



THE MESSENGER



DULUTH FIRST UMC'S NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2018

"Focus On Our Future" Update

Focus On Our Future

Worship † Community † Service

As 2017 came to a close, the success of our **Focus On Our Future** initiative continued to grow. For the year 2017, we received a total of \$805,000 for the Building Fund, including \$634,000 given to the 2017-2021 Campaign. We also brought our line of credit down to zero, and our total mortgage debt to \$1.9 million.

Currently, we have 276 **Focus On Our Future** pledges for \$1,754,000 with 36% (the \$634,000 noted above) already received in the first six months of the four-year pledge period. What an amazing story, given our capital financial position just a year ago.

In addition, we have seen substantial growth in the numbers of youth and children in our Foundations of Faith program, youth group, youth choir, and other activities. Truly the mission and purpose of our building fund giving is being achieved as our financial support grows.

We hope that everyone will rejoice in the ways God is leading us along the road to our future. Our thanks go out to all those contributing your support to this critical effort.



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Duluth First United Methodist Church

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

Sunday Worship Services

Traditional Worship at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Contemporary Worship at 9:30 a.m.
L.I.F.E. Children's Worship at 9:30 a.m.

Mardi Gras Pancake Supper:

February 13th

Make plans to celebrate Mardi Gras with your family and friends by attending a **FREE** pancake supper on Tuesday, February 13th, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. There will also be sausage, bacon, coffee, juice, milk, and water. Supper is **FREE**, but donations are appreciated! Proceeds will benefit the Duluth First UMC Music Ministry.

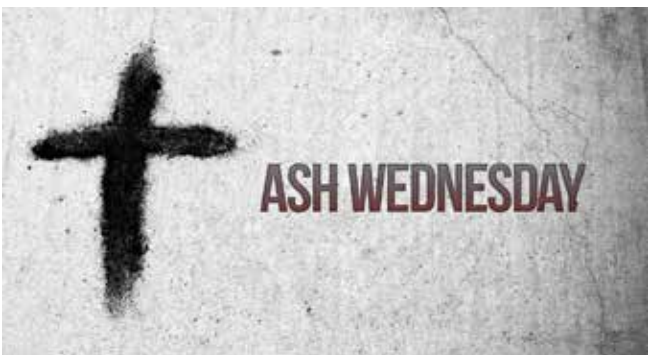


Ash Wednesday Service:

February 14th

Ash Wednesday will be observed on February 14th with a short service, led by Rev. David Burchett, Director of Youth Ministries, beginning at 6 p.m. in Hinton Hall, located in the Family Life Center. During the service ashes will be placed on foreheads as we confront our own mortality and confess our sin before God within our community of faith.

PLEASE NOTE: The service will take place during our regular Wednesday evening supper format, so plan to arrive early and receive your food before the service begins. Dinner is served beginning at 5 p.m. Food service will be stopped while the Ash Wednesday service is taking place. It will resume at the conclusion of the service.



Blood Drive: February 21st

An American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at Duluth First United Methodist Church on Wednesday, February 21st (rescheduled due to inclement winter weather on the original date of January 17th), from 3 to 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Every donor will get a token of our appreciation and we will have 2 prize drawings as well as t-shirts.

The benefits of donating blood are:

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

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

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

"...use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need."

Ephesians 4:28b (NLT)





Prayers Needed for...

- Les Apley • Mary Ellen Ask
- Tom Beasley • Donna Bowman
- Kathy Fincher • Sarah Gearinger
- Michael Hopkins • Beth Intondi
- Bobby Jones • Frances Jones
- Shirley Mattison • Shirley Mitchell
- Chuck Shellhouse • Vicki Stocks
- The family of Judy Bargainnier in her death.
- Sylvia Brock & family in the death of her mother.
 - Jane Casper & Dick Casper in the death of their sister-in-law.
- Dennis Patterson & family in the death of his mother.
- Jean Schindler & family in the death of her husband, Harry.



