

# Second Helpings

AUGUST 2020



**Second Avenue United Methodist Church**  
801 East Second Avenue  
Rome, GA 30161  
Phone: 706-234-6406  
Audio Worship: 706-786-6406  
2aveumc.org

## Message from Bishop and Cabinet on Rising Numbers of COVID-19 Cases in Our Region

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In light of the dramatic increases in COVID-19 throughout our region, we encourage you to review your plans considering these rising numbers.

Dear North Georgia United Methodists,

Last week (written the beginning of July) Governor Kemp extended Georgia's Public Health State of Emergency and has banned gatherings of more than 50 people unless there is at least 6 feet of space between each person. (Read all executive orders at <https://gov.georgia.gov/executive-action/executive-orders/2020-executive-orders>)

We know that many of you have worked for weeks developing a plan for how to gather for in-person worship. In light of the dramatic increases in COVID-19 throughout our region, we encourage you to review your plan considering these rising numbers. Churches in areas with rapidly increasing cases should prayerfully consider pausing plans to gather in-person until the numbers go down. Those in doubt should err on the side of safety.

**The website [globalepidemics.org](https://globalepidemics.org) offers a county-level risk assessment. We urge you not to gather if your county is red or orange-level risk and to take extreme care where there is a yellow-level risk. (See Page 7.)**

We encourage and support you:

- If you have resumed in-person worship, but because of an increase of cases in your area you feel you need to pause and return to online worship.
- If you are considering gathering in person in July but feel you need to delay reopening.
- If you plan on focusing on online worship and stewardship for the foreseeable future.

For churches that are planning on gathering in-person for worship, we emphasize that congregational singing is extremely dangerous and that choirs should not be part of worship at this time. We reiterate the guidelines we have released (<https://www.ngumc.org/guidelines-and-consideration-for-in-person-worship>). Three variables to consider are:

- **People:** Confidence that members will be disciplined about social distancing (from car, to entering, to exiting, to return to car), wearing masks, and hand hygiene. Reports indicate that this might be the most critical variable.
- **Place:** The size and configuration of the space. Note that for many churches 25 or fewer is a safer number.
- **Things:** Availability of supplies (masks/hand sanitizer).

Inside gatherings of any size should be held only where the demographics, facilities, and the actual practices of members can reasonably mitigate the spread of the virus. If you want to talk this over with someone, please don't hesitate to reach out to your District Superintendent or Conference Staff.

Our prayers are with you as we navigate how to share God's love in the communities we serve in ever-changing circumstances.

*Bishop Sue Hanpert-Johnson*  
*The Extended Cabinet of the North Georgia Conference*

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## Blessings and Gratitude

Millie,

Thank you so much, this is a huge help. Please tell the church we are so appreciative as well.

Lakisha Adams (Aiden & Tyler's mom)

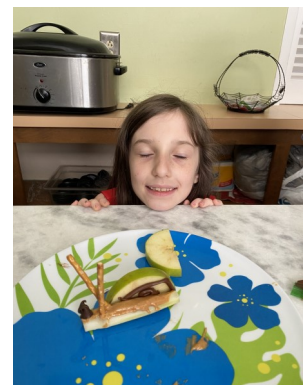
## Highlights from July in Pictures



Drive-in Worship continues to meet each Sunday at 9:00



Vacation Bible School looked different this year but Rev. Millie tried to make it fun!



Virtual VBS Kid's Water Day —pizza lunch, water slide outside, and fun for all.

## Persons of the Week

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**August 02: Margaret Gibson**

3 Etowah Drive  
Rome, GA 30161

**Cliff Gibson**

6 Parkwood Circle  
Rome, GA 30161-3489

**August 09: Bill & Cindy Pharr**

4 Ridgepoint Drive SE  
Rome, GA 30161-8519

**August 16: Darlene Wallace**

17 Riverview Road  
Rome, GA 30161-6248

**August 23: Jim & Beth Gibbons**

123 Kenwood Drive SW  
Rome, GA 30165-3434

**August 30: Phil & Jane Franssen**

5 Rambling Oaks Drive NE  
Rome, GA 30165-9358

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

## Drive-In Worship Continues

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Our Drive-in Worship Service will be every Sunday until we move back into the sanctuary. The Drive-In Service is at **9:00 a.m. each Sunday.** Rain or shine.

