



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 SEPTEMBER 2021

FROM OUR CO-SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

From John 6

"I'm telling you the most solemn and sober truth now: Whoever believes in me has real life, eternal life. I am the Bread of Life. Your ancestors ate the manna bread in the desert and died. But now here is Bread that truly comes down out of heaven. Anyone eating this Bread will not die, ever. I am the Bread—living Bread! —who came down out of heaven. Anyone who eats this Bread will live—and forever! The Bread that I present to the world so that it can eat and live is myself, this flesh-and-blood self."

52 At this, the Jews started fighting among themselves: "How can this man serve up his flesh for a meal?"

53-58 But Jesus didn't give an inch. "Only insofar as you eat and drink flesh and blood, the flesh and blood of the Son of Man, do you have life within you. The one who brings a hearty appetite to this eating and drinking has eternal life and will be fit and ready for the Final Day. My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. By eating my flesh and drinking my blood you enter into me and I into you. In the same way that the fully alive Father sent me here and I live because of him, so the one who makes a meal of me lives because of me. This is the Bread from heaven. Your ancestors ate bread and later died. Whoever eats this Bread will live always."

66-67 After this, many of his disciples left. They no longer wanted to be associated with him. Then Jesus gave the Twelve their chance: "Do you also want to leave?"

68-69 Peter replied, "Master, to whom would we go? You have the words of real life, eternal life. We've already committed ourselves, confident that you are the Holy One of God."

I'm going to start message talking about my flowers. On Mother's Day our church gave out small zinnias in Styrofoam cups. There were extras so Sharon and I took three of the remaining ones. A Couple days went by. I watered them a little then went out and bought good large petunia plant for one of the two-foot-wide urns on patio. I added new soil and fertilizer and planted the petunias in the middle. They filled a good bit of space so around the outside I put in the three now-sorry-looking zinnias. They were so sorry that in the process one lost its bloom. I thought, "WHAT'S THE USE?" Oh, well, the petunias will look good ". Two months later the three small zinnias have become three enormous plants 2 feet by 3 feet by 18 inches high – about seventy active blooms and more coming on. They are crowding out the petunias which are flopping over the side trying to get a little light in the shade of the zinnia forest. You can never tell what God can make of small things. I think this is instructive to us as we contemplate the restart of our Emmaus community.

We have experienced the salad days where we had a backlog of potential pilgrims and team members ready and willing to serve. The atmosphere was filled with power of the Holy Spirit. Weekends were occasions of anticipation and joy. Since then, to it bluntly we have had some falling away and a diminishing of enthusiasm. The coming of the COVID virus put a halt to any further efforts at gatherings much less weekends. The bloom was off the zinnia. All we have is a little faith that God is not done with us yet. We have a willingness to water and to wait.

Jesus faced the same situation here in John 6. Jesus feeds the 5000 with loaves and fish and now they want to make him king. Free food will do that to hungry people. Jesus doesn't want to be popular – he wants to be faithful to his Father's purpose. This isn't about bread and fish –as Jesus said their ancestors ate manna in the wilderness but then they died. This is about the True Bread from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live always.

Jesus doesn't stop with bread. He adds You have to eat this bread and drink my blood

That was too much for the crowd and for most of his disciples. They all left, like morning dew drying in the noonday sun. Jesus looks at the twelve – apparently all that is left of the thousands. They are stunned They have gone from the pinnacle to the pits in one fell swoop. They stood there wondering: "What just happened???" Jesus asks them right out – "Do you also want to leave?"

They have seen Jesus feed the thousands and just that past night walk on the water – but if there is no one to minister to you could reasonably ask: "What's the point?"

Peter comes through - "Master – to whom would we go? You have the words of real life, eternal life. We've committed ourselves, confident that you are the Holy One of God." The bloom is off the zinnia, but the stem with its two little leaves is firmly planted in the soil, fed and watered, ready to grow.

What are these words of real life? They are what Paul wrote in 1 Cor 13. FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE.

They will stand us in good stead now as well.

