



EMMAUS

Prayer to the Holy Spirit
Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth.
O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful,
Grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy your consolations.
Through Christ our Lord, Amen

Springfield Area Emmaus December 2020



Dear Fellow Pilgrims

As we move from Thanksgiving to Christmas, we have so many terrors and trials facing us.

First of all is the physical terror of the coronavirus. As I write Ohio has more new cases in the last eight days than in any period since the pandemic began and we are entering a three-week curfew from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. Clark County is a hair's breadth from entering the highest or purple danger zone of infection rate, one of the three worst in Ohio.

This pandemic has of course directly impacted both our local churches and Emmaus weekends, depriving us of godly worship and companionship.

Along with the health impact there is the economic effect. People everywhere are losing jobs, unable to pay rent or mortgage as unemployment benefits end with none to take their place.

Political chaos reigns with the outgoing President refusing to acknowledge the incoming and claiming fraud in the elections.

Climate change has produced ever more numerous and dangerous storms that are devastating our country and others around the world. We have run out of names for them.

The rise of China has introduced international political and military strains, especially in the Far East. The Middle East is, as always, a cauldron of conflict.

In Jesus' day the world was much the same. The Holy Land writhed under the boots of Roman legions. Regularly the roads would be lined with writhing figures of rebels and thieves dying agonizing deaths on Roman crosses. An unpopular, despotic, corrupt, and vengeful king Herod, a puppet of Rome, sat on the throne of Israel, supported by the Sadducees, the politicized priestly class who hoped to manipulate him for their own ends.

There seemed to be no hope anywhere. The powers of darkness and evil seemed triumphant. Fear was everywhere. Rome had such power the Emperor Augustus could order families throughout his realm to uproot themselves and travel back to the place of their birth in order to be numbered so Rome could collect all the taxes that were due. At the same time local rebellions against its rule sprang up often and in different places but especially in Galilee where Jesus grew up. However, God kept telling His people in this time of oppression and hardship – "Fear not". It's a word we need to hear today too.

Zechariah and Elizabeth were told that after decades of waiting they'd finally have a child in their old age. (Luke 1:5-25)
But "Don't fear being disappointed again."

Mary was a young, unmarried woman who was carrying the Messiah in her womb. (Luke 1:26-38)
But "Don't be afraid to wear a 'Scarlet A' in your village."

Mary's fiancé Joseph was a man of high morals and was greatly respected. What would his family and friends say now? (Matthew 1:18-25)

God's angel said, "Don't be afraid to take Mary and the baby as your own."

Shepherds watching their flocks out in the hills at night had no respect in the city of Bethlehem. They were by dint of their profession dirty and smelly men who had no time or opportunity for the ritual cleanliness of respectable folks.

They were the unschooled "crackers" of their day— nobody ever listened to them. (Luke 2:8-20)

But the angels tell them "Don't be afraid". Don't be afraid to tell the Good News, to share with everyone your incredible story of angels and the Messiah baby born to peasants in a cave.

2,000 years later during this Advent season we also face our fears. Disease. Loneliness. Loss of jobs and income. Political turmoil. Social conflict. They are all here today and God has the same words today. "FEAR NOT!"

As with the Advent characters, often the “fear not” of divine peace is totally contrary to our circumstances. By itself the “fear not” would feel like uncaring advice; dismissive of our emotions, our needs.

All the “fear nots” of the Bible are a true blessing because they come with the Lord’s caring presence. He is listening to our cares and knows our needs.

We know He is aware of them because He took on flesh and became a real person in Jesus. He showed us unconditional love, forgave our sins, won for us eternal life in His death and resurrection and now gives us divine spiritual gifts to help us live our lives and help others.

Jesus has taught us to love him and love others. As we hear his assurances and lift our eyes off of our own navels to help with the needs of others, we find a new freedom from fear. “Fear not goes from being a command from God to the new reality in which we can live.

As John says, “Perfect love removes all fear” (1 John 4:18).

This Advent turn to God and hear once again His reassurances to “Fear not!” Sense His eternal love for you as you look into His Word and pray. Then look out at the world to the needs of others. With all of the strictures and restraints of social distancing, etc., do what you can where you can to love and serve others.

This Advent season can be a time of true growth in spirituality and growth for you as you learn to “Fear not!”

Your Spiritual Director and friend

Bill Kelley



Message From Your CLD

Dear Emmaus Family~

We are scheduled to have a Gathering on December 13th at 7pm. We will wait until we know that Clark County is at the ORANGE level to meet. Please watch our Facebook page for more information and watch your local news for COVID-19 updates. Thanks, and stay safe!

Please read the following very carefully.

*We will use the handicapped entrance on the East side of the church as our main entrance.

*Please bring your mask and wear it at all times while in the building.

*Please come no earlier than 6:30pm.

*Upon entering, a volunteer will register you, name, address, and phone number and give you a prepackaged communion.

*Another volunteer will record your temperature.

