

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Epiphany's Epistle



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EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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Conyers, GA 30013  
(770) 483-6222  
[conyerselc.org](http://conyerselc.org)  
[staff@conyerselc.org](mailto:staff@conyerselc.org)

*Reverend David Armstrong-Reiner,  
Pastor*

## August 2026



***“Follow Christ, Live Faithfully,  
Serve All”***

## General Information



We are an active church with friendly people who are journeying with God through Jesus Christ. Come join us!

For more information, please call us at 770-483-6222, email us at [staff@conyerselc.org](mailto:staff@conyerselc.org) or visit our website [www.conyerselc.org](http://www.conyerselc.org).

**OFFICE HOURS:** Please note that the church office hours will be 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, until further notice (except for adjustments due to unforeseen circumstances).

### **\*Sunday Morning Activities\***

*Sunday Adult Forum - 9:00 a.m.*

*Coffee Hour - 9:00 a.m.*

*Breakfast 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays monthly @ 8:30 a.m.*

*Worship Service - 10:00 a.m.*

*Worship Service and special services  
are also streamed  
live via Facebook and the Epiphany  
YouTube pages*



### **DEADLINE!**

Sunday, August 23 is the deadline for information to be submitted for the September newsletter. You can email your news to the church office at [staff@conyerselc.org](mailto:staff@conyerselc.org).



### **Sunday Coffee Hour**

*We encourage you to  
drop in for a coffee  
and fellowship hour  
anytime from 9-9:45*

*a.m. in the Fellowship Hall each  
Sunday.*

### **Breakfast is Served Monthly!**

**Every second Sunday**

**8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall**

**A freewill offering will be collected.**

As we begin a new academic year this month, I find myself reflecting on what it means to be the church and how we are called to be. Too often, we get caught up in worldly standards of success. We want the numbers. We want the yardstick by which we can know whether we have achieved our goal.

But as ones called by Jesus, we are held to a different standard and a different set of values. What the world sees as strength and success is not how God sees it. As Paul stated to the church in Corinth: “we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.” (1 Corinthians 1:23-25)

The Jewish theologian Abraham Joshua Heschel put it this way: “The problem is not how to fill the buildings but how to inspire the hearts .... The problem is not one of *synagogue [or church] attendance* but one of *spiritual attendance*. The problem is not *how to attract bodies to enter the space of a temple [or church]* but *how to inspire souls to enter an hour of spiritual concentration* in the presence of God.”

We gather together each week not to focus on how many are in worship but how worship inspires us to ministry as we leave the building. We gather together each week not to focus on the money we give but on how we are called to give of our gifts every single day.

We are called to growth in our spiritual journey, and that cannot be measured by some objective means. That growth can only be realized within the hearts and lives of each individual as they move through the week.

Continuing in that vein, as I was preparing for our adult class on 2 Timothy, I read the following quote from a commentary by Luke Johnson: “Transformation of character or ... continuing conversion is the very essence of ministry, as it is of discipleship .... Ministry ... is not measured by success, but by fidelity.”

As we move into the coming year, may we challenge ourselves to fidelity, to faithfulness. May we challenge ourselves to growth in character and growth in faith. May we not get caught up in numbers and objective standards but instead ask ourselves each day how we are seeing God in our world and in ourselves.

In Christ,  
Pastor David

# Congregation News & Activities

## ***What is the Church Called to Be? A Study in Titus***

During the month of August, the adult class continues its study of the Pastoral Letters of Paul (1 Timothy to Titus) on Sundays at 9 a.m. We begin on August 9 with the short book of Titus as Paul gives directives to his co-worker Titus who now ministers in Crete. How might these directives speak to the church today? Come explore with us on Sunday morning.

## ***Song of Solomon as an Experience of God***

Not many have read the Song of Solomon. Maybe you did not know that this small book existed in the Bible. And the few verses you may have heard from the book were used at weddings, celebrating the love between a couple. On the surface the book is a love poem between a man and a woman. Yet, the early church read within its words a description of our intimate relationship with God that we grow into within our lives. Starting on Sunday, September 6, come join us on Sundays at 9 am in rooms 7-9 as we discover how this book may speak to us in our faith journeys today.

