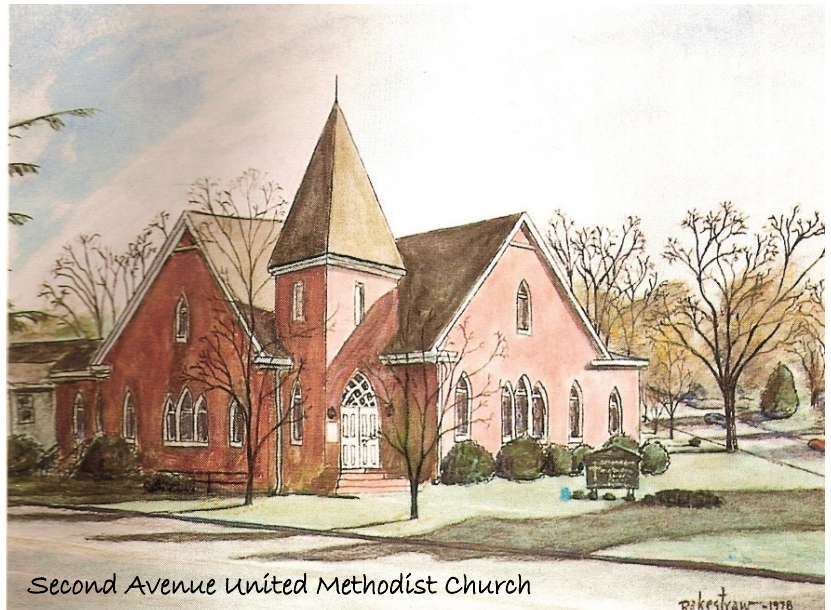


Second Helpings

Second Avenue United Methodist Church ~ December 2017

Special Events in December

- December 03—Men's Club/UMW Christmas Dinner
- December 05—Meals & More (First Christian Church/Disciples of Christ)
- December 09—"A Night in Bethlehem"
- December 17—Christmas Cantata
- December 17—Christmas Caroling on the Trolley
- December 21—Sub-District Longest Night Service (Trinity UMC)
- December 24—Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- December 25 & 26—Church Office Closed



*Our Mission: 'Making Disciples of Jesus Christ
for the Transformation of the World'*

Our Vision: 'Knowing Christ & Making Christ'

Worship and Learning Opportunities in 2018...

Wesley Covenant Renewal Service **Sunday, January 7 ~ 11:00 a.m.**

Start off your year 2018 right by confessing your sins of the past, dedicating a new year to God, and asking for God's blessings. We will have a special Wesley Covenant Renewal Service on January 7. You will have a chance to come to the altar and pray for you and your family during the service. The Wesley Covenant Renewal Service is a historical service that Wesley used in his lifetime to invite people to (re)commit themselves to God. This covenant service is serious and assumes adequate preparation with prayer and resolution.

"Your Money or Your Life" by Vicki Robin **A New Bible Study ~ Beginning on Thursday, January 11 ~ 6:00 p.m.**

Make plans to join us for a new 4-Week Bible Study, ***Your Money or Your Life***, beginning in January. The study is full of examples, stories and experiences of many people who have followed the nine-step program in their journey to financial independence. It will help you to examine your personal finances and help you grow in stewardship. You can purchase the book or order through JoAnn at the church office. Please spread the word and recommend this study to those who need it. Nursery will be provided if needed; please contact the church office.

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR



We are at the threshold of the busiest month of our church, and I can't say enough how excited I am. I have all the volunteers for the Night in Bethlehem and I did not have to twist any arms except maybe Greg Gaston, our Finance Chair. It will be an event where we get to know the children of our community and open up our church for them to "know Christ." How exciting is that?

