

Emory United Methodist Church
The Spire Monthly Newsletter
March 2019

Lent: A mirroring of the forty days that Jesus spent in the desert preparation for his ministry (or the forty years that the Israelites spent wandering in the wilderness) Lent is for the church a time of introspection, prayer, penitence, and self-denial. This is an important time for our church families as we prepare ourselves again to hear the good news of Easter morning. It is a common misconception, but Lent is not necessarily about feeling guilty. We may, of course, need to feel a bit of guilt if we have something to feel guilty about. But this season of preparation is really more of a time to step back, to take stock of our lives, to examine our priorities, to see how we are living in relation to the message of the gospel.

So, as our United Methodist Book of Worship puts it, I invite us as a church family “to the observation of a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s Holy Word.”

Upcoming Dates

-March 3	Dr. James Dawsey, Guest Preacher
-March 6	Ash Wednesday Service, Memorial Chapel, 6:00 p.m.
-March 7	S.P.A.R.Q., 6pm, Neel’s Home & Choir Practice at 5:30
-March 10	Communion Sunday & Gathering around the Table
-March 13	Half-Century
-March 14	S.P.A.R.Q., 6pm, Neel’s Home
-March 21	S.P.A.R.Q., 6pm Neel’s Home
-March 24	Gathering around the Table, 5:30 pm
-March 28	Choir Practice, 5:30 p.m.
-March 31	Fifth Sunday Holston Home for Children Offering

Daylight Savings Time: Begins Sunday, March 10.

Half Century: Will meet at the Riverfront Restaurant in Chilhowie on March 13 at Noon. Reservations need to be made with Evon at crowderb@comcast.net by March 11.

Gathering around the Table: Will meet Sunday, March 10 and Sunday, March 24. A wonderful meal will be offered (no charge) and a children's program will be offered. All are invited and welcomed.

Small Group Ministry: S.P.A.R.Q. (Seeking People Asking Relevant Questions) Study group is a friendly group of folks from the community that meet weekly to discuss topics of interest and search scripture to find answers or even more questions. All are welcome to attend to find fellowship and lively, biblical discussion. Thursdays -- 6 pm @ Neel Rich's home (12164 College Drive).

Older Adult Outing: Will be Tuesday, March 26 to the Renolda House in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Choir Schedule: The choir will meet to rehearse and prepare service music on Thursday from 5:30-6:30pm on the following dates: March 7 & 28; April 11 & 25. You are welcome to join us at rehearsals or simply show up on Sunday morning at 8:30am.

Hand Bell Choir: Interested in ringing with the hand bell choir? Please contact Bob Greene for additional information at bobthecomposer@gmail.com.

We the people of the Emory United Methodist Church affirm that our church is inclusive and open to all people. We are a Reconciling Congregation, affiliated with the Reconciling Ministries Network, which means that we welcome all persons into full participation in the life of our congregation regardless of age, gender identity, racial or ethnic background, sexual orientation, marriage status, or physical or mental condition.

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