



THE MESSENGER



DULUTH FIRST UMC'S NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025

Celebrating the Season of Advent at Duluth First UMC

The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming" or "visit," begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent is the beginning of the church year for Christians.

During Advent, we prepare for and anticipate the coming of Christ. We remember the longing of Jews for a Messiah and our own longing for and need of forgiveness, salvation and a new beginning. Even as we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem, we also look forward anticipating the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by his first coming.

Advent begins with the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day. This year Advent began on Sunday, November 30th, and ends at sundown on Wednesday, December 24th.

Although we are accustomed to celebrating Christmas on a single day, in both Christian tradition and on the church calendar, the Christmas season lasts from sundown on Christmas Eve (December 24th) through Epiphany of the Lord (January 4th). This is sometimes referred to as "the 12 days of Christmas."

The color for Advent has traditionally been purple, although some churches have adopted blue. In practice, however, as churches increasingly incorporate the symbols and decorations of Christmas during Advent, more and more red, green and gold are appearing. **The United Methodist Book of Worship** upholds the traditional color of purple for Advent, signifying penitence and royalty, but also allows blue, the color of hope.



This Advent, we invite you to join with us at Duluth First UMC as we prepare for and anticipate the coming of Christ. We are offering many opportunities for all ages to participate in this season. Explore the Advent opportunities detailed in this edition of ***The Messenger*** newsletter, helping to

make the Advent and Christmas seasons more meaningful for you, your family and friends.

Adapted from "What is Advent?" and "Understanding Advent" by Dean McIntyre, retired Director of Music Resources, Discipleship Ministries.

*Originally published in **Interpreter Magazine**, November–December, 2017.*

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

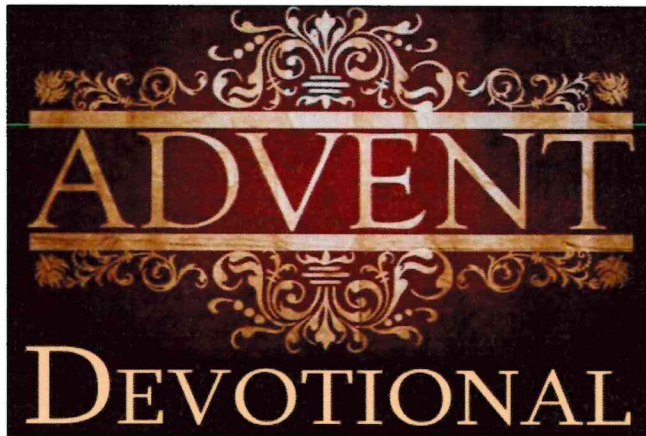
8:30 a.m. — Traditional Worship service
11:00 a.m. — Contemporary Worship service
11:00 a.m. — Traditional Worship service

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.

Advent Devotional Calendar

The wonderful volunteers of our church library, **The Louise McDaniel Memorial Library**, have put together an **Advent Devotional Calendar** for everyone to use during their journey this Advent season. The **Advent Devotional Calendar** will be:

- In worship handouts on Sundays, November 30th and December 7th;
- Available for download on the **Advent and Christmas Eve** page on the church's website - **duluthumc.org**;
- At the Information tables located in the Narthex (the main entrance to the Sanctuary) and in the back of Hinton Hall on Sunday mornings;
- Available for download by using your smart phone or tablet to scan the QR code located to the right.



Advent Devotional Videos

The season of Advent is underway and students in our church's **Youth Ministry** are excited to share their Advent devotional videos with you! Every Wednesday (December 3rd, 10th, and 17th) during Advent, we will post a short devotional video by one of our students on our **Youth Ministry's** YouTube channel - **dfumcstudents**. They would love for you to journey with them by watching and sharing these videos with others! Also, please click on the **SUBSCRIBE** button to get notifications whenever they post new content on their YouTube channel.



Advent Prayer Stations

Our **Youth Ministry** students have created **Advent Prayer Stations** to help you engage more deeply with God this season. **Advent Prayer Stations** are located:

- In the cul-de-sac area near the offices on the 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center;
- Outside of the main entrance to Hinton Hall;
- In the Veterans Memorial Gathering Room

Each week of Advent you will find a new **Advent Prayer Station** designed to inspire and help you draw closer to God. We invite you to come experience it with us. May this Advent season overflow with hope, peace, joy, and love!



