

Second Helpings

APRIL 2020

Second Avenue United Methodist Church
801 East Second Avenue
Rome, GA 30161



Letter from Our Pastor

Dear Members and Friends of Second Avenue UMC,

With the strong urging of our Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson and after much prayer, I have decided to suspend our worship services and all activities at the church until April 30. Please know that this was not an easy decision.

We are a small church depending on our weekly collections to operate, and I would like to ask that you still uphold your membership vow by presence, prayer, gift, service, and witness. Please know that you can give online through Paypal (www.2aveumc.org) or mail in your contributions to the church. We have a small staff and, as you know, they really do not get what they deserve. So it is our desire that we keep them on our payroll during this time.

JoAnn and I are planning to keep our normal office hours. I am available to you through phone, email, and Facetime/Zoom. Sunday messages will be on our website, social media and on our Amplify site. This may be a good time for us to catch up with work at the office and deep clean/disinfect our church, and we plan to take full advantage of that!

I want you to know that this is the very first time in my 22 years of ministry that I have suspended worship. That says a lot about the seriousness of the COVID-19 pandemic and my concern for YOUR physical health. Please continue to pray for one another, for our church, and for all who are affected by the pandemic. I pray for the vaccine or other preventive measures and cure for the COVID-19. Would you join me in this prayer?

I love each and every one of you and keep you in my thoughts and prayer.

Your Pastor, Rev. Dr. Millie L. Kim

Persons of the Week

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April 05: Erma Braden (706-767-3901)
155 Owin Hill Church Road
Adairsville, GA 30103

April 12: Hospital Workers
Mike Colombo
307 Robin Hood Road, NE
Rome, GA 30161-5870

Lani Roberts
2694 Old Rockmart Road
Silver Creek, GA 30173-3125

Vicki Thomason
165 Woodrow Wilson Way, Apt 205
Rome, GA 30165

April 19: Carl & Gennie Alexander
P.O. Box 172
Armuchee, GA 30105-0172

April 26: Edith Swint
418 East 8th Street
Rome, GA 30161-3357

***Please remember these
friends with cards, calls,
visits, and prayers.***

Bishop and Cabinet Ask That Church Buildings and Property Remain Closed Through April 30

From the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church website:

“

In order to live out John Wesley's first general rule to "do no harm," the Bishop and Cabinet strongly recommend and expect that all church buildings and properties remain closed until April 30, 2020.

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson and the North Georgia Conference Cabinet are grateful to clergy and congregations for all you are doing to be the Church in your communities while keeping people safe and connected through this season of hardship and inconvenience. We thank you.

In order to live out John Wesley's first general rule to "do no harm," the Bishop and Cabinet strongly recommend and expect that all church buildings and properties remain closed until April 30, 2020. They will offer updated advisement on April 27, 2020.

Any specific questions about regulations for sheltering in place in local communities should be directed to local authorities of those municipalities.

A video message from Bishop Sue is available on the ngumc.org website. A portion of her message:

"I have a few announcements for you. First of all, about worship and gatherings. I ask that if you don't have to be together, don't be together. Use social media, use phones, use Zoom or web meetings. There are ways you can do that for free and the conference staff can help you. Use your resources at the conference. It's too dangerous to gather. I want health to be the priority. Even when fewer than 10 people are gathering, that presumes all 10 are healthy and fine and that none are a class that is especially vulnerable. If even one person of that 10 is vulnerable, I want you to consider not meeting in person, even with a small group.

We are not going to have any gatherings for worship this Sunday, but that doesn't mean worship is canceled. It doesn't mean you don't have worship, it just means you continue to be creative and connect in a different way. Every church doesn't have to do a livestream. If live streaming isn't right for your church right now, you can watch some really fine worship services that are already there and discuss them with your congregation. Call a friend on the phone and watch a sermon together. There are a lot of resources out there, so use them and be creative and break out of some of our old patterns. So no in-person worship and I would not even have meetings or any type of gathering in person this week.

I really want to thank you again for the creativity and how you've gone about this. We're still asking, what are the best questions in this time? The cabinet thinks the best question is: What have you learned? What has worked? What hasn't worked? What will we take into the future that we're learning now about community and church? I think we're getting a lesson again on what it was like to be the church when we didn't have buildings and didn't have the kind of structure that we're used to now. Yesterday I saw that somebody listed everywhere the early church met. It was always a home, always a small gathering. So, where two or more gathered (and you can put three together on a phone call you can have worship with three of you).