It is radical that God came to us in flesh and bones in Jesus Christ. We have always just taken it all in and accepted it without question so the radicalness of the incarnation is somewhat doused. But God coming to live among us has a huge implication in our faith. It means God came to us in a real time and place, and to real people. God chose when, where, and to whom to be born with an intention and meaning. He was born in Palestine where they did not even have their own country; they were part of the Rome Empire as a colony. In a tight and close family system like in Palestine, for Joseph to go to his hometown, and go from inn to inn looking for lodging with his very pregnant wife implicates so much more than just a "poor" couple in a strange place. God was born into a peasant family which belonged to the 99%, the poor, and the bottom of the social and economic tier. He was born among the poor, grew up with the poor, identified with the poor, and had a special preference for the poor. That is very radical. That's divine nature. Truth be told, we do not like to be associated with the poor, we avoid the poor, and we have disdain in our hearts for the poor whether we like to admit it or not. That's human nature.

So in this season of Advent and Christmas, I want us to think about and look at the poor through God's eyes as the people Jesus so loved and liked to hang out with. One of the best stories of Rome that I will always treasure in my heart is Martha Berry teaching and preaching to the poor (Yes, she taught Sunday School and led Sunday worship). I love the way she empowered them by giving them (the poor) a motto to live by: "Not to be ministered unto but to minister." What a way of giving them a sense of purpose and worth! How can we be more like Martha Berry; moreover, how can we be more like Jesus who was with the poor, empowered them and gave them the Kingdom of God?

Traditionally, in the church we have offered direct services, meaning provided food, clothing, and monetary assistance, etc. In a sense it is giving them the "fish." We have also provided education. I want you to be proud of our United Methodist Denomination for we have been providing education to the poor for as long as we have existed. We are the best example of all the denominations in providing education to the poor. In a sense, this is teaching them "how to fish." But it is important for us to see and listen to the poor and know what is constantly holding them back. Sometimes, it is the redlining, discrimination, crimes, and gangs, etc.; there are bigger issues and systemic issues. Wherever there is injustice and evil, the church needs to be a beacon of justice and goodness. No matter how well the poor knows how to fish, if there is a permanent wall around the lake barring them from entering, how are they to feed themselves and their families? Helping the poor is like peeling an onion. There are many layers of complex issues. So we do not brush them off as "lazy" or "smelly" but instead try to listen to them and try to be an agent of bringing a solution to root causes. It sounds grand but it all starts with seeing them with God's eyes as people created in God's image.

Blessings,
Millie

DECEMBER SERMON SCRIPTURE

December 03	Matthew 1:1-17 "The Genealogy" First Sunday of Advent
December 10	Luke 1:26-38 "The Annunciation" Second Sunday of Advent
December 17	"Winter's Grace" Cantata Third Sunday of Advent
December 24	Luke 2:1-7, John 1:1-18 "Jerusalem" Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 31	Luke 2:8-20 "The Manger and the Shepherds" First Sunday after Christmas

Dr. Mary Boggs delivers baby girl in Samaritan's Purse Hospital in Togo, Africa.



**Rome Action Ministries
Thanksgiving Food Drive donations**



Keenagers Thanksgiving at Adairsville Inn



Thanksgiving Altar Table



Sub-District Christmas Carol Sing-a-Long

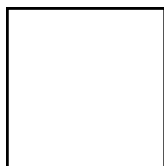
December Birthdays

12/01 Sissy Kim-Soh
12/03 Lib Rogers
12/04 Hazel Barton
12/05 Jim Burton
12/07 Theo Kislak
12/09 LuAnn Williams
12/11 Darlene Wallace
12/15 Iva Chapman
12/17 Randy Embree
12/17 Mike Jackson
12/19 Jesse Barton
12/22 Anne Whitefield
12/25 Jean Christian
12/26 Bill Underwood
12/29 Brennan Baker
12/31 Maddie Gibson

December Anniversaries

12/05 Paul & Vicki Barfield
12/08 Jody & Martha Rogers
12/11 Beth & Mike Colombo
12/26 Jamie & Mike Jackson

Birthdays & Anniversaries:
If we haven't included your anniversary
or birthday, please contact JoAnn Baker
in the church office (706.234.6406).
We want to celebrate with you!



