

Second Helpings

JANUARY 2021

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

Important Message from Bishop and Cabinet

Greetings clergy and laity of the North Georgia Conference,

I am Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, and I'm here with the entire Appointive Cabinet today to make an appeal to you and to talk about the next couple of weeks and how we worship in a time of COVID. First, I want to share with you Scripture. This is from the third letter of John, verse two: "Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you, and that you may be in good health just as it is well with your soul." Our goal is that bodies and souls will be healthful this Christmas season.

We don't want to issue edicts. I'll be really upset with any of you who post on social media that it's coming down from on high, and we're forcing your hand, and we are policing this carefully. That is not who we are, nor how we want to be perceived. We are your brothers and sisters in Christ, we have great concern for you, clergy, and your parishioners. And we do not want the church to add to the heartache and the turmoil and the heartbreak of 270,000 families in this country right now.

Around North Georgia, hospitals right now are working on their protocols for what they do if the intensive care beds are full. That gives me great pause and great concern, and it should give you great pause and great concern. If we don't do this right, if we don't avoid gathering and avoid crowds and avoid the spread of COVID, we could not only jeopardize the lives of many who get COVID, but we could also jeopardize the lives of those who would otherwise need those ICU beds. So this is a matter of grave public health importance.

I also say, continue to watch your areas. Most counties in North Georgia are red. Most counties in North Georgia have a widespread incidence of COVID, and it is a very dangerous time. If it gets even worse, and it probably will, as those who have been exposed over Thanksgiving have complications or need higher levels of medical care, please pay attention and watch and hear us, your Bishop and cabinet.

Something I've heard a lot is "but the Baptist church down the street is meeting, but the Catholic church down the street is meeting ..." That should not weigh in your determination. Every time I hear that, and I think about my mother's saying, "Well, if somebody jumps off a cliff, Sue, are you going to follow them?" You need to have your own sense of what is safe and stick to it and be good with that.

Finally, we do not need you to meet as a show of your faith. I trust that you are faithful people. I don't go run across eight lanes of the highway at rush hour to show I'm a faithful Christian. In fact, Jesus said he wasn't real crazy about those public shows of piety. He said, go get in your closet and pray. I invite you, and I thank you in advance for your careful attention to the guidelines, for carefully thinking this out and listening to medical professionals, for having a healthy regard for the real danger that this virus represents, and a healthy sense of better days are on the horizon.

(excerpts from December video transcript regarding Christmas worship this year)

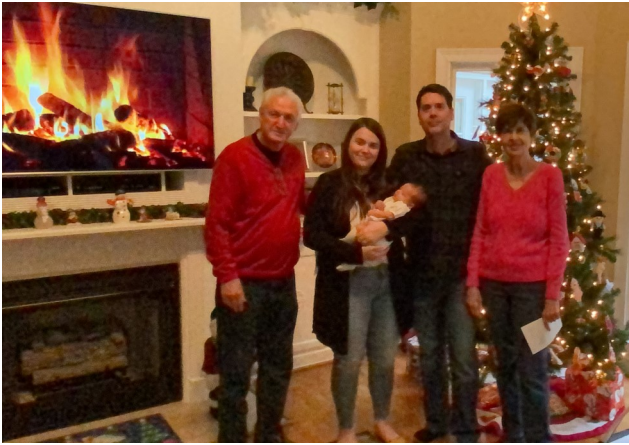
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Clergy and leaders, if you need to change your plans, even if you've carefully planned out Christmas Eve, we want to give you permission to reconsider and to do something in which nobody will be threatened with COVID.

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Highlights from December in Pictures



Holy Baptism of Jemma Kate Clift on December 23, 2020



Christmas Eve Worship

Persons of the Week

January 03: Rhonda Eichenberger

14 S. Heathrow Drive
Rome, GA 30165

January 24: Edith Swint

418 East 8th Street
Rome, GA 30161-3357

January 10: Bill & Julie Mathis

1101 Old Dalton Road NE
Rome, GA 30165-9023

January 31: Randy Embree

110 Robin Street NW
Rome, GA 30165-1544

January 17: Jane Lathem

4467 Old Dalton Road NE
Rome, GA 30165



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

Prayer List

Congregation

Carl Alexander
Susan Autry
Bob Baker
Erma Braden
Herb Brown
Jim & Gerrie Burton
Danny Carver
Giles Chapman
Nancy Davis
Ronnie Farmer
Phil Franssen
Carolyn Garwood
Greg Gaston
Gibbons Family
Margaret Gibson
Charles Griffin
Mardelle Lynch
Bill Mathis
Bill Pharr
Edith Swint
Vivian VanLandingham
Carol Vogt
Darlene Wallace
LuAnn Williams

