



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

SPRINGFIELD AREA EMMAUS

FEBRUARY 2023



From our Co-Spiritual Director

De Colores Friends, as I sit here looking out my office window, at the fresh fallen snow, I find myself yearning for the season of Spring. I really don't like winter very much. After all, it's cold, the days are long and dreary, and quite often I just want to skip over the bleak, mid-winter months. But then I'm reminded that each day is a gift from our God, given to us, out of God's great love for all creation.

While meditating on the depth of God's love I opened my Bible to read some scripture, and I was struck by the fact that some folks see the Bible as a set of rules that we HAVE to live by rather, than a love letter from God. Maybe I was just looking forward to celebrating Valentine's Day with all the red hearts, flowers, and chocolates, but I really don't think so. I believe the Bible is a love letter that calls us to love others in the same way that we are loved by God. John 15:12 states these words exactly and 1 Corinthians 16:14 calls us to "Do everything in love."

You know, the purpose of a love letter, at least the real love letters back in the day, were meant to capture our feelings for our beloved on paper. To preserve our sense of affection and devotion for the person that we love in time and space, even if just for a moment. I can remember when Jeff and I were newlyweds, we would write each other love letters on post it notes and then we would leave them in hidden places. So, it was nothing for me to find post-it-notes inside my car or left in a cupboard or inside a book that I was reading. Then I would leave a surprise note for Jeff to find in his lunch box, his sock drawer, or on the inside of the bathroom cupboard attached to his razor. As a matter of fact the last time I served on a live-in team, of the Emmaus walk, Jeff kind of put the other husbands to shame. I found a note in my luggage that simply said, "I miss you already, I love you, Jeff" and he also left notes hidden in my sleeping bag, inside my pillowcase, inside my clothes, in my extra pair of shoes, and in my make-up bag. In fact, everywhere I looked I'd find another love note and these notes made me feel special and they let me know that, even when I wasn't with Jeff, he was thinking of me.

That's the magic of a love letter, isn't it? Love letters make us feel special, they make us feel loved, they make us realize our value; and friends I think that's what the Bible does for us too. From start to finish, if we look at the whole of the scriptures, from a bird's eye view, we can see the story of God's great love for all of humanity. We can find value for everything that God has made and see how God created everything intricately with love and care. Then after God finished creating everything God saw that everything, God made was good!

Indeed, God sees the goodness in each and every person. So, there's no such thing as a "bad person" in this world because God created humanity in God's image. Sadly, there are people that choose to do bad things, but God sees the good in all people simply because God loves them. Ultimately, as Christians, we are called to do the same. This is why inviting people to Emmaus is so important. In Emmaus we get to be the hands and feet of Christ. We get to share God's agape love with others. Then through the transformational power and the grace of Jesus we get to be conduits of God's love and grace, to one person at a time, which brings change to our corner of this world.

Friends, we are the church, and we represent God everywhere that we go. So, let's love people right where they are but let's love them enough to not let them stay there. Let's invite our family, our neighbors, and our friends, to attend an Emmaus Walk. – Because the song "They will know we are Christians by our love" is true! Through our unconditional love we will not only be living the gospel of Jesus Christ, but we will also be claiming God's love letter.

In the Grace of Christ – Pastor Mary Beth



DeColores!!



From our Community Lay Director



TO MY EMMAUS FAMILY Happy Valentine's Day!

The New Year has begun and we are already into the 2nd month. WOW where did January go?? February is known as the "Love Month". It is that one time of year when on one day lots of Love is shown to that special someone, family and people in your life. I was thinking the other day and all of the special days of the year when we express our Love to others. Birthdays, Anniversaries, Christmas, Easter, Sweetest Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Grandparents' Day. And I thought, "What if God only showed His Love to us on those days as well?" How would we like that? Let us show our Love for each other no matter the LOVE holidays, but everyday.

