

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

**Mark's Gospel**

*As we approach the Lenten Season and an April 1 Easter Celebration, I am planning to have us expand the lectionary for this first quarter of the year as we read Mark's gospel together in worship over the next 12 weeks (CEB), and as we experience Jesus anew through the eyes of the earliest gospel writer. This Sunday, January 7, in addition to being communion Sunday, will include the reading of Mark 1. I hope you will use the coming months to join me in reading and re-reading the gospel according to St. Mark.*

**Announcements**

**Late Winter Study:** Please make plans to join us on Sunday afternoons at 4:00 p.m. in the Dow Room starting January 28 (weather permitting). We will meet every Sunday afternoon at 4pm over the next six weeks. The focus of the study will be the United Methodist Church in 2018. We will use the new United Methodist Handbook and online resources to explore United Methodism, and we will use this information to look ahead to the special called 2019 General Conference.

**Liturgist?:** Are you available to help as a liturgist at Emory UMC for Sunday morning worship? If so, please send David a message at [djackson@ehc.edu](mailto:djackson@ehc.edu) 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 @ Neel Rich's home (12164 College Drive).

**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 Church:** A children's church program will be offered by our wonderful volunteers every Sunday morning during the worship service. If you know families in the community looking for a church home, please be sure to invite them to join us.

**Half-Century:** Will meet at Milano's Italian Restaurant in Abingdon on January 10 at Noon. Please make reservations with Evon Crowder at [crowderb@comcast.net](mailto:crowderb@comcast.net) by January 8.

**Resurrection Weekend:** The Resurrection Holston Conference Youth Retreat will be held in Pigeon Forge the weekend of January 19-21. David will be at the retreat with youth from Emory and Meadowview. Dr. Chris Qualls will be our guest preacher on January 21.

**Recycling at the Emory Depot:** We now accept aluminum in the bins behind the Emory depot at any time; the aluminum is collected for recycling on a regular basis and funds raised from the recycling go to support the church's medical assistance program, which assists those in our community with medical costs.

**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.*

*David Jackson, Pastor, Office: 276-944-6841, E-mail: [djackson@ehc.edu](mailto:djackson@ehc.edu), Cell: 865-228-4357*

### January Volunteers

	<u>Breakfast</u>	<u>Children's Church</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>
January 7	Mary-Margaret & Coulthards	Josh and Jessie	Elijah	Elizabeth
January 14	Lisa and Sally	Dave and Teena	Lucy	Susan
January 21	Crowders & Stanleys	Sharon and Greg	Shelley	Tom
January 28	David and Cindy	Ellen and Elizabeth	Lucy	Mary-Magaret