

**Emory United Methodist Church**  
**The Spire Monthly Newsletter**  
**September 2016**

*Why does a church exist? We exist for worship and fellowship, for mutual support and witness, for education and spiritual formation. All of these areas are essential to the life of a vital faith community. But the most important reason for our existence is to serve the community in love. The church follows in the way of Christ when it shares love unconditionally with its neighbors. We are blessed to exist on the Emory & Henry campus. Our neighbors live in their homes in the area, but many of our neighbors also live in dorm rooms – and we are here to serve them all. We are here to serve all of them, and to expect nothing in return. “Give without expecting to be repaid,” Jesus tells us, “and you will be blessed because you cannot be repaid.” So, let us give of ourselves in mission, and let us expect to receive nothing in return....and we will be blessed....and we will be Christ’s church.*

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**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.

**Covenant Bible Study:** Will begin meeting on Sunday, September 11, in the Dow Room at Emory UMC. Covenant will meet every Sunday at 4:00 p.m. in the fall, except for October 9. Everyone is welcome to participate.

**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 home of Neel Rich.

**Gathering around the Table, September 11:** For just this one occasion, we will meet at 6:30 p.m. Catherine Elliott will cater the meal and Lindsey Blackwell will be with us to lead our children’s program. As our evening’s activity, we will join with members of the E&H community in a 9/11 memorial service that will take place at 7:30 p.m. at the Alumni Plaza.

**Half-Century:** Will meet at the Brooklyn Grill in Bristol on September 14 at Noon.

**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 18.

**Church Picnic:** At Neel Rich’s home (12164 College Drive, Emory) on Sunday, September 18 at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome.

**Gathering around the Table, September 25:** Please join us at 5:30 p.m. Catherine Elliott will cater the meal and Lindsey Blackwell will be with us to lead our children’s program. Dr. Joe Lane, E&H Hawthorne Professor of Politics will be with us this evening to share his reflections on the 2017 election season, including the role of religion in today’s political systems.

**Older Adult Outing:** Tuesday, September 27 to Andrew Johnson National Park in Greenville, TN. Paul Griffith is coordinating (429-5288).

### Upcoming Events

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| -Saturday, September 3   | Recycling at the Emory Depot                             |
| -Sunday, September 4     | Communion Sunday   |
| -Wednesday, September 7  | Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m., Emory UMC                     |
| -Thursday, September 8   | S.P.A.R.Q. at 6pm at Neel Rich's Home                    |
| -Sunday, September 11    | Covenant Bible Study Begins, 4:00 p.m., Dow Room         |
| -Sunday, September 11    | Hand Bell Practice, 4:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall           |
| -Sunday, September 11    | Gathering around the Table, 6:30 p.m. (note time change) |
| -Wednesday, September 14 | Half-Century, Brooklyn Grill                             |
| -Wednesday, September 14 | Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m., Emory UMC                     |
| -Thursday, September 15  | S.P.A.R.Q. at 6pm at Neel Rich's Home                    |
| -Sunday, September 18    | Singing at Ebenezer UMC, 3:00 p.m.                       |
| -Sunday, September 18    | Covenant Bible Study, 4:00 p.m.                          |
| -Sunday, September 18    | Church Picnic at Neel's House, 5:30 p.m.                 |
| -Monday, September 19    | Abingdon District Conference, Pleasant View, 6:30 p.m.   |
| -Wednesday, September 21 | Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m., Emory UMC                     |
| -Thursday, September 22  | S.P.A.R.Q. at 6pm at Neel Rich's Home                    |
| -Sunday, September 25    | Charge SPR Committee Meeting, Noon, Meadowview UMC       |
| -Sunday, September 25    | Covenant Bible Study, 4:00 p.m.                          |
| -Sunday, September 25    | Hand Bell Practice, 4:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall           |
| -Sunday, September 25    | Gathering around the Table, 5:30 p.m., with Dr. Joe Lane |
| -Tuesday, September 27   | Older Adult Outing                                       |
| -Wednesday, September 28 | Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m., Emory UMC                     |
| -Thursday, September 29  | S.P.A.R.Q. at 6pm at Neel Rich's Home                    |
| -Sunday, October 9       | Charge Conference, 3:00 p.m., Meadowview 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.*