

# Second Helpings

DECEMBER 2025

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

## Pastor's Page– Rev. Stephanie Hannah



Dear brothers and sisters,

As we enter the season of Advent, I am reminded of the immense gift we are preparing to receive: the arrival of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. During this month of anticipation, our hearts and minds often turn toward the quiet miracle of the Incarnation, where God chose to enter our world not with a show of force, but as a vulnerable human child.

Christmas is a profound declaration that God would not stand by while creation suffered the consequences of sin. He entered our world to redeem and restore all creation, offering himself as a gift beyond our deserving. Our proper response to these undeserved gifts and blessings is one of gratitude and great joy, as we celebrate with family and friends that God is with us—Emmanuel.

Amid decorating, shopping, and traveling, let us not forget the true gift of Christmas. It is my prayer that the hope and peace of Christmas will lighten any burdens you carry and bring healing to those who are hurting this season. May your family experience a blessed and merry Christmas and a joyful New Year.

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Stephanie, David and Jake

Isaiah 9:6 – “For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”



## December Sermon Scriptures

**December 07** 2 Corinthians 4:7-18; Isaiah 11:1-10 | “Our Hope for Harmony and Peace”

**December 14** Choir Cantata

**December 21** 1 John 4:15-21; Matthew 1:18-25 | “A Righteous Man's Love”

**December 24** Luke 2:1-12; Luke 2:13-20 | “A Faithful Journey”

**December 28** Amy Astin preaching

## Highlights from November in Pictures



Blessing of blankets and more made by the Helping Hands ladies



Pizza Supper  
and Game  
Night Fun



Thanksgiving Altar Table



Altar decorated for Advent

## Persons of the Week

### December 07: Terry Clift

38 The Trail  
Lindale, GA 30147-1401

### December 21: Bill & Cindy Pharr

4 Ridgepoint Drive SE  
Rome, GA 30161-8519

### December 14: Jean Christian

103 Wells Drive  
Rome, GA 30161-5973

### December 28: Genny Alexander

1571 Old Summerville Road NW  
Rome, GA 30165

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

## December Schedule

### Liturgists:

12/07 Amy Astin  
12/14 Mike Colombo  
12/21 Greg Gaston  
12/28 Dennis Urquhart



### Acolytes:

12/07 Theo Kislat  
12/14 Kevin Baleon-Ruiz  
12/21  
12/28

## Prayer List

### Congregation

Genny Alexander  
Donna Bledsoe  
Laura Bledsoe  
Paula Brown  
Terry Clift & Family  
Lynda Climer  
Barbara & Terry Cothran  
Nancy Davis  
Erna Dobbs  
Sue & Terry Duck  
Rev. Stephanie  
Hannah & Family  
Betty Hardy  
John & Beth Kennedy  
Susan Kennedy  
Irene Martz  
Bill & Cindy Pharr  
Lib Rogers  
Orlando Shaw  
Jerry Waters

Nancy Allison  
Madelyn Amerson  
Dana Andrews  
Barry Barfield  
Anne Barker  
Jerry Branton  
Brooke Brown  
Jimmy Brown  
Gwen Bullock  
Chris Butler  
Wayne Casey  
Kathy Cason  
Lisa Crowder  
Wendell Crowder  
Ruth Day  
Stephanie Dunn  
Jimmy & Denise  
Roxanne Golden  
Carol Gunter  
Elise & Parker  
Hendricks  
Myers Hendricks  
Molly Horton  
Hytowitz family  
Jessie (foster child)

Kathy Jarvinan  
Gloria Johnson  
Garrette Jones  
Matthew King  
Faye Laney  
Josh Laney  
Ivy Law  
Pat Law  
Chad Lester  
Angela Mackler  
Martha Martin  
Taylor Martin  
Haley & Will McDonald  
Tom & Cheri McElroy  
Leisa McEntyre  
Blakely Messer  
Pam Mills  
Terri Minor  
Lucie Mitchell  
Posey Mitchell  
Ali Morales  
Lynette Murphy  
Camil Nedela  
Holli Nix  
Bo Payne