If we don't have service on Easter, I want you to consider that whatever day we gather again in person, will be a resurrection Sunday. We are going through death, we are seeing death in the midst of life, and I know that whatever Sunday it is when we can gather we will pull out all the stops. If that doesn't happen on Easter Sunday, be planning for a resurrection Sunday when we return, and know that that day will come. Sadly, the longer it is, the more happy we will be to see it. So plan for Resurrection Sunday. And think about that and dream about that and live toward that. I ask you to lead with safety. My biggest nightmare is that they will be able to trace illness and death back to a United Methodist Church. I don't want that to happen. Human life's too important. Our loved ones are too important, our saints of the church, whatever age, are of utmost importance. So please, please be careful. Be careful in all ways."

Vesper Frazier's 90th Birthday Celebration



Vesper Frazier turned 90 on Friday, March 27, and instead of the previously planned churchwide Surprise Party, Rev. Millie and family hosted a 'virtual' surprise party with Second Avenue friends joining in via Zoom. Vesper loved the cards from church friends that Rev. Millie assembled into a scrapbook. Video is available on Facebook.

Boggs-Climer Wedding

On Sunday, March 29, at 12:30 p.m., Lynda Boggs and Tom Climer proceeded with their plans to join their hearts and lives as they exchanged vows in a private ceremony in the sanctuary with Rev. Millie. The ceremony was broadcast via Facebook Live on Rev. Millie's Facebook page and is still available to watch if you missed it.



Staff is Hard at Work



The music staff members are still hard at work even though we can't meet for regular worship services right now. They come on Wednesdays to

the church and record music that Rev. Millie uses for Sunday worship videos.

Care is taken to be as careful as possible and personal space is maintained as recommended by national and local authorities.

JoAnn and Rev. Millie are still keeping office hours but not



together at the same time.

Please lift our staff in your prayers as we seek to do our jobs and provide church leadership at this difficult time.

Pastor's Page

I am having the best chocolate ganache cake that I baked this morning (It's called stress eating!) as I am writing this and praying for each of you! You may think that she is having a good time but you know me better than that. It is very hard for me to stay home. We have our children at home and our nephew with us because his mother has to work every day at the hospital. Most of the time, I am working from home, talking on the phone, writing notecards, or on a Zoom meeting. No one is having a good time during this lock down. No one!

Some people are really putting their lives at risk. I have a lot of friends whom I call, "Saints in Scrubs." A friend of mine who is an emergency doctor told me that he has taken so many showers that his skin is no longer attached (joke!). I have another doctor friend who self-quarantined herself from her toddlers. Then there are all the support staff in hospitals, EMTs, chaplains, grocery workers, delivery persons, caregivers, etc.. I have a chaplain friend who contracted COVID-19 and is recovering at home right now. I constantly remind myself that during the Middle Ages, during the Black Death, and other infectious diseases, it was clergy (priests and nuns) who were at the frontline of healing and restoration. So I am trying my best to be supportive and help those who are in the frontline battling this pandemic. I encourage all of you to do the same with prayer and monetary contributions. What we are going through is nothing compared to what some others are going through.

We are so independent that we don't want to be told what to do. Even when it is for our own good! This pandemic and lockdown have taught me a lot about myself and God. To be honest, I secretly wished some time-off so that I could catch up with all the reading that I have been wanting to do and been putting off. Am I reading endlessly? No! I thought, "I am a carefree person; I am not a worrywart." Guess what? I am not carefree and I am a worrywart! I thought I was a patient teacher and Mama, but I am impatient and a monstrous yeller. (My poor husband is doing most of homeschooling!) But God is the same! God is faithful! God provides! God gives me peace! God comforts me! God listens to me! God loves me! Even me! I serve an awesome God! As you stay home (do stay home!), I want you to find more about yourself (and your spouse) and this mighty God we serve. We have been so independent and we have not liked being told what to do. During this time, search God and listen to what God says because it is for our own good!

