

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

Community

What does it take to sustain community in the midst of challenging times? This is a question at the heart of Paul's letters to the Corinthians in the New Testament. How do we maintain focus? How do we remain hopeful? How do we treat one another with respect and those around us with compassion? I hope you will join us in January and February of this year as we explore this question for the Corinthian churches to whom Paul writes and to our own communities.

Upcoming Events

-Thursday, January 5	S.P.A.R.Q. at 6pm at Central Café
-Saturday, January 7	Recycling at the Emory Depot
-Sunday, January 8	Communion Sunday
-Wednesday, January 11	Half-Century at JJ's Restaurant in Abingdon, Noon
-Wednesday, January 11	Choir Practice, Emory UMC, 7:30 p.m.
-Thursday, January 12	S.P.A.R.Q. at 6pm at Central Café
-Sunday, January 15	Staff-Parish Relations Committee, Meadowview UMC, Noon
-Monday, January 16	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
-Wednesday, January 18	Choir Practice, Emory UMC, 7:30 p.m.
-Thursday, January 19	S.P.A.R.Q. at 6pm at Central Café
-Sunday, January 22	Resurrection Weekend: Dr. James Dawsey, Guest Preacher
-Sunday, January 22	Gathering around the Table (Dr. Tal Stanley), 5:30 p.m.
-Wednesday, January 25	Choir Practice, Emory UMC, 7:30 p.m.
-Thursday, January 26	S.P.A.R.Q. at 6pm at Central Café

Liturgist?: Are you available to help as a liturgist at Emory UMC for Sunday morning worship? If so, please speak with David Jackson to be added to the monthly rotation.

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.

Gathering around the Table: Please join us for Gathering around the Table on Sunday, January 22, 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. After our meal, Dr. Tal Stanley will lead our reflection time. Gathering around the Table will also meet February 12, February 26, 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.

Thought Partner Program: Our Thought Partner for 2017 will be recently retired educator and administrator, Jerry Hill. Jerry will be our community four times over the calendar year to help us think more carefully about ***Building our Capacity for Inclusion***. The first afternoon Jerry will be with us is Sunday, February 12 in Mason Fellowship Hall. Please mark your calendar for this significant and important conversation.

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.

Half-Century: Will meet at J.J.'s Sports Bar and Grill in Abingdon on January 11 at Noon. Please make reservations with Evon Crowder at crowderb@comcast.net by January 9.

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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