Our God's Love is endless without measure or conditions. I know that sometimes someone can test you and make you wonder why you even bother. But remember God's Love is soooo great and soooo pure that His son Jesus said, "Forgive them, for they no not what they do." If Jesus did it for us, then being followers of Christ, we should do it for others as well. Love Anyway!!



Your Sister in Christ,
Verna

PS - I love each and everyone of you and there ain't nuthin you can do about it!

Praying to see you at the February Gathering - February 19th, not the 14th, that's Super Bowl Sunday.

Hello Brothers and Sisters



Welcome to the February edition of our very own Emmaus Newsletter.

My name is Terry Johnson and I have the privilege of serving on the board as the Logistics chairperson; more about that later.

Well, we have just gone through a year that has had its share of ups and downs. We have gone through periods where we had occasion to praise the Lord, occasions to seek His help and guidance for ourselves, our loved ones, and most importantly for a lost world. As we reflect on this past year, can you see the hand of God in your life; not just for the big occasions, but for all the little things as well, good or bad?

Just like waking up each morning to a brand-new day full of new opportunities and a chance to start anew, we also have a whole new year to serve the Lord and grow in His sight. We are given fresh, new opportunities to grow as individuals and serve the Lord both in our personal lives and as a community of believers.

Since you are reading this letter, I am sure that you know all about Emmaus and how we want to share God's message of love and grace and renewal to all of our weary brothers and sisters. We know it personally because it happened to each of us. We know how God, working through Emmaus, has lifted each of us and renewed our faith. We want that for everyone!

We do that through our monthly gatherings, Women's Walks and Men's Walk. Remember at the closing when you saw how many volunteers stood up so that you could see how the servants of God were serving you? It was, and still is, an awesome, humbling experience when you realize how much God loves you.

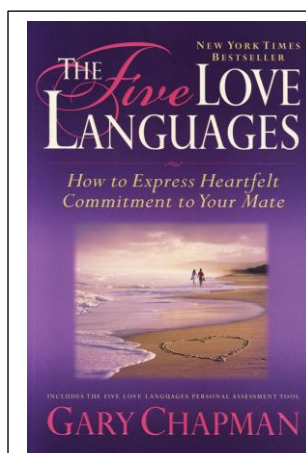
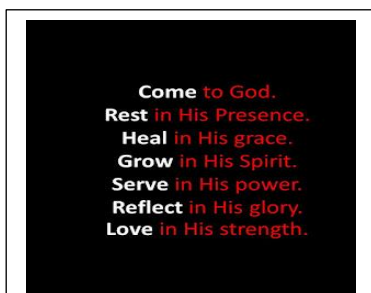
This year, we are preparing for a Men's Walk in May and a Women's Walk in November. There is a lot of preparation needed for each of them and we need your help. As I already mentioned, God uses us as volunteers.

Will you help? Come to the gatherings and acquaint yourself with the areas where you can serve. We need sponsors and pilgrims, people to help prepare and serve meals, people to help with setting up and restoring the church for each Walk, and people willing to serve in leadership roles on the Emmaus Board.

I am really looking forward to seeing what God does for and with each of us.

May God Bless each of you.

Terry



Not just your mate!
What is your love language? Is it "Acts of Service"? How can The Lord use you at Springfield Area Emmaus? Please be in prayer.

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 _____

Email _____ Married Single Separated Widowed Divorced

Spouse's Name _____ Walk spouse attended _____

Church now attending _____ Pastor _____

Church Address _____ Phone _____

SPONSOR'S NAME _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Walk attended _____

Any Dietary/Medical/Disability Concerns:

Name of a close friend _____ Phone _____

Address _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

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 deposit of \$25.00, which applies to your \$100.00 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 Rec'd _____ Card sent to: Sponsor _____ Pilgrim _____

Deposit Rec'd _____ Cash _____ Check # _____ Rec'd from _____

1st Invite _____ 2nd Invite _____ 3rd Invite _____ Inactive _____

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.