Friends & Family

Katherine Ammons
Travis Atkinson
Terri Black
Linda Brown
Tony & Laurie Clark
Daria Giebler
Patty Harvey
Destiny Erica Head
Ronald Hicks
Khloe Hill
Sue Hurley
JoAnn Jacks
Larry Jacks
Janie Jolley
Garrett Jones
Pat Jones
Milton Kahn
Bill & Peggy Lanier
Jayme & Kristy Laney
Lisa McDaniel
Mason McKenzie
Military Personnel
John Morris & Family
Stephanie Kiser Nation
Sherry Nolan

Diane Norrod
Andy Peabody
Michael Powell
Carolyn Prater
Deborah Reynolds
Ruiz-Baleon Family
Nancy, Edwin, & Allison Sims
Dan Smith
David Stevens
Jonathan & Charlotte Sturtz
Paul Sturtz
John Sullivan
Roberta Sullivan
Bonnie Thomas
President Trump
Julie & Addie Turner
Antonio Valles
Tyson Wait
Mary Whilllock
Sunny Wilkerson
Jim Williams and Family
Kennedy Williams

Pastor's Page



As most of you, I missed the Christmas pageant this year with the children. I always enjoy children singing and doing the parts of animals, angels, shepherds, and baby Jesus. I missed hearing “O Holy Night” and spilling wax on my hand as we sing, “Silent Night, Holy Night.”

In this time of pandemic, we are missing and craving for all tangible, physical things—hugs, meals together, sacred space like our sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, etc. We have had to isolate ourselves more than ever before and “Way too long!” you might say. As much as I hate it, I want you to know that it is necessary for the safety of others that we wait a few more months. We can see the finish line! It is more important now that we stay vigilant at the end of this race.

As I write this article, the death toll of COVID 19 is over 343,000 people in the US alone. As a clergy, I cannot help imagining those 343,000 funerals and their family members’ faces. I am grieving for the loss of those people even though I only knew a handful of them and whether you acknowledge it or not, so are you. I came across these words written by Rickie Holter who lost his Dad to Covid. “They buried my Dad this week. Normally, I’d say ‘we’ buried him. But this is nothing like normal. I was 1,300 miles away, working remotely, at my dining room table. My sister, her husband, their son? They stood in a church cemetery in Maryland, socially distanced from the pastor, and the grave itself. My brother and his wife were in the grass on the other side. So were another nephew, and a niece. And my other brother and his wife? They left separate ends of their house, drove separate cars. At the cemetery, he couldn’t do more than crack open his car window. Quarantined. Ten people. One funeral. A pandemic-sized hole in our hearts. See, Dad had COVID-19. They tested him Thursday, April 9, the day his liver gave out, the day half my family made a final visit. He died April 10. The results came back a day later. Positive.” Close your jaws. I am afraid that this is not a unique story. And we all mourn together with those who lost their loved ones. These are deaths on top of those who lost their fight to cancer, heart disease, stroke, Alzheimer’s disease, etc.

One of the dangers of all this is that our isolation can lead us to darkness. Domestic violence is skyrocketing. Alcoholism and addiction are rampant. Children are abused and neglected. Particularly, the elderly have chosen to stay at home, sometimes for months at a time, completely alone. I visited someone in Mableton a few weeks ago. She said that I was the first person she had seen and touched in six months. It seems like darkness is pervasive. I called a friend in Maryland to wish him a Merry Christmas on Christmas Eve. He said, “Is it Christmas Eve today?” Confusion and disorientation are common symptoms of this day and age. That is where you come in. I ask you to check in on our family and friends. It does not matter if they belong to our church. It does not matter if they are rich or poor, Black or White, or Republican or Democrat. Be extra compassionate and kind! Be the light of Jesus.