Jeremy Peace  
Kori Petty  
Beth Pitt  
Aimee Rank  
Roger Ramey  
Margaret Rodela  
Mallory Saville  
Peaches Shaw  
Karen Stanley  
Shirley Stanton  
David Stevens  
Susan Tate  
Michael Thomason  
Nadia Vagnerova  
Esperanza Vail  
Pavel Wagner  
Lori Watters  
Ray Waters  
Alice Wiener  
Mitzi Wilburn  
Kennedy Williams  
Morgan Wilson  
Jalen Wofford  
Laura Beth Wright  
Tommy Yarborough

### Friends & Family

Dusty Alexander



## Meal in Memory of Nancy Clift

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Immediately after church on Sunday, December 7, we will have lunch in the fellowship hall in memory of Nancy Clift. The church will provide the protein/meat, and **everyone** is invited to come eat and visit with Terry. Cindy Smith's bereavement food committee will be bringing side dishes and be in charge of setup and serving of food. If you are not on Cindy's committee but would like to bring a side, salad, or dessert, please let Cindy Smith know (706-346-0786).

## United Women in Faith

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### Time to Plan for December...

Christmas is just around the corner, and we will have our annual **Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, December 13 at 11:00 a.m.** This is a fun time to celebrate Christmas with your church family and guests. Daniella Opravilova will be playing Christmas carols and other popular Christmas tunes for us to enjoy caroling to each other! (There might be a solo or two!)



Provino's will cater the lunch with their famous salad, lasagna, spinach tortellini, and delicious rolls! We will have assorted homemade desserts from which to choose. **Cost will be \$15 per person. EVERYONE** is invited, and I hope you will plan to come and bring guests!

Please make reservations with Cindy (706-346-0786 or [butlerjrt@gmail.com](mailto:butlerjrt@gmail.com)) so we can have a head count to order food. You do not need to pay in advance!

Cindy Smith, president UWF

## Musical Performances this December

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Our choir will perform this year's cantata on Sunday, December 14, during the morning worship hour. Our hand bell choir will perform during the worship service on Sunday, December 21. Many thanks for all those who practice so faithfully to bring us beautiful music each week in addition to these special events. Plan to attend and invite someone to receive a blessing with you.

## Keenagers Christmas Lunch on December 18

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Plan to join the Keenagers on Thursday, December 18, at noon for a covered dish lunch. Everyone is invited to participate in this fun event as we celebrate Christmas together.

Please contact Judy Myers for more details (706-346-8993).

## Angel Tree Gifts for Murphy-Harpst Children's Center

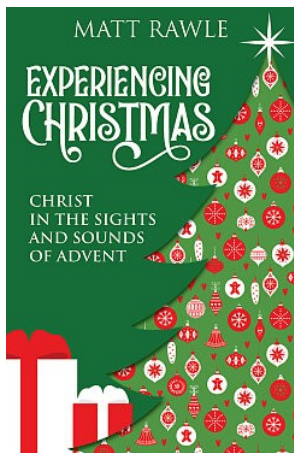
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Each year Second Avenue partners with Murphy Harpst Children's Center to provide Christmas gifts for the children. This year we will again have an Amazon link through which gifts can be purchased— <https://a.co/8uGeSIH> . The link will direct you to the Second Avenue UMC shopping page for Murphy Harpst. It helps the MH staff with sorting if you include a gift note on Amazon with the child's name on it.

If you don't do Amazon or on-line shopping but still want to pay for a gift, make your check to the church designated Angel Tree or give a donation directly to Susan Stroup, who will have a gift list with her you can choose from.

## Advent Bible Study

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Experiencing Christmas: Christ in the Sights and Sounds of Advent by Matt Rawle. We hope you will plan to participate in this Bible Study on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. in the church fellowship hall.

“Discover how everything changed when God was born. Everything seems different at the end of the year. We put lights on our houses to dispel the growing darkness, Christmas music floods local radio stations, apple cider and cranberry sauce are again on the menu, and wrapping paper and tape are always ready. Things just look, smell, and taste differently during the Advent and Christmas season, and these differences are a sign to us that God is about to do something radical and different. Christmas is when God surrounded the divine with senses of his own.”

