



THE MESSENGER



DULUTH FIRST UMC'S NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2018

Growing Spiritually - Step by Step

"Celebrating the offering is a spiritual act of worship every believer can actively participate in each week. Giving becomes a celebration when the believer discovers the joy of generosity, which grows out of God's grace." — Melvin Amerson, Celebrating the Offering

As members of Duluth First United Methodist Church we are called to be good stewards of all that God has given to us. If we completely embrace the reality that God owns it all, then we are free to embrace the truth that giving unto God a portion of the gifts He has blessed us with is a privilege for which we should give thanks. We are the stewards; God is the owner.

Questions about what we earn, how we earn it, how we save, spend, and give it away, are all questions of Christian stewardship. As God's stewards we are called to receive God's gifts, manage God's resources, and to give with gratitude from the abundance God has provided.



An important element of stewardship is our financial contribution to Christ's work in the world through the Church. Giving is most effective when we commit ourselves to give a definite proportion of our income to the church. The proportion to which God calls us is 10%, the tithe. For some, the idea of tithing may be distant and daunting, but each of us can grow one percentage point each year toward the tithe. There is great opportunity for us to discover the joy of giving

to God, and we can experience grace and spiritual enlightenment by growing in our giving, one step each year.

Sunday, October 21st, marked the beginning of our financial pledge campaign for 2019. Pledge cards are available during all worship services. You are encouraged to prayerfully consider God's call to you for the coming year. Consecration Sunday will be November 11th; members will be invited to participate in laying on the altar our estimate of giving cards. Acknowledgement cards for the altar will be available for those who have already pledged.

Please prayerfully consider your 2019 financial pledge, return your pledge card early, and encourage others to do the same! Even if you are unable to pledge, please return your card with that message and your signature and you will not receive any

follow-up calls or letters.

Please remember all the ministries, missions and programs that are supported and maintained by Duluth First United Methodist Church. Growing spiritually-in giving and in numbers, we can fund all the many wonderful programs that are planned for 2019 to serve Christ and change lives in our community and around the world.

In Christ,

John Martin

Chairman, Stewardship Committee

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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

8:30 a.m.—abbreviated 45-minute
Traditional Worship service in the Sanctuary.
9:30 a.m.—Contemporary Worship service
in Hinton Hall.
11:00 a.m.—full Traditional Worship service
in the Sanctuary.

“Bundle Up for Buffalo”

Annual Fundraiser: November 11th

The annual “**Bundle Up for Buffalo**” fundraiser will be held on Sunday, November 11th. Proceeds from this fundraiser go to the Seneca Street United Methodist Church in Buffalo, NY, to assist them in providing much-needed funds to help pay for the high heating costs the church faces during the winter months. “**Bundle Up for**



Mission Fundraiser

Buffalo” is held in the Fellowship Hall before and after the 11:00 Traditional Worship service, but not during the service. It is a combination sale of baked foods, crafts, Christmas and Thanksgiving items.

During the day Pastor Brian Rotach at Seneca Street UMC keeps the building’s heat down in the 50’s and wears a coat. At 4 p.m. he warms up part of the building where local children go after school for a snack, and get help with homework from local Daemen College students. Some children will not get dinner that night, so this time is important. The sanctuary is not heated on Sundays during the winter, but the smaller room next to it is heated.

In order to make the “**Bundle Up for Buffalo**” fundraiser a success, help is needed with the following things:

- Setting up tables and a few chairs on Saturday, November 10th, at 10 a.m.
- Donating baked goods for the sale. People love to buy individual wrapped items (cookies, brownies, pies, candy, anything they can eat or freeze for the holidays).
- Donating craft goods for the sale. Items are needed from crafters, potters, sewers, painters, carpenters, and creative folk.
- Being at the tables during the sale times.
- Helping to take down tables at the conclusion of the sale (around 12:45 p.m.).

If you are willing to commit to anything, please contact Beth Intondi by e-mail at beth.intondi@outlook.com or call 404-408-1657. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers for this project. Even the smallest contribution is a blessing!

