



DULUTH FIRST UMC'S NEWSLETTER

THE MESSENGER



NOVEMBER 2025

Are You Blessed Because of Your Church?

When was the last time you stopped and really thought about how blessed you truly are? Some people might say they think about it all the time, while others might not give it a second thought. When you ask someone how they know they are blessed, they might say, "Well, I have a nice car, a nice house, I have food on the table, clothes on my back, and a comfortable bed to sleep in every night." Another person might answer that question differently by saying, "I know I'm blessed because Jesus loves me, my family loves me, and my friends love me." While those might sound like respectable answers, do you know what they left out? Their church. Neither of those people who answered the question of how they know they are blessed said anything about their church.

When you think about how truly blessed you are, does your list include Duluth First United Methodist Church?

My friends, we should all feel both grateful and blessed to be a part of Duluth First United Methodist Church. We should feel blessed that we can worship

God openly and freely in this place. We should feel blessed because our church shows us how to be a follower of Christ. We should feel blessed because our church teaches us to, "Do good; Do no harm; and Love Jesus." We feel blessed because our church loves us and cares about us from cradle to grave. We feel blessed because our church teaches us that God is Love. We feel blessed because our church teaches

us to love the Lord our God with all our heart, all our soul, and all our mind. And we feel blessed because our church not only teaches us to love our neighbors as ourselves, but it shows us how to do it by going out into the community to spread the love of God and care for those neighbors – the lost, the needy, and the least of these.

Those are just some of the reasons why Duluth First United Methodist Church

makes us feel blessed. And those are some of the reasons why we give of ourselves in the form of our time, our prayers, and our tithes, gifts, and offerings.

Continued on the next page.



INSIDE THE MESSENGER

News & Announcements.....1-14 Prayer Requests.....14 Finances.....14 Attendance.....14

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.

Are You Blessed Because of Your Church?

(Continued from the first page.)

As you take time now to think about how blessed we all are to be a part of this church family, and just how wonderful this place is, think also about how you can help our church grow. It takes all of us to financially support the myriad of ministries here at Duluth First United Methodist Church. It's that time of year again when we start thinking about, and talking about, our giving plans for next year, including how we can all "**Grow One Step**" in our giving. It simply means that if you gave 5% of your income to the church in 2025, plan to give 6% of your income in 2026. It's a small jump, but it makes a big difference.

I hope all of you feel as connected to Duluth First United Methodist Church as I do, and I hope that you and your families feel all the love and blessings that God has given to this church. In the coming weeks, please think about, and pray about, your giving plans for the coming year. Make your plan now to **Grow One Step**.

Peace and blessings to all,

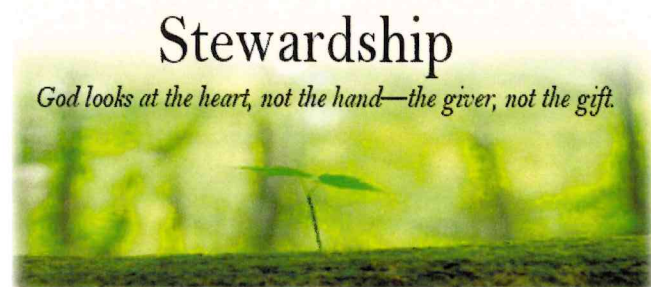
Bryan Johnson,
Stewardship Committee Chairperson



Estimate of Giving Cards

If you need an **Estimate of Giving Card** for Duluth First UMC's **2026 Stewardship Campaign**, you can find them:

- In the pew pockets in the Sanctuary for Traditional Worship services;
- On the seats in Hinton Hall for Contemporary Worship services through November 16th;
- At the church information centers located at the main entrance to the Sanctuary, and inside Hinton Hall (on Sunday mornings);
- Online on the church's website – duluthumc.org – and click on the **STEWARDSHIP 2026** tab.



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



Grow One Step Charts

Grow One Step charts for the 2026 Stewardship Campaign can be found:

- Inserted in worship materials on Sunday mornings through November 16th;
- The yellow sheet inserted in this edition of *The Messenger*;
- At the church information centers located at the main entrance to the Sanctuary, and inside Hinton Hall (on Sunday mornings);
- Online by going to the church's website – duluthumc.org – and clicking on the **STEWARDSHIP 2026** tab.

Consecration Sunday is November 16th

In all worship services on Sunday, November 16th, we will consecrate our estimates of giving for 2026. Please fill out an **Estimate of Giving** card, available in the pews/seats, and bring it with you on November 16th. Or you can make your estimate online at the church's website - duluthumc.org - on the **STEWARDSHIP 2026** page. You can turn it in early if you'd like. Acknowledgement cards, as well as **Estimate of Giving** cards, will be available on November 16th as we bring our estimates to the altar.

Please see the **Grow One Step** chart, available for download on the **STEWARDSHIP 2026** page on the church's website, and consider growing one step, as many of us are doing. On November 16th we will celebrate together as we grow one step each year toward the tithe.



Set Up Recurring Online Giving to the Church

Recurring giving is easy to set up just by going to the **ONLINE GIVING** page on our website – duluthumc.org, or if you are watching church online, click on the link that will take you to that page.

Recurring gifts are helpful to both you and the church. You won't have to remember to write your check, and it works great with your budget as it is a consistent amount each time. The church benefits especially during slower months when giving is down and we can count on your gifts to continue our ministries and missions without interruption.

Please consider setting up recurring giving. If you need assistance, please contact Jan Jones, Financial Assistant, by e-mail at jjones@duluthumc.org or call 770 476-3776, ext. 113.



**SET UP A
RECURRING GIFT >>**

Join Us for Wednesday Night Dinners in Hinton Hall

November 5th

Turkey and dressing with gravy, sweet potato casserole, green beans, cranberry sauce, rolls, and dessert.
For the kids – chicken tenders and French fries.

November 12th

Hamburgers on buns, French fries, baked beans, cole slaw, and dessert.
For the kids – the same.

November 19th

Chicken pot pie with a biscuit crust topping, baked apples, green beans, biscuits, and dessert.
For the kids – chicken tenders and French fries.

November 26th

There will be no Wednesday Night Dinner in Hinton Hall due to the Thanksgiving holiday.
Have safe and blessed holiday!
See you all on December 3rd!

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!

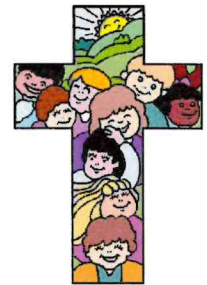
NOTE: Menus are subject to change. For the week's menu please visit the church's website at duluthumc.org.



Children's Ministry and Christian Beginnings Preschool & Kindergarten



Children's Ministry and Christian Beginnings Preschool & Kindergarten



Christian Beginnings
Preschool & Kindergarten



where smiles happen!

Joyful Days with Our Children

There's never a dull moment at **Christian Beginnings Preschool & Kindergarten** and in our **Children's Ministry**! From Halloween fun to Thanksgiving blessings, our days are filled with laughter, learning, and the joy of seeing so many bright, smiling faces.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported our **Read-a-thon Fundraiser**! Your generosity makes such a difference in the lives of our children and the ministry we share. There's still time to join in—our donation site is open for any last-minute pledges or gifts. Click here to donate!

And just wait until you see what we have planned for Christmas! Something festive, creative, and full of holiday cheer is on the way—stay tuned for a fun way to get involved and help us celebrate the season together.

Diaper Drive:

Through Wednesday, November 19th

The competition is fierce and the stakes are high as the **Children's Ministry** takes on the **Youth Ministry** to see who can collect the most diapers for **A Beacon of Hope**, a local ministry that provides holistic, life-affirming, integrated sexual health care that fosters knowledge and hope, transforming the lives of women and their families for generations, using scripture and medical accuracy as their cornerstones.

The diaper collection competition will go through **Wednesday, November 19th**. For every package of diapers you bring in, please cover a "poop" emoji with a **red diaper (Children's Ministry)** or a **blue diaper (Youth Ministry)** on the **Diaper Drive** bulletin board located in the Atrium. The team who collects the most diapers gets to pie the other team in the face!

For additional information about **A Beacon of Hope**, please visit their website at www.friendsofbeacon.com. Thank you for your support!



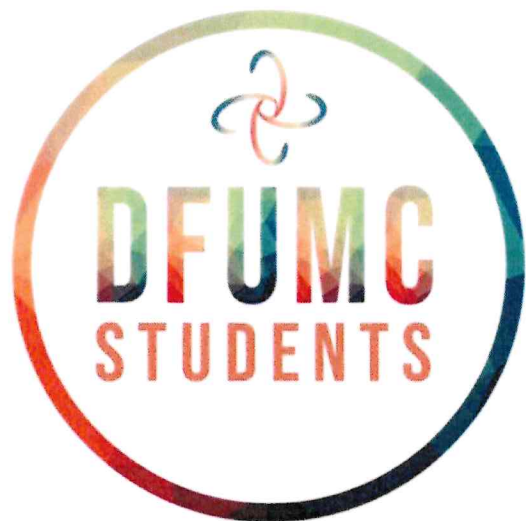
Youth Ministry Sunday Night Gatherings for November

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 November is:

- **Sunday, November 2nd:** Sunday Night Gathering at 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Center ("The Fish Tank");
- **Sunday, November 9th:** Sunday Night Gathering at 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Center ("The Fish Tank");
- **Sunday, November 16th:** Sunday Night Gathering at 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Center ("The Fish Tank");
- **Sunday, November 23rd:** *Friendsgiving* at 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Center ("The Fish Tank");
- **Sunday, November 30th:** Sunday Night Gathering at 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Center ("The Fish Tank").

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.



"Surviving the Holidays" –

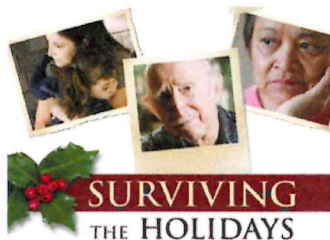
A Grief Share Program:

Wednesday, November 19th

Holiday celebrations take on a different meaning when you are grieving. Are you in need of finding a way to survive the holidays? Do you wonder how to celebrate when your loved one is gone?

Join the **Grief Share Support Group** on Wednesday, November 19th, for a special **"Surviving the Holidays"** class from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in rooms F154/155, located on the 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center. This class may be beneficial in helping you plan a holiday schedule that is best for you during the holiday season.

For additional information, please contact Brenda Bridges at 770-313-6002, Sue French at 404-434-8001, or call the church office at 770-476-3776.



Hope for the Holidays – A Candle Lighting

Service of Remembrance:

Monday, November 24th

Make plans to join us for **Hope for the Holidays - A Candle Lighting Service of Remembrance**, on Monday, November 24th, with services at noon and 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Join us for a program of reflection followed by candle lighting in memory of your loved one(s). The 7:00 p.m. service will be streamed live on the **Duluth First**



UMC Worship page on **YouTube.com**. Childcare in **Childcare Corner** will be available for both services.

We are asking people to send in names of loved ones that they would like to be read aloud during candle lighting. Please send the name(s) by e-mail to Tracy Brinker at tbrinker@duluthumc.org by Friday, November 22nd. Please put **"Service of Remembrance Names"** in the subject line of your e-mail.

We understand the holiday season may be a challenge for individuals and families who have lost someone special. Duluth First UMC has established a meaningful time for people to come together...to reflect, to remember and to honor those lives that have meant so much.

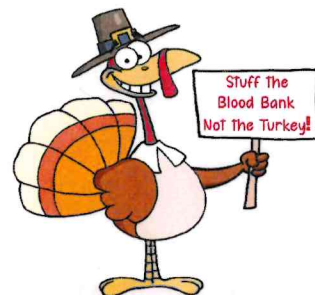
Blood Drive at Duluth First UMC

on Wednesday, November 12th:

Give Thanks—Give Blood—Give Life

An American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at Duluth First UMC on Wednesday, November 12th, from 3 to 7 p.m. in the Dorothy L. Rainey Fellowship Hall. To schedule an appointment to make a blood donation:

- Visit www.redcrossblood.org and enter the sponsor code **dufumc**;
- Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733 2767);
- Contact Tracy Brinker by e-mail at tbrinker@duluthumc.org, or call 770-476-3776, ext. 112.
- Last, but not least, be a "walk-in" on Blood Drive Day.



