

Messenger

A monthly newsletter of the Emmaus of the Midlands Community

Volume 18, Issue 3, March 2018



Upcoming Events:

March 11: Daylight Savings (Spring Forward)!

Board Meeting:
March 12, 7:00 pm @ Red Bank UMC, Lexington, SC

March Gathering:
March 23 at Boiling Springs UMC, Lexington, SC, 7:00 pm potluck, 8:00 pm worship.

Easter: April 1

Board Meeting:
April 9, 7:00 pm @ Red Bank UMC, Lexington, SC

April Gathering: April 27 at St. John UMC, Sumter, SC, 7:00 pm potluck, 8:00 pm worship.

Board Meeting:
May 14, 7:00 pm @ Red Bank UMC, Lexington, SC

May Gathering: May 25 at Trinity UMC, Blythewood, SC, 7:00 pm potluck, 8:00 pm worship.

Spiritual Director's Message

Dear Friends,

We are two weeks into the six-week season of Lent, walking with Jesus as he travels through our human experience, feeling his pain at our estrangement from our Father, hearing his voice calling us to a time of reflection, repentance and recommitment in our faith journey.

Through grace and forgiveness, God wants to restore, heal and empower us in this physical realm while preparing us for our eternal home. Jesus desires that we live this earthly life intentionally connected to Him and to the Father, that they, together with the Holy Spirit, may nurture us spiritually, emotionally and relationally. What a mighty and awesome God, who reaches out to us in our desperate condition, offering us grace, mercy and hope.

The journey isn't easy, for we struggle with our sinful state but, praise be to God, we are not alone. Emmanuel, God is with us. How grateful we are that God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him, should not perish but have everlasting life.

Let us observe a meaningful Lent, that we might celebrate a joyful Easter.

Blessings,

Pastor Linda

The Chairman's Corner

Sometimes you are unsatisfied with your life, while many people in this world are dreaming of living your life. A child on a farm sees a plane fly overhead and dreams of flying. But, a pilot on the

plane sees the farm house and dreams of returning home. That's life!! Enjoy yours... If wealth is the secret to happiness, then the rich should be dancing in the streets. But only poor kids do that. If power ensures security, then officials should walk unguarded. But those who live simply, sleep soundly. If beauty and fame bring ideal relationships, then celebrities should have the best marriages. Live simply. Walk humbly and love genuinely! All good will come back to you. Dr. Ben Carson (lessonslearnedinlife.com)

Candlelight

The purpose of Candlelight is to move the pilgrims to a deeper realization of God's love and to demonstrate the support of a Christian community for their life as faithful followers of Jesus Christ. Though Candlelight is a moving experience for both pilgrims and community, its purpose is not to create a mountaintop experience for its own sake. Candlelight prepares the way for the time of personal prayer and recommitment that follows upon the Emmaus community's departure. In the Gospels, many people sought Jesus out for the grace of healing and forgiveness, but fewer heeded the call to follow as Jesus journeyed toward the cross. Likewise, Dying Moments Communion gives the pilgrims an opportunity to bring their needs to Jesus, but Candlelight moves them to take the next step of rededication as disciples in their response to God's grace. For this reason, Candlelight and the time of prayer that follows complete the unfolding of Saturday's theme of response to the grace of Jesus Christ.

At least an hour prior to the Candlelight service, while the pilgrims are sharing summaries and the representations in the conference room, the Emmaus community gathers quietly in the chapel to celebrate Holy Communion and pray for each of the pilgrims by name. Someone in the community takes responsibility for this event. This person should make plans ahead of time for clergy and music leadership for the pre-Candlelight gathering and Communion and make sure Communion bulletins and candle supplies are ready. The Communion meditation should be brief and appropriate to the situation of Candlelight and the community's presence or a Fourth-Day witness to the speaker's continuing walk with God. This is not the time or the place for a clergy person to rehearse Sunday's sermon.

Following the Communion service, "Jesus, Jesus" is rehearsed; candles are distributed; and the community is reminded of the procedures for Candlelight. The Assistant Lay Directors give the community forewarning when the pilgrims approach. With the lights in the chapel turned out and everyone's candle lit, the community sings the prayer song "Jesus, Jesus" in a round repeatedly as the pilgrims enter the chapel.

"Jesus, Jesus, can I tell you how I feel,
You have given me your Spirit,
I love you so."

This prayer song is the only song used at Candlelight, and it is the only verse to be used.

Community members are asked to preserve the integrity of the service and not to block or confuse the pilgrims' entry by reaching out to touch them as they pass. Community members reaching out to touch the pilgrims can obscure the vision pilgrims often have of God's love

filling the sanctuary, seeing Jesus in the faces of the people, and the presence of a heavenly host with the communion of saints. Let the pilgrims have their own experience. Remember the weekend is for the pilgrims. Emmaus family members or friends from far away are encouraged to sit on the center aisle or on the front pews facing the chancel area so the pilgrims for whom they have come can see them.

The pilgrims pass through the candlelit community and gather in the chancel area facing the community. When the community stops singing, the Weekend Spiritual Director uses the narrative provided in *The Walk to Emmaus Director's Manual* to explain what is happening. The Weekend Spiritual Director then asks the pilgrims to sing "Jesus, Jesus" in response as an expression of gratitude. Having learned "Jesus, Jesus" earlier in the day, and with the support of the team and the Musicians, the pilgrims sing "Jesus, Jesus" as a round. After the pilgrims have sung two rounds, the community begins to file out slowly, moving forward past the pilgrims with candles lit, then out of the sanctuary, starting from the back pews. Upon exiting the chapel, the community members should extinguish their candles, go to their cars, and depart quietly.

Meet Your Board Member

Hi, my name is Christina Galvin. I worship at Boiling Springs United Methodist Church in Lexington, SC and I attended the Emmaus of the Midlands Women's Walk # 31. My board responsibility is Secretary. I am in charge of notating the minutes of the board meetings each month, preparing for the send-off and closing ceremonies, and helping the chairman when needed.

My Walk to Emmaus was an amazing experience, one that only God knew I needed. It prepared me to deal with a very tragic ordeal that our family experienced just a few months after my Walk. I knew as I was going through this dark time, that God was with me carrying me the whole way. My Walk gave me everything I needed to help me get through this tragedy. We never know what is going on inside someone's heart but we know that God knows what is going on. The Walk to Emmaus is God's way to showing others about who He is, about how much He loves us and how we are supposed to shine His light onto others through our words and actions. We need to be diligent on talking with others about attending the walks. Talk about your experience or your feelings during your walk, express how your walk has helped you overcome obstacles during your 4th days. Be open and very personal about what the Walk meant to you. It is the personal experience others will hear that will insight interest in them to attend the Walk to Emmaus.

DeColores,

Christina Galvin

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Sponsorship training is held a few times per year about twenty minutes prior to a monthly Gathering. The next Sponsorship training session will be held before the March Gathering.

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Just a reminder, if you have any information for upcoming newsletters please notify me at my contact info below. Also, if you know of a community member that is not receiving the newsletter, either electronically or via hard copy, let me know.

DeColores!

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