*Another volunteer will guide you to your seat in the available pews. Families will sit together; otherwise you will sit three in a pew.

*You will remain seated during the service.

*After the service, you will exit from the rear of the sanctuary, one row at a time. You will exit through the double doors, East Portico exit.

*The restroom by the handicap door (entrance) will be the Only one available, but we encourage you to take care of your personal needs before arriving.

*There will be no use of water fountains. The balcony will ONLY be accessible in case of overflow.

*There will be no fellowship time, no food or drink available.

*There will not be any singing (sorry!), but there will be music.

As I said before, this is how we must worship during this time of COVID-19 to keep safe. I believe when we see each other that feeling will dissipate.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to email or call me.

In His service,

Libby Hammond ebshamm@aol.com 937-238-9883



A Message From Your CLD

“The Joy of the Lord is my strength” (Neh. 8:10) was the first Facebook post after my daughter passed forward to meet Jesus.

In my devotional today, Sarah Young writes, “I (Jesus) have instructed you to give thanks for everything. You give Me thanks (regardless of your feelings), and I give you Joy (regardless of your circumstances). This is a Spiritual act of obedience.” Then she quotes Psalm 118:1, “Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; His love endures forever.”

God gives us Joy when we accept Him as our Lord & Savior. The Holy Spirit comes to live in us and give us desires that are opposite of what our sinful nature desires (Gal. 5:17). As we mature in our faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit produces fruit in our lives: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control.

(Gal.5: 22-23). Therefore, we are given Joy from God through the Holy Spirit Himself.

Over time, that Joy gets developed as we travel through life on planet earth in different situations and circumstances that God allows in our lives. We have to choose Joy every day; it is a choice and a part of our witness to others to show God’s goodness and love.

When someone asks you, “How can you be joyful at a time like this?” You tell them, “Only with God’s help.” John 10:10 says, “The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” God wants us to be Joyful and to trust Him in all circumstances (Prov. 3:5-6).

So, I have told you in a previous newsletter, that my father died in March. That makes three people I dearly love who have passed forward in recent years. However, I will choose Joy this Christmas season because I know they are with my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! And the Bible tells us in Romans 8:28, that “in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.” This verse includes all of us, because He first loved us! (1 John 4:19)

May you enjoy a Blessed Christmas remembering, “God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)



Springfield Area Emmaus Willing Servant Sheet

Please Print:

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Zip: _____

Home Ph: _____ Cell Ph: _____ Regularly Attend Share Group? Y / N

Church Attending: _____ Walk # _____ Walk Location _____

Email: _____

Information is current as of: (Date) _____

===== **I Am Willing To Serve In These Areas:** =====

Please Check All That Apply

Help serving meals Be a Meal Coordinator Help with Agape for weekend

Help Registrar (contact pilgrims before walk) Help Set up/Tear Down for weekend

Help with Sponsorship (help get info to Sponsors) Help get word out about Emmaus

Help on purchasing team for weekend Be on a Live-In Team Lead Music

Play an instrument: _____ Offer special music for Gatherings or walks

Help with the newsletter Help with social after Gatherings Help set up Worship

Provide secretarial help at Board Meetings Help inventory and organize supplies

Help with cleaning bathrooms during a walk Help get people connected to Share Groups

To learn more about Emmaus by attending the Leadership Development Event (LDE)

Help in other ways: _____

Please Mail to Springfield Area Emmaus, 230 East High Street, Springfield OH 45505, or drop off at the back table at any Gathering.

Revised: Sep 2013

SPRINGFIELD AREA WALK TO EMMAUS (Please PRINT and fill in ALL blanks)

Name _____ Age _____

Sex M _____ F _____ (as preferred on name tag)

Address _____

Phone _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____ - _____

Church now attending: _____ Pastor: _____

Church Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Married _____ Single _____ Divorced _____ Widowed _____ Separated _____

Spouse's name _____ Walk spouse attended _____

Sponsor's name _____

Phone _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Walk attended _____

Dietary concerns Medical concerns Disability concerns

Occupation: _____ Company Name: _____

Name of a close friend: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____ City/State _____

Zip: _____

Briefly state why you want to attend a Walk to Emmaus and what you expect.

Would you be able to attend on short notice? Yes _____ No _____ Perhaps _____

I understand that this application does not reserve a position on a particular Walk but does place me on a list for future Walks to Emmaus in Springfield.

Signature _____

Date _____

Enclose a NON-REFUNDABLE, NON-TRANSFERRABLE deposit of \$25.00, which applies to your \$75.00 donation to offset expenses. Make checks payable to Springfield Area Emmaus. Remit to: Registrar, Springfield Area Emmaus, High Street United Methodist Church, 230 E. High St., Springfield, OH 45505.

REGISTRATION ONLY Date received _____ Card sent to: _____

Sponsor _____ Pilgrim _____ Deposit rec'd _____

Cash _____ Check # _____ Rec'd from _____ 1st

Invite _____ 2nd Invite _____ 3rd Invite _____

Inactive _____