

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

A Summer with the Psalms: *Dear Friends of Emory UMC, during the months of July and August we will move away from the weekly lectionary readings in order to focus on A Summer with the Psalms. We will not try to cover all 150 of the Psalms from the Hebrew Bible, but we will take turns thinking about different types of Psalms that present themselves to us: Psalms of Praise, Psalms of Enthronement, Psalms of Wisdom, and, perhaps most interestingly, Psalms of Lament or Complaint. While certainly used in Jewish services as corporate worship experiences, the Psalms are not shy about touching on the deepest feelings of the individual human heart and of sometimes baring pain or confusion with great honesty before God. We have much to learn from the Psalms both in corporate worship and in our personal lives. I hope you will join us as we spend A Summer with the Psalms.*

Missionaries from Willow, Alaska: It was joy for us to host the Reverends Christina and Joe-d Dowling-Soka from Willow, Alaska, and to learn about the challenging and important work they are doing as a missionary couple of Willow United Methodist Church. During their sermon, the Dowling-Soka's let us know about a building project for their mission this summer. In response, our church council has voted to make a \$2000 contribution from the church for this project. However, we also wanted to invite others to give on an individual basis. If you would like to help with the Willow mission through Emory UMC, simply mark "Willow Alaska Mission" on your check or offering envelope. Thank you as always for your generosity.

Vacation Bible School: VBS will be held on Sunday, July 21st from 4:00-6:45pm at the Tobias Smyth Cabin. Bible stories, games, crafts, and fun! Dinner will be provided for participants. Everyone is welcome to join us at 6:30pm to end the evening with ice cream. Any elementary-aged children are welcome to participate; if you know any children in the community, be sure to invite them to attend!

Half-Century: Will meet on Wednesday, July 10 at Noon at the Golden Corral in Bristol, VA, in celebration of Ray Hancock's 93rd birthday. Reservations need to be made with Nancy Latimer at virginialilacs@centurylink.net by July 8.

Happy 50th Anniversary! Curly and Anita will be celebrating 50 years of marriage on July 27. Congratulations to the Coulthards!

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).

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.

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 members of the Emory United Methodist Church affirm that our church is inclusive and open to all people. We are a Reconciling Congregation, 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. We align ourselves with the Reconciling Ministries Network, a United Methodist organization that affirms the LGBT community and seeks to have that community become fully engaged in the life of the Church.

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