Atlanta Emory District

Joint Charge Conference: November 11th

The Atlanta Emory District Joint Charge Conference will be held on Sunday, November 11th, beginning at 4 p.m. at the Tucker First United Methodist Church, located at 5095 LaVista Road in Tucker. This year’s charge conference is being held along with the charge conferences of several other local United Methodist churches in the Atlanta Emory District.

Join Us for Wednesday Night Dinners

in Hinton Hall

November 7th

Turkey & dressing with gravy, sweet potato casserole, green beans, cranberry sauce, rolls, dessert.

For the kids - pizza

November 14th

Beef tips, rice, broccoli cheese casserole, English peas, rolls, dessert.

For the kids - hamburgers & chips

November 21st

Happy Thanksgiving!
No Wednesday Night Dinner.

November 28th

Chicken fried chicken with gravy, mashed potatoes, fried okra, collard greens, cornbread, dessert.

For the kids - chicken tenders & chips.

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.

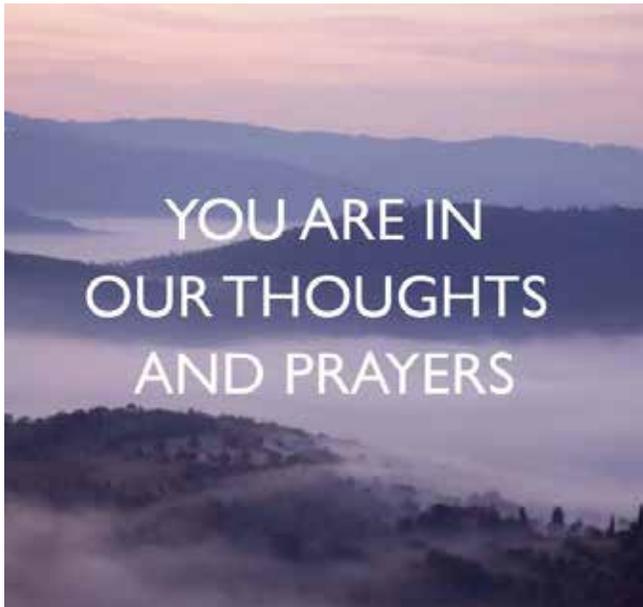
We are also offering a salad bar special. For only \$4 you can enjoy a fully stocked salad bar, a baked potato/sweet potato, dessert and drink.

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.

You can now pay for your dinner(s) with a credit card or debit card.

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





Prayers Needed for...

- Doug Bridges • Jeff Campbell • David Daniel
- Marilyn Davis • Lorraine Day • John Fenton
- Kathryn Fitzgerald • Sarah Gearinger
- Diane Gilbreath • Bryan Johnson • Gwyn Jones
- Helen Jones • Kevin Kesler • Wallace Lail
- Paul McFall • Ramona Meyer • Charlie Pierce
- Richard Rawls • Tommy Summerville
- Ramona Thielmann • Max Valentin
- Youth Ministry students and adult leaders going on their Fall Retreat
- Dalia Pouchie-Barnett & family in the death of her father.
- Shamain Hallett & family in the death of her grandfather.
- Linton Jones & family in the death of his aunt.
- Kelly Kelkenberg & family in the death of his mother.
- Sharon & Bill Swisher & family in the death of Sharon's mother, Willa Kinsel.

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

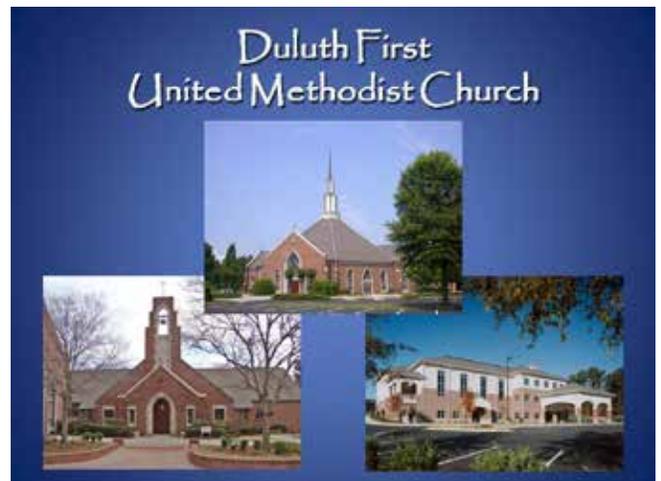
Received on October 7	\$67,678.30
Received on October 14	\$27,550.04
Received on October 21	\$26,045.19
Received on October 28	\$28,761.00

