

***Emory United Methodist Church***  
***The Spire Monthly Newsletter***  
***September 2017***

Dear Friends of Emory UMC,

*As I write this newsletter, I continue to watch the devastation of Hurricane Harvey in Texas and along the Gulf Coast. While our thoughts and prayers go out to those impacted by the storm, we also have the chance to help through the ministries of the United Methodist Church and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Cleaning, hygiene, and school kits are all needed, as well as financial contributions (please see [www.umcor.org](http://www.umcor.org) for information); kits can be brought to the church office and will be delivered to our District collection point. Financial gifts can be made through the church and will be directed to UMCOR for ongoing relief efforts.*

We have a number of events in September that I hope you are aware of. Some of these include:

- Our fall **bible study** will begin on Wednesday, September 6 in the Dow Room at Emory UMC. We will meet from 6:30-7:30 p.m., September 6 – October 25. Everyone is welcome.
- Gathering around the Table** will meet on September 10 and September 24. Jerry Hill will be with us on September 10 to talk about diversity and inclusion. September 24 will be our first Food and Faith Series event in partnership with the E&H Office of Spiritual Life; the topic for September 24 is the Bahá'í religion. This series is designed to help us better understand the religious traditions of our local and worldwide neighbors.
- Our Sunday morning **children's program** is going strong thanks to our wonderful volunteers. If you know any families in the area searching for a church home, please invite them to join us.
- Our Sunday morning **breakfast fellowship** is back. Please join us between 9:00-9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings in Cole Parlor for food and fellowship.
- Our **hand bell** choir is practicing every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Please come and join the choir if you would like to ring.
- Half Century** will meet on Wednesday, September 13, Noon, at the Heartwood in Abingdon.

-The **Older Adult Ministry** will travel to Pigeon Forge for lunch and shopping on Tuesday, September 26. Reservations need to be made with Kathy Griffith at 429-5139.

-The **choir** practices every Wednesday in the sanctuary at 7:30 p.m., anyone who wants to sing is encouraged to attend.

-**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. All are welcome to attend to find fellowship and lively, biblical discussion. Thursdays -- 6 p.m. @ the home of Neel Rich.

- **Singing at Ebenezer UMC:** Everyone is invited to an afternoon singing at Ebenezer UMC in Glade Spring (203 Chestnut St.) beginning at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 17.

-The **Church Leadership Council** will hold its quarterly meeting on Monday, September 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the Dow Room.

-The **Abingdon District Conference** is scheduled for Sunday, September 24, at 3:00 p.m. at First UMC, Marion.

-Our **Charge Conference** is scheduled for Sunday, October 1, at 5:30 p.m. at Damascus UMC.

*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*

#### August Volunteers

Liturgists: Elizabeth Wicht (Sept. 3); Susan Stanley (Sept. 10); Tom Hower (Sept. 17); Mary-Margaret Justis (Sept. 24).

Children's Church: Josh and Jessie Stamper (Sept. 3); Dave and Teena Carroll (Sept. 10); Ellen and Elizabeth Wicht (Sept. 17); Greg and Sharon Wright (Sept. 24).