## Prayer List

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**Congregation**

Carl Alexander  
Susan Autry  
Bob Baker  
Erma Braden  
Herb Brown  
Jim & Gerrie Burton  
Danny Carver  
Giles Chapman  
Nancy Davis  
Scottie Edwards  
Phil Franssen  
Carolyn Garwood  
Jim Gibbons  
Margaret Gibson  
Michelle Gibson  
David Gresham  
Charles Griffin  
Mardelle Lynch  
Bill Pharr  
Edith Swint  
Vivian VanLandingham  
Carol Vogt  
Darlene Wallace  
LuAnn Williams

**Friends & Family**

Michelle Albers  
Katherine Ammons  
Linda Baker  
Terri Black  
Bowman Family  
Linda Brown  
Alfred Brumbelow  
Christian Camp  
Joanie Catron  
Cindy Cheatwood  
James Crider  
Don Eckles  
Chris Franssen  
John Gentry  
Daria Giebler  
Jamie Griffin  
Patty Harvey  
Destiny Erica Head  
Greg Helms  
Jada Helms  
Khloe Hill  
Sue Hurley  
JoAnn Jacks  
Larry Jacks

Janie Jolley  
Garrett Jones  
Hannah Jones  
Megan Jones  
Pat Jones  
Milton Kahn  
Wanda Kidd  
Bill & Peggy Lanier  
Danny Lee  
Paula Lowder  
Lisa McDaniel  
Mason McKenzie  
Alex Mendez  
Jacob Mendez  
Tandalea Mendez  
Military Personnel  
Mary Kathryn Moody  
Morales Family  
John Morris & Family  
Sherry Nolan  
Diane Norrod  
Julie Ousley  
Andy Peabody  
Peggy Pharr  
Jordon Poe

Connie Ray  
Deborah Reynolds  
Daphne Rogers  
Ruiz-Baleon Family  
Bonnie Thomas  
Alex Trebek  
President Trump  
Urquhart Family  
Antonio Valles  
Tyson Waid  
John Walker  
Mary Whillock  
John Wiggin  
Sunny Wilkerson  
Jim Williams and Family  
Kennedy Williams  
Debbie Willis  
Morgan Wilson  
John Woodward  
Regina Wright



## Pastor's Page



Negro Spirituals are the hymns created by Africans who were captured and brought to America to be sold into slavery. I have always loved to sing them, but it was not until recently after getting married and having children that I really started understanding how strong, soulful, and spiritual they are. I understand a little bit, not completely, not fully, but a little bit better of what it means to be captured, be moved thousands of miles, be forcefully separated from family and native land, etc.. It is not a dramatization in any way when I say that when I am going through a tough time, the first thing I do is to sing Spirituals. This month, August 2020, I will be preaching on Job through the lens of some of my favorite Spirituals. These are the hymns I have been singing at the top of my lungs during this pandemic.

It is so ironic that these African slaves started living and loving the religion of their masters. To me, it proves the power and mystery of God even more. In the midst of our suffering and agony, God really comes through time and time again. When this pandemic hit, I was at a loss. In my extreme lows, I thought to myself that my life as a parish minister was over, and I needed to be something else. To a person who became a Christian minister right out of college and has known nothing but ministry and Gospel, this put me on the edge of a cliff. I did not have many skills in online worship, video editing, and high tech stuff in general. Plus, my goal in life was not a tele-evangelist! To be honest, I was quite discouraged and overwhelmed. As I was struggling through those deep, dark tunnels, I sang with Rev. James Cleveland, "I don't feel no ways tired, I've come too far from where I started from. Nobody told me that the road would be easy, I don't believe He brought me this far to leave me." At the top of my lungs! To the point that my children held my hand and said, "Mama, you are embarrassing me!"

