SPRIINGFIELD AREA EMMAUS NEWS

APRIL 2025



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 SPIRITUAL CO-DIRECTOR

De Colores, Emmaus Family!

I hope that you have been having a good spring thus far. I love this time of year because the reality of God's promise is more visible. Each new flower, the fresh green grass, and the birth of baby animals are reminders of the promise of new birth and eternal life. I also enjoy the season of Lent because it calls us back to a right relationship with Christ by spending time in self-reflection. If you're anything like me, this practice can lead to focusing on my shortcomings. It's a natural human reaction, after all, to focus on our failures and the many ways we fall short of God's glory, and this can lead us to struggle inwardly as we try to rise above our times of failures and forgive ourselves. In our moments of struggle, it's common to feel like we are the problem. We dwell on our mistakes, our shortcomings, and the weight of our failures and the voice of self-doubt can be deafening, whispering that we are unworthy, unlovable, or simply not enough. Yet in these moments, it's crucial to remember how God sees us. God does not define us by our failures or insecurities. Instead, God looks upon us with love and grace, seeing our potential for growth and transformation. In God's eyes, we are not merely the sum of our mistakes, but God's beloved creations, each uniquely designed with purpose. Indeed, many scriptures tell us how beloved by God we really are. Isaiah 43: 4 tells us we are precious and honored. 1 Peter 2:9 explains that we are chosen and redeemed by God. Psalm 139: 1-16 declares that we are God's handiwork, created for good works. So, God sees our potential and our capacity for good, even when we don't see it ourselves.

One of my favorite scriptures is the prodigal son story found in Luke 15 11-32. God is like the Father in this story as God only sees that we are God's beloved children. So, when we make mistakes, God runs to us to pick us up, dust us off, and welcome us with the robe of royalty and the ring of authority as well as

a welcome home party fit for a king! – Indeed, God's unconditional love is the best promise and gift that anyone can ever receive. So this Lenten season, know that you are loved! No matter what! No strings attached, and nothing expected in return. You are loved by God PERIOD! And in the words of our dear friend who has finished the race well and gone home to be with her Lord, "You are loved, and there ain't nothing you can do about it!" Rest in the love of Christ this Lenten season, my dear friends. God loves you, and so do l.

Pastor Mary Beth, Co-Spiritual Director



FROM OUR COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR

March was a month of mountain tops and valleys for many of us. We were saddened by the passing forward of our sister in Christ, Verna Reed. She will be missed for her faith and enthusiasm for Jesus, as well as her unconditional love for the Springfield Emmaus Community.

We also were disappointed that Men's Walk #53 had to be postponed until later this year. Currently, the date is still pending. We still need more men to join as pilgrims. We are praying that seeds planted as we asked men in the last several months will grow, and they are able to say "yes" to being on the Walk. Please continue to pray for God to lead you to ask men to consider joining us.

Some mountain tops have been through Lenten services and devotions as we look forward to Jesus' resurrection at Easter. Praise God for the gift of His Son, our Savior! I was also blessed by the number of brothers and sisters who were willing to fill in the gap of the Worship position on the board.

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The board voted for Carlene Sands to be our next Community Lay Director (starting in June), and she accepted the position.

I hope to see your smiling faces at our next Gathering, April 13. Social time is at 6:30, with worship at 7 pm. Shannon Moerch will be our Fourth Day speaker.

DeColores,

Kim Bachman



Community Lay Director

gkbach20@gmail.com

*Pray for the family of Vicki Bailey, an Emmaus sister who passed forward in March. You may have had the pleasure of seeing her husband Jack play the role of Oliver in the Laurel and Hardy skit.

*The Memorial Service for Verna Reed will be at Mt Zion Baptist Church, 1171 S Yellow Springs Str, Springfield, OH 45506. It is scheduled for Saturday, April 5 at 10 am.

*The Worley family has requested prayers. For further information, you may contact Danette Cunningham.

*We are going through a transition with our newsletter this spring. While many in our community have been receiving the newsletter via e-mail, some receive a mailed copy. We have been blessed for a number of years by Miss Betty and Verna Reed. They have donated the expense of printing and postage as their agape to us.

We now have poured through the data base, looking for e-mails so the newsletter can be sent to more people that way. If you have been getting a mailed newsletter but have an e-mail address that can be used, please share it with Libby Hammond, ebshamm@aol.com. If you prefer to continue to receive the newsletter by mail, please send \$10/yr to cover the expense; either by mailing to Springfield Emmaus, High Street UMC, 230 E High Street Springfield, Ohio 45505 or bringing it to a Gathering in a envelope, marked for "Newsletter." Without payment by April 15, you will no longer receive a newsletter in the mail.





The Walk to Emmaus International is having a virtual Gathering via Zoom on Friday, April 25, 2025, at 7:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada). The Emmaus Ministries Gathering will bring together music from all over the world. You will also hear from Fourth Day witnesses, enjoy a mini-group reunion experience from diverse cultures, learn about special announcements within the Emmaus Ministries communities, and participate in a Spiritual Communion/Love Feast. This is a great opportunity to share an Emmaus experience way beyond your local community. Please share this link and event information with your local community. Register here:

https://www.upperroom.org/emmaus/events/virtual-gathering

Hello! I'm Susan, the "High Street Rep" on the Emmaus board. I am a member of High Street UMC, and I serve as a liaison between the Springfield Emmaus community and our host church. I attended the Northern Lights
Women's Emmaus Walk #36 and sat at the Table of Sarah. Northern Lights Emmaus community is based in Lebanon, OH, north of Cincinnati. I moved here to Springfield in 2015 with my husband Ryan and pregnant with our son Julian, who was born shortly after we moved in. We have attended High Street ever since!

I became involved with the

Springfield Emmaus community because they needed a church member to serve on the board. I'm so grateful I was asked to serve in this way! Becoming more involved in Emmaus here has definitely helped me grow spiritually. Some things that I do in my position are - helping to get Emmaus events on the church calendar (Walks, Team Meetings, Gatherings, etc.), relaying information between the church and Emmaus on building and equipment usage, storage spaces and sharing of items, and sharing about Emmaus to the church members. If you have any questions or comments about High Street, or suggestions for me, please feel free to reach out to me at slroosen13@gmail.com.

De Colores!

Susan Roosen



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