We're on the Web:
Zavenuc.org



Second Helpings

Published by Second Avenue UMC
801 East Second Avenue
Rome, GA 30161-3309

Angel Tree

Thank you for taking angel ornaments to provide Christmas gifts for the children of Murphy-Harpst Children's Home. Please return UNWRAPPED gifts *by Sunday, December 10*. You may also make a financial contribution to this project. For more information, please contact Betty Albers at 706.232.2559.

Toys for Tots

We also collect toys each year for children in our community through Toys for Tots. Please bring new, unwrapped toys to the collection bin in the Fellowship Hall *by Sunday, December 10*.



Vital Signs

Average Worship Attendance in November: 76
Financial giving in November: \$16,207
Budgeted amount needed as of November: \$202,911
Budgeted amount given as of November: \$172,668

End of Year Giving

Dear Second Avenue Friends,

Thank you for your financial generosity this year. In these final weeks of 2017, as you consider your giving to the church, please note that contributions must be received in the church office or postmarked on or before December 31 in order to be included on your giving statement for 2017. Contributions received after that date will appear on your giving statement for 2018.

Blessings,
Greg Gaston, 2017 Finance Committee Chair

Blessings and Gratitude

Thanksgiving Project:

Thanks for contributing to another great food drive for Rome Action Ministries! We helped fill the pantry with 37 grocery bags and a \$275 contribution from our neighbors and congregation. A big thank you to all those who helped distribute, and collect the bags from the neighborhood!

Thank you:

Thank all of you for the birthday cards, email and Facebook messages as I celebrated another birthday which was my last in the 70s. Now, on to greater and more exciting things as I get into my 80s. God has richly blessed me with good friends, good cheer and the ability to overcome anything less than that. I love each and every one of you.

Giles Chapmen

AmazonSmile:

Second Avenue UMC now has an account at AmazonSmile. Please go to this [link](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/58-1312741) (<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/58-1312741>) and choose Second Ave United Methodist Church. When you do your online shopping, remember to always start at smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the church's account.

SECOND HELPINGS

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with WINGS like eagles... Isaiah 40:31

Worship...

Christmas Cantata:

Sunday, December 17 ~ 11:00 a.m.

Join us for our choir's performance of *Winter's Grace*, arranged by Joseph Martin, featuring Giles Chapman, narrator. We are excited to share the joy of the Gospel message of Christmas in song and hope you will bring friends and neighbors to worship with us.

The Longest Night:

Thursday, December 21 ~ 7:00 p.m. ~ Trinity UMC

We need hope in the midst of the Christmas season, when some are filled with pain and doubt while the world seems to celebrate with joy. Join with other churches in our sub-district for this service of prayer and healing at the winter solstice, when the darkness of night is longest.

Christmas Eve Service:

Sunday, December 24 ~ 5:00 p.m.

This year the children will tell the timeless story of God's love with a Christmas pageant during the Christmas Eve service at 5:00 p.m. All children are invited to participate. Practices will be on Wednesdays, December 13 & December 20, at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Invite...

Upper Room Devotionals:

Upper Room devotionals, regular or large-print, are available outside the church office and downstairs. Please take one for yourself, family, and friends, and invite them to share in the Gospel message of God's love for our daily lives. We are grateful Amy Astin shares the Spanish version at Floyd Medical Center as a gift from our church.

Serve...

Christmas Giving:

We share Christ's love each Christmas season through the Angel Tree and Toys for Tots. Please see page 3 of this newsletter for more information, or contact Betty Albers at 706.232.2559.

Meals & More:

We will help pack and deliver meals to those in need on Tuesday, December 5, 3:30-5:30 p.m. at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), located at 209 E. 2nd Avenue. You can help by volunteering your time or by contributing individually wrapped cookies or snack cakes or single serve sized potato chips for the meals. We also give away travel size soaps, lotions, shampoo, and other toiletry items. Please bring them to the box in the Fellowship Hall.