Slaves were prohibited from learning to read and write, so Spirituals were created extemporaneously and were passed orally from person to person. Let me rephrase it, they did not even know how to read or write let alone music theory, knowledge in melody, tempo, and tone structure, etc., yet they created the strongest, most soulful, and most spiritual music. And there are over 6,000 Spirituals. Just amazing! As you realize, there are many, many Spirituals missing from the list below including my staple, "Give Me Jesus," which is my all time favorite. But my hope and prayer is that this sermon series helps you in your difficult time! I encourage all of you to listen to the lyrics of these hymns and learn to sing them. Now there are so many excellent recordings on YouTube! Furthermore, I encourage you to add to this list your favorites and let me know what they are. Spirituals have been a tool for me to reaffirm God's calling for my life and regain strength and strengthen my faith in God's providence. Instead of standing on the edge of the cliff, I have the edge over fear and anxiety in this challenging time because of these Spirituals.

Let me sing it again, "I don't feel no ways tired! I've come too far from where I started from. Nobody told me that the road would be easy, I don't believe He brought me this far to leave me." Amen.

Rev. Millie

## July Sermon Scriptures

<b>August 02</b>	Job 1:13-22   "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen"
<b>August 09</b>	Job 19:23-29   "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"
<b>August 16</b>	Job 22:21-30   "Down to the River to Pray"
<b>August 23</b>	Job 38:1-7   "I Don't Feel No-ways Tired"
<b>August 30</b>	Job 42:1-6   "There is a Balm in Gilead"

## 'What Covid-19 Has Taught Me'

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Adversity usually makes us grow in ways we don't enjoy experiencing. During the past five month of life under COVID-19, all of us have probably learned a little bit more about ourselves, our loved ones and our community. Not all of that has been pleasant. Like some of you, I was hoping, but not expecting, in early March that life would have returned to whatever we called normal by now. But instead, each day we are coming to terms with a new normal in our homes, churches, schools and workplaces.

What have I learned so far from COVID-19?

To begin with, it has confirmed a long-held belief of mine that we are, as Christians, better together. At least I know I am.

My patient friends in Sunday school have often heard me say that the idea that we can live as lone Christians is pretty hard to pull off. The guy who says he can worship God every bit as well from his lovely spot in his back yard as he can at church is a mystery to me. I bet he's never gotten a hug from any of our various Miss Bettys. The hymns don't sound the same in the cab of my truck. I miss hearing your voices recite The Apostles Creed and The Lord's Prayer inside the sanctuary of our lovely church. I miss Terry Clift and Randy Embree waving to me on Sunday mornings from the choir loft.

I have learned that stressful times can bring out the best and the worst in all of us. I admire those who are in the first group because I often fall in the second. I have been grumpy, angry and impatient for much of the past two months. For me, the past five months have been an inconvenience that I have turned into a hardship because of my attitude. Meanwhile, I know that many people in our church are really suffering because of forces beyond their control. For them I pray.

If things go as planned, we will be welcoming a new grandchild into the world on Monday, August 3. Beth and I, of course, won't be at the hospital but we will be staying with Michael and Gretchen to mostly have fun with our 2-year-old granddaughter. We are both looking forward to it. We have been self-quarantined for most of the last month as precaution.

Hopefully, I have learned a thing or two about what is really important. That is one of those hard lessons you learn when life throws a wrench in your plans. This morning and every morning, some members of our church are ill, sad, lonely and scared. We might not be able to embrace them with our arms, but we can call them just to say hello or send them a note. I have learned that little acts of kindness aren't necessarily little. May God bless all of you.

Mike Colombo

Ronnie and I have learned how very important it is to keep family close. —Sally Farmer

## United Methodist Women News

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Dear Ladies,

We will continue to collect money for the Ruth and Naomi House breakfast program. They currently have 8 adult residents and 2 children and are still sheltering in place. Please send checks to Nancy Davis (1797 Calhoun Road NE, Rome, 30161-8972) by August 15 for our monthly donation of \$100. Thank you for supporting this local mission.

