

Note from Spiritual Director

Dear Fellow Pilgrims

Did you know that one of Jesus' younger brothers was named Judas?

But when they included his short book in the New Testament they used the diminutive of his name, Jude. Now we don't read the book of 1 Peter or 2 Jack so they probably used Jude to avoid the bad name of Judas Iscariot.

But who was Judas Iscariot?

We know from the scriptures that he was the treasurer of the disciple group and that he used to steal from the funds. But what would compel a man to betray someone to the most grueling death imaginable?

There have been many motivations offered:

1. He was the only non-Galilean in the group and felt like an outsider.
2. He did it to save his own skin in the face of opposition.
3. He did it for the money. Thirty pieces of silver was half a year's wages. Today that would be at least 20 or 30 thousand dollars.
4. Most likely Judas intended to force Jesus' hand, to get the ball rolling on plans for a divine kingdom.

Whatever Judas' motives, how it must have broken Jesus' heart when this friend, confidant, companion, disciple, stepped out of the hostile mob to betray Jesus with a kiss. Knowing it was going to happen eased the pain not at all when the kiss came.

But the great loss was Judas' alone. What did he miss on Easter morning?

We read in Matthew 27:5, "Then Judas threw the money on the floor of the Temple and went out and hanged himself." But if we read closely, we discover that Judas hanged himself before the first nail was pounded into Jesus. Even before sentence was pronounced or Barabbas was freed, Judas was dead.

When Jesus looked down from the cross, saw the mocking mob and cried, "Father, forgive.." Judas was already dead by his own hand.

So the first and most important thing Judas missed was Forgiveness. Judas could be forgiven. 2 Peter 3:9 says, "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise..He is patient with you, not wanting ANYONE to perish but EVERYONE to come to repentance" That would have included Judas as it included Peter who denied Jesus and then wrote these words of assurance.

Judas could have been forgiven if he would have

1. Acknowledged his sin.
2. Repented of his sin.
3. Accepted forgiveness that comes through God's grace.

Judas acknowledged his sin but did not repent or receive so his life was thrown into ultimate despair.

There are people all over who like Judas acknowledge their sin but who will not repent, change their way of living, and receive forgiveness. I don't know what is holding them back but you don't have to hang yourself to miss the grace God gives through Jesus Christ.

Three days after Jesus died he rose again but Judas was still dead. When he appeared to the remaining disciples he said four words that would never apply to Judas – "Peace be with you." (John 20:19)

Jesus had promised this peace to his disciples after Judas had left the table at the Last Supper: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." (John 14:27).

It is so easy to put a good face on life and pretend that everything is OK. Felix Powell wrote these words to a song I used to hear every morning on my mom's radio back in the early '60's: "Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag and smile, smile, smile". Felix Powell wrote the music yet he died by his own hand. One thing so many lives are missing is that peace deep down in their hearts. Paul wrote to the Philippians "If you do this (abide in Jesus) you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand." (4:7) If you have ever tried to explain this peace to those who don't know Jesus they just look at you funny.

The third thing Judas missed at the Resurrection was power. Oddly, he was a fervent nationalist who was looking to overthrow the Romans and set up a Jewish state, which takes worldly power. Yet when he died by his own hand Judas felt overwhelmed by events and powerless. What he thought he had set in motion was out of control and headed in the wrong direction, so he thought.

Yet the greatest power the world had ever known was about to rise from the grave, a power that would never die, that would overcome sin and death. That power is available to you and me today. Jesus promised the church; "But when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power and will tell people about me everywhere – in Jerusalem and in Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8) Judas missed the one thing he desired most – power – yet it was not the kind or direction of power he had been looking for.

What are you looking for?

All three of these things Judas missed – forgiveness, peace and power are available to you this Easter, today.

Judas had to make the choice for himself. He refused Jesus and died in despair.

Peter had to make the choice for himself. He accepted Jesus and lives forever.

You and I must make the choice for ourselves. ?

Your Co-Spiritual Director and friend, Bill Kelley



WOMEN'S WALK #71!

Women's Walk #71 is just a couple of weeks away on April 16-19th!

