

**Emory United Methodist Church**  
**The Spire Monthly Newsletter**  
**December 2018**

*"There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars. On the earth, there will be dismay among nations in their confusion over the roaring of the sea and surging waves. <sup>26</sup> The planets and other heavenly bodies will be shaken, causing people to faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see the Human One <sup>[b]</sup> coming on a cloud with power and great splendor. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to happen, stand up straight and raise your heads, because your redemption is near."*

*-Luke 21:25-28, CEB*

In his devotional, *Advent for Everyone*, N.T. Wright raises the question of why we continue to follow Christ. His answer is important: "The answer is the same for us as it was for the Jerusalem Christians....Keep alert....There are times when your eyes will be shutting with tiredness, spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical, and when you will have to prop them open. This is what it's about....the steady tread, of prayer and hope and scripture and sacrament and witness, day by day and week by week. This is what counts; this is why patience is a fruit of the spirit."

The first Sunday of Advent calls to us to be ready, but it also calls to us to wait patiently for our redemption, as it is not ours to claim, but God's to gift.

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Upcoming Events

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| -Sunday, December 2     | First Sunday in Advent. Communion Sunday.                         |
| -Friday, December 7     | Older Adult Outing  |
| -Sunday, December 9     | Christmas Choral Celebration, 9:30 a.m.                           |
| -Sunday, December 9     | Church Council, 4:00 p.m., Dow Room                               |
| -Sunday, December 9     | Church Christmas Potluck Dinner, 5:30 p.m., Mason Fellowship Hall |
| -Wednesday, December 12 | Half-Century at the Log House, Wytheville, Noon                   |
| -Monday, December 24    | Christmas Eve Worship Service, 5:30 p.m., Memorial Chapel         |
| -Sunday, December 30    | No worship service at Emory UMC (worship at Meadowview at 11am)   |

**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).

**The Older Adult Outing:** Will be Friday, December 7 to the Farmer's Daughter in Chuckey, TN. The group will leave from Meadowview UMC at 10:00 a.m. and arrive back around 3:00 p.m. Please call Mary McFarland at 276-944-3036 to make reservations.

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

**Congregational Christmas Dinner:** Sunday, December 9 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 12, at Noon. Transportation is available. Please make reservations with Evon Crowder at [crowderb@comcast.net](mailto:crowderb@comcast.net) by December 10.

**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 9. Forms are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary, or you can order with David at [djackson@ehc.edu](mailto: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.

**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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