Christmas Eve Services:

Wednesday, December 24th

Noon - Family Christmas Eve Service

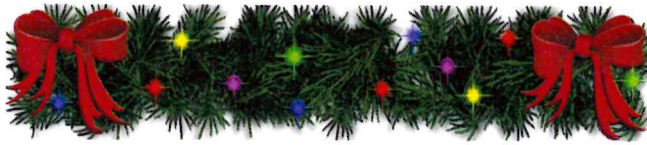
- The Family Christmas Eve Service, with candlelight to close the service, will be held in Hinton Hall.
- Music, featuring Christmas carols, will be led by the Contemporary Worship Praise Team.
- The service will be live streamed on the **Duluth First UMC Contemporary Worship** page on Facebook.

4:00 and 6:00 p.m. - Candlelight Services

- The Christmas Eve Candlelight Services will be held in the Sanctuary.
- Music, featuring Christmas carols, will be led by the Chancel Choir.
- The services will be live streamed on the **Duluth First UMC Worship** page on YouTube.

NOTE: Children, newborn through pre-Kindergarten, are eligible for childcare at Duluth First United Methodist Church's **Childcare Corner**.





Christmas Carol Sing-along:

Wednesday, December 10th

Join us Wednesday, December 10th, in Hinton Hall, located on the 2nd floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center, as members of our **Music & Worship Arts Ministry** lead us in a **Christmas Carol Sing-Along**. Caroling will begin at 5:45 p.m. and will feature favorite sacred and secular songs.



Ministry of Music & Worship Arts

Christmas Music Program:

Sunday, December 14th

On Sunday, December 14th, our **Ministry of Music & Worship Arts** is excited to present its annual Christmas music program during the 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship service in the Sanctuary.



Order Your Christmas Poinsettias:

Now Through December 14th

The Worship Committee invites you to remember or honor a loved one with a poinsettia this Christmas season. The poinsettias will be used to adorn the Sanctuary and Hinton Hall on Sunday, December 21st, and on Christmas Eve. **The cost per plant is \$20. You may pick up your poinsettia/poinsettias following the worship services on Christmas Eve.** Printed copies of the poinsettia Remembrance/Honor listings will be available at the worship services on Sunday, December 21st, and at the three worship services on Christmas Eve.

All proceeds go to **Seeds of Hope**, whose funds are used to help meet the needs of God's people living in Duluth and Suwanee--often strangers, widows, orphans, homeless, those who are lost, and those who are without hope--who come to Duluth First United Methodist Church seeking assistance. **In 2025 the number of assistance requests has been much higher than in the past. If you would like to contribute extra above/beyond the cost of your poinsettia(s), we thank you for your additional support of Seeds of Hope.**

You can place your order for poinsettias online with a credit/debit card payment. Anyone wishing to pay by credit/debit card must complete their order form online. To order online, please go to the church's website - www.duluthumc.org - and then click on the **Poinsettias** slide on the homepage.

If you wish to pay by check or cash, order forms will be available:

- At the Welcome/Information Centers;
- Online for download at the church's website - www.duluthumc.org - click on the **Poinsettias** slide on the homepage.
- In the Sunday Traditional Worship service bulletins on November 30th, December 8th and 15th;
- At the Information Table in the back of Hinton Hall at the Contemporary Worship services.

Please place your form/forms, along with a check made payable to **Duluth First United Methodist Church** and marked **Poinsettias** in the memo section, in the Church Staff Drop Box located in the Atrium.

NOTE: All poinsettia orders must be received by Sunday, December 14th, at 5:00 p.m.

Join Us for Wednesday Night Dinners in Hinton Hall

December 3rd

Chicken Parmesan, spaghetti noodles,
sautéed zucchini, Brussels sprouts,
garlic bread, and dessert.

For the kids – TBD.

December 10th

Fried chicken, mashed potatoes,
green beans, corn medley,
biscuits, and dessert.

For the kids – the same.

**PLEASE NOTE: The Wednesday Night Dinner
on December 10th will be the final one for the
2025 season. Wednesday Night Dinners in
Hinton Hall will resume on January 7, 2026.**

**Have a blessed and safe Christmas
and New Year's holiday!**

**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.**



The End of the Year is Upon Us. Make an Impact with Your Year-End Giving!