Need Prayers?

You can submit your prayer requests online at www.duluthumcprayers.org. Members of the Prayer Network will pray for you, a family member or friend throughout the week. Requests can be general and made anonymously.



Church Operating Fund

Received on January 7	\$32,611.10
Received on January 14	\$86,629.80
Received on January 21	\$22,684.70
Received on January 28	\$45,496.75

Year-to-Date, 2018

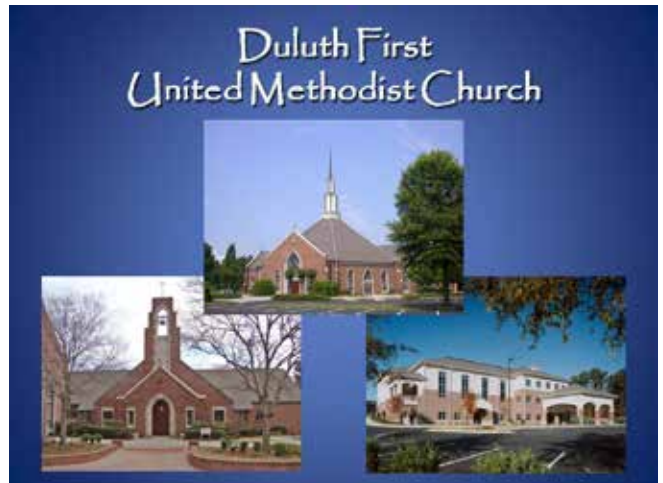
Received as of January 28	\$187,422.35
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Building Fund: Year-to-Date, 2018

Received as of January 28	\$24,316.80
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Total Church Operating Fund Giving, 2017

Received as of December 31, 2017	\$1,616,275.64
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Worship Attendance:

January 7	469
January 14	448
January 21	432
January 28	510

**Join Us for Wednesday Night Dinner
in the Duluth First UMC Hinton Hall**

February 7th

Meatloaf, macaroni and cheese,
turnip greens, butter peas, rolls, dessert.
For the kids - corn dogs and fries.

February 14th

Fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans,
fried okra, biscuits, dessert.
For the kids - the same.

February 21st

BBQ pork on a bun, baked beans,
cole slaw, corn on the cob, dessert.
For the kids - pizza.

February 28th

Beef tips, rice, broccoli, butternut squash,
biscuits, dessert.
For the kids - hamburgers and fries.

The Dinner Belles and Beaus prepare excellent meals at very reasonable prices. Dinner is served from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the Hinton Hall of the Family Life Center. Enjoy fellowship around the table with family and friends.

We are also offering a salad bar special. For only \$4 you can enjoy a fully stocked salad bar, a baked potato/sweet potato, dessert and drink.

Prices are: adults - \$7;
seniors (age 60 and up) - \$6;
children ages 11 years and under \$4;
children under 2 years eat for free;
no family (immediate family members only)
pays more than \$19.

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



Christian Beginnings

**Preschool and Kindergarten Registration
for 2018-2019 School Year
is Underway**

Our registration for the **Christian Beginnings Preschool and Kindergarten** 2018-2019 school year is underway. What better way for your child, or a friend's child, to learn their ABC'S, numbers, shapes, God's love for us and so much more, than in a caring, loving, Christian environment.

They will have fun and make friends while attending our accredited, award winning school. We hope you will come join us! If you know of anyone looking for



a wonderful preschool, please send him or her our way.

Our Preschool and Kindergarten program is for children ages 6 weeks (by September 1st, 2018) through kindergarten. **Registration is underway and we are running an early registration special through Friday, February 16th. We are offering a registration discount of \$145.00 for the first child and \$125.00 for each additional sibling. Beginning on Monday, February 19th, the registration fee will be \$170.00 for everyone.**

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

Christian Beginnings

Preschool and Kindergarten



Where Smiles Happen

Christian Beginnings Preschool & Kindergarten:

“It wasn’t enough for a snowman,
but we sure had fun with the snow!”