And you may think I am Peter crying wolf and you are tired of hearing this over and over again, but we will be alright and we will overcome this TOGETHER. The year 2020 has been dark, real dark, but the darkness did not, cannot, and will not overcome God, our love for God and for one another.

Blessings,
Rev. Millie

January Sermon Scriptures

January 03	"From the Beginning" Genesis 1:1-5 Installation of New Officers
January 10	"Tearing the Heavens Apart" Mark 1:4-11 Epiphany
January 17	"Anything Good" John 1:43-51
January 24	"Follow Me" Mark 1:14-20
January 31	"What Have You to Do With Us?" Mark 1:21-28

Blessings and Gratitude

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your very generous donation, especially during this challenging time, for for partnering with us in ensuring the future of our camping and retreat ministries. We are so grateful for your gift and your support for North Georgia Camp and Retreat Ministries.

Donation Date: 11/18/2020

Fund: Camp Glisson Stand In the Gap Relief Fund

In Honor Of: Rev. Millie Kim

Amount: \$2,310

We appreciate your entire congregation!

Russell Davis, Executive Director

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for remembering me on my birthday. The calls and cards meant so much to me. Also, thank you for my Christmas cards and gifts. I am enjoying the beautiful poinsettia.

I love my church family,
Lib Rogers

With sincere gratitude we acknowledge your \$125 donation to our ministry with persons who are developmentally disabled.

God Bless!

Rev. Anne Hansen
Aldersgate Homes, Inc.



Millie was commissioned as an Earthkeeper in the United Methodist Church on December 8, 2020. EarthKeepers is a training program of Global Ministries and the United Methodist Committee on Relief. It is designed to equip United Methodist clergy and laity to lead their communities in environmental stewardship.

All Global Ministries' EarthKeepers are expected to launch an environmental project in their communities as part of their work. Congratulations to Rev. Millie!



Len & Beverly Woodward's daughter Cecilia giving her first COVID-19 vaccine to a fellow nurse.

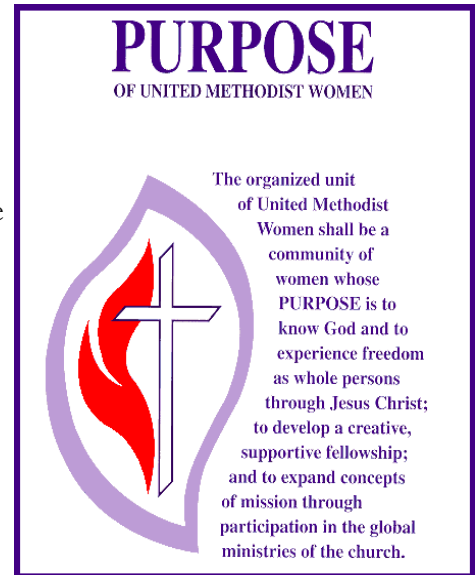
United Methodist Women News

In 2020, we started off the year with record attendance at our UMW meetings on Saturday mornings and were very close to meeting my goal of 30 in attendance. I am sure we would have reached that goal in the spring had COVID not shut everything down. We started supporting the Ruth and Naomi House by buying breakfast items to feed residents for a week, and you have remained faithful to continue to send your monetary gifts to support this local mission. Please continue to send checks to the church designated for Ruth and Naomi House so that JoAnn can forward this support to them each month from us.

I have so missed our gatherings and fellowship time together. I have no idea what 2021 will bring but have hope that the new vaccine will allow us to get together safely again before this time next year. Until then, I challenge you to continue to work toward our purpose as United Methodist Women.

Please reach out to one another while we are staying "socially distant," whether through phone calls, cards, texts, emails, etc. to continue to strengthen our "supportive fellowship" with one another and with others in our community. I pray that you will all grow in your knowledge of God in 2021 and experience Jesus's love and grace. Until we meet again, please stay safe and well!

Cindy (Smith), UMW President



Vital Signs



Financial giving in December: \$24,448
 Budgeted amount needed as of December: \$234,693
 Budgeted amount given as of December: \$217,431
 (Shortfall of -\$17,262)

Installation of New Church Officers

On Sunday, January 3, we will have an Installation of New Church Officers during the worship service.