### **MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

Thursday Mornings  
8:00 to 9:00 a.m.  
Fellowship Hall



*Pastor David leads a discussion on the  
upcoming Sunday's lessons.*



### ***Unnamed but Not Forgotten: Reading the Stories of the Unnamed in Scripture***

Starting on Tuesday, August 18, the Women's Bible Study will be studying the many stories of unnamed characters throughout Scripture. From the Woman at the Well to the Queen of Sheba, from the Ethiopian Eunuch to the Penitent Thief. Come join us on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 9:30 a.m. as we hear these stories and how they challenge us today.

# Congregation News & Activities



## *A Celebration of Don Harris*

On Sunday, August 30, we invite you to join us in worship and following worship to celebrate Don Harris as our Music Director as he gets ready to retire. Don has been with us for the past 11 ½ years, starting in February 2015. We have been blessed by his musical talent and leadership in so many different ways. Come join us as we celebrate him during worship and then with a reception following worship.



CALLING ON ALL CRAFT PEOPLE. THE ALTAR GUILD WOULD LOVE TO HAVE MORE BANNERS TO PUT UP. WE HAVE THREE LOCATIONS TO HANG THEM UP. IN THE SANCTUARY, NARTHEX AND IN THE HALLWAY TO THE FELLOWSHIP HALL. THE BANNER NEEDS TO BE 44 INCHES WIDE AND CAN BE 60 TO 80 INCHES LONG. WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE GROUPS MAKE THEM OR ANY INDIVIDUAL. YOU CAN MAKE THEM FOR ANY SPECIAL SEASON OR TO BE DISPLAYED DURING THE YEAR. THERE IS NO TIME-

FRAME FOR THIS AND WHEN YOU COMPLETE ONE JUST LET MARGARET HILL OR EVELYN BROWN KNOW AND WE WILL PUT THEM UP. LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING WHAT YOU COME UP WITH.

## **Did you know Kroger has a Community Rewards Program?**



This program makes fundraising easy by donating to local organizations based on the shopping you do every day. Once you link your Shopper's Card to an organization, all you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Card. Here's how it works:

**1. Create a digital account.** A digital account is needed to participate in Kroger Community Rewards. If you already have a digital account, simply link your Shopper's Card to our account code so that credit for all your transactions will apply toward **Epiphany Lutheran Church**.

**2. Link your Card to an organization.**

- Sign in to your digital account at: [www.kroger.com/account/communityrewards/](http://www.kroger.com/account/communityrewards/)
- Enter Epiphany's Organization Number: LR632 under "Find an Organization".
- Click the "Enroll" button under Epiphany Lutheran Church

**3. Your organization earns.**

Any transactions moving forward using the Shopper's Card number associated with your digital account will be applied to the program, at no added cost to you. Kroger donates annually to participating organizations based on your percentage of spending as it relates to the total spending associated with all participating Kroger Community Rewards organizations.

Thanks for your participation!

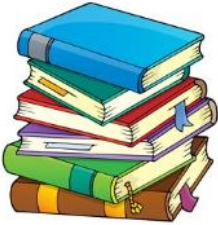
## Social Ministry

A big thank you for supporting our back to school supply drive. We bought \$500 worth of supplies and had another \$100 worth of items donated. Way to go Epiphany!



~ Evelyn Brown

## WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB



The Epiphany Women's Book Club will meet on Tuesday, August 18 at 7 p.m. in the Library. Any woman in the church is invited to join us. For more information call Evelyn Brown at 404-825-4615 or e-mail [evbrown56@gmail.com](mailto:evbrown56@gmail.com). The remaining book selections for 2026 are:

**August:** "Dark Wild Shore" by Charlotte McConaghy

**September:** "Maybe We Should Talk to Somebody" by Lori Gottlieb

**October:** "Road Trip" by Mary Kay Andrews

**November:** "Comfort and Joy" by Kristin Hannah

## EveryStep Walking Fellowship Group



The walking fellowship group continues to walk on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. In one session, we walked to Jeremiah 33:14-22. The promises in these scriptures pointed to the first and second coming of Jesus, specifically in verse 15: "In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land." Our discussion focused on the experience of waiting for the second coming. We used our own daily experience of waiting to articulate how difficult waiting can be like seeking healthcare, buying groceries, and standing in registration lines. These everyday frustrations demonstrated the strain we often feel in trying to remain patient. We recognized waiting can be an irritation or frustration, but in some cases waiting is a tribulation. Jesus never abandons us during difficult times of waiting and provides us with opportunities to grow in faith. We reflected that Jesus waited 30 years to start His ministry and in that time He matured and learned. Our conclusion was that waiting can be a gift to do the work of God if we reframe the experience.

Our health discussion brought laughter because we talked about our mothers' and grandmothers' home health remedies, in which some were good and others were probably dangerous. The examples ran from the overuse of Vick's vapor rub, teabags on burns, and castor oil to name a few. Some in the group said their families had special healing teas. When they had a stomachache they drank tea, when they had muscle aches they drank tea, when they could not sleep they drank tea, when they had a swollen joint they drank tea.....A tea for everything!

Patty Finch Guthrie

# Congregation News & Activities

## **A HUGE Thank You to all who helped with VBS for All**

As you can see in the pictures included in the newsletter, we once again had an incredible success with our Vacation Bible School for All as we explored the theme of “Snowball Mountain Challenge: Find Your Strength in God” on July 12-16. Around 25 children and special needs adults joined with over 25 volunteers to eat, sing, do crafts, play games, and hear stories of God’s strength within us. Thank you to all who participated and to all of you who gave in any way to make the week a success.



# Congregation News & Activities



# Congregation News & Activities



## Community News & Activities

On **Sunday, August 2 at 5 p.m.**, Epiphany, along with churches throughout Rockdale County, will gather on the campuses of every school in Rockdale County to pray for God's blessing and protection over the coming school year. **Epiphany will lead the prayers at Sims Elementary School, 1821 Walker Rd SW, Conyers.** We invite all members to join us as we pray for Sims. Following the time of prayer, we are then invited to gather at Conyers First Methodist Church at 6:30 p.m. for an Ice Cream Fellowship, where we hope to welcome the new Rockdale County Public Schools Superintendent. Please join us.

**ROCKDALE COUNTY CHURCHES UNITED**

# SHIELD OUR SCHOOLS

*Prayer Changes Everything*

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 2 | 5:00 PM**  
**PRAYER AT SCHOOLS IN ROCKDALE COUNTY**

Let's cover our students, families, teachers, administrators, and school staff in prayer for the new school year.

**WE WILL PRAY FOR:**

- STUDENTS & FAMILIES
- TEACHERS
- ADMINISTRATORS & STAFF
- PROTECTION & PEACE
- TRANSPORTATION & SUPPORT STAFF
- FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES

*When the Church Prays, God Moves!*

**Join Us!**  
**ICE CREAM FELLOWSHIP**  
— 6:30 PM —  
Conyers First Methodist Church  
921 N Main Street NW  
Conyers, GA 30012

**MEET OUR NEW ROCKDALE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT!**

**Let's Stand Together**  
AS ONE BODY TO PRAY,  
BELIEVE & SEE GOD MOVE!

**INFORMATIONAL ZOOM CALL**  
**TUESDAY, JULY 14 | 6:00 PM**

Join us to learn more, get details, and ask questions.

**UNITED IN PRAYER.**  
**COVERING OUR SCHOOLS.**  
**BELIEVING FOR GOD'S BEST.**

**QR CODE**

*"If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."* 2 CHRONICLES 7:14



# **nami**

National Alliance on Mental Illness

## Rockdale & Newton Counties GA

**We offer three FREE Monthly Support Groups**



**REGISTER for the  
NAMI Family  
Support Group**  
Held on the **2nd**  
Monday of each  
month from  
6:30 - 8:00 pm.

**REGISTER for the  
Mental Wellness in Recovery  
Support Group**  
Held at 12:30 pm on Mondays



[https://tinyurl.com/  
NAMIMentalWellness](https://tinyurl.com/NAMIMentalWellness)

Visit us online at  
[namirockdalenewton.org](http://namirockdalenewton.org)



**REGISTER for the  
NAMI Connection  
Recovery Support  
Group**  
Held on the 3rd  
Monday of each  
month from  
6:30 - 8:00 pm.