Senior Fellowship Program & Luncheon:

February 13th



The **Senior Fellowship** will meet for its monthly program and luncheon on Tuesday, February 13th, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This is a great way for senior adults to come together for food, fun and fellowship. **The program will feature a Bible trivia challenge, led by Rev. Beth Brown Shugart.**

The meeting begins at 11 a.m. and the program starts at 11:15 a.m. All senior adults are welcome to attend the program or the lunch or both. For more information, please contact Sarah Shafer at 770-277-4695.

The Roadrunners to Visit the

Mercedes-Benz Stadium: February 20th

Join **The Roadrunners** on Tuesday, February 20th, as they travel to downtown Atlanta to tour the Mercedes-Benz Stadium, the city's new world-class stadium and home to the Atlanta Falcons and the Atlanta United. During the tour guests will get the chance to see a behind-the-scenes look at premium club spaces, locker rooms, press box, and "based on availability" play on the field. Interesting facts about the Mercedes-Benz Stadium include:

- Stadium height: 305 ft. or 30 stories (vs. Georgia Dome 275 ft. or 27 stories)
- Stadium square footage: 2 million sq. ft. (vs. Georgia Dome 1.6 million sq. ft.)
- The Halo Board is the first display of its kind ever created and is 58 feet tall and 1,100 linear feet around.
- Largest non-transparent LED video display in the world.
- More than 38.1 million LEDs (38,193,665 LEDs.)

Please make your reservation for this trip at the Senior Fellowship program and luncheon on Tuesday, February 13th. The cost of the Mercedes-Benz Stadium tour is \$20 per person. **The Roadrunners** will leave the church front parking lot promptly at 9:15 a.m. Lunch will be on your own at Molly B's restaurant, a contemporary, southern-style chophouse located in the stadium. **The Roadrunners** will arrive back at the



Bereavement Support Group:

February 12th

The **Bereavement Support Group** meets on the 2nd Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 12th, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in room F-151, located on the 1st floor of the Family Life Center (**please note the new meeting room location**). Everyone who has had a loss is welcome to attend.



The group is led by Stephen Ministers. For more information please contact Brenda Bridges at 770-476-5126, or the church office at 770-476-3776.



Caregivers United Support Group

Meets Every Sunday Afternoon

Do you have a loved one that counts on you for care and support? Do you wonder how other caregivers deal with the emotional and physical challenges of caring for a loved one? You are not alone. Come join us whenever you can at the Caregivers United Support Group to connect with others that are facing these same struggles. This support group, which is facilitated by the Stephen Ministry, is there to walk with you on your journey and to help you feel less alone in the struggle to care for a loved one.



We invite you to join us on Sunday afternoons from 2 to 4 p.m. in room B-113. For more information, please contact the church office at 770-476-3776.



Suffering from a Strained Relationship?

Relationships with loved ones can have their ups and downs. Misunderstandings, dis-agreements and moments of frustration and hurt feelings will happen because we're all human. But when a relationship deteriorates to the point of being disrespectful and filled with hurtful words or actions, we are heartbroken! Equally upsetting is the total silence of a loved one as if the relationship is non-existent. The decline of a once loving relationship is devastating and the pain and sadness of it all can consume us.



Over time, a strained or unhealthy relationship with a loved one can take its toll on us if we don't address our feelings of heartache, anger, rejection, guilt, or not being able to forgive. These negative feelings can torment us and impact many of our relationships. While it's not easy to share our private life with others, it's important to talk to some-one. By giving voice to our pain and concerns, we're better able to find clarity and begin healing our brokenness.

Consider talking with a Stephen Minister.

