

Emory United Methodist Church
The Spire Monthly Newsletter
March 2016

I have fond memories of being a young boy and gathering with my family for Easter dinner. My granny always made it point to make sure we had plenty of eggs to decorate as young boys, and my grandfather used to ride us up to the cemetery for the Sunrise Service in the back of his pickup truck. They have both been gone for many years now, but live in my experience in that Great Cloud of Witnesses. As we continue to consider our communal table of welcome and reconciliation with our Thought Partner Myron Wingfield, I hope you will join us in recalling the blessings of the past, considering the possibilities of the present, and contemplating what might be as we place chairs around our tables to welcome friends and strangers into our community. Blessings to you in this Easter Season. –David J.

Upcoming Events

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| -Thursday, March 3 | S.P.A.R.Q. at Neel's Home, 6:00 p.m. |
| -Saturday, March 5 | Recycling at the Emory Depot |
| -Sunday, March 6 | 9:30 a.m. Worship, Dr. Chris Qualls, Guest Preacher |
| -Wednesday, March 9 | Half-Century at Heartwood, Noon |
| -Thursday, March 10 | S.P.A.R.Q. at Neel's Home, 6:00 p.m. |
| -Sunday, March 13 | Gathering around the Table, 5:30 p.m. |
| -Monday, March 14 | Ministries Leadership Team, 7:00 pm. |
| -Thursday, March 17 | Empty Bowls Fundraiser, E&H, 5:00 p.m. |
| -Thursday, March 17 | S.P.A.R.Q. at Neel's Home, 6:00 p.m. |
| -Monday, March 21 | Church Council, 7:00 p.m. |
| -Tuesday, March 22 | Older Adult Outing, 10:30 a.m., Emory UMC |
| -Wednesday, March 23 | Holy Week Worship Service, 7:00 p.m. |
| -Thursday, March 24 | S.P.A.R.Q. at Neel's Home, 6:00 p.m. |
| -Sunday, March 27 | Easter Sunrise, 7:00 a.m., Holston Conference Cemetery |
| -Thursday, March 31 | S.P.A.R.Q. at Neel's Home, 6:00 p.m. |

Small Group Ministry: The SPARQ (Seeking People Asking Relevant Questions) will meet on Thursday evenings from 6:00-7:00 p.m. at Neel Rich's home (12164 College Drive). This is a hospitable, supportive small group ministry of our congregation and everyone is invited.

Half-Century: Wednesday, March 9, Noon at Heartwood in Abingdon, VA. Reservations need to be made with Evon Crowder by March 7.

Gathering around the Table: Will meet Sunday, March 13 (the second Sunday of the month) at 5:30 p.m., beginning with a catered meal (no charge). The children's ministry will be led by Lindsey Blackwell. The worship experience will center on the priority of love in the teachings of Jesus. Gathering will not meet on March 27, Easter Sunday.

Empty Bowls Fundraiser: Thursday, March 17, 5:00-8:00 p.m. in the McGlothlin Center for the Arts. Come, buy a bowl, buy some soup, and support hunger relief for our community.

Older Adult Outing: Tuesday, March 22. Meet at Emory UMC at 10:30 a.m. for a tour of the new McGlothlin Center for the Fine Arts; lunch at Emory UMC at Noon (\$10 per person), followed by a short presentation about Emory & Henry.

Recycling at the Emory Depot: The first Saturday of each month volunteers from the congregation and community accept recycling at the Emory Depot (across from the post office). Funds raised from the aluminum recycling go to our medical assistance fund, which helps families in the community with pressing 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. If you live in the Emory area and would like a bulletin delivered to you, please contact the church office at 276-944-6841. Also, check out 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.