Faith. Most of us know the fear and trepidation we feel when we ask someone to become a pilgrim. Why would they say YES? What if they say NO? We are almost shocked when they say YES but they do and it's wonderful. We are glad we had the faith to act despite our fear. When we come up to the weekend on Thursday night we wonder— will the Holy Spirit move again as he has in the past? Then he does and it is wonderful. As I pause outside the door before I go in to give my talk Satan whispers “What is so special about this talk? And answers his own question in my heart – “Not much!” But then the Holy Spirit moves. Time and again we have overcome fear by simply taking the next step out into the void and we have seen God move. Has God changed? No. God will continue to move if we dare to take that next step. We have 43 women's names on the pilgrim list and that is great I suppose. What if there were only thirty or twenty? When I served as SD at Marysville –we started off 4 weeks from the weekend with five men's names. We wound up with full tables and a great weekend. The key is FAITH to believe God will work.

Hope. How is faith different from hope? Faith is confidence in God in the present – believing that God has our best interests at heart and will meet our present need whatever it is. Hope is a motivating desire to see something happen. Hope led Jesus' small core of 12 disciples to follow Him as everyone else fell away. 11 of them saw in Jesus a new world coming. What do you hope for? What are you working toward, longing for? We hope for this COVID epidemic to be curtailed and to end so we dare to get vaccinated. We have faith that God will keep us safe as we do this, to love our neighbor as we do ourselves. We have hope that this Emmaus community will be revived so we gather together and plan and work for coming weekends. We have a hope that people come to know Christ in a deeper way, to know how much God loves them, to be saved from sin and death. Hope has real life-changing implications for who we are and what we choose to do.

What undergirds all of this is

Love – Desiring the best for another person. God wants the very best for us despite our often seeking something far less for ourselves. God loved us so much He sent His only Son to die on the cross so we could have everlasting life. He continues to love us and want the best for us.

That love in our hearts leads us to reach out to others with the Good News of Jesus and to work and serve on their behalf, often at great cost in time and effort. Love must be the motivating factor behind all that we do if we in the Springfield Emmaus community are to honor God and serve others. This is not often easy.

About four years ago my love failed. I was in an Emmaus Board meeting. We were talking once again about the lack of pilgrims on the waiting list. Once again, I spoke about the need to go on in faith and plan the next weekend. Someone said something along the lines of “Faith is not the point here.” In anger I got up and left and didn't come back until someone was gracious and brave enough to ask me to serve once again as SD.

I repent of what I did that evening. We CANNOT, we MUST NOT let love fail.

Egos must be left at the door. Personal ambitions and desires must be set aside. We are slaves of the Lord, each other and the pilgrims. Yes, we get joy out of serving and worshipping and singing and praising and all the rest, but it must be a shared, reflected joy and wonder of a community of faith.

If we have these three – faith, hope and love – we will see these small beginnings, like that bloomless zinnia in the Styrofoam cup like those eleven faithful disciples by the Sea of Galilee, grow and become a vibrant, beautiful community of faith.

De Colores

May God bless all of you with His grace and peace.

Your Co-Spiritual Director

Bill Kelley



CLD Emmaus Newsletter Article

Greetings Emmaus family~

Wow! Such a great turn out for our August gathering! With the band and a great message and an inspiring 4th day talk—Springfield Emmaus is alive and growing as more people come back to our gatherings!!!

Our next gathering is September 12th @ 7:00pm with food to eat beforehand. We are holding WW#75 on Nov. 4-7 so come sign-up

to help in the kitchen or sign-up to pray for the walk. Please keep praying for Verna Reed and her WW#75 team and potential pilgrims who will be on the walk.

You may have received an invitation in the mail for the August & September gatherings. If not, that means we don't have your correct address. Please email me (ebshamm@aol.com) your correct physical address for our directory. I am hoping to complete this update in the next few months and give everyone a copy as soon as possible.

SEE YOU ALL ON SEPT. 12 @ 7pm. May God Bless you as only He can!

Libby Hammond

ebshamm@aol.com

P.S. HSUM CHURCH requests that we wear masks.