As we move into the Christmas season, we are reminded that another year is coming to a close. The Finance Office of the church is ready to assist you with your year-end giving! There's still time to make a gift of stock—you may contact Benjamin Rah via e-mail at brah@duluthumc.org or call the church at 770-476-3776, ext. 120. All stock transactions must be completed no later than Wednesday, December 31, 2025, in order to receive tax credit.

If you're over 72 years old, year-end giving is a great opportunity to have your Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA contributed directly to the church also. It's a win-win. When you contribute your RMD that way, you save money by paying no taxes on it, and the church gets the full use of your gift because the church pays no tax on it, either.

As stipulated by IRS regulations, the church will be able to give year 2025 contribution credit (for tax purposes) for all donations received or post marked by December 31, 2025. The church office will be closed from Wednesday, December 24th, through Wednesday, December 31st.

We will also receive donations on Sundays, December 21st and 28th, at all of our morning worship services (8:30 Traditional, 11:00 Contemporary, 11:00 Traditional), as well on Wednesday, December 24th, at our Christmas Eve services (noon, 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.) You may also mail your donations. In addition, we accept credit/debit card contributions online! Just go to the church's website at duluthumc.org and click on the **ONLINE GIVING** tab.

If you have a special need regarding your year-end contributions, please contact Benjamin Rah as soon as possible. Thank you so much for making a difference in this church and this community through your generous giving.

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 >>**

Christian Beginnings Christmas Program: Thursday, December 18th

All are invited to attend our **Christian Beginnings Preschool & Kindergarten's Christmas Program** on Thursday, December 18th, beginning at 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Church members are invited to join our students' families to come and see each grade put on a holiday show. We look forward to seeing you there!



Thank You from Children's Ministry

We have had so much fun this year and are so thankful to all the love and support we receive from our church and members. Thank you for everyone's contribution that makes **Children's Ministry** and **Christian Beginnings Preschool & Kindergarten** such a wonderful place for families. We look forward to a lot of fun, faith and fellowship together in 2026!



Christian Beginnings Festive Fundraiser

This holiday season, our **Christian Beginnings Preschool and Kindergarten** are kicking off a festive fundraiser to support our general budget. Our talented teachers have been hard at work, turning plain Christmas trees into festive works of art!

From December 1st - 19th, you can support our fundraiser by stepping into a winter wonderland on the Dorothy L. Rainey Fellowship Hall stage and exploring a charming display of beautifully decorated Christmas trees. Purchase \$5 tickets to vote for your favorite—each ticket counts as one vote! And if you fall in love with a particular tree, don't miss the silent auction, where the highest bidder will take home the fully decorated tree by the 19th.



Come enjoy the trees through December 19th, cast your votes, or sign up for the silent auction when our display is open Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cash, card, and check are accepted for both voting and auction bids.

Which tree is the prettiest? You decide! Buy your voting tickets and vote for your favorite. If you want to take one home, participate in the silent auction. All funds raised support **Christian Beginnings Preschool and Kindergarten's** general budget. Thank you for your continued support of our school and **Children's Ministry**!

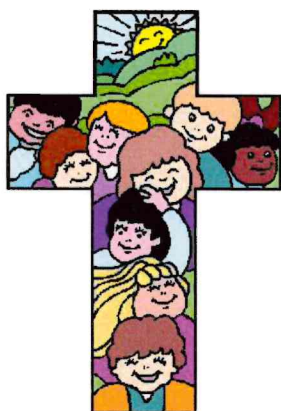
Christian Beginnings Preschool and Kindergarten - Vote Us Best of Gwinnett

Christian Beginnings Preschool and Kindergarten has been nominated for "Best of Gwinnett" again and we'd love to have your vote! Please take a moment to scan the QR code located below and vote for **Christian Beginnings** as "Best Education & Childcare."

We have been honored to receive this award in years past and we would love your continued support of our school. Thank you for your vote!



Children's Ministry and Christian Beginnings Preschool & Kindergarten



Children's Ministry and Christian Beginnings Preschool & Kindergarten



Christian Beginnings *Preschool & Kindergarten*



Christian Beginnings *Preschool & Kindergarten*





Youth Ministry Sunday Night Gatherings for December and January

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.