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

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We hope you'll be at church on Thursday, December 24, for a special candlelight communion service at 5:00 p.m. Make plans to come and bring friends and family members with you.

## Vases Needed

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After we enjoy the flowers in worship, JoAnn arranges them and Pastor Stephanie takes them to church members in need of a sign of our prayers and love.

We currently need more vases! If you have any to donate, please bring them to the church office. Please note that plastic vases are welcome as some nursing homes and memory care facilities prefer non-breakable containers.

## Office Secretary/Custodian JoAnn Thomas is Leaving

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After 17 years of dedicated service, JoAnn Thomas is stepping down as church secretary and custodian of Second Avenue UMC. Contributions to a love offering for JoAnn can be made anytime in the next several weeks. Her final work day with us will be Wednesday, December 31.

We will honor JoAnn with a lunch following worship on Sunday, January 4. Mark your calendar and plan to be here to wish her well as she begins a new phase of her life.

## End of Year Giving Thank You

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Dear Second Avenue Friends,

Thank you for your financial generosity this year. In these final weeks of 2025, 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 2025. Contributions received after that date will appear on your giving statement for 2026.

Blessings,

Greg Gaston, 2025 Finance Chair

## Vital Signs

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Budgeted amount needed as of November: \$226,208

Budgeted amount given as of November: \$187,061

Financial giving in month of November (Budget and Designated): \$23,627

## With Deepest Sympathy

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### Nancy Evelyn Clift

*October 24, 1946—October 28, 2025*

It is with deep sympathy that we share with you that our sister in Christ, Nancy Clift, passed away on Tuesday, October 28. Please be in prayer for her husband, Terry, and their family.

To “be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord” but she will be missed by those whose lives she touched.

## Second Avenue United Methodist Church

801 East Second Avenue  
Rome, GA 30161  
Phone: 706-234-6406  
Email: 2ndave@bellsouth.net

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

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

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### December Birthdays

12/03	Lib Rogers
12/06	Beth Kennedy
12/07	Theo Kislat
12/08	Maria Ruiz
12/09	LuAnn Williams
12/11	Darlene Wallace
12/15	Iva Chapman Brown
12/17	Randy Embree
12/17	Mike Jackson
12/22	Anne Whitefield
12/25	Jean Christian
12/26	Dylan Baleon
12/29	Brennan Baker
12/31	Maddie Gibson

### December Anniversaries

12/08	Jody & Martha Rogers
12/10	John & Beth Kennedy
12/10	Dennis & Kathy Urquhart
12/11	Beth & Mike Colombo
12/26	Jamie & Mike Jackson



### Birthdays & Anniversaries:

If we haven't included your birthday  
or anniversary, please contact  
JoAnn in the church office  
(706.234.6406).

# December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 10:00am Helping Hands	<b>3</b> Lib Rogers 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir Practice	<b>4</b> 6:00pm Handbell Choir	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Beth Kennedy
<b>7</b> Theo Kislat 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Lunch in Memory of Nancy Clift	<b>8</b> Jody & Martha Rogers Maria Ruiz	<b>9</b> LuAnn Williams 10:00am Helping Hands	<b>10</b> Dennis & Kathy Urquhart John & Beth Kennedy 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir Practice	<b>11</b> Darlene Wallace Mike & Beth Colombo 6:00pm Handbell Choir	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 11:00am UWF Christmas Luncheon
<b>14</b> 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Cantata	<b>15</b> Iva Chapman Brown	<b>16</b> 10:00am Helping Hands	<b>17</b> Mike Jackson Randy Embree 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir Practice	<b>18</b> 6:00pm Handbell Choir	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Handbells	<b>22</b> Anne Whitefield	<b>23</b> 10:00am Helping Hands	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve 5:00pm Christmas Eve Service	<b>25</b> Christmas Day Church Office Closed Jean Christian	<b>26</b> Dylan Baleon-Ruiz Jamie & Mike Jackson	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship	<b>29</b> Brennan Baker	<b>30</b> 10:00am Helping Hands	<b>31</b> Maddie Gibson			