Get involved and help make this a smooth-running awesome experience for the pilgrims! Here are a few things we can do:

- **Pray** for everyone involved, especially the pilgrims! You can also sign up for the 72-hour prayer vigil (sign-up sheets will be on the back table at the gathering on April 12th).
- **Sign up** to work in the kitchen, carry luggage, clean bathrooms, set-up on Wednesday, get the church back in order on Sunday morning, or help finish clean-up on Monday.
- **Write agape** letters or notes to remind the pilgrims how much they are loved. A list of pilgrims is included in this newsletter.

Did you know? Special gifts or flowers should NOT be given or sent to the pilgrims during the weekend. Save any special items until afterwards. And please, NO surprise visits to see how they're doing over the weekend.

- **Attend Candlelight and the Closing services!** We all know how special it is to feel that unconditional love and acceptance this community offers by being there for the pilgrims.

Remember:

The only people who should attend these services are those who have completed an Emmaus walk themselves, or have completed a Chrysalis flight. Members cannot bring guests with them who do not meet these criteria. The pilgrims' spouses and children who have not completed a weekend should not be there, including small children and infants. When these things happen they are well-intentioned, but they compromise the pilgrims' focus on the purpose of the evening. These special services are often the highlights of a walk for many people and we don't want to take away from that.

- **Reminders for sponsors, especially first time sponsors:**

- ✚ Bring the pilgrim on Thursday night and stay with them.
- ✚ Take them to the registration table to check in and get their name badge.
- ✚ Show them around the church, and take them to the dining room and eat with them. (Do not go into the sanctuary or conference room where the team will be meeting.)
- ✚ After the send-off, it's important that you stay for the Sponsor's hour where you will claim your pilgrim's cross and prayer will be offered for each pilgrim.
- ✚ If you're not able to be here, please make arrangements ahead of time with an Emmaus member who can fill in for you.
- ✚ Keep in touch as they begin their fourth days and arrange to bring them to the reunion gathering in May.

Next up? Men's Walk #47, June 25-28!



NOTE FROM KITCHEN CHAIR

FINALLY we are ready, willing and able to do what we were called to do. Our first Women's Walk of 2015. Doesn't that sound encouraging!!



The inventory has been completed, the order placed for the special meals we are preparing for our Pilgrims. Our team is as excited as the new Pilgrims are, looking forward to again walk in His presence once more. What a blessing to be a part of this wonderful time with the Spirit of our Lord here with us. Once again we can enjoy seeing Him working in our teams and see the eyes of the Pilgrims full of the absolute awesomeness of this time together.

We are so privileged to have this Walk in this welcoming location. We must remember their dedication to our Walk and what it means to each of us. Remembering our special communion to hand over our burdens and give our lives to His way for us, what a gift...what a Savior!

DeColores, Jean Grumbling



Have you been to a gathering lately? If so, have you felt God's presence during our Praise and Worship Time? I have. Have you felt His Spirit move you during the singing of some amazing AGAPE music that community members have shared with us? I have. Have you been inspired and challenged by the remarks from the Spiritual Directors? I have. Have you noticed more and more people are coming to each Gathering. I have, and I thank God for that! Have you heard that there is a Women's walk coming up, and a Men's Walk scheduled later in the year?

We have so many things to be excited about as a community that, for me, it is hard to keep my composure. I want to sing, dance, and give God the Glory for all he has done. As much as we are coming alive, I am still actively searching for people who would like to share their talents with us at our monthly gatherings. So if you're interested and feel the Lord asking you to share in this way please get in touch with me. You can reach my by cell at 937-206-3793 or by email at bwebster4747@gmail.com. Oh yeah, you can also get in touch with me at our Monthly gatherings.