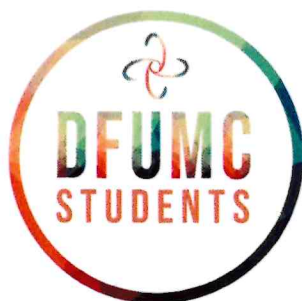
Our schedule for the month of December is:

- **Sunday, December 7th:** Sunday Night Gathering at 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Center ("The Fish Tank");
- **Sunday, December 14th:** Christmas Party at 5:30 p.m. in Hinton Hall;
- **Sunday, December 21st:** Ice skating from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Atlanta IceForum (2300 Satellite Blvd., Duluth);
- **Sunday, December 28th:** No Sunday Night Gathering.

Our schedule for January 2026 is:

- **Sunday, January 4th:** Sunday Night Gathering at 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Center ("The Fish Tank");
- **Sunday, January 11th:** Sunday Night Gathering at 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Center ("The Fish Tank");
- **Sunday, January 18th:** Sunday Night Gathering at 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Center ("The Fish Tank");
- **Sunday, January 25th:** 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.



Youth Spring Retreat - Spiritual Life

Retreat: March 13th - 15th

Please mark your calendars for our Youth Spring Retreat - **Spiritual Life Retreat** - being held Friday, March 13th through Sunday, March 15th and hosted by the North Georgia UMC Conference at the Glisson Camp and Retreat Center in Dahlonega, GA. **Spiritual Life Retreat** digs deep into how God provides support and direction in our spiritual journey through powerful worship, meaningful small groups, and plenty of fun activities that build community.

Please be on the lookout for more information and registration. Students, we can't wait to spend the weekend with you at our spring retreat! If you have questions, please contact Rev. Min Lee, Director of Youth Ministries, by e-mail at mlee@duluthumc.org.



Thank You for Your Generosity

Thank you so much for your generosity in providing gift cards for the care packages for our college students! Because of your love and generosity, we were able to mail out 35 care packages. We are also grateful for the members of the **Explorers Sunday School Class** and our **Youth Ministry** students, who wrote encouraging notes and helped assemble the packages.

Thank you for the wonderful ways you love and care for our college students!



The Explorers Sunday School Class and our Youth Ministry students joined together to write encouraging notes and help assemble the care packages for college students.



“Where are you serving?”

Help Make This Christmas Special for a Child: Donate a Toy to the Hands of Christ Christmas Shop

Would you like to help make a difference in a child's life this Christmas? Duluth First UMC will be partnering with the **Hands of Christ Duluth Co-Op** this year in a toy drive to help stock the **Hands of Christ Christmas Shop**. The **Christmas Shop** will help families in need provide gifts for their children this Christmas.

If you would like to help us provide Christmas for all of these children in our community, your generosity can make sure that happens. Bring in **unwrapped toys** and place them under the Christmas tree in the Veterans Memorial Gathering Room, or under the Christmas tree in the back of Hinton Hall. **We will be accepting toy donations through Thursday, December 18th.**

We hope that you will prayerfully consider helping to make Christmas a joyous day for all the families that **Hands of Christ** assists every day and every year. Thank for your generosity and your faithfulness!



Seeds of Hope: Helping Those in Need

Seeds of Hope is a fund that is not a part of our general budget that we use to assist those in our community in need of help. One of the primary sources of funding for **Seeds of Hope** is the purchase of poinsettias through the season of Advent. These poinsettias will be available for purchase through Sunday, December 14th (**see the Poinsettias article on page 3 for ordering information**). We sincerely hope that you will prayerfully consider purchasing some poinsettias in memory or in honor of loved ones this season.

Your generosity and faithfulness in giving above and beyond to **Seeds of Hope** makes it possible for Duluth First United Methodist Church to provide necessities such as groceries, a meal, gas, clothing, and other needs to come about. More importantly, you help provide the resources that allow Duluth First UMC to provide hope for those in our community who are homeless, who are struggling, and who are lost. **Seeds of Hope** is a way to shine the light of Christ in our community and we show love, grace, and compassion to all those who are in search of help and hope. We thank you for your generosity in helping to fund **Seeds of Hope**.



