



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.

SPRINGFIELD AREA EMMAUS JANUARY 2022

FROM OUR CO SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Dear Fellow Pilgrims

Advent and our fourth days are closely related to each other. They are times of waiting and working looking forward to the fulfillment of God's promises in our lives. Emmaus weekends end on such a high note of love and hope and joy – and then there comes the world with all of its hassles and heartaches, and we wonder, "Where is the fulfillment of God's promises? Where can we find once more His grace peace and power at work in our lives?"

A few years ago, Natalie Grant put out this song HELD that always moves me with its honest emotions,

Two months is too little
They let him go they had no sudden healing
To think that providence would
Take a child from his mother while she prays is appalling

Who told us we'd be rescued?
What has changed and why should we be saved from nightmares?
We're asking why this happens to us who have died to live
It's unfair

We are waiting for an answer. Waiting for God's promises to finally be fulfilled in our lives, for His light to shine for all time, dispelling this painful darkness in which we live. We have all known this pain. My father worked as an engineer but also was involved in serving as a lay leader churches all along the western Nevada border. When he retired, he went back to school and became one of the first lay pastors in the California Nevada UM Conference. He was appointed to Antelope Valley UMC a little white church on the scenic slopes of the Sierra Nevada – grew their attendance by four times in the nine months he served there. Came home from preaching three Easter services to tell mom he couldn't write his name anymore. Died 2 1/2 years later from brain tumor.

It's unfair. But it's nothing new or unique.

Joseph was a good and humble man. He was probably in his late teens when he became betrothed to this girl Mary. Like Joseph she was a faithful Jew who loved and served God. Joseph was a carpenter. In Jewish society it was respectable but lower class, while to Romans it was the work of a slave. His lineage however was of the best quality – the line of David and that must have been some source of confidence. He must have harbored some dreams of what his first-born son might become as a member of the lineage of David.

How shocking it must have been, then, to find out that this young woman to whom he was betrothed, who was the prospective bearer of the divine promise, was pregnant outside of marriage.

Today many Christian men struggle to overcome rigid patriarchal attitudes and feelings. Joseph was not like that. Joseph was well aware of what could happen to Mary if he publicly denounced and refused her. However, he may have felt about her betrayal of their engagement, Joseph was not about to add to her misery. As the Bible says He had in mind to divorce her quietly. But then in a dream an angel told him the truth – the child in Mary was conceived by the Holy Spirit. So, Joseph picks up his cross and agrees to obey just as quickly and simply as Mary accepted her pregnancy. Joseph must have been torn between the public humiliation of marrying this pregnant teen and the private promise that this child in Mary was the Son of God who would save his people from their sins.

In light of this promise how would Joseph have expected God to watch over them as two faithful chosen parents and this child of promise?

What would be the "fair and loving thing for God to do?"

God allows them to become refugees.

We look out at what is happening in the world, and it so often seems the world is winning. It seems all-powerful, able to undo what God has done and to subvert or frustrate what God would want to see happen.

There comes a decree from far-away Rome that each is to go to his own ancestral home to be registered. That means Joseph must pack up his pregnant wife and they must travel 60 miles south to Bethlehem. Along the way, but especially in rebellious Galilee and around Jerusalem there would have been men on crosses beside the main thoroughfares.

Then they come to Bethlehem and there was no room in the inn. Joseph and Mary are forced to shelter in a cave in the hillside. Now it is decorated with silver lamps and marble floors. Not then. Straw and dung. But it's all there was. You know that wasn't the end of the story. The angels sang, the shepherds visited, and the Magi gave their gifts. But then the world crashed in on them again. Another evil megalomaniac, Herod, heard that a rival king had been born and he targeted Jesus for assassination. Killed his own sons whom he suspected. Joseph and Mary were forced to flee into Egypt. There in a foreign land they would have felt at the mercy of everyone. Look at the refugees of today, huddled in helpless masses at the mercy of those around them. How could God allow that to happen to his own Son? How did Joseph feel as they traveled through the desert to Egypt? Unable to work, unable to protect those he loved, how helpless he must have felt to take even the most basic care of his family.

Yet the spirituality and obedience of Joseph ultimately makes his story one of hope. He must have clung with all his heart to the words of the angel, "So get up take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt and stay there till I tell you to leave." Part of this was an order – go to Egypt. The other was a promise "I will tell you to leave."

The selfish and cruel rulers of Israel and Rome did not have the last word.

Today wars, famines, pandemics, volcanoes, tornadoes, hurricanes, war, political oppression and poverty have displaced millions. Yet in the face of this turmoil, we should never forget that God is with us and at work even in our darkest hour.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil FOR THOU ART WITH ME.

As God used Joseph, so He can use us to carry out His purposes. But this will require of us a spirituality like Joseph's, that rises above denominational traditions and religious legalism. We must also rise above the snares of the flesh to remain available to God moving in these days.

To be faithful in these fourth days of Advent, looking forward to the fulfillment of God's purposes, we need a faith like Joseph's – simple, childlike, obedient, trusting ready to follow wherever God will lead, even if that way leads to a cross. Your Community Spiritual Director and friend

Bill Kelley

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! FROM OUR CLD!

This time of year, I am filled with hope! We are starting a new year with great expectations of what God will do in our lives and in our community.

"May the God of Hope fill you with all Joy & Peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with Hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13. I am Hopeful and look forward to seeing what God will do in our community this year.

First of all, we have a Gathering of our community on Jan. 9th

At 7:00pm with food beforehand at 6:30pm.

