

***Emory United Methodist Church  
The Spire Monthly Newsletter  
March 2020***

*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.”*

March Volunteers

	<u>Breakfast</u>	<u>Children’s Church</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>
March 1	Sharon and Linda	Stampers	Elizabeth
March 8	Lisa and Sally	Cindy	Susan
March 15	Cindy and MMJ	Wrights	Tom
March 22	Crowders and Stanleys	Wichts	Mary-Margaret
March 29	Greek Sunday		

**Daylight Savings Time:** Begins Sunday, March 8.

**Older Adult Outing:** Sunday, March 15 to the McLain Family Band concert at Sinking Springs Presbyterian in Abingdon. The concert is from 3-5pm and admission is \$10 at the door. Dinner will follow at the Exit 19 Cracker Barrel at 5:30pm. Reservations need to be made with Neel Rich at 356-6445 or neelrich70@gmail.com by March 13.

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

**Sunday school:** Meets immediately after worship in Wesley Parlor. Everyone is invited.

**Half Century:** The Half Century group will gather at Sisters Cafe & Gifts in Marion on March 11 at 11:30. It is located across from the theater on Main Street at 212 E. Main. Please make reservations with Nancy Latimer by March 9 at [virginialilacs@centurylink.net](mailto:virginialilacs@centurylink.net).

**Church Council:** Quarterly Meeting on Sunday, March 22 following the worship service in Cole Parlor.

**Recycling at the Emory Depot:** We now accept aluminum in the bins behind the Emory depot at any time; the aluminum is collected for recycling on a regular basis and funds raised from the recycling go to support the church's medical assistance program.

**Weekly Food Donations:** Everyone is invited to bring donated food to worship each Sunday morning. We collect the food in a bin as we enter the sanctuary and it is delivered to the Glade Spring Food Pantry during the week.

**Stay Connected:** The Emory UMC worship service is rebroadcast on WEHC 90.7 FM at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings, with a one week delay. If you are not able to make it to church, tune in to WEHC and join us for worship. Also, please visit our website at <http://emoryumchurch.org>.

*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.*

David Jackson, Pastor, Office: 276-944-6841, E-mail: [djackson@ehc.edu](mailto:djackson@ehc.edu), Cell: 865-228-4357