

Emory United Methodist Church
The Spire Monthly Newsletter
March 2018

Lent: A mirroring of the forty days that Jesus spent in the desert preparation for his ministry (or the forty years that that Israelites spent wandering in the wilderness) Lent is for the church a time of introspection, prayer, penitence, and self-denial. This is an important time for our church families as we prepare ourselves again to hear the good news of Easter morning. It is a common misconception, but Lent is not necessarily about feeling guilty. We may, of course, need to feel a bit of guilt if we have something to feel guilty about. But this season of preparation is really more of a time to step back, to take stock of our lives, to examine our priorities, to see how we are living in relation to the message of the gospel.

So, as our United Methodist Book of Worship puts it, I invite us as a church family “to the observation of a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s Holy Word.” And let me offer one final suggestion in this vein of self-denial. Let me suggest that during Lent we give up 30 minutes of television a day (or something else that we give our time to) and use this time to read the Book of Mark, as it is the primary gospel text for this liturgical year. It is not a long book and we may be able to read it several times during the month. I bet that with this little bit of Lenten preparation we will be more receptive to hear the good news of Easter morning.

Upcoming Dates

-Thursday, March 1	S.P.A.R.Q. at Neel’s Home, 6pm
-Sunday, March 4	Methodism Study, Dow Room, 4pm
- Thursday, March 8	S.P.A.R.Q. at Neel’s Home, 6pm
-Sunday, March 11	Gathering around the Table, 5:30 pm
-Wednesday, March 14	Half-Century, Noon, El Patio
-Thursday, March 15	S.P.A.R.Q. at Neel’s Home, 6pm
-Thursday, March 22	S.P.A.R.Q. at Neel’s Home, 6pm
-Sunday, March 25	Palm Sunday
-Sunday, March 25	Gathering around the Table, 5:30 pm
-Monday, March 26	Church Council, 7:00 p.m.
-Tuesday, March 27	Older Adult Outing, Bays Mountain
-Wednesday, March 28	Holy Week Service

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, Cell: 865-228-4357

Announcements

Methodism Study: The people of Emory UMC and Meadowview UMC will continue a study on the past, present, and future of the United Methodist Church. Join us as we explore our history, context, beliefs, mission, and structure. We will meet every Sunday from January 28 – March 4 at the same time (4:00 p.m.) and in the same place (Dow Room, Emory UMC).

Gathering around the Table: Will meet every 2nd and 4th Sunday from March 11-April 22 at 5:30 p.m. in Mason Fellowship Hall. A meal is provided (no charge) and a children's program is offered. Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to attend.

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).

Half-Century: Will meet on Wednesday, March 14, at Noon at El Patio's in Bristol (Exit 7). Reservations need to be made with Evon at crowderb@comcast.net by March 12.

Church Council: Quarterly Meeting – Monday, March 26, 7:00 p.m., Dow Room.

Older Adult Outing: Tuesday, March 27, to Bays Mountain Park and Planetarium.

Pastor's Schedule: David and family will be out of town this week for the Washington County school system spring break. Dr. Fred Kellogg will be our guest preacher on March 11.

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>.

March Volunteers

	<u>Breakfast</u>	<u>Children's Church</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>
March 4	Mary-Margaret & Coulthards	Josh and Jessie	Lucy	Elizabeth
March 11	Lisa and Sally	Sharon and Greg	Shelley	Susan
March 18	Crowders & Stanleys	Ellen and Elizabeth	Elijah	Tom
March 25	Sharon and David	Teena and Dave	Lucy	Mary-Magaret