Nurture...

Christmas Dinner:

Sunday, December 3 ~ 6:00 p.m.

The Men's Club and United Methodist Women invite you to their annual Christmas dinner and entertainment. Come and rejoice in the season with good food, fun, and fellowship. Dinner is \$15.00 per person.

Trolley Caroling:

Sunday, December 17 ~ 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Hop on the trolley for a jolly good time caroling for our shut-in members! Always a fun time for children, youth, and adults to share in the joy of the season together.

Keenagers:

Thursday, December 21 ~ noon

Join the Keenagers for a Christmas celebration potluck lunch at noon. At 1:30, they will go for a tour of Rose Hill, the home of Wesley Walraven on 4th Avenue. For more information, contact Shirley Dodson at 770.749.9095 or shibob@charter.net.

Christmas at the Parsonage:

Those of you who don't have family in town, the Kim-Sohs invite you to the Parsonage on Christmas Day at 3:00 p.m. for Christmas Dinner. Please RSVP to Millie.

Grow...

A Night in Bethlehem:

Saturday, December 9 ~ 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Please invite your family and friends. Kids wander through the bustling city of Bethlehem and discover what life was like when Jesus was born. Volunteers are needed and monetary donations are welcome! We need pop-up tents; if you have one, please bring it to the fellowship hall.

SECOND HELPINGS

Acolytes:

12/03 Chloe Duck
12/10 Macy Davis
12/17 Railey Davis
12/24 Chloe Duck
12/31 Isaac Tucker

Liturgists:

12/03 Greg Gaston
12/10 Amy Astin
12/17 Cantata
12/24 Doug Meredith
12/31 Bob Baker

Ushers:

Ronnie Farmer (head usher)
Mike Colombo, Tommy
Jones, Thomas Kislak, Lee
Roberts, Phil Taylor

Nursery:

12/03 Betty Crymes
12/10 Beth Gibbons
12/17 Mary Beth Broxterman
12/24 Betty Albers
12/31 Nancy Clift

Congregational Care & Concern:

12/03 Shirley Dodson
12/10 Sally Farmer
12/17 Inez Fears
12/24 Vicki Thomason
12/31 Darlene Wallace

Counters:

12/03 Mike Colombo & Cindy Smith
12/10 Mary Beth B. & Greg Gaston
12/17 Barbara Cothran & Dan Emerick
12/24 Dottie Taylor & LuAnn Williams
12/31 Mike Colombo & Cindy Smith

Flowers:

12/03 Poinsettias
12/10 Poinsettias
12/17 Poinsettias
12/24 Poinsettias
12/31 Kim

Wednesday Night Family Fellowship

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dinner Served 6:00 p.m.; Program 6:30• Reservation Required on Pew Pad or Call Office• \$8 per person/\$15 family maximum | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$1 per person for dessert only• Pizza for children available weekly• First-time visitors & children 10 and under eat free |
|---|--|

Programs

- 12/06** Tales from Wales—Len & Beverly Woodward
12/13 Santa Claus is Coming to Town!
12/20 No Wednesday Night Supper—
Merry Christmas!
12/27 No Wednesday Night Supper—
Happy New Year!

Menus

- 12/06** Salisbury Steak, Rice, Butter Peas, Yeast Rolls,
Dessert
12/13 Chicken & Rice, Steamed Broccoli, Tossed
Salad, Yeast Rolls, Dessert
12/20 No Wednesday Night Supper—
Merry Christmas!
12/27 No Wednesday Night Supper—
Happy New Year!
-

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 24 ~ 5:00 p.m.

Make plans to join us at 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve for a traditional Christmas pageant telling the timeless story of God's love. The service will also include familiar Christmas carols and end with a special candlelight version of Silent Night to welcome the birth of the Christ child.

Need A Prayer?

