

*Emory United Methodist Church
The Spire Monthly Newsletter
December 2017*

“Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free. From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.”

This is the hymn that we sing every year on the first Sunday of Advent as we prepare our hearts for this time of anticipation; the words beautifully capture the “already” and “not yet” of the Advent season. It is “already” as we celebrate the Christ that has come among us (the Son of God and the Second Person of the Trinity) fully incarnate in time and space and body – born as a babe in the manger in Bethlehem. But Advent is “not yet” in that the promises latent in this child (promises of justice, peace, and reconciliation) are not fully realized...not yet.

In the meantime we journey on together, and we have arrived again at the signpost for Advent as we welcome the Incarnate God among us and proclaim his mighty work. The event calls for celebration (lights and parties and gifts), as it calls also for generosity (giving of ourselves as Christ has given of Himself – a full participation in his work). But the season also calls forth a longing for what is not yet here...the coming again of a Messiah to set this broken world to rights. Here among us already, but not here, yet. This is the deep mystery of Advent; the mystery into which we enter again. Come, indeed, thou long expected Jesus.

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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).

Advent Music Celebration: Sunday, December 3 at 9:30 a.m. – invite a friend!

Children’s Christmas Presentation: Please join us Sunday, December 17 for a special Christmas presentation by our children during the worship service.

Congregational Christmas Dinner: Sunday, December 17 at 5:30 p.m. in Mason Fellowship Hall – potluck. After the meal we will gather around the piano for some Christmas music. A children’s program will also be offered. Please bring something good to eat and join us!

Half-Century: Will meet at The Log House in Wytheville, Virginia, for a special Christmas gathering on Wednesday, December 13, at Noon. Transportation is available. Please make reservations with Evon Crowder at crowderb@comcast.net by December 12.

Poinsettias for the Sanctuary: We are invited to order poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary this year. These are the large, red poinsettias from Indoor Farms; they are \$16 each; the order deadline is Sunday, December 3. Forms are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary, or you can order with David at djackson@ehc.edu. Poinsettias can be ordered in honor or memory of individuals or families and these names will appear in the bulletin.

Angel Tree Children: The Emory UMC congregation has adopted three Angel Tree Children this year. Please consider supporting this important community outreach with a financial contribution. Checks or offering envelopes need to be designated for “Angel Tree Children”.

Christmas Mission Tree: The Christmas Mission Tree is in the narthex. There are a variety of missions to which we can contribute. Gifts can be made in honor or memory of individuals or families, and cards will be sent acknowledging the gift.

Breakfast Fellowship: Every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. there will be informal breakfast fellowship in Cole Parlor. Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to attend.

Children’s Ministry: A children’s ministry time is offered every Sunday morning during the service. If you know families in the community interested in a church home, please be sure to invite them to Sunday morning worship.

Upcoming Events

-Sunday, December 3	Christmas Music Celebration, 9:30 a.m.
-Thursday, December 7	S.P.A.R.Q. at 6pm
-Sunday, December 10	Communion Sunday
-Monday, December 11	Finance Committee, 7:00 p.m.
-Wednesday, December 13	Half-Century at the Log House, Wytheville, Noon
-Thursday, December 14	S.P.A.R.Q. at 6pm
-Sunday, December 17	Children’s Christmas Program during worship
-Sunday, December 17	Emory UMC Christmas Dinner, 5:30 p.m. (potluck)
-Sunday, December 17	Church Council Meeting, Dow Room, 6:30 p.m.
-Thursday, December 21	S.P.A.R.Q. at 6pm
-Sunday, December 24	Christmas Eve Worship Service, 5:30 p.m., Memorial Chapel

Recycling at the Emory Depot: The bins behind the depot accept aluminum recycling. Funds raised from the aluminum go to our medical assistance fund, which helps families in the community with medical needs.

Weekly Food Donations: Everyone is invited to bring donated food to worship each Sunday. 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, check out our website at <http://emoryumchurch.org>.

Pastor’s Schedule: David will be on vacation for the Christmas holiday from December 26-January 2. He is always available in the event of an emergency at 865-228-4357. If you need Christmas gift ideas for your pastor, feel free to be in touch.

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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