



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 MAY 2021

“We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.” Hebrews 6:19

What a year this has been with storms of every kind battering our bodies and souls, our homes and our lives. At least here in the U.S. we seem to be emerging from the other side of this COVID pandemic, though the rest of the world seems to be still struggling under its influence. Europe is finally ramping up its vaccination program and aiming to open its borders by June but India and the rest of Asia as well as Brazil are still reeling from the effects of the disease.

The Atlantic hurricane season this last year was the most active and fifth costliest on record. Of those Hurricane Laura swept through Louisiana with 150+ mile-an-hour winds causing over 12 billion dollars in damage.

Climate change on earth is raising the power level of these storms every year. However, climate change in our society and in our souls is also bringing new, more powerful storms into our lives and hearts. Social, political and spiritual differences are as wide as I have ever seen them, including the late 1960's and 70's. The foundations of our political and social culture are being stressed to the limit and their legitimacy questioned. Many today are saying, along with Pilate, “What is truth?”

The Bible tells us that even when storms threaten our very lives, we can hold on with hope.

In the very first chapter of the Bible, we see that “God said,” and every time God spoke something happened. Light and land, beaches and creatures appeared at the sound of God's voice. When God speaks, things happen.

After over 40 years in ministry, I have seen many storms of many kinds come and go. What I have learned, and continue to learn, is that in the middle of turbulent times like these the ONLY thing you can hold onto is the solid anchor of God's powerful promises. No storm, named or unnamed, can stand against them. This hope in God is an anchor for our souls.

Could you use some of this hope today? Are you facing a storm that threatens to overwhelm the small, tossing boat of your life? Let down your anchor, deep into the unshakeable loving promises of God. Have HOPE in God.

Hang tight. God knows what you are going through and understands your circumstances and your pain. How do you know? For a brief moment in time God became one like us.

In the middle of his storms, Job cried out in hope

I know that my redeemer lives,
and that in the end he will stand on the earth.

26 And after I awake, though this body has been destroyed,
Then in my flesh I will see God;

Paul wrote of Jesus' fulfillment of this hope,

“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.” Jesus has been here, borne our burdens and knows our every weakness. We can take these things to him in prayer.

Overcome Despair with Prayer. When the storms of life threaten to overwhelm you, pray to the one who is in charge of all things and know that he is already interceding with the Father for you.

“because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. 25 Therefore he is able to save completely[b] those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

26 Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. 27 Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. (Hebrews 7: 24b-27)

Pull together when life comes apart. In difficult times we can divide in selfish conflict or pull together in godly harmony. Times of trouble have, and will continue, to produce beautiful times of compassion and caring through which God's love can shine. Caring for our neighbors, crossing color lines and building bridges of brotherhood. Emmaus will give us a wonderful opportunity for us to experience just such opportunities for revealing God's love. Let's take every advantage of these weekends to love and serve and pull together.

(CONT. next page)

Evil exists, for now, but it will not win! Yes, we would rather have a storm-free life. However, the Evil; One will always be stirring up the waters of life with storms of trouble and fear, hatred and doubt. Be not afraid, beloved of God. Jesus has overcome and Satan's days are numbered. Hold onto these lifelines and what you are anchored to will always be stronger than the storms raging around you.

Your friend and brother in Christ

Bill Kelley

Co-community Spiritual Director

CDL May Newsletter Article

Who are you? Are you a mother, father, daughter, son, niece, nephew, aunt, uncle, grandmother, grandfather? Where do you find your identity? In your job, your title, your family, your community, your church? When we became Christians, we became children of God (Rom.8:16), a branch of the True vine (John15:1, 5). You are Christ's friend (John 15:15) and you are chosen & appointed by Christ to bear fruit (John 15:16). You are a son/daughter of God (Rom. 8:14-15).

You are also an heir of God & fellow heir with Christ (Rom. 8:17).

Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and you belong to God (1 Cor. 6:19-20). You are a member of Christ's body (1Cor. 12:27 & Eph. 5:30). You are a new creation (2Cor. 5:17) and you are the righteousness of God in Christ (2Cor.5:21). You have been redeemed & forgiven; you are a recipient of His lavish grace (Eph. 1:7-8). You are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works (Eph. 2:10).

You are a fellow citizen with the saints and a member of God's household (Eph. 2:19). You are righteous & holy (Eph. 4:24). You are a citizen of heaven (Phil. 3:20). Christ Himself is in you (Col. 1:27). You have been made alive with Christ, and totally forgiven (Col. 2:13).

You are a child of light and not of darkness (1 Thess. 5:5). You may come boldly before the throne of God to receive mercy and find grace to help you in times of need (Heb. 4:16). You are one of God's living stones. and are being built up as a spiritual house (1 Peter 2:5).

You are part of a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of God's own possession (1 Peter 2:9-10). You are a foreigner & stranger to this world that you temporarily live in (1 Peter 2:11). You are an enemy of the devil; he is your adversary (1 Peter 5:8). God lives in you and you are in God (1 John 4:15).

Therefore, set your hearts & minds on things above, not on earthly things. Put to death whatever belongs to your earthly nature. You are God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved. Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness & patience.

Forgive one another as the Lord forgave you. Put on love and let the peace of Christ rule in your heart and be thankful. (Col. 3: 1-2, 5, 12-15).

As Christians, we must know who we are and where or with whom we get our identity. I believe that when you look up the scripture references included for you, that God will bless you in your desire to draw close to Him. Allow Him to shape your identity.

Religion: 'My identity is built on being a good person.'

Gospel: 'My identity is not built on my record or my performance, but on Christ's.' -Timothy Keller

Be Kind, Be Safe, Be Well.

In His Service,
Libby

Message From Your CLD

Dear Emmaus Family~

We are scheduled to have a Gathering on May 16th at 7pm; however, 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

Community prayer requests: Prayers for the family of Don Rayome, a previous LoCI Kairos Leader,

who went to be with the Lord on April 17th. Also, prayers for Don Jefferson, another previous LoCI Kairos Leader, who has been admitted to the hospital with serious health issues.



Greetings,

WOW!! Have these last 14 months been totally wild or what?

I can say for myself that they have made me open my eyes to the things I have taken for granted and not realize just how much they meant in my daily living. For example, going to the grocery store or Wal Mart or spending time with family and friends. One of the things I truly have missed is going to church, fellowshipping there, going to the Community Gatherings, choir rehearsals, missionary meetings, Bible study, physically attending Share groups and much, much more.

God has been so good to us all and we should definitely take time out each and every day and give Him Praise and Honor. No matter what you have gone through during this time, those twins - Grace and Mercy have and still are carrying through.

There is hope for the Women's Walk from 2020 to be held this upcoming fall. As you may know already, I have the honor and privilege of being the Walk's Weekend Lay Director. I am asking for prayers that the Walk take place for it to be safe for all. Not only the Team, but for prospective Pilgrims, their families, all members of the Emmaus Community that make it happen. Of course, most of all that the Holy Spirit fills every crack and crevice of fear any harm and danger.

Hoping and praying to see everyone some at the Gatherings (when they reconvene).

DeColores!

Verna Reed

Springfield Area WW #46



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 _____

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 _____ Revised Sept. 2013