

*Emory United Methodist Church  
The Spire Monthly Newsletter  
December 2019*

The Advent season looks two ways. It looks back as the faith community recalls the events of the incarnation – the pronouncement of prophets and the visitation of angels. It looks forward as the faith community longs for the day when justice will come to the earth and the people will learn war no more. Advent is a time of waiting, as so much of our lives are. We are often - almost always - waiting for something to occur. It may be something as mundane as an anticipated meal or as significant as the birth of a grandchild. We human beings, like the advent season itself, live in the tension between memory and anticipation. But in the church we wait in faith and we wait in hope; not because we will bring anything great to pass, but because God has already brought something great to pass in the incarnation of the Christ child. And God promises a telos when all things will be brought to a gracious consummation – a future filled with hope and goodness.

Wishing you and yours a most peace filled Advent season. -David

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Upcoming Events

-Sunday, December 8	Advent Choral Celebration, 9:30 a.m.
-Sunday, December 8	Church Council, 10:30 a.m.
-Sunday, December 8	Church Christmas Potluck Dinner, 5:30 p.m.,
-Wednesday, December 11	Half-Century at the General Morgan Inn in Greenville
-Tuesday, December 24	Christmas Eve Worship Service, 5:30 p.m., Memorial Chapel
-Sunday, December 29	No worship service at Emory UMC

**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 8 at 9:30 a.m. – invite a friend or neighbor!

**Congregational Christmas Dinner:** Sunday, December 8 at 5:30 p.m. in Mason Fellowship Hall – potluck. After the meal we will gather around the piano for some Christmas music. Please bring something good to eat and join us!

**Sunday school:** Meets immediately after worship in Wesley Parlor on Sunday mornings.

**Half Century:** Will meet on Wednesday, December 11 at the General Morgan Inn in Greenville, TN. Reservations can be made with Nancy Latimer at [virginialilacs@centurylink.net](mailto:virginialilacs@centurylink.net).

**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 8. 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 3. 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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