Last thing I want to communicate with you is that the church will be closed until April 30. Some of you protested and complained about all this but I want you to hear clearly, "We are Methodist and we follow what we are told. We listen to God foremost, and we listen to our Bishop, our District Superintendent, and our fellow members." Our congregation is older, and the majority is over 60. If anyone of us catches COVID-19 from a church activity or service, that would not be glorifying God or edifying for any of us. We will get together for worship again! This is not a permanent state; this too shall pass! In the meanwhile, I want you to tune into recorded sermons, write cards, talk on the phone and keep one another in prayer. If you have any creative ideas on what we can do at home to glorify God and edify one another, do share! Otherwise, we will take this time as an opportunity for self-examination and faith formation.

Please know that you are not alone! I can be reached via phone, Zoom, and old-fashioned snail mail. I am with you, I am praying for you, and I love and miss you!

Your Pastor,
Millie

Easter Surprise Packages for Children



Since we are not able to have Easter Egg Hunt due to the pandemic, our church is sending a surprise package to our children which will include Easter eggs, some Sunday School materials, and Easter crafts.

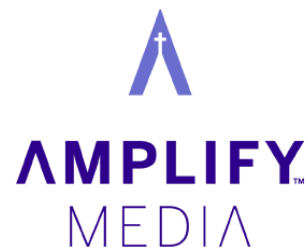
Please let me know if you know of any child in need of a surprise. Our church kids will automatically get it so no worries.

Bible Studies Available at Home for Free

During this time of lockdown, we can still do finest video Bible studies at home for free. Our church pays monthly subscription and you can also watch Rev. Millie's sermon on this website. Here is the link and access code. Please let Rev. Millie know if you have any questions.

<https://my.amplifymedia.com/secondavenueumcomega>

Access code: NGDTRS



April Sermon Scriptures

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| April 05 | Matthew 26:14-29 "Ways We Betray Jesus" Palm Sunday |
| April 12 | John 20:1-18 "Hope Floats" Easter Sunday |
| April 19 | John 20:19-31 "Peace of Resurrection" |
| April 26 | John 21:1-14 "Breakfast with Jesus" |

Blessings and Gratitude

Dear Second Avenue Friends,

Thank s so much for the pretty Valentines carnation and your love and prayers.

Much Love,
Edith Swint

Dear Second Avenue,

Thank s so much for the lovely carnation for Valentines Day and for your faithfulness in remembering me. I hope to come back to church one day.

Much Love,
Mary Sue Gilleland

Dear Church Family,

Ronnie and I wanted to thank you for your prayers, calls, cards, and meals during my recuperation from my knee surgery. We are so blessed to belong to a church that we consider our family.

Much love to everyone!
Sally & Ronnie

Second Avenue United Methodist Church

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Email: 2ndave@bellsouth.net

We're on the Web:
2aveumc.org

**Our Vision: 'Knowing Christ &
Making Christ Known'**

April Birthdays

4/02	Bill Carver
4/07	Steve Davis
4/07	Kami Shetter-Flanery
4/08	Amy Astin
4/09	Anthony Colombo
4/09	Scottie Edwards
4/16	Carl Alexander
4/17	Herb Brown
4/21	Adam Rogers
4/21	Lauren Rogers
4/23	Bill Mathis
4/25	Rhonda Upshaw
4/26	Carol Edwards

April Anniversaries

4/06	Lee & Rhonda Upshaw
4/10	Nancy & Terry Clift

Easter Season—Happy Easter to All of You

The Easter Season, also known as the Great Fifty Days, begins at sunset Easter Eve and continues through the Day of Pentecost. It is the most joyous and celebrative season of the Christian year. It focuses on Christ's resurrection and ascension and on the coming of the Holy Spirit on the first Easter and the Day of Pentecost.

The Sunday lessons for preaching during the season offer us an opportunity to explore the mystery of Easter through appearances of Jesus after the resurrection. Over these six Sundays, we seek to understand the meaning of resurrection in our lives as those who have died and been raised with Christ through baptism.

The ancient Christian name for this festival is Pasch, derived from the Hebrew *pesach* ("deliverance" or "Passover"), thus connecting the Resurrection to the Exodus. The origin of the English word Easter is disputed but may come from the Anglo-Saxon spring goddess Eastre and her festival.

White and gold are the colors for the season, displayed in materials of the finest texture, along with flowers of all colors. A focus on the baptismal font is appropriate throughout the season. A large free-standing white candle called a paschal candle is used at every service during this season and at baptisms and funerals during the rest of the year.

*Adapted from the United Methodist book of Worship,
published by the United Methodist Publishing House, Nashville, Tennessee, 1992.*