

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

Thought Partner

Retired public school administrator and educator, Jerry Hill (E&H, '75), will be our community thought partner for 2017. Jerry will be helping us to think more carefully about Building our Communities' Capacity for Inclusion. Our first time to meet with Jerry will be Sunday, February 12 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in Cole Parlor. All parishioners of the church are encouraged to attend and all community members are welcome to attend. At a historical period when we are experiencing a good deal of societal polarization, it is important that we listen carefully to the words of Jesus as he calls us to love those around us, even as we love God (Matthew 22:37-40).

Upcoming Events

-Wednesday, February 1	Choir Practice at 7:30 p.m. at Emory UMC
-Thursday, February 2	S.P.A.R.Q. at 6pm at the Central Café in Glade Spring
-Saturday, February 4	Recycling at the Emory Depot
-Sunday, February 5	Communion Sunday
-Wednesday, February 8	Half-Century at Noon at the Riverfront in Chilhowie
-Wednesday, February 8	Choir Practice at 7:30 p.m. at Emory UMC
-Thursday, February 9	S.P.A.R.Q. at 6pm at the Central Café in Glade Spring
-Sunday, February 12	Thought Partner Meeting from 3-5 p.m. in Cole Parlor
-Sunday, February 12	Gathering around the Table at 5:30 p.m. in Mason Fellowship Hall
-Wednesday, February 15	Choir Practice at 7:30 p.m. at Emory UMC
-Thursday, February 16	S.P.A.R.Q. at 6pm at the Central Café in Glade Spring
-Sunday, February 19	Haley McClean WorldTeach Benefit Concert, 7pm, Emory UMC
-Wednesday, February 22	Choir Practice at 7:30 p.m. at Emory UMC
-Thursday, February 23	S.P.A.R.Q. at 6pm at the Central Café in Glade Spring
-Sunday, February 26	Gathering around the Table at 5:30 p.m. in Mason Fellowship Hall
-Tuesday, February 28	Older Adult Outing to the Museum of Middle Appalachia in Saltville

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.

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 @ the Central Café in Glade Spring.

Half-Century: Will meet at the Riverfront Restaurant on Wednesday, February 8, at Noon. Please make reservations with Evon Crowder at crowderb@comcast.net by February 6.

Gathering around the Table: Please join us for Gathering around the Table on Sunday, February 12 and Sunday, February 26, at 5:30 p.m. in Mason Fellowship Hall. A meal is provided (no charge), and Lindsey Blackwell will be leading a children's program from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Gathering around the Table will also meet March 12, March 26, April 9, and April 23. After discussions with the Church Council, we have decided to change our format a bit for this semester. If you would like to adopt one of these Sundays to (1) lead a reflection, (2) share a devotion, (3) invite a guest speaker, or (4) do something creative, please speak with David Jackson to reserve a Sunday. Programs for these evenings will depend on the interests of the community.

Benefit Concert: Please come on Sunday, February 19, at 7:00 p.m. to a benefit concert for Haley McLean's WorldTeach experience. The concert will be in Memorial Chapel and donations are more than welcome.

Older Adult Outing: Will be to the Museum of Middle Appalachia in Saltville, VA, on Tuesday, February 28. Neel Rich is coordinating.

Recycling at the Emory Depot: The first Saturday of each month, volunteers from the congregation and community accept recycling at the Emory Depot. Funds raised from the aluminum go to our medical assistance fund, which helps families in the community with emergency medical needs.

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.

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February Volunteers

Breakfast Hosts: Mary-Margaret, Anita, and Curly (Feb. 5); Sally and Lisa (Feb. 12); Susan, Tal, and Carol (Feb. 19); Evon, Bob, Rachel, and Bob (Feb. 26).

Liturgists: Elizabeth Wicht (Feb. 5); Tom Hower (Feb. 12); Susan Stanley (Feb. 19); Mary-Margaret Justis (Feb. 26).