Year-to-Date, 2018

Received as of October 28	\$1,328,341.67
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Building Fund: Year-to-Date, 2018

Received as of October 28	\$266,959.56
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Worship Attendance:

October 7	413
October 14	387
October 21	503
October 28	460

Christian Beginnings Preschool & Kindergarten: After School Reading Group Fun!



Christian Beginnings Preschool & Kindergarten: Down on the Farm!



WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH

Jack & Pat Brannon
3315 Timber Ridge Trail
Duluth, GA 30096

Pete & Ann Fleming
3832 Medfield Place
Duluth, GA 30096

Olukorede & Olayinka Ogumade
213 Northwood Lake Ct.
Duluth, GA 30096
Olukorede & Olayinka's son is David.

Operation Christmas Child Boxes Are Available!

Return Filled Boxes by November 11th

We are geared up for this year's **Operation Christmas Child**, our annual participation in Samaritans Purse's mission for needy children around the world. By filling shoe boxes with toys, school supplies and hygiene items you not only give children in third world countries the only gift they will likely receive for Christmas, but also help deliver hope, joy and the gospel of Jesus Christ to them and their families.



Empty shoe boxes are on the stage in Fellowship Hall, as well as outside of the main entrance to Hinton Hall. You will find ideas on how to pack a shoebox gift and labels inside each box. It is also possible to fill a

shoebox online by picking out items and paying for it electronically. Please see instructions for doing so at www.samaritanspurse.org/occ. Please return your filled boxes to the Fellowship Hall stage no later than Sunday, November 11th.

This will be such a worthwhile and fun project for our Sunday School classes, Women's Circles, our Youth groups and families with their children to undertake. Let's try to better Duluth First UMC's total of 250 boxes that we packed last year!

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Renata Walker by e-mail at omifla@aol.com or calling 770-623-8513, or Charlie Doerlich by e-mail at chaz3d@gmail.com or calling 678-662-2115.

Hope for the Holidays –

A Candle Lighting Service

of Remembrance: November 19th

Make plans to join us for **Hope for the Holidays - A Candle Lighting Service of Remembrance**, on Monday, November 19th, 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).



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.



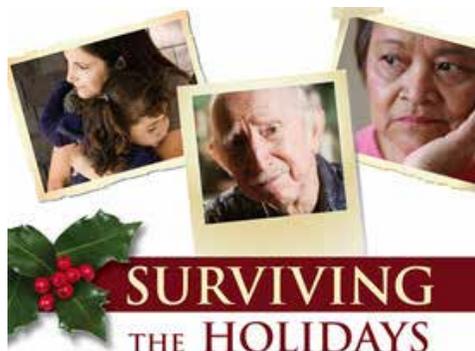
“Surviving the Holidays” –

A Grief Share Program: November 28th

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 28th, for a special **“Surviving the Holidays”** class beginning at 6:30 p.m. in rooms F-153/154, located on the 1st floor of the 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 770-476-5126, Sue French at 770-476-9106, or call the church office at 770-476-3776.



15th Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive

for our Military Families

Many of our military families are barely getting by on their pay and benefits and do not have much left for extras. As the holiday season approaches, Americans are reminded of the blessing of freedom that we all share. We are grateful for the sacrifices made by our military and their families.

The **Hugs for Soldiers Ministry** is collecting canned food and non-perishable food items to make Thanksgiving food baskets for soldiers and families based at Fort Benning. Donations will go to the Battle Buddy Resource Center, a food bank ministry of the Fort Benning Chaplains and a ministry outreach to the Fort Benning community.