Please let us know your prayer concerns. You may submit prayer requests:
- In writing: fill out a prayer request form in the sanctuary pew racks
- By phone: call the prayer line at 706.234.6406 (press 3 when prompted)
- By email: millie@2aveumc.org

If you have a confidential request, please contact Rev. Millie (404.759.4778).

"Pray, and let God worry." Martin Luther

Pastoral Care Need?

Please contact the church ASAP when you are in need of Pastoral Care!
To contact the Pastor:
- During office hours, please call 706.234.6406
- After hours, please call 404.759.4778

Prayer List

Congregation

Helen Broom
Herb Brown
Danny Carver
Giles Chapman
Clift Family
Phil & Jane Franssen
Vesper Frazier & Family
Joyce Gann
Margaret Gibson
Charles Griffin
Norma Gresham
Lib Rogers
Cindy Smith
Lee & Rhonda Upshaw

Homebound

Hazel Barton
Ercel Blair
Carolyn Garwood
Eloise Johnson
Vivian VanLandingham
Carol Vogt

Friends & Family

Oneida Adams
Sarah Bailie
Judy Barcik
Terri Blake
Ken Boaz
Family of Carl Brooks
Linda Brown
Matt Brown
Erin Ables Clark
MaeDell Clark
Othello Cogburn
Jennifer Cooneen
Rheba Cothran & Family
Laura Flandreau
Taylor Freeman
Daria Giebler
Bob Henderson
Phil Herron
Buck Huckaby
Garrett Jones
Rodney Jones & Family

Milton Kahn
Tiffany Knight
Fred Land
Jim Laney
Reba Lockaby
Dean Mallow
Cade Maynor
Military Personnel & Families
Dot Mitchell
Buford Moon
John Morris & Family
Melanie Osley
Connie Ray
Ed & Peggy Reynolds
Trish Sherman
Family of Charles Stalling
Grace Tolbert
President Trump
Family of Ray Upshaw
Quentin VanKooten
Jim Williams & Family
Kennedy Williams
Edmund & Sandy Yeargan

Persons of the Week

December 03: Helen Faye Broom

6 Eastridge Court SW
Rome, GA 30161-6137

December 24: Lee & Rhonda Upshaw

P. O. Box 84
Lindale, GA 30147-0084

December 10: Cindy Smith

301 Raymond Avenue
Rome, GA 30165

December 31: Carol Vogt

Magnolia Hills, Room 51
504 Historic 441 North
Demorest, GA 30535

December 17: Bob Baker

34 Summit Drive
Lindale, GA 30147-1335

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

December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Sissy Kim-Soh	2
3 First Sunday of Advent Lib Rogers 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 6:00pm Men's Club/UMW Christmas Dinner	4 Hazel Barton	5 Jim Burton Paul & Vicki Barfield 9:30am Helping Hands 10:00am Joyful Noise 3:30pm Meals & More @ Frist Christian Church	6 6:00pm Wednesday Night Family Fellowship	7 Theo Kislat 5:00pm Line Dancing	8 Jody & Martha Rogers	9 LuAnn Williams 1:00pm 'A Night in Bethlehem'
10 Second Sunday of Advent 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship	11 Darlene Wallace Mike & Beth Colombo	12 9:30am Helping Hands 10:00am Joyful Noise	13 6:00pm Wednesday Night Family Fellowship Santa Claus is Coming to Town!	14 5:00pm Line Dancing	15 Iva Chapman	16
17 Mike Jackson Randy Embree Third Sunday of Advent 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Cantata 2:00pm Caroling on the Trolley	18	19 Jesse Barton 10:00am Joyful Noise	20	21 12:00pm Keenagers Potluck Lunch 5:00pm Line Dancing 7:00pm Sub-District Longest Night Service at Trinity UMC	22 Anne Whitefield	23
24 Christmas Eve Fourth Sunday of Advent 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 5:00pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day Church Office Closed Jean Christian	26 Bill Underwood Church Office Closed Jamie & Mike Jackson	27	28 5:00pm Line Dancing	29 Brennan Baker	30
31 Maddie Gibson 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship						