

The Call
Meadowview United Methodist Church
March 2017

Strategic Planning

It is a challenging time for churches throughout the United States. Many 21st century forces are driving a decline in worship attendance and giving especially among mainline denominations. Instead of losing heart however, we at Meadowview UMC want to look thoughtfully at the external and internal challenges we are facing. We believe that MUMC has a lot to offer as a church family for those seeking a church home.

As such, our Church Council has approved undertaking a Strategic Planning Process that will unfold over the next three months. Kelli Smith, who is a Policy Analyst with the Friends of Southwest Virginia, will graciously lead our planning process. Kelli is not coming to offer ideas, but rather to facilitate a church-wide conversation where we look at our strengths and weaknesses as a church. The end result will be a plan of action, developed by our congregation, to guide us on a path to better share our ministry throughout our community with the hopes of bringing in new members to share in our ministry. Please mark your calendars for three Sunday evenings: March 19, April 2, and April 30. We will meet from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. **Everyone, everyone, everyone (member or not) is invited and encouraged to participate in this process** (please come on the evenings that you can, even if you have conflicts on one or two of the nights). Refreshments (coffee, drinks, and snacks) will be available.

Upcoming Events

-Wednesday, March 1	Community Ash Wednesday Service, 7:00 p.m., Emory UMC
-Sunday, March 5	Endowment Committee, Noon
-Sunday, March 5	Lenten Bible Study, 4:00 p.m., Dow Room, Emory UMC
-Wednesday, March 8	Half-Century at Milano's in Abingdon, Noon
-Wednesday, March 8	Choir Practice, Emory UMC, 7:30 p.m.
-Sunday, March 12	Lenten Bible Study, 4:00 p.m., Dow Room, Emory UMC
-Wednesday, March 15	Choir Practice, Emory UMC, 7:30 p.m.
-Sunday, March 19	Lenten Bible Study, 4:00 p.m., Dow Room, Emory UMC
-Sunday, March 19	Strategic Planning Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m., Meadowview UMC
-Wednesday, March 22	Empty Bowls Dinner, McGlothlin Center, 5:00 p.m.
-Wednesday, March 22	Choir Practice, Emory UMC, 7:30 p.m.
-Sunday, March 26	Church Council, Noon
-Sunday, March 26	Lenten Bible Study, 4:00 p.m., Dow Room, Emory UMC
-Tuesday, March 28	Older Adult Outing to Oak Ridge, TN

Ash Wednesday Service: March 1 at 7:00 p.m. at Emory UMC.

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.

Endowment Committee: Sunday, March 5, Noon.

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.

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.

Strategic Planning Meeting: Sunday, March 19, 6:00-7:30 p.m., Meadowview UMC.

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.

Church Council: Sunday, March 26, Noon.

Church Funds: Our church has been blessed with many wonderful estate gifts over the years that we have used to begin important ministry funds. Individuals and families are invited to continue making contributions to these funds, which include:

- The James and Louise Nicely Local Mission Fund;
- The Mary Virginia Smith Mary's Lunch Box Fund;
- The Johnie Stringer Scholarship Fund.

For more information about any of these, or to make your own plans for an estate gift to the church, please speak with Randy Pennington or David Jackson.

Meadowview Worship Volunteers

	Mar 5	Mar. 12	Mar. 19	Mar. 26
Acolyte	Luke	Zoe	Elijah	Kaylee
Chimes	Anna	Elijah	Anna	Elijah
Children's Church	N/A	Becky	Cindy	Missy
Children's S. School	Becky	Becky	Cindy	Missy

Communion Stewards: Doris Quintana and Missy Deel

Flowers: Eloise Buckles