Hugs for Soldiers collection boxes are located on the stage in the Fellowship Hall and inside the back entrance to the Family Life Center. Items for donation include:

- Canned green beans
- Canned corn
- Cranberry sauce
- Canned yams
- Canned fruit
- Canned/packets of gravy
- Macaroni and cheese
- Instant potatoes
- Stuffing mix
- Chicken broth
- Dessert mixes

Donations will be accepted through Friday, November 9th. Monetary donations or gift cards to Walmart or local grocery stores are appreciated to help purchase items not received. Checks are made payable to **Duluth First UMC** with **Hugs for Soldiers** written in the memo section.

For additional information, please 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. Thank you for supporting our troops!



Christmas for a Soldier 2018

The **Hugs for Soldiers Ministry** is collecting care package donations for soldiers serving in Afghanistan and Iraq. Help us spread some holiday joy to troops who can't be home during the holidays by making donations of some of the items listed below.

Snack Items

- Individual packets of hot chocolate or apple cider
- Instant Ramen Noodle Soup 3 oz. packets
- Microwave popcorn
- Holiday candy (great time to ship chocolate)
- Slim Jims or beef jerky
- Trail mix, nuts, sunflower seeds (individual sizes)
- Cookies (small individual packs)

Other Items

- Gallon-size Ziploc bags used for packing food items
- Travel-size games
- Knit/crochet hats and scarves
- HOTHANDS toe and hand warmers
- Holiday themed items
- Items for military working dogs: dog toys and treats (**NO RAWHIDE**), Kong or similar for intense chewers, Chuck It Launchers, Kong Dog Frisbees and balls.
- Christmas cards: Deployed troops would love to receive a handcrafted or signed card from you with holiday wishes and letting them know we are thinking about them at this special time of year.

The deadline for donations is Wednesday, November

28th. Donation boxes are located on the stage in Fellowship Hall and inside the back entrance to the Family Life Center.



Join us to pack the care packages on Saturday, December 1st, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Scout Hut, located at the back of the Duluth First UMC property.

Monetary donations are appreciated to help purchase items not received and to help with shipping costs. Donations may be made by check to **Duluth First UMC** with **Hugs for Soldiers** written in the memo section.

For further information, please contact Angie Doerlich at hugsforsoldiers@gmail.com or at 404-316-8183. For additional information about the **Hugs for Soldiers Ministry**, please visit their website at www.hugsforsoldiers.org. Thank you for supporting our troops!

Thanksgiving Dinner for Rainbow Village

Families: November 15th

Join us as we bring together the families at **Rainbow Village** for the **Annual Family Thanksgiving Dinner** on Thursday, November 15th. The Thanksgiving dinner will



be hosted by Duluth First Baptist Church, 2908 Duluth Highway 120, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. This is a time of fellowship, laughter, food, and gratitude

with friends and family. Volunteers are needed to decorate, set-up, serve, greet guests, and make the residents feel welcomed.

Please go online to www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0d4da8ac28a1fb6-annual to volunteer. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. C. Kay Fuino by e-mail at ckfuino@duluthumc.org, or call 770-476-3776, ext. 117, or contact Linda Berry by e-mail at lindaberry65@gmail.com or call 770-622-1427.

Holiday Pop-up Shop at Rainbow Village

Community Center: December 7th

Join in on the holiday fun at the **Holiday Pop-up Shop** at **Rainbow Village** Community Center, located at 3427 Duluth Highway 120 in Duluth, on Friday, December 7th, from 4 to 6:30 p.m.! The **Holiday Pop-up Shop** is offered to the children of **Rainbow Village**. The children have an opportunity to search out that perfect gift for mom

and/or dad, wrap the gift, include a sentimental card, and participate in arts and crafts.

Do you like to shop? We would encourage you to purchase gifts for the children to choose for their mom and/or dad.



Suggestions include candles, scarves, hats, umbrellas, tools, coffee cups, and...

