

Emory United Methodist Church
The Spire Monthly Newsletter
March 2017

Lent

This Wednesday, March 1, marks the beginning of the Lenten season. For forty days (not counting Sundays) the Christian community – resonant of Jesus’ forty days in the wilderness – prepares through prayer and worship to hear anew the good news of the gospel. Giving up something of significance during Lent is a traditional Christian practice that reflects the denial of the self the comforts that it seeks. Instead of endlessly attempting to meet our own needs (a difficult thing to do in the best of times), the tenor of the Lenten season encourages us to put aside our own needs, at least in small measure, that we might reconsider the things of God. We will be concentrating on the gospel of John during Lent. As such, I highly recommend taking time each day to turn from the tumult of the ongoing news cycle so that we can focus instead on the person of Jesus -- not as a personal devotion to make ourselves feel better, but instead to experience Jesus as the savior and guide who points us anew to the glory of God.

Upcoming Events

-Wednesday, March 1	Community Ash Wednesday Service, 7:00 p.m. Memorial Chapel, Emory
-Thursday, March 2	S.P.A.R.Q. at the Central Café in Glade Spring, 6:00 p.m.
-Saturday, March 4	Recycling at the Emory Depot
-Sunday, March 5	Communion Sunday
-Sunday, March 5	Lenten Bible Study, 4:00 p.m., Dow Room, Emory UMC
-Monday, March 6	Kenyon College Chamber Singers w/ E&H Choirs, McGlothlin Center, 7:30 p.m.
-Wednesday, March 8	Half-Century at Milano’s in Abingdon, Noon
-Wednesday, March 8	Choir Practice, Emory UMC, 7:30 p.m.
-Thursday, March 9	S.P.A.R.Q. at the Central Café in Glade Spring, 6:00 p.m.
-Sunday, March 12	Lenten Bible Study, 4:00 p.m., Dow Room, Emory UMC
-Sunday, March 12	Gathering around the Table, 5:30 p.m., Emory UMC
-Monday, March 13	Finance Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Dow Room
-Wednesday, March 15	Choir Practice, Emory UMC, 7:30 p.m.
-Thursday, March 16	S.P.A.R.Q. at the Central Café in Glade Spring, 6:00 p.m.
-Sunday, March 19	Lenten Bible Study, 4:00 p.m., Dow Room, Emory UMC
-Monday, March 20	Church Council, 7:00 p.m., Dow Room
-Wednesday, March 22	Empty Bowls Dinner, McGlothlin Center, 5:00 p.m.
-Wednesday, March 22	Choir Practice, Emory UMC, 7:30 p.m.
-Thursday, March 23	S.P.A.R.Q. at the Central Café in Glade Spring, 6:00 p.m.
-Sunday, March 26	Lenten Bible Study, 4:00 p.m., Dow Room, Emory UMC
-Sunday, March 26	Gathering around the Table, 5:30 p.m., Emory UMC
-Tuesday, March 28	Older Adult Outing to Oak Ridge, TN

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.

Lenten Study: *24 Hours That Changed the World* by Adam Hamilton will meet on Sunday afternoons at 4:00 p.m. in the Dow Room at Emory UMC on March 5, 12, 19, 26, and April 2 and 9.

Older Adult Outing: Will be to the American Museum of Science and Energy in Oak Ridge, TN, on Tuesday, March 28. Tom Taylor is coordinating the trip and will need registrations at least three weeks in advance for clearance to the facility. You can register with Tom at atom2@comcast.net. There will be a good deal of walking during the day (the average tour is 3 hours), and a valid photo id is necessary for admittance.

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 Milano's Restaurant in Abingdon on Wednesday, March 8, at Noon. Please make reservations with Evon Crowder at crowderb@comcast.net by March 6.

Gathering around the Table: Please join us for Gathering around the Table on Sunday, March 12 and Sunday, March 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. Anita Coulthard will be leading our discussion on March 12 and Emory & Henry student, Caroline Mosteller, will be with us on March 26 to talk about her work in Kenya.

Finance Committee: Monday, March 13, 7:00 p.m. in the Dow Room.

Church Council: Monday, March 20, 7:00 p.m. in the Dow Room.

Empty Bowls Fundraiser: Wednesday, March 22, 5:00-7:00 p.m. in the McGlothlin Center for the Arts at Emory & Henry. This is a fundraiser sponsored by E&H students that benefits Mary's Lunch Box. Come, buy a bowl, buy some soup, and help MLB.

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 (Mar. 5); Sally and Lisa (Mar. 12); Susan, Tal, and Carol (Mar. 19); Evon, Bob, Rachel, and Bob (Mar. 26).

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