Free A1C testing, a test commonly used to screen for diabetes and pre-diabetes, will be offered to those who donate blood. Each donor will receive a \$10 e-gift card to a merchant of choice and will automatically be entered for a chance to win one of three \$5,000 gift cards. Please go to RedCrossBlood.org/Harvest for more details.

Please Take a Moment to Complete

Our Adult Small Group Survey

Do you participate in Sunday School, Small Groups, or Fellowship Groups at Duluth First UMC? Please let us know more about them and what other types of studies you would like to participate in! Don't participate in any groups? Let us know a topic or type of group you would be interested in participating in.

Please take a moment to complete a short survey by scanning the QR code located below with your smart phone or tablet. Printouts of the survey can also be found on the 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center, in the Narthex, and at the information table in Hinton Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Dr. AnnaKate Rawles, Associate Pastor, by e-mail at arawles@duluthfirstumc.org.



MISSIONS

“Where are you serving?”



Wednesday Night Food Drives for November and December

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 months of November and December are:

- November 5th: Tuna fish;
- November 12th: Macaroni and cheese;
- November 19th: Peanut butter and jelly;
- December 3rd: Canned fruit;
- December 10th: Cans of vegetables/
mixed vegetables.

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!



“Bundle Up for Buffalo” Annual Fundraiser: November 15th & 16th

Bundle Up for Buffalo, our annual fundraiser to assist the Seneca Street UMC in Buffalo, NY with their winter heating costs, is on Saturday, November 15th, and Sunday, November 16th. If you like to bake, sew, paint, or craft, this is the chance to offer up your creativity for a very worthy cause. The rest of us get to admire your work and do some Christmas shopping!

Please bring the sale items donations to the Dorothy L. Rainey Fellowship Hall on Friday, November 14th, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. You will be assigned a spot to display your creations, and please bring a small tablecloth if you like. Expect the sale items be crowded together, as our sale has grown in the past years.

Bundle Up for Buffalo begins at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 15th, and closes at 2:00 p.m. It will open on Sunday, November 16th, after the 8:15 a.m. service has ended, will be closed during both 11:00 a.m. services, and will re-open at noon and finish by 1:00. We ask you to please take any of your unsold items home with you, as there is no place to store them at the church once the sale is over, or share them with Sherry Ferguson who has a wonderful place for them at her school.

All proceeds from **Bundle Up for Buffalo** go to Seneca Street UMC in Buffalo, to assist with their winter heating costs. There is a great need for the heat to be kept on in part of the church where 65+ children arrive after school every day. Heat is on from October to April (and often May) in that part of our country. The afterschool program provides them with a healthy snack, warm greetings, and volunteers to help them with their homework until their moms get home from work.

Pastor Dee Finch, Pastor Brian Rotach and Cheryl Bird will be coming from Buffalo. If you would like one of them to speak to your Sunday School class on November 16th, please make your request as soon as possible. You can also join the Forum Sunday School Class that day where one of them will speak. For more information, please contact Beth Intondi at 404-408-1657.



“Where are you serving?”

Need Some Help Around the House?

Let Us Know

If you, or anyone you know needs some help around the house in the coming months, we have some folks who want to help make sure that happens. If you know of anyone who might need leaves raked, gutters cleaned, some light housework done, Thanksgiving or Christmas decorations put up, etc., please contact Rev. David Burchett by e-mail at dburchett@duluthumc.org with your needs. In addition, if you would like to join us as we go out and serve and love our neighbors, please let David know.