MISSIONS

“Where are you serving?”



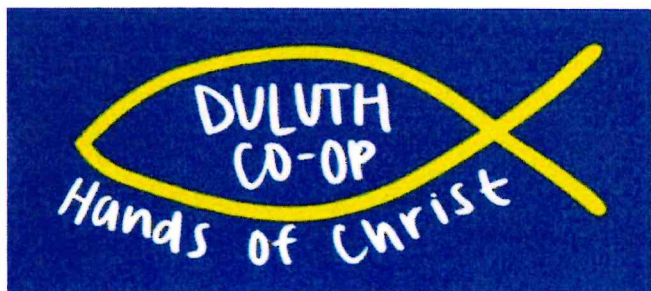
Wednesday Night Food Drives for November and December

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 December are:

- 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!



Item Donations Needed for Ferguson Elementary School's Holiday Shop

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 **no later than Friday, December 12th**. 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!

You Can Still Fill Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes Online

You can still fill an **Operation Christmas Child** shoebox online **through Sunday, December 21st**. The cost of the Build Online Shoebox is \$30, and this is a quick and easy way to participate in this mission - no shopping going store to store, no lines, no driving. **The DFUMC Goal Page is active and you can complete an online shoebox by:**

- Scanning the QR code located to the right with your smartphone or tablet to complete your shoebox online.
- Go 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 email at chaz3d@gmail.com or call 678-662-2115. Thank you for your support!

GriefShare Support Group: Next Session Begins Wednesday, January 7th

The **GriefShare Support Group**, led by the church's **Stephen Ministers**, will walk alongside you through the loss of a loved one. Our next session of weekly classes will start on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, and continue through April 2nd. Meeting from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in room F153, located on the 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center, you will gain access to valuable **GriefShare** resources to help you through your grief. **GriefShare** also offers Bereavement Candlelight Services and a "Surviving the Holidays" class every year before the Thanksgiving holiday.

For more information, please visit the **GriefShare** website at griefshare.org, or contact Tracy Brinker, Bereavement Coordinator, by e-mail at tbrinker@duluthumc.org, or call 770-476-3776.



Thank You Blood Donors: Blood Drive on November 12th a Great Success!

"Thank You" to the following people who donated blood at the Blood Drive held at Duluth First UMC on Wednesday, November 12th, helping to save a life and stuff the blood bank: Tracy Brinker, Donna Clare, Kimberly Cole (double red cell donation), Scott

Big Thank You!

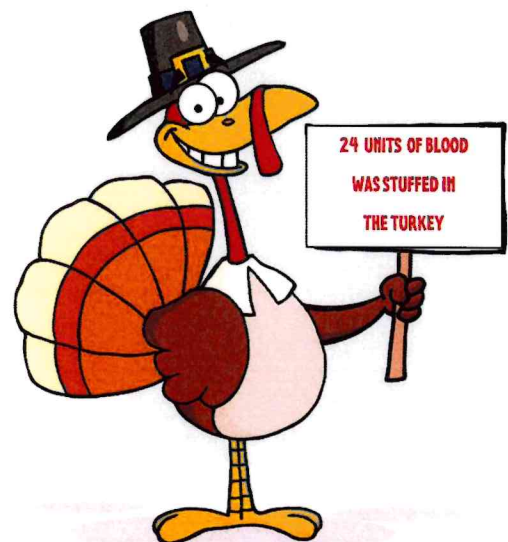
Dawson, Jaye Deans (1st time donor), Michael Deans, James Dykes, Lynnette Fetsko, Gabriella Gillespie-Fitzgerald, Charlene Gordon, Bob Griffeth, Kevin Leftwich, Nancy Martin, Bill McLees, Joel McLeMore, Mike

Montgomery, Jenny Norberto, Dianne Ogden, Karen Phillips, Joanne Ramirez (1st time donor), Allen Servedio, Lucas Servedio, Carol Stalcup, and Randy Yokeley.

Double red cell donations collect twice the amount of red blood cells in a single visit. During this process, a special machine separates the red blood cells from your blood and returns the plasma and platelets to you. This allows you to donate every 112 days, and the donated red cells are crucial for patients with sickle cell anemia, blood loss, or who need trauma transfusions.