In the meantime, keep singing, praying, worshipping and dancing like David danced for our Lord. (2 Samuel 6:14)

De Colores,

Ben



Springfield Women's Walk #71 PILGRIM, CHURCH & SPONSOR List

PILGRIM	CHURCH	SPONSOR
Angie Anderson	My Church	Sim & Corina Bowen
Amy Branam	Immaculate Conception	Linda Reeves
Wendy Haynes-Brutton	Yellow Springs U. M. C	Karen Metzger
Terri Bowermaster	New Moorefield UMC	Teresa Fout
Jamie Burke	Medway / First Simply	Kendra Wilson
Pamela Carter	Third Baptist Church	Joyce Watkins
Kerri Chamberlin		Kasi Gardner
Erin Clark	Renewed Strength	Jeanne Clark
Karen Cooley	High St. United Methodist	Maxine Bradley
Sarah Croker	Emery Chapel U.M.Church	Kasi Gardner
Vonnie Eubanks	Restored Life	Betty Brown
Suzanne Ford		Pinky & Pam Pendleton
Sharon Gentner	Maiden Lane Church of God- Enon	Melody Leonard & Lori Blumenschein
Dorothy Gordon	St. Paul A.M.E Church	Wordie Nalcox
JoAnn Hague	Kirkmont Presbyterian (EPC)	Faith Skidmore
Beverlie Hoffman	St. Paris United Methodist	Wilma Lewis
Jess Jaimez	First Assembly of God	Debby McEnaney
Marla Jeffers	Faith Asembly Worship	Nena Dillon
Jaime Kuss	Riversong	Doug Gardner
Donna Long	Madison Ct. Vineyard Ch.	Rob Turvy
Lola Massie	Creater Grace Temple	Betty Brown
Margaret Morse	Yellow Springs U.M.C.	Faith Skidmore
Lori Murphy	Renewed Strength	Shawn Clark
Rebecca Nott		James Nott
ElainePack	Emery Chapel	Bill Kelley
Kathy Rowley	Midway	Robin Smith
Suzanne Slusher	First Christian Church	Linda Slusher
Connie Stewart	St. John's Lutheran	Sally Abbott Pomputius
Mary Stewart	St. John Missionary Baptist	Dorothy Higginbotham
Ann Tantlinger	High Street Nazarene	Ellen Smith
Reda Wallace	Mt. Zion Baptist Church	Wordie Nolcox
Devon Wright		Shelby Vincent



Springfield Area Emmaus Community Newsletter Request

Name _____ Walk# _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Emial (optional) _____

If you would like to have the Newsletter mailed please send your \$10 fee along with this or copy of requested information to Springfield Area Emmaus, 230 E. High St., Springfield, OH 45505



<http://www.spfldemmaus.com/>



Remember to fill out your willing servant worksheet located on website or on table at The Gatherings.

Applications also can be located on website as well as table at The Gathering.

Has the He asked you to use your talents it is time to elect some of the positions on the board please be in prayer to volunteer or say yes when asked

Reminder: Come to Gathering and sign up for 24 hour Prayer vigil, kitchen help, or logistics service.



Springfield Area Emmaus
230 E. High Street
Springfield, OH 45505

Time Sensitive Material

**Springfield Area Emmaus
Women's Walk #71 Team**

Libby Hammand	LD
Diahann Blackburn	ALD
Carlene Sands	ALD
Kim Stehle	ALD
Viki Hyslop	LOG
Alison Nosker	LOG
Rev. Sherri Blackwell	SD
Rev. Bill Kelley	ASD
Shelly Clemens	TL
Nancy Freshour	TL
Vivian Lester	TL
Kritol McDonald	TL
Karen Newton	TL
Judy Ogden	ATL
Roberta Abbott	ATL
Joyce Amilin	ATL
Rita Beedy	ATL
Alicia Chambers	ATL
Stacy Erne	ATL
Cathy Noyes	ATL
Sue Neves	MD
Jennifer Webster	MD
Kathy Zimmerman	BR



Ohio Reformatory for Women #42
April 9-12, 2015

Madison Correctional Institution #2
April 16-19, 2015

London Correctional Institution #8
April 30-May 3, 2015

Remember them in prayer. If you are interested in making cookies
contact Greg Stout at gl5757@hotmail.com



The Gatherings

At High Street UMC 2nd Sunday of each month at 7 pm

April 12

May 10

June 14

July 12

Board Meetings are same night and start at 5:30 pm