Help Serve a Thanksgiving Lunch to Duluth Care Team Families

We will be helping the **Duluth High School Care Team** serve the families they assist a Thanksgiving lunch on Saturday, November 22nd. We are signed up to help with:

- six people to serve lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.,
- six people to help serve dessert from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.,
- and eight people to help clean up from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

If you would be interested in filling any of these volunteer slots, or donating food or supplies, please scan the QR code to the right with your smart phone or tablet to check availability. If there is a spot open, please do not sign up for serving slots but please contact Rev. David Burchett by e-mail at dburchett@duluthumc.org so he can put your name in one of our pre-reserved serving spots. Thank you for your help!



Operation Christmas Child

Two weeks are remaining in this year's **Operation Christmas Child**, our annual participation in **Samaritan's Purse's** mission for God's children around the world. As we did last year, there will be physical shoeboxes available to be completed by you as well as the online



option to complete shoeboxes. Empty shoeboxes are available in the Narthex, the Veterans Memorial Gathering Room, outside Hinton Hall, and outside of room F145 on the 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center. Completed shoeboxes

are to be returned **by Sunday, November 16th**, and can be returned to these same locations.

The cost of the **Build On-Line Shoebox** option is \$30, and these shoeboxes are delivered to certain locations with special custom and cultural needs. This year we have increased the goal and expanded the timeframe, and are currently at 14% of this year's goal of 80 online shoeboxes. **The DFUMC Goal Page is active and you can complete an online shoebox by:**

- Using specific instructions, prepared for using the online process, which are available at the shoebox distribution locations around the church.
- Scanning the QR code located to the right with your smartphone or tablet to complete your shoebox online.
- Going to the church's website - duluthumc.org - clicking on the **MINISTRIES** tab and then clicking on the **MISSIONS** tab, where you will find information about **Operation Christmas Child**.



For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Charlie Doerlich by e-mail chaz3d@gmail.com, or calling 678-662-2115.

MISSIONS

"Where are you serving?"

Item Donations Needed for Ferguson Elementary School

Ferguson Elementary School needs our help again this upcoming holiday season. Ferguson Elementary, a Title 1 school located in Duluth, has a wonderful tradition each year of students shopping in the **Holiday Shop** for their families for Christmas by using their behavior points. The students work hard all year to earn their behavior points, so they can spend them on their families. After the students purchase their gifts, the staff wrap them before the students take them home. For many of these students, the **Holiday Shop** is the only opportunity they have to purchase holiday gifts for their families.

To help make the **Holiday Shop** happen, Ferguson Elementary needs our donations. If you have any items that are new or gently used from the following list, you can leave them in collection areas in the Dorothy L. Rainey Fellowship Hall, and outside Hinton Hall.

Items needed include:

- Toys
- Games
- Home decor
- Holiday decor
- Candles
- Craft/art supplies
- Jewelry
- Lotion
- Perfume
- Soap
- Men's items
- Gift bags
- Tissue paper for gifts bags



Thank you for your generosity.

Help a Family in Need Provide Christmas for Their Children

If you would like to help a family in need provide a Christmas this year for their children, the **Duluth High School Care Team** has a large number of families that could use your help. Please scan the QR code located below with your smart phone or tablet to sign up to adopt one of the families.

Thank you for your support!



Duluth High School Care Team QR Code

Collecting Toys and Gifts for the Hands of Christ Duluth Co-op's Christmas Shop

Be on the lookout for a Christmas tree in the Veterans Memorial Gathering Room in mid-to-late November as we begin to collect toys and gifts for children of all ages that will be taken to the **Christmas Shop** at the **Hands of Christ-Duluth Co-op**. Please bring unwrapped new toys for boys and girls and little bits and teenagers to help make sure there is a supply of gifts to make it through the Christmas season.



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.

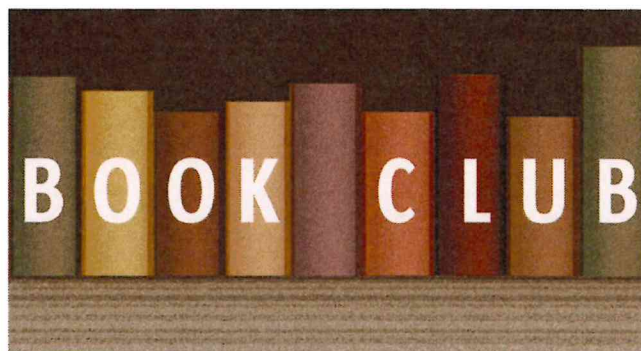
Other Items:

- 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.