A big "Thank You" to those came to give but were unable to donate blood, and to the wonderful blood drive volunteers, Pat Brannon and Angie Doerlich.

The next blood drive at Duluth First UMC will be held on February 4, 2026, from 3 to 7p.m. in the Dorothy L. Rainey Fellowship Hall. Giving blood is a simple yet impactful way to make a difference. One donation can save up to three lives. Imagine the joy knowing that you saved up to 3 lives!





United Women in Faith

Women's Christmas – A Retreat:

Saturday, January 10th

What is it that allowed Mary to say, "Let it be?" Do you remember a time when you received a blessing that helped you be present to a change that arrived? The **United Women of Faith** invite you to join them on Saturday, January 10th, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to take time for one day, after Christmas and during Epiphany, to find a place where other women see you, welcome you and help you to be there for what comes next.

This casual retreat is an opportunity to relax after all the Christmas activities. Lunch, drinks, and snacks will be provided. We will meet from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Dorothy L. Rainey Fellowship Hall. Please sign-up during December at the United Women of Faith information tables located around the church to help us prepare for handouts and lunch. Please bring a pint size clear glass jar/Ball jar to use for one of the art projects.

The retreat will include readings and art from Jan Richardson's book **How the Stars Get in Your Bones**. You may bring a donation of \$7 to be sent to Jan Richardson for "Sanctuary of Women" to be shared with the A21 Campaign, an organization devoted to ending human trafficking and providing sanctuary and healing for those rescued from slavery.

Look at the stars of your world, your life, your family and see how they get into your bones. Look around to see another who might need a blessing from you. We will come together with art, readings, comfort, and a challenge to find something of sabbath rest to find the stars of your life. Perhaps there will be something that stretches you to a new place or invites you to think in a direction of an uncharted sky for your spirit. We will delight in blessings and prayers, share in a meal and in conversations of laughter, concern, sighs, and joys.

Blessings and joy for advent as you prepare the way for the Christ child to shine in your heart, to see the stars and count your blessings. Celebrate all you have done with a retreat together on January 10th to find your blessing. For additional information contact Terrie Adkins by e-mail at ttadkins@sprynet.com.

New Titles in Our Church Library for Winter Reading

Cozy up with a good book this winter from **The Louise McDaniel Memorial Church Library**, located on the 2nd floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center, where you can find your next great read!

The Life We Bury by Allen Eskens (adult fiction). A college student interviews a dying Vietnam veteran and convicted murderer for a writing assignment, leading him on a quest to uncover the truth about the crime and confront his own personal demons.

Mixed Blessings by Barbara Brown Taylor (inspirational). In this new edition of her earliest collection of sermons, Barbara Brown Taylor brings her down-to-earth wisdom and keen perspective to the Bible readings of the lectionary cycle. Originally preached for the congregation of All Saints' Episcopal Church in downtown Atlanta, the topics of these sermons range from conversations with Abraham and Moses in the texts of the Hebrew scriptures to our awareness of the communion of saints and how to recognize a miracle when one comes our way.

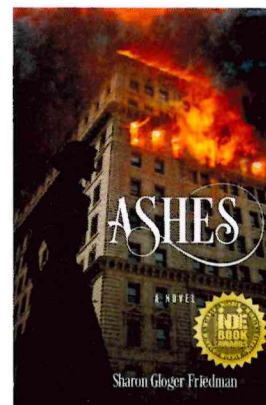
For Those Who Are Lost by Julia Bryan Thomas (adult historical fiction). Inspired by true events, **For Those Who Are Lost** begins on the eve of the Nazi invasion of the island of Guernsey, when terrified parents have a choice to make: send their children alone to England, or keep the family together and risk whatever may come to their villages.

Library Book Club to Discuss

"Ashes" by Sharon Gloger Friedman:

Monday, January 12th

The **Library Book Club** will meet on Monday, January 12th, at 10:00 a.m. in room F145, located on the 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center, to discuss the book **Ashes** by Sharon Gloger Friedman. Sharon will be here in person to discuss her book **Ashes**, the story of a Jewish family flees persecution in Russia to New York, where their daughter works at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory and becomes involved in the workers' rights movement.