Because many **Stephen Ministers** have experienced the impact from a strained or un-healthy relationship, you'll be talking with someone who truly understands your pain and heartache. Your specially trained **Stephen Minister** will create a safe place for you to confidentially share and explore bottled up feelings and concerns. While a **Stephen Minister** will not fix your relationship, you will have a confidant to help you find hope and healing. You'll also have someone praying for you every step of the way.

To learn more about **Stephen Ministry** or to request a **Stephen Minister**, please contact Rev. C. Kay Fuino by e-mail at ckfuino@duluthumc.org or call 770-476-3776, ext 117.



GriefShare Support Group:

A New Series of Sessions is Underway

GriefShare Support Group, a weekly seminar and support group for people who are grieving the death of someone close to them, is a 13-week session that includes video discussion and group discussion.



GriefShare, which began a new series of sessions on January 3rd, meets

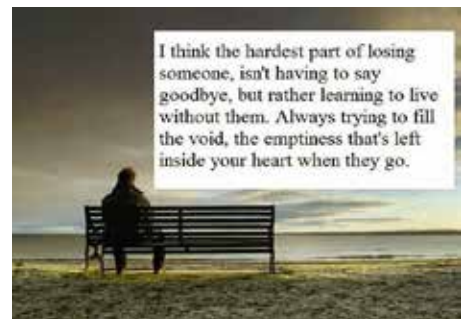
Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in room F-151, located on the 1st floor of the Family Life Center. You are given a workbook for journaling, note taking and grief study.

You are welcome to begin attending our **GriefShare** group at any point. Each session is "self-contained," so you do not have to attend in sequence. You will be able to pick up any session you missed during the 13-week cycle. Please visit the **GriefShare** website at www.griefshare.org for more information or contact Dana Thielmann at 678-641-7863, or the church office at 770-476-3776.

"The Next Step" Support Group

The thirteen-week **GriefShare** class, with video/workbook, provides the tools and instruction on how to move forward in your life while you are grieving a recent loss. The new support group, **The Next Step**, moves beyond the learning aspect and focuses on the emotional support and encouragement to use those learned tools in a long-term manner. Both the **GriefShare** class and **The Next Step** support group will be led by two Stephen Minister co-facilitators. Suggestions for **The Next Step** are completion of two or three **GriefShare** class sessions and 2+ years after an experienced loss.

The **Next Step** support group meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in room F-150, located on the 1st floor of the Family Life Center. For more information on the support group, please contact Sandra Town at 404-735-3752 or by e-mail at sandy_10_30@earthlink.net.



“Parenting the Love and Logic Way”

Parenting Classes Begin April 11th

Rev. Lynne Smith, a facilitator of *Parenting the Love & Logic Way* and *Early Childhood Parenting Made Fun*, will be leading a parenting class in April. The dates are April 11th, 18th, and 25th at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Parents and grandparents are welcome.

Parenting the Love and Logic Way will be offered again in the Fall of 2018. The April class is a short introduction. If you would like to know more about the class, please check out www.loveandlogic.com.



Deadline for the March 2018 Edition of “The Messenger”

The article deadline for the March 2018 edition of *The Messenger* is Thursday, March 1st, at 9 a.m.



Wednesday Night Dinner

“Dinner Belle/Beau” and “Kitchen Angel”

Volunteers Needed

The dinner bell will be ringing again soon at Duluth First UMC after the Christmas and New Years holidays with many of your menu favorites! Mark your calendars for Wednesday, January 10th, at 5 p.m. when Wednesday Night Dinners in the Hinton Hall resume in 2018.

Our Food Ministry Manager, Henry Roerig, and the Wednesday Night Dinner teams are looking for volunteers to help. No special experience or skill is necessary – just a willingness to serve, make new friends and have fun! Each team volunteers only once a month. We are also looking for Kitchen Angels to help Henry in the kitchen on Wednesdays with the food prep. We can use any time you can give us. We hope you will consider joining us for some good food and good fellowship. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Marilyn Scheiwe, Event Coordinator, by e-mail at mscheiwe@duluthumc.org, or call 770-476-3776, ext. 111. We hope you will consider volunteering.