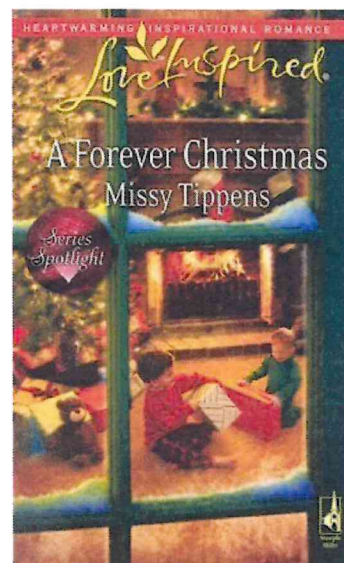


Book Club to Discuss "A Forever Christmas" by Missy Tippens:

Monday, November 17th

The **Duluth First UMC Library Book Club** will meet on Monday, November 17th, to discuss **Forever Christmas** by our own Missy Tippens, wife of Senior Pastor Terry Tippens. Missy will lead the discussion of **Forever Christmas** beginning at 10 a.m. in room F145, located on the 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center.

Missy's novels have been nominated for the Booksellers Best, Holt Medallion, American Christian Fiction Writers Carol Award, Gayle Wilson Award of Excellence, Maggie Award, Beacon Contest, RT Reviewer's Choice Award, and the Romance Writers of America RITA® Award.



In **Forever Christmas**, a love-inspired romance, 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.

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.

DECORATE the Church

Decorating the Church for Advent and Christmas: November 29th

The **Worship Committee** invites you to join with them on Saturday, November 29th, at 9:00 a.m. in the Dorothy L. Rainey Fellowship Hall and in Hinton Hall as they come together to prepare the church's Advent and Christmas decorations and decorate for the holiday season.



Time for the Stars to Adorn Our Lawn: Saturday, November 29th

The stars will once again adorn the front lawn of the church during the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany seasons. The stars will go up on the front lawn on Saturday, November 29th, at 10 a.m. If you would like to help install them, please simply show up to help!



New Titles in Our Church Library for Fall Reading

Stop by and Check Out ALL the new titles for Fall reading in The Louise McDaniel Memorial Church Library, located on the 2nd floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center. The library is where you can find your next great read, and when the church is open, the library is open! New titles in our library include:

- **Small Victories: Spotting Impossible Moments of Grace** by Anne Lamott (Christian Inspirational Nonfiction). In **Small Victories**, Lamott offers a new message of hope that celebrates the triumph of light over the darkness in our lives. Our victories over hardship and pain may seem small, she writes, but they change us—our perceptions, our perspectives, and our lives. Lamott writes of forgiveness, restoration, and transformation, how we can turn toward love even in the most hopeless situations, how we find the joy in getting lost and our amazement in finally being found.
- **The Talk** by Darrin Bell (2026 UWF Book to Read Young Adult). This graphic memoir by a winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Editorial Cartooning offers a deeply personal meditation on the “the talk” parents must have with Black children about racism and the brutality that often accompanies it, a ritual attempt to keep kids safe and prepare them for a world that—to paraphrase Toni Morrison—does not love them. Bell examines how “the talk” has shaped nearly every moment of his life into adulthood and fatherhood.
- **Making Sense of the Bible** by Adam Hamilton (Christian Inspirational and Bible Study). Denominations from evangelical to mainline continue to experience deep divisions over universal social issues. The underlying debate isn't about a particular social issue, but instead it is about how we understand the nature of scripture and how we should interpret it. In **Making Sense of the Bible**, Adam Hamilton, one of the country's leading pastors and Christian authors, addresses the hot-button issues that plague the church and cultural debate, and answers many of the questions frequently asked by Christians and non-Christians alike.

