



SPRINGFIELD AREA EMMAUS 12/2023

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. Amen

FROM OUR CO-SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR:

DeColores Emmaus Family!



Here we are, once again, entering the season of Advent and beginning a new liturgical year. Christmas is such a joyous occasion that seems to make the month of December just fly on by! People enjoy this holiday so much that each year when Christmas is barely over, there are those who start to think and prepare for next year's Christmas. I've met some folks who start buying presents for the following year the day after Christmas. Or there are those that leave their Christmas lights up and lit, until the season of spring. Or folks who start playing Christmas Carols at the end of September. I must say that these people do hold a special place in my heart because they are dedicated to their love of Christmas!

Perhaps you remember making Christmas chains in school with red and green construction paper. I can remember making the Christmas chains and pulling one link off each day as a countdown to Christmas. It always seemed to me that the chain just kept growing longer because I wanted Christmas to get here FAST! Oh, and what about the presents under the Christmas tree just begging to be shaken, and weighed, so that we might calculate what's in the presents? These are the things that we do as we anticipate the joy and fun on Christmas morning! Certainly, Advent, the anticipation of the holiday, is as enjoyable as Christmas day itself. It's a time of waiting and preparation, to celebrate Jesus' birth and the fact that God stays true to God's promises.

Recently while pondering the meaning of Advent, I was led to think about the great gift of Jesus, that has been freely given to all of us, and the reality of God's amazing promises. Indeed, a promise is an assurance that a certain thing will come to pass. It's a guarantee that we will do what we say we will do, which implies that we are dependable and faithful. Undoubtedly, I would imagine that you, like me, make promises all the time. We make promises to our families, co-workers, bosses, friends, and anyone else that's in our community circles. I would also guess that most of the time we keep our promises and sometimes we do not. However, God is very different from us. God has good follow through! So, when God makes a promise, we can be confident that God will be faithful to bring it to fruition.

Indeed, the Bible is full of promises from God to God's people. From God's covenant to Abraham, to make his descendants into a great nation, to God promising to set the Israelites free, and then leading them into the promise land.

Finally, to the amazing fulfillment of the promised Messiah being fulfilled, by Jesus's birth, God. Has. Always. Remained. Faithful!

God also has stayed true to God's promises to me and you. God has promised to meet all our needs as we put God first (Matthew 6: 33). God promises to draw near to us if we draw near to God (James 4:8). God promises to never leave us nor forsake us (Matthew 28:20) and God promises to make all things work together for good (Romans 8:28). All these promises serve to bring us hope, peace, joy and love which all lead us back to the manger, where we meet our savior, Jesus.

So, it's my prayer for all of us this Advent season that we will take the time to reflect on God's promises as we wait. After all, God's people are a "waiting people." We have been waiting for the Parousia, the second coming of Christ, for more than 2,000 years. So, we trust that one day Christ Jesus will return to take us all home because our God is both faithful and just and God upholds God's promises!

In the Grace of Christ,

Pastor Mary Beth, Co-Spiritual Director



FROM OUR COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR:

It is so hard to believe that Christmas is right around the corner! Even harder to believe that Winter is almost here too. Please don't forget that we have a gathering coming up on December 10th, hope to see you all there. We will have a great time of fellowship, worship and music. Our fourth day speakers will be Greg and Kim Bachman. I am looking forward to seeing everyone.

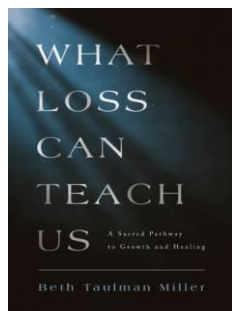
Soon after Christmas we will begin a very busy time in Emmaus with nominations for board positions and getting the team put together for the Men's walk. Please pray for the pilgrims, the team and community as we all prepare for the weekend.

We need applications so please pray about being a sponsor as well. If you have never been a sponsor, there are many in the community that are more than happy to help in any way...

DeColores,
Rick Clark

In this Joyous season there are people grieving, maybe the first Holiday season after the loss of a family member, the loss of a job, dealing with poor health, family in the hospital... Pray for each other.

THE UPPER ROOM MINISTRES RECOMMENDS



“Having lived my life in largely Christian circles, emotions like contempt, bitterness, and resentment were usually only discussed in the context of things to avoid,” writes author Beth Taulman Miller in her new book,

What Loss Can Teach Us: A Sacred Pathway to Growth and Healing.

“I had come to believe that I was supposed to dodge those feelings or confess and/or squash them quickly like emotional Whack-A-Mole,” she explains. “On closer inspection I began to understand that emotions themselves aren’t right or wrong. We are made in the image of God (see Genesis 1:26-27); therefore, God must have emotions and has designed us with the capacity to have and feel them as well. That was new to me ... the idea that God created us with the capacity to feel things like anger, resentment, contempt, disgust, or bitterness. The question is what we *do* with those emotions.”

What Loss Can Teach Us provides stepping-stones for working through our emotions to discover that our loving, compassionate God longs to walk with us. While nothing changes the reality of loss, God can lead us through the hard process of growing and learning from grief to a place of healing, wholeness, and peace.

<https://upperroombooks.com/book/what-loss-can-teach-us/>



Christmas Bells

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

1807 –1882

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep:
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men."*

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I_Heard_the_Bells_on_Christmas_Day The story of the poem

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day (Civil War background)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZtNIZmnEMU>
by Casting Crowns
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=haaes9anfvs>

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

Name _____ (as preferred on name tag) Age ____ Sex M ____ F ____

Address _____

Phone _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ - _____

Email address _____

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 _____

Any Dietary, Medical or 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. (you may use the back, also)

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 _____ Revised Sept. 2013

Springfield Area Emmaus Willing Servant Sheet

Please Print: Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Ph: _____ Cell Ph: _____

Email: _____

Walk # _____ Walk Location _____

___ Regularly Attend Share Group? Y / N

Church Attending: _____

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 before 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.