Take good care!

Cindy Smith, UMW President

## 2020 Annual Conference Sessions

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The North Georgia Conference will hold a virtual Annual Conference Session on Saturday, August 29. The virtual sessions will utilize a trusted online meeting and voting platform that will allow members to securely participate using an internet-connected device. A condensed agenda is being developed and will include only items before the Annual Conference that are essential at this time so that the session can be conducted in one day. Instructions for members, details of the session, and more information will be forthcoming in the weeks ahead. Find updates as they are available at [www.ngumc.org/AC2020](http://www.ngumc.org/AC2020).

### **Timeline**

August 7 – Laity must have personal email address on record in conference Data Services

August 10 and 25 – Annual Conference Registration

August 26 – Registered Members Receive Credentials for Annual Conference by Email

**August 29 – Virtual Annual Conference Session**

## Wesley Woods Mother's Day Offering

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The Conference-wide Wesley Woods Mother's Day Offering has been rescheduled for August 23 (or another Sunday that works for your congregation). Your gifts are an essential source of funds for providing loving care to residents of the 10 Wesley Woods communities in our Conference.

## Bishop Names Ministerial Education Fund as the 2020 Annual Conference Offering

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Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson has named the North Georgia Conference Ministerial Education Fund as the 2020 Annual Conference Special Offering. The Ministerial Education Fund provides scholarships to seminary and undergraduate students, course-of-study for local pastors, and license to preach school.

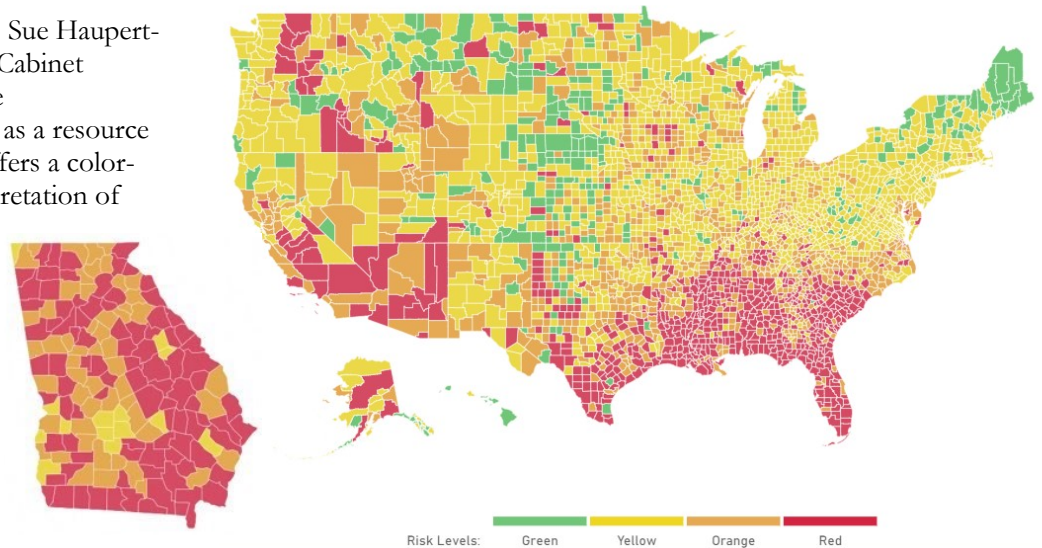
Aligning with the theme of the [2020 North Georgia Annual Conference](#), "One in Ministry to All the World," this fund is one way United Methodists can show our support to those called to serve as clergy. Together we can help minimize debt of North Georgia United Methodists beginning in ministry.

Grants from the Ministerial Education Fund help pay tuition and other costs for future clergy who will serve our churches or go on to be chaplains, teachers and missionaries. MEF is a general church apportioned fund of which 25 percent is retained by our conference. But 100 percent of the giving to the Annual Conference Special Offering will go to United Methodist seminary and course of study students in the North Georgia Conference.