Don't miss the **Library Book Club** discussion led by our own Missy Tippens on her book, **Forever Christmas**, on Monday, November 17th, at 10am in room F145, located on the 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center.

James Dykes' Eagle Scout Project: Duluth First UMC Outdoor Seating and Workspace

Dear members of Duluth First UMC,

My name is James Dykes and I am working on completing my Eagle Scout project. My project at Duluth First UMC consists of building new benches and tables for the church community.

I have been a member of Boy Scouts since 2016 and have been working to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. If you would like to support me in my Eagle Scout project, please scan the QR code located below with your smart phone or tablet. Thank you for your participation and support.

James Dykes,
Eagle Scout candidate



"Cars for Campouts" Car Show a Great Success!

The "Cars for Campouts" 10th Annual Car Show was the most successful so far. Ninety-five special cars were on display and record funds were raised for our Scout Troop 419.

Fifty awards were presented including **Boy Scout Voted Favorite**, **Most Likely to Get a Ticket on the Way Home**, and **Most Likely NOT to Make It Home**. The **Scoutmasters Choice Award** was presented to the owner of a 1954 Packard Caribbean (see below). The **Pastor's Choice Award** was presented to the owner of a 1932 Ford Deuce Roadster (see below).

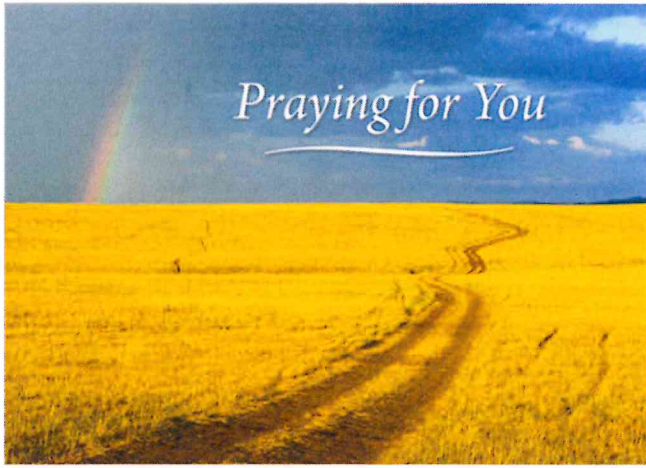
Save the date for the 11th Annual "Cars for Campouts" Car Show - Saturday, October 3, 2026!



The Scoutmasters Choice Award was presented to the owner of this 1954 Packard Caribbean.



The Pastor's Choice Award was presented to the owner of this 1932 Ford Deuce Roadster.



Prayer Concerns

- Charlie Anderson • Tracy Balkcom
- Donna Bowman • Dale Braynard
- Gen Butterworth • Bill Evans
- Rosemary Hall • Shamain Hallett
- Carol Hitchcock • Linton Jones
- Charlie Pierce • Ann Reifert
- Ethel Sales • Clara Truesdell
- Dale VanPelt • Easton Wall
- Federal workers and others affected by the government shutdown.
- People affected by Hurricane Melissa.
- David Beasley & family in the death of his brother.
- Lacy & Bill Evans & family in the death of their son, Scott.
- Maggie & Jared Grace in the death of their grandfather, Mike Ramstead.
- Jenny Kuny & family in the death of her father, Mike Ramstead.
- Lin Ramstead & family in the death of her husband, Mike.



Deadline for the December 2025

Edition of "The Messenger" Newsletter

The article deadline for the November 2025 edition of *The Messenger* newsletter is Thursday, November 20th, 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 October 5 th	\$28,661.05
Received on October 12 th	\$47,180.55
Received on October 19 th	\$29,010.84

Year-to-Date, 2025

Received as of October 19 th	\$1,134,913.15
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"Crossing the Finish Line"

Capital Campaign: Year-to-Date, 2025

Received as of October 19 th	\$205,716.74
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Worship Attendance

(includes in-person attendance and online views)

October 5 th	528
October 12 th	564
October 19 th	613