Amy Astin	Terry Clift	Mike Colombo
Steve Davis	Shirley Dodson	Randy Embree
Sally Farmer	Phil Franssen	Greg Gaston
Julie Mathis	Cindy Smith	Susan Stroup

Please pray for the leaders of our congregation as they seek to make wise decisions for the church.

Handbell Choir Informational Meeting—January 3 @ Noon

In the past, we have tried to acquire handbells but were not able to due to a variety of reasons. Recently an opportunity to acquire used 3 octaves of handbells came knocking on our door and we are raising funds to purchase them.

Handbells are the best instruments to play during the pandemic since the ringers are required to wear gloves, and wearing masks and social distancing do not affect their practicing. There is an informational meeting for those who are interested in handbells on Saturday, January 23, at noon (12:00pm through 1:30pm) in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your lunch and light refreshment will be served. Please RSVP by calling the church office or by emailing at 2ndave@bellsouth.net.

Bible Study on Psalms

Psalms: an 8 Week Zoom Bible Study, Starting on Wednesday, January 13 at 6:00pm.

Zoom ID: 979 6367 7563 (no password required)

This Bible Study brings our ancestors in the faith to the table where we learn from them in a cross-cultural experience bridging historical and modern day life. This eight-session study of the Book of Psalms masterfully mixes scholarly and practical teaching through the most beloved book in the Old Testament.

The key messages of this study include: *what* the Book of Psalms is (the hymnbook of ancient Israel), *how* it was utilized in Israelite worship (the various "forms" of the Psalms), and *why* the Book of Psalms remains critical to our devotional lives today. It also dives into the concrete realities of Israelite worship (the tabernacle, temple, priesthood, and sacrifice) as well as Israel's theology of worship wrapped up in their theocratic world view.

Experience the Psalms with fresh connections to contemporary worship and devotional practices. Indulge in the Biblical study of the Psalms from a scholar and former pastor, Rev. Dr. Sandra Richter. You can purchase the study guide ([Book of Psalms Study Guide](#) by [Sandra Richter](#)) on Amazon or have JoAnn order for you. \$15 per book.

Warm Up Sunday

On Sunday, January 24, we will observe Warm Up Sunday. On this Sunday each winter we collect coats, hats, gloves, scarves, socks, blankets....anything that will help folks keep warm. These items will be donated to Davies Shelter. A collection box is in the Fellowship Hall. Please feel free to put a note of encouragement in the pocket of your donated coat to warm its recipient's heart. For more details, call the church office at 706-264-6406.

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We're on the Web:
2aveumc.org

Our Vision: "Knowing Christ &
Making Christ Known"

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



January Birthdays

1/01 Martha Rogers
1/01 Wayne Wilkey
1/02 Brynn Flanery
1/07 Phillip Gaston
1/11 Tim Flanery
1/12 JoAnn Baker Thomas
1/16 Sue Duck
1/20 Paula Brown
1/20 Tom Collum
1/21 Nancy Davis
1/21 Andi Wear
1/22 Emily Embree
1/22 Beverly Gauthreaux
1/24 Judy Myers

Birthdays & Anniversaries:

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

January Anniversaries

1/03 Giles & Iva Chapman
1/23 Gerrie & Jim Burton

January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Church Office Closed Martha Rogers Wayne Wilkey	2 Brynn Flanery
3 Giles & Iva Chapman 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Handbell Choir Informational Meeting	4	5 Pat Jones	6	7 Phillip Gaston	8	9 Terry Clift
10 11:00am Worship	11 Tim Flanery	12 JoAnn Baker Thomas	13 6:00pm Zoom Bible Study on Psalms	14	15	16 Sue Duck
17 11:00am Worship	18	19	20 Paula Brown Tom Collum 6:00pm Zoom Bible Study on Psalms	21 Andi Wear Nancy Davis	22 Beverly Gauthreaux Emily Embree	23 Gerrie & Jim Burton
24 Judy Myers Warm-Up Sunday 11:00am Worship	25	26	27 6:00pm Zoom Bible Study on Psalms	28	29	30
31 11:00am Worship						