Churches are invited to collect the offering any time before or after the 2020 Annual Conference. Please give generously to the Annual Conference Special Offering.

## GlobalEpidemics.org Data

Earlier this month Bishop Sue Haupt-Johnson and Conference Cabinet recommended the website [www.globalepidemics.org](http://www.globalepidemics.org) as a resource for churches because it offers a color-coded, county-level interpretation of COVID-19 risk levels.



## MORE THAN 700 CLERGY GATHER FOR VIRTUAL CLERGY EXECUTIVE SESSION

“More than 700 North Georgia Conference clergy and members of the Board of Ministry gathered online July 16 for our first-ever virtual Clergy Executive Session. Bishop Sue Haupt-Johnson presided over the session and was joined by Director of the Center for Clergy Excellence Bernice Kirkland, Conference Secretary Donn Ann Weber, Chair of the Board of Ministry Julie Boone, and Executive Assistant to the Bishop Terry Walton.

Attendees of the session sang, prayed, celebrated, and cast electronic votes using a secure online meeting and voting platform. The same system will be used for the [virtual Annual Conference session August 29](#).

A highlight of the session was the announcement of the Dr. Glenn L. Ethridge Scholarship Endowment for United Methodist students with priority given to those attending Gammon Theological Seminary and Candler School of Theology. ‘Glenn has served with integrity and grace for many years as the Chair of the Board of Ministry and he exemplifies the finest leadership qualities of the annual conference,’ said Boone. ‘The Board wants to express their gratitude in a way that would impact new clergy in the years ahead and so, through the generosity of Board members, local churches, individuals, family and foundations, we would like to present through the Georgia United Methodist Foundation, the Dr. Glenn L. Ethridge Scholarship Endowment.’

To give to the Ethridge Scholarship Endowment, mail a check to the Georgia United Methodist Foundation at P.O. Box 922087, Peachtree Corners, GA 30010. (Include the "Dr. Glenn L. Ethridge Scholarship Endowment" in the memo line.)

The session concluded with an invitation to the Pre-Annual Conference Briefing to be held online on August 9 and the virtual Annual Conference Session on August 29. Learn more about those sessions at [www.ngumc.org/AC2020](http://www.ngumc.org/AC2020).

## Second Avenue United Methodist Church

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We're on the Web:  
[2aveumc.org](http://2aveumc.org)

### August Birthdays

- 04 Patty Baker
- 05 Betty Crymes
- 10 Matthew Gibbons
- 18 Doug Meredith
- 22 Joshua Colombo
- 23 Vicki Embree
- 23 Jerry Waters
- 29 Buffy Davis
- 29 Michelle Gibson
- 30 Juanita Underwood

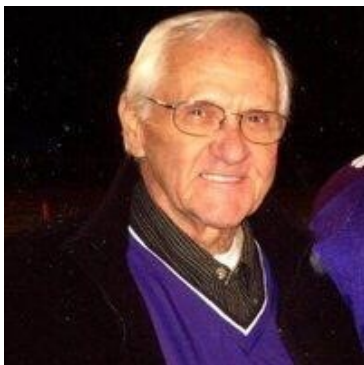
### August Anniversaries

- 09 Paula & Tommy Jones
- 10 Patty & Phil Baker
- 13 Dan & Judy Emerick
- 24 Carl & Genny Alexander

Our Vision: 'Knowing Christ & Making Christ Known'

**Audio Worship Available 24/7! Call 706-786-6406 any time.**

## With Deepest Sympathy



### Bill Julian Carver

Apr 2, 1932 – Jul 13, 2020 (Age 88)

It is with deepest sympathy that we share with you that our friend and brother in Christ, Bill Carver, passed away on Monday, July 13. Please be in prayer for his daughter Lisa Butler and the family.

To 'be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord' but we will miss him here in our midst.