorial Church Library and check out all of the new titles for Fall reading. Located on the 2nd floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center, our church library is the place where you can find your next great read!

- **The Downstairs Girl** by Stacey Lee (Historical Fiction: Reese Witherspoon's Young Adult Book Club Pick, appropriate for adults of any age.) 1890, Atlanta. By day, seventeen-year-old Jo Kuan works as a lady's maid for the cruel Caroline Payne, the daughter of one of the wealthiest men in Atlanta. But by night, Jo moonlights as the pseudonymous author of a newspaper advice column for 'the genteel Southern lady'.
- **Living Without Limits: Power Ideas for Positive Thinking** by James E. Kilgore, Ph.D. (Nonfiction). Written in the style of newspaper articles, these succinct applications to relevant issues of our time stimulate the reader to think about his own choices in facing the challenges of today.
- **The Magnolia Story: Chip and Joanna Gaines** by Chip Gaines (Nonfiction Memoir). **The Magnolia Story** offers a peek behind the curtain of who Chip and Joanna are today. This first book also includes stories and photos from the childhood memories that shaped them and the twists and turns that led them to the life they currently share: on the farm with their four kids and countless farm animals, and in their ever-expanding roles as entrepreneurs, designers, and good neighbors.



BOOK CLUB

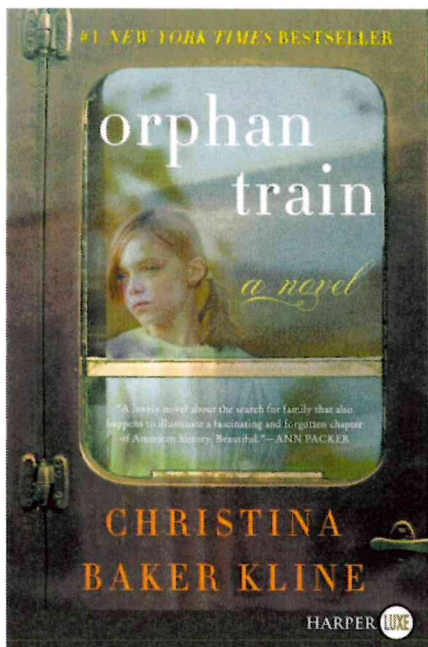
Book Club to Discuss “Orphan Train”

by Christina Baker Kline:

Monday, October 20th

The **Book Club** invites you to join them on Monday, October 20th, as they discuss Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline. Orphan Train is a captivating story of two very different women who build an unexpected friendship: a 91-year-old woman with a hidden past as an orphan-train rider and the teenage girl whose own troubled adolescence leads her to seek answers to questions no one has ever thought to ask.

The **Book Club** will meet from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in room F-145, located on the 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Dr. AnnaKate Rawles by e-mail at arawles@duluthumc.org or call 770-476-3776, ext. 128.



Book Club to Discuss “A Forever Christmas”

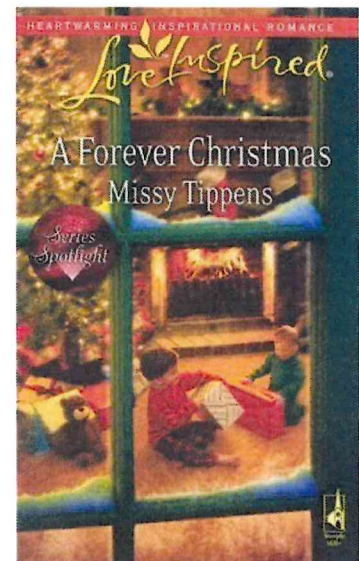
by Missy Tippens:

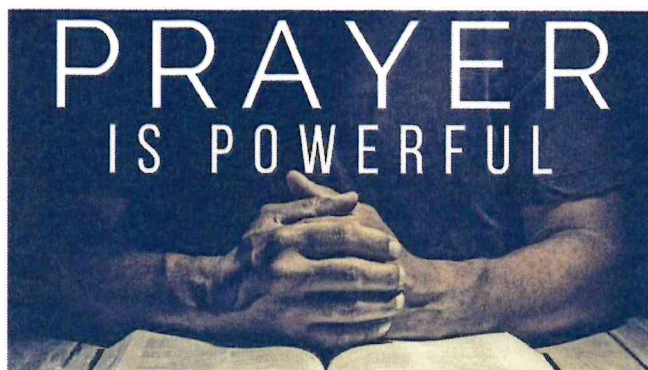
Monday, November 17th

Join the **Book Club** on Monday, November 17th, as they finish out the year and discuss A Forever Christmas by Missy Tippens, who will also be leading the discussion. In A Forever Christmas, Sarah Radcliffe’s quiet Christmas back in her hometown will be lost if she agrees to direct the church’s Christmas pageant. But when she meets two little boys determined to gain their father’s attention, Sarah agrees to help. Then she discovers that the dad in question is Gregory Jones, the man she loved and lost.

The single dad is working himself to the bone to give his boys the Christmas of their dreams, when all they want is some family time. Time that includes a new mommy. If Sarah can learn to open her heart, she may receive the most wonderful present of all—a family of her own.

The **Book Club** will meet from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in room F-145, located on the 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Dr. AnnaKate Rawles by e-mail at arawles@duluthumc.org or call 770-476-3776, ext. 128.





Prayer Concerns

- Mary Ellen Ask • Cynthia Ballin
 - Dale Braynard • Sara Brewer
 - Beth Bunten • Gen Butterworth
 - Rosemary Hall • Shamain Hallett
 - Carol Hitchcock • Linton Jones
 - Lynne Ometer • Mike Ramstead
 - Jeff Schulz • Dale VanPelt • Easton Wall
-
- Tracy Balkcom & family in the death of her father.
 - Larry Bunten & family in the death of his brother, Eddie.
 - Bill Griffin & family in the death of his mother, Marie Griffin.
 - Beth Patterson & family in the death of her father.



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 Celia Conley, Missy Tippens' Mother
Judy Greene

Deadline for the November 2025

Edition of "The Messenger" Newsletter

The article deadline for the November 2025 edition of *The Messenger* newsletter is Thursday, October 16th, at 9 a.m.

To keep up-to-date with all of the happenings at Duluth First UMC, please visit the church's website at duluthumc.org and/or pick up a copy of our weekly newsletter, *The Sunday Supplement*, available on Sunday mornings at all of our worship services.



General Church Fund

Received on September 7 th	\$19,338.75
Received on September 14 th	\$35,003.55
Received on September 21 st	\$12,236.57

Year-to-Date, 2025

Received as of September 21 st	\$1,005,027.16
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"Crossing the Finish Line"

Capital Campaign: Year-to-Date, 2025

Received as of September 21 st	\$201,289.94
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Worship Attendance

(includes in-person attendance and online views)

September 7 th	562
September 14 th	585
September 21 st	525