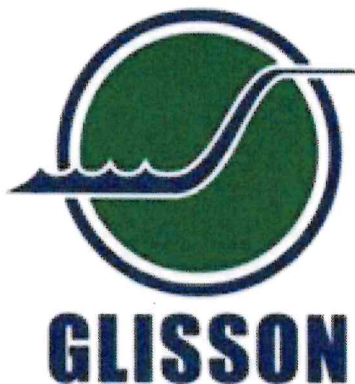


Registration is Now Open for Camp Glisson Summer 2026

'Tis the season for summer camp registration! Early registration for Summer 2026 at **Glisson Camp and Retreat Center**, is now open for members of North Georgia United Methodist churches and returning families of Summer 2025 campers.

Glisson Camp & Retreat Center offers Summer Camp in the forests surrounding Cane Creek Falls near Dahlonega, GA. Since 1925, this place has become holy ground as thousands have had their faith strengthened through God's presence there in creation and Christian community. **Glisson Camp and Retreat Center** is part of the North Georgia Camp & Retreat Ministries of the United Methodist Church's North Georgia Conference.

Registration is open to everyone. To see the schedule and/or register, please go to <https://glisson.org/register>.



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 Cellia Conley, Missy Tippens' Mother

Demp & Traci Posey

In Honor of Ann Odum

Elliot Brack

In Memory of Mike Ramstead

Mary Ellen & Rick Cox

Steve & Cheryl Cutchin

Robert & Pam Gates

Bob & Sherry Griffeth

Betty Jones

Linton & Jan Jones

Dylan Kuny

Erin Kuny

Jenny & Dave Kuny

Richard & Vivian Kuny

Pat Mitchell

Karen Valduga

Scout Troop 419 Christmas Tree Recycling Fundraiser: Saturdays, December 27th and January 3rd

Scout Troop 419 is holding their annual **Christmas Tree Pickup and Recycling event** on Saturdays, December 27th, and January 3rd, from 10 a.m. to noon. The trees are picked up at your curbside and your tax-deductible donation of \$10 minimum per tree is greatly appreciated.

Please have your tree curbside by 10 a.m. on the pickup day you select. Please remove all tinsel, decorations, flocking and wire that could clog up the chipper and do not wrap trees in plastic. In case of inclement weather on December 27th and January 3rd, the Scouts will pick up the trees on Sundays, December 28th and January 4th.

You can sign up to arrange Christmas tree pick up by:

- Going to <https://www.troop419.org/node/5507>;
- Sending an e-mail to christmastree@bsatroop419.org.

You can pay:

- At your door. Please leave cash or a check payable to **Troop 419** inside a Ziploc-style bag and place it under your doormat;
- Pay online at <https://www.paypal.me/bsatroop419>;
- By mail by sending a check made payable to **Troop 419** to Duluth First UMC, Attn. BSA Troop 419, 3208 Duluth Hwy. 120, Duluth, GA 30096.

Thank you for your support!





Prayer Concerns

- Kathy Anderson • Tracy Balkcom
 - Bill Evans • Don Greene
 - Rosemary Hall • Shamain Hallett
 - Carol Hitchcock • Carol Johnson
 - Linton Jones • Cheryl Otto
 - Susan Paschal • Charlie Pierce
 - Lin Ramstead • Ann Reifert
 - Ethel Sales • Abbie Stein
 - Clara Truesdell • Dale VanPelt
-
- Donna Bowman & family in the death of her granddaughter.
 - Lorraine Day & family in the death of her sister.
 - Michael Hopkins & family in the death of his stepmother.
 - Jan Jones & family in the death of her aunt.
 - Frank Loose & family in the death of his mother.



Deadline for the January 2026

Edition of "The Messenger" Newsletter

The article deadline for the January 2026 edition of *The Messenger* newsletter is Wednesday, December 31st, 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 November 2 nd	\$28,819.39
Received on November 9 th	\$41,410.65
Received on November 16 th	\$45,909.93
Received on November 23 rd	\$20,409.53

Year-to-Date, 2025

Received as of November 23 rd	\$1,299,291.45
--	----------------



"Crossing the Finish Line"

Capital Campaign: Year-to-Date, 2025

Received as of November 23 rd	\$224,006.74
--	--------------



Worship Attendance

(includes in-person attendance and online views)

November 2 nd	556
November 9 th	483
November 16 th	506
November 23 rd	505