Order Flowers for 2018 Worship Services in the Sanctuary and Hinton Hall

Our Flower Guild creates beautiful flower arrangements for Sunday morning worship services in both the Sanctuary and Hinton Hall. Teams of talented, eager-to-serve Flower Guild members create these arrangements each week. As always church members and friends are invited to purchase flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one, or to mark a special event, such as a birthday, anniversary, etc.



The cost for each arrangement is \$35 per vase or \$100 for three vases (2 vases in the Sanctuary/1 vase in Hinton Hall). Flower designations will be listed in the church bulletin for the Sanctuary services, and displayed on the screens for worship in Hinton Hall.

Please place your orders at least one week in advance. Your completed forms and payment must be received in order to reserve a date. For more information or to see if a specific date is available, please contact Tracy Brinker at the church office by e-mail at tbrinker@duluthumc.org, or call 770-476-3776.

“Christmas Gifts to the Church”

Offering: In Memory

The following people and groups have given to the “Christmas Gifts to the Church” Offering to the glory of God in memory of others:

- Lucille & Elvin Allen, by Eddie & Lori Allen.
- Ben Benoit, by Sarah Benoit.
- Margaret S. Blevins, by Ricky W. Blevins.
- Charles Bullock, by Carol Bullock.
- Don Burns, by Dale & Sara Burns.
- Our dads: Don Bennett, Sr., & Darrell Hipes, by Don & Cindy Bennett.
- Archie Davis, by Jeanine Gullett.
- Dorris J. Davis, by Jess W. Davis.
- Duane Dennie, by Lin Ramstead.
- Charlie Douglas, by June Douglas.
- Rusty Fallin, by Joyce Fallin.
- Peter & Genevieve Fast, by Richard & Juanita Rawls.
- Bobby T. Hall, by Bruce Hall.
- Marcie Hodoval, by Scott & Suzi Hodoval.
- Mary Evelyn & Tuck Jackson, by Jack & Betty Bluster.
- Katy Cox Johnson, by the family of Katy Cox Johnson.
- Our son, Rusty Johnson, by his Mom and Dad, Roy & Flora Johnson.
- Robert & Claire Josephson, by Allen & Kathy Servedio.
- Raymond & Mary Lail, by Slade & Kristy Lail.
- Janie Langford, by Art & Nancy Langford.
- Don Lee, by Sara Lee.
- Barbara Magnuson, by Daryl & James Begley & family.
- Mercedes Martin, by Sherry Griffeth.
- Dr. & Mrs. M. H. Mason, Jr., by Jimmy & Beth Mozley.
- Rev. John Meeks, by Tom & Joyce Upchurch.
- Dr. & Mrs. A.O. Meredith, Jr. by Michelle Stotter.
- Our parents, by Bud & Katherine Knox.
- Our parents, by Sally & Olen Leonard.
- Our parents, by Tom & Annette McIntosh.
- Our parents, by Andy & Janice Olson.
- Our parents: Merle & Dick Norton, and Clara Mae & Herman Johnson, by Greg & Elaine Norton.
- Scott Patterson, by Dennis & Debbie Patterson.
- Lillian Rogers, by Curt & Sue Rogers.
- Richard Rutecky, by Tanya & Jeff Benton.
- Jack Sanders, by Polly Sanders.
- Jim Shafer, by Sarah Shafer.
- Pat Southerland, by Billy & Mary Jo Southerland.

Continued in the next column.

“Christmas Gifts to the Church”

Offering: In Memory

The following people and groups have given to the “Christmas Gifts to the Church” Offering to the glory of God in memory of others:

(Continued from the previous column.)

- Karl Stoneking & Marvin Myers, by Charlie & Annette Pierce.
- Karl Stoneking & Marvin Myers, by Richard & Gail • Waigand.
- Margaret & Ren Swaim, by Sonny & Mimi Swaim.
- Shawn Thornton, by Dick & Pam Rodie.