Volunteers are needed to bring supplies for all areas, help in craft station, organize gifts, and help the children with wrapping. Please go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0d4da8ac28a1fb6-holiday1> if you would like to volunteer. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. C. Kay Fuino by e-mail at ckfuino@duluthumc.org, or call 770-476-3776, ext. 117, or contact Linda Berry by e-mail at lindaberry65@gmail.com or call 770-622-1427.

Coats and Toys for Friends of Refugees

Last year Duluth First UMC's United Methodist Women were overwhelmed with your generosity of coats, hats and gloves for the **Friends of Refugees** in Clarkston, GA. They were so appreciative of our efforts. This year we are giving you the opportunity to donate through their Amazon Wish List. You will find coats, soccer balls, baby dolls, games, educational games, etc. The choice is yours.



Go to <http://a.co/foSEjsk> and this will take you directly to the **Friends of Refugees Amazon Wish List**. Once you have made your choice and are checking

out, make sure you choose the **Friends of Refugees** gift address. **Please make your donation by November 25th to ensure the gifts arrive on time.**

Your gifts will enable parents to shop for their children on December 8th and pay whatever they can afford at the time. This strengthens their self-esteem and allows them the opportunity to purchase gifts their children actually need.

For more information, please contact Sue French by e-mail at bramsu@bellsouth.net. As always, thanks for your generosity.

Save the Date! "Created by God" Class to be Offered January 17th – 19th

Created by God, a human sexuality class for 5th and 6th grade students and their parents, will be offered at Duluth First UMC on January 17th – 19th. The course is biblically-based and offers a frank and comprehensive introduction to human sexuality – anatomy, attitudes, morals, growth and development, relationships, reproduction, responsibility and safety – built on a foundation of faith in Jesus Christ and the written Word of God.

Instructors create an environment where young people are free to ask questions about their faith and sexuality. Questions about their bodies, minds, friends, culture and society are welcome. This very popular course is designed to open the lines of communication between parents and their children, foster healthy self-esteem throughout puberty, and view all this "sex stuff" within the context of a relationship with the God who created us.

For additional information, please contact Rev. Beth Brown Shugart by e-mail at bshugart@duluthumc.org, or call 770-476-3776, ext. 128.

Bereavement Support Group:

November 12th

The **Bereavement Support Group** meets on the 2nd Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 12th, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in room F-151, located on the 1st floor of the Family Life Center. 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.



Senior Fellowship Program & Luncheon:

November 13th

The **Senior Fellowship** will meet for its monthly program and luncheon on Tuesday, November 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 meeting begins at 11 a.m. and the program starts at 11:15 a.m. Lunch is \$3 per person and begins at noon. 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 See

“Christmas Canteen”: December 18th

The **Roadrunners** are planning an exciting trip to see a performance of **Christmas Canteen**, a live production of Christmas entertainment at the Aurora Theater in Lawrenceville, on Tuesday, December 18th. It is sure to put you in the mood for a very merry Christmas.

The cost for the trip is \$18 per person and the number of tickets is limited, so order yours early. We will leave the church at 9:15 a.m. for the early performance and eat lunch on our own in downtown Lawrenceville. We will return to the church by 2:30 p.m.



Update on the “Meet or Beat” Challenge

in Raising Funds for the Long-Term

Facilities Maintenance Fund

The Barnes Sunday school class has been challenging the other Sunday school classes and groups in the church to match or beat their \$1000 donation to the Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Fund to help provide the funds needed to replace the air handlers in the Sanctuary. The SOS (Single on Sunday) Sunday school class accepted and met that challenge with their \$1000 donation to the fund. Recently, the Steadham Sunday school class not only met and but raised the bar in this challenge with their contribution of \$1150!



All three of these Sunday school classes are continuing to encourage other classes and groups in the church to help with this expense.

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 Jane Haman

Steve & Bonita Hatch

In Memory of Kim Leonard

Michael & Christine Fink



Deadline for the December 2018 Edition

of “The Messenger”

The article deadline for the December 2018 edition of **The Messenger** is Sunday, November 25th, noon.