## **It's okay to not be okay.**

## **Silence the Shame**

Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-8255 or 988

Veteran Crisis Line: Dial 988 & Press 1

Depression Hotline: 1-888-640-5174

Addiction Hotline: 1-877-266-3111

Crisis Text Line: Text "SILENCE" to 741741

NAMI Hotline: 1-800-950-6264

Eating Disorder Hotline: 1-844-228-2962

Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233

Postpartum Help Line: 1 (800) 944-4773

Self Harm Hotline: (877) 455-0628

Trevor Project: 1 (866) 488-7386

[www.stevelfund.org](http://www.stevelfund.org)

[www.blackfemaletherapists.com](http://www.blackfemaletherapists.com)

[www.therapyforblackmen.org](http://www.therapyforblackmen.org)

[www.asianmhc.org](http://www.asianmhc.org)

[www.latinaxtherapy.org](http://www.latinaxtherapy.org)

[www.activeminds.org](http://www.activeminds.org)

[www.therapyforblkgirls.com](http://www.therapyforblkgirls.com)

[www.muslimmentalhealth.com](http://www.muslimmentalhealth.com)

**We need your support to improve mental health outcomes for all members of our community!**

**Your support can help to improve and save lives! You can support NAMI Rockdale Newton**

1. Share info about our FREE monthly support groups held on the 1st & 3rd Monday
2. Become a NAMI Rockdale Newton member
3. Join the NAMI Rockdale Newton leadership team
4. Become a volunteer to support us in our community outreach
5. Become a NAMI GA group facilitator to support others in knowing they are not alone
6. Become a NAMI GA instructor to train community members about mental health

Join our [NAMI Walks Team: Steppin' Over Stigma!](#) to plan for next year's event.

# Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 1 Ryan Ard
- 2 Barbara Nieman
- 4 Philip Nieman
- 9 Teresa McCurry
- 14 Leighton Pyatt
- 15 Nancy Cook
- 18 Lindsey Viohl  
Savannah Harbin
- 20 Eardley Ramsay
- 22 Stephen Simmons
- 26 Tommy Lane
- 27 David Armstrong-Reiner  
Billy Buckner
- 29 Bertie Thomas  
Bryan Peterson  
Omara Olok
- 31 Joann Zahm



|                       | Date | Years |
|-----------------------|------|-------|
| Rodney & Tracy Parker | 1    | 8     |
| Mike & Becky Jones    | 3    | 35    |
| Tim & Katherine Carey | 22   | 46    |

***Did we miss announcing your birthday, anniversary or special event? If so, please email the church office at [staff@conyerselc.org](mailto:staff@conyerselc.org) so that we may update our records. Thank you!***

## **Altar Flowers**

If you would like to honor, or memorialize, a special person or occasion with “fresh” altar flowers, the cost is \$30 per arrangement (\$60 total - and sign on both posted calendars). On weeks when no altar flowers have been requested, we will use seasonal arrangements. If you only want one arrangement (\$30), a separate table has been designated in the sanctuary for those special arrangements.



The flower calendar is posted in its' usual place in the narthex. Remember to include the cost in an envelope and mark it - Flowers. Call the church office on 770-483-6222 if you have any questions.

## 5 Ways to Give ...

- ✓ Bring your contribution with you to worship service on Sundays.
- ✓ Mail in your contribution to Epiphany Lutheran Church, 2375 GA Hwy. 20 SE, Conyers, GA 30013.
- ✓ Click on the DONATE tab on our web page at [www.conyerselc.org](http://www.conyerselc.org)
- ✓ Consider automatic giving. Contact the church office to find out how to set this up.
- ✓ Click on the QR code to give electronically.