“Christmas Gifts to the Church”

Offering: In Honor

The following people and groups have given to the “Christmas Gifts to the Church” Offering to the glory of God in honor of others:

- The balcony, by Richard Hill
- Gene Benton, by Tanya & Jeff Benton.
- Lynn Byrd, by the Byrd Children.
- Rose Chance, by Jeanelle Jordan.
- My children & grandchildren by Merri Loy.
- Our church staff, by Sue French.
- Miriam Crouch, by Sonny & Mimi Swaim.
- Ramona F. Delaney, by Sean & Susan Delaney.
- To the glory of God, by Peggy Nutt.
- Our Great Grandchildren, by Ray & Rayann Walker.
- Jeanelle Jordan, by Rose Chance.
- Barbara Karnitz, by Al Karnitz.
- Nancy Livingston, by the Livingston Family.
- Herb Magnuson, by Daryl & James Begley & family.
- Tom Martin, by Glen Cornell.
- Music Ministry, by Betty Jones.
- Lewis Purvis, by Pamela Blevins.
- Bennie & LeTisha Smith, by Glen & Karen Smith.
- Our children: Sarah, Paul, & Travis, by Wharton & Annette Smith.
- Our granddaughter, Reese Anne Thompson, by Clinton & Mary Anne Thompson.
- Jean Tyrrell, by Mark & Diann Tyrrell.
- The Worship Committee, by Bob & Debbie Gerardo.
- Lois Young, by Harold & Faye Machen.

“Christmas Gifts to the Church”

Offering

The following people and groups have given to the “Christmas Gifts to the Church” Offering to the glory of God:

- Anonymous
- Lester & Kay Apley
- Mary Ellen Ask
- Tom & Montine Beasley
- George Bedsole
- Billy Boles
- Dale & Pat Braynard
- Larry & Pat Burden
- Diane Busweiler
- Nancy Dragoo
- Dan & Janey Dunwoody
- Jef & Kathy Fincher
- Jeff & Jane Fitzpatrick
- Teguh & Lita Ghazalie
- Jim & Cindy Green
- Glory Hanna
- Harold & Wynn Hickam
- Ren & Anne Hood
- Pam Isbeque
- Ashley Johnson
- Kelly & Kimberly Kelkenberg
- Bill & Jo Ellen McLees
- Mike & Kay Montgomery
- Cam & Joanne Mullinax
- Greg & Elaine Norton
- Joy Parsons
- Ethel Sales
- “Single on Sunday” Sunday School Class
- Kathy Skidmore
- Barry & Ginger Stinson
- Jo Anne Tidwell
- Karen Valduga
- Walt & Dee Ann Wilcox



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 Honor of Vicki Barsh

Terrie Adkins

In Honor of Sylvia Brock

Chamber Chorale

In Honor of Priscilla Crowgey

Terrie Adkins

In Memory of Clifford Groover

Clark Hamrick

In Honor of Jane Haman

Steve & Benita Hatch

In Memory of Ray Haman

Steve & Benita Hatch

In Memory of Charlene S. Millard

The Cameron Family;
Robert & Pam Gates;
Tom & Ginger Summerville.

In Memory of Marvin Myers

Joseph & Marilois Barker;
Canon UMC Modern Families Sunday School Class;
Rita Garman; Bob & Pale Israel;
Gary & Sandra Kortkamp; Melvin & Judith Myers;
Lloyd & Lee Perry; Henry L. “Sonny” Presnal;
Susan Price; Bob & Harriet Ramsey;
Gilbert & Valeria Saikley; Ronald & Susan Serfoss;
Bettie Stoneking

In Memory of Bernard M. (Jack) Sanders

Don & Robin Sanders

In Memory of Dolores Welcker

Richard & Lisa Mistretta

