

The Call
Meadowview United Methodist Church
March2018

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.

<u>Upcoming Dates</u>	
Sunday, March4	Trustees Meeting, Noon Methodism Study, 4pm
Wednesday, March14	Half-Century, Noon
Sunday, March18	EFIA Easter Baskets
Sunday, March25	Palm Sunday Church Council, Noon
Tuesday, March 27	Older Adult Outing
Wednesday, March 28	Holy Week Service

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).

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.

EFIA Easter Baskets: Families in the church are invited to shop for EFIA Easter Baskets this year. The baskets will be assembled on Sunday, March 18. Please text Julie Caudill at 276-619-1559 for additional information or to participate.

Church Council: Quarterly Meeting – Sunday, March 25, Noon.

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.

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

	March 4	March 11	March 18	March 25
Acolyte	Zoe	Kaylee	Zoe	Elijah
Chimes	Elijah	Anna	Elijah	Anna
Children’s Church	N/A	Becky	Cindy	Missy

Communion Stewards: Doris Quintana and Missy Deel