FROM OUR MUSIC DEPARTMENT

I wanted to introduce myself- Tracy Wilson, from the Women's Walk #52, table of Ruth.

Now that gatherings are back, music is a big piece of our Sunday evenings. It's such a blessing to come together to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth. I certainly felt the Holy Spirit in our worship last month & I hope you did too!

My goal is to invite a mix of different singers over the next year. While I do have a small list of names of singers and musicians, the list is outdated and some of the phone numbers aren't valid anymore. If you know of anyone (or even yourself) that would like to sing at one of the gatherings, please reach out to me. There is a lot of talent in our community and I'm sure there are some people I am not aware of.

Please send those suggestions to me at (text or call) 937-631-9856 or email to: wilsontracy1126@gmail.com.

I would also like to find out if anyone is willing to be my back up in the event that I cannot be at a gathering to set up the system. I don't expect this to happen often, but I would like a backup plan so we can continue with having music at our gatherings 😊 Any takers, please let me know!

God bless you all and De Colores!

Tracy Wilson



"Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him."

Psalm 34:8 (ESV)

Greetings to my Sisters and Brothers of the Emmaus Community,

As we try to get back to "Normal", time is moving on to the future. The Springfield Area Women's Walk 75 is in the planning stages for November 4 thru 7, 2021. We are researching, reviewing and doing everything possible to have a healthy, safe and rewarding experience for everyone involved. (This includes not only the Pilgrims, Team Members, Volunteers, Sponsors, and Families, but everyone.)

I ask that you please keep us all in your prayers not only for the upcoming Walk, but the Springfield Emmaus Community as a whole. I am studying, praying, and asking for God's guidance and the calmness of the Holy Spirit.

Please continue to pray that this Walk will be a spirit filled event that will change and strengthen the heart(s) of the Pilgrims to become the new hands and feet of Christ. Pray that we will be able to come together to do God's Will without hesitation or fear.

Remember: God has us in the palm of His hands, and He will never leave us or forsake us. Love you all! DeColores!

Verna Reed Women's Walk #75 (WLD)



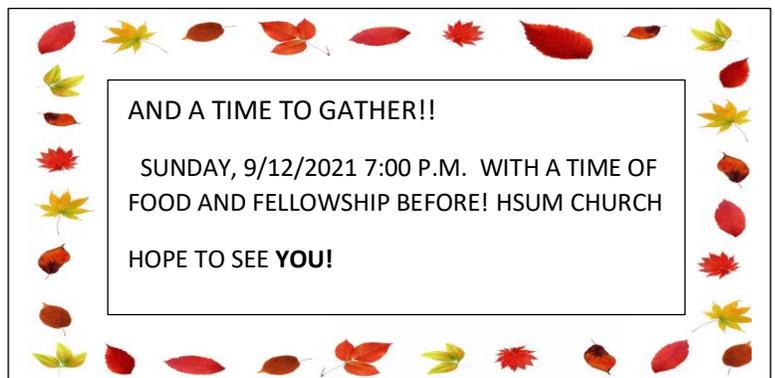
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

- 2 a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
- 3 a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
- 4 a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
- 5 a time to scatter stones and a time to
gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain
from embracing,
- 6 a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
- 7 a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
- 8 a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

YOUR SPRINGFIELD AREA EMMAUS BOARD

Treasurer--Terry Johnson
4th Day Coordinators—Melody & Jim Leonard
High St. UMC Rep.---Larry Lytle
Kitchen—Dana Johnson
Music—Tracy Wilson
Newsletter—Rita Beedy
Nurturing Coordinator—Sandy Johnson
Purchasing & Supply—Brian Case
Registrar---Jamie Burke
Secretary—Shelly Canan
Social---Betty Reed
Spiritual Directors—Pr. Bill Kelley & Pr. Ben Webster
Sponsorship---Wendy Britton
Worship---Sherry Porter
Community Lay Director—Libby Hammond
There are a couple of open positions: Agape & Logistics.
If you feel lead
to fill either one of these positions, please
come speak with me or email me(ebshamm@aol.com).



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