We have men's walk #50 this spring, May 12-15 to get excited about. Please keep Dean Settles in your prayers as he forms his team for this walk.

We will most likely have a women's walk in the fall (Hopefully).

We will be forming a nominations committee this month to replace some of our board members who have served extra years because of the pandemic. Please keep our nominations committee in your prayers.

If the weather is bad on a night we gather together, please check our Facebook page for a cancellation.

I "Hope" you will stay warm and safe during these winter months.

"We have this Hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure."

Hebrews 6:19

"Our Hope is in Jesus because He knows us fully and loves us completely." Chas. Stanley Devotional: JESUS, Our Perfect Hope

In His Service,

Libby

937-238-9883

ebshamm@aol.com

Kitchen Korner News

Greetings Emmaus Family! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! My name is Dana Johnson. I attended the Springfield Men's Emmaus Walk #25 and sat at the table of Mark (clap).

I want to welcome the women of walk #75 and to thank the Emmaus family for stepping out in faith to welcome this new sisterhood with open arms. Thursday night was amazing. God is Good, amen. That dining room, which had been empty for 2 years came alive with that Emmaus spirit that reminded me and our family that Jesus will never leave us nor forsake us, amen? That spirit grew stronger each day as you came in early and stayed late, cooking, cleaning, decorating and praying to make sure these women had the same wonderful experience as you did on your walk. Jesus was counting on you, and you delivered. God bless you all.

Well, no rest for the Emmaus Family. We have a men's walk #50 scheduled for May 12th thru May 15th, 2022. We need our Emmaus Family to step up again. We also need to fill some position we have including Meal Coordinators, Thursday Afternoon Setup, Breakfast Casserole Preparers, Thursday Night Coordinator, Saturday Night Chaperone Coordinator, Ice Cream Social, etc. I am also looking for someone to take over my board position of Kitchen Coordinator beginning July 1, 2021. If any of you feel led to take on one of these positions, please see me at a gathering, call me at 937-831-6014, or email me at dana.johnson777@yahoo.com.

Again, thank you!

DeColores,

Dana Johnson
Kitchen Coordinator



The Gate of the Year – Minnie Louise Haskins (1875-1957)

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'

And he replied:

'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.'

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

PROMISES FROM GOD'S WORD FOR 2022:

With God's help, I can do
everything
I need to do this year.
(Philippians 4:13)

God gives me the wisdom
to make good decisions.
(James 1:5)

God is making all things new in
my life.
(Revelation 21:5 & Isaiah 43:19)

I can come to God for His help
and grace in every situation.
(Hebrews 4:16)

God hears and answers my
prayers.
(1 Peter 3:12 & James 5:16)

God is always working
to make me more like Jesus.
(Philippians 2:13 & 1
Thessalonians 5:24)

I live in God's favor and
protection.
(Psalm 5:12)
(These are from Joyce Meyer)

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2022



FROM OUR NURTURING COORDINATOR

Fourth days – good or bad? Every person goes thru good times and bad times after their walk. The world outside that church didn't change after that weekend, you did. It's important to stay connected to your Christian community.

Friends and family become very important. Gatherings and walks keep our spirit alive. Welcoming new people is what we thrive for.

Another way we stay connected is with share groups. They are a wonderful way to stay linked to Christ during your fourth days. Women of WW#75, are you looking for a share group to join?

We have the most wonderful and energetic couple who will love to help you find the perfect share group for you! They are Jim and Melody Leonard, Ph: 937-864-2079, email: Jimmel45323@msn.com. Please call them or email them with your request for help getting started in a share group. They are the best asset we have to get you going. I also have 2 share groups that have room for more ladies. They are on opposite weeks on Mondays and Tuesdays. Our Monday group meets at 6pm and our Tuesday group meets at 2pm. We meet at my house. My phone number is 937-831-6021. Please **TEXT** me if you would like to come to one or both of our meetings. I will be glad to answer any questions you have. I'm posting January's schedule here so you can see if it fits your needs.

It is my prayer for you this season to find a share group that fills your heart. Ladies that you can connect with, become good friends with and have that Christian fellowship we are all longing for.

January

Monday 6PM

1/3/22

1/17/22

1/31/22

Happy New Year and DeColores!

Sandy Johnson

Nurturing Coordinator

sandy.johnson777@yahoo.com

Tuesday 2PM

1/11/22

1/25/22

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Janet Schilliger (stroke, in hosp)

Wendy Britton and family (MIL passed)

Cathy Noyes and family (hubby Jim is in hospice care.)

If you'd like to send a card, I can get addresses, just email me.

Rita happy.maillady.chaplin@gmail.com



“Dear God,
Thank You for new beginnings. What an incredible day this is with a fresh year's potential stretched out before me. I want to be found faithful this year in each and every opportunity You bring to me. Thank You, Lord, for new beginnings. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.”

PASTOR DAVID MCGEE

womens day



EMAIL FROM 12/26

I just got off the phone with Verna Reed. John Schilliger called her to tell her that Janet had a stroke, and she is in room 1005 E at the Springfield Hospital.

Wendy Britton text me this morning to let me know her mother-in-law, Evelyn Britton, had passed forward yesterday morning. Wendy's father died in January 2021; her mother passed forward in September 2021 and now her mother-in-law.

Please keep both these families in your prayers.

Thank you,
Libby

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.

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

Name _____ (as preferred on name tag)

Age ____ Sex M ____ F ____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ -

Phone _____

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 you may write on the back if needed

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 _____ Revised Sept. 2013