

Messenger

A monthly newsletter of the Emmaus of the Midlands Community

Volume 20, Issue 12, December 2020



Upcoming Events:

Board Meeting:

December 14, 7:00 pm
Location to be determined.

December Gathering:

Cancelled until further
notice due to pandemic

Board Meeting:

January 11, 7:00 pm
Location to be determined.

January Gathering:

January 30, 2021 at 3:00
pm at Mill Creek UMC

Board Meeting:

February 8, 7:00 pm
Location to be determined.

February Gathering:

February 27, 2021 at 3:00
pm at Mill Creek UMC

Board Meeting:

March 8, 7:00 pm Location
to be determined.

March Gathering:

To be determined.

Board Meeting:

April 12, 7:00 pm Location
to be determined.

April Gathering:

To be determined.

Board Meeting:

May 10, 7:00 pm Location
to be determined.

May Gathering:

To be determined.

Spiritual Director's Message

“Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord!”

Isaiah 40:1-10

We were looking at an old recording of the 1960's musical “Godspell”. The musical is roughly based on the life of Jesus and his mission on earth. It is placed in Central Park in New York City amidst the unrest of the early 1960s. The music is outstanding and very compelling. In fact, we took the youth at our first appointment to a performance at Main Street UMC many years ago.

In the beginning scene of the musical a person blows a shofar and begins to sing a powerful song that is a chorus that repeats over and over. “Prepare ye the way of the Lord...Prepare ye the way of the Lord...”. The character is pushing a cart across the Brooklyn Bridge while singing this chorus. As the camera pans back and you can see the skyline of New York City. You can see two tall buildings under construction. Suddenly we realized that those two tall, unfinished buildings were the twin towers of the World Trade Center that were destroyed on September 11, 2001. This realization reminded us that what mankind builds, no matter how well constructed and apparently impervious to harm, is only temporary.

For you see the only thing in life that is permanent is the love of God. When Isaiah began this passage with the words, “Comfort, O Comfort my people says your God” it is to remind us that whatever happens God is with us. He promises to “...feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom and gently lead the mother sheep.”

Prayer: “Let us lead our lives in anticipation. That we truly, “Prepare the Way of the Lord”, with everything we do. Amen.

From Your Board Member

Refocus, Refresh and Rejoice!!

It goes without saying that 2020 has been filled with a fair share of challenges for everyone. From home schooling and working from

home to virtual church and family gatherings, shopping online, masks, PPE and social distancing our lives have shifted, some more dramatically than others.

The statistics for the increase in mental health issues, alcohol and drug use increases and domestic abuse calls to name a few things are alarming and show the impact of the pandemic on we human beings.

Even the most introverted person requires human contact of some kind. Poor extroverts and huggers have really struggled! Elbow bumps just don't fill in adequately for hugs. We are wrapping up 2020 with an increase in the number of cases, colder weather and shorter days. Not the happiest of scenarios for those of us weary of isolation and quarantine. What if we look at 2020 as a time of learning what is really important to each of us instead of focusing on what a lousy year it has been?

What if we look to 2021 as a time of refocusing our attention on the things that became priorities this year? (Remember that talk from your weekend?) For many people our priorities have changed, what is important to us has changed. Our faith, our family, our faith family has deeper importance. Amazing how much we realize the importance of something when we don't have ready access to it. I never realized how much Communion meant to me until I wasn't able to share in that blessed sacrament. With more personal time my prayer life has become more full and more fulfilling. I hope yours has as well.

January 2021 is a great time to refresh our attitudes. We have a choice every day to thank God or ignore God. We have a choice every day to show love or withhold love. We have a choice every day to smile and embrace what we have or complain about what we think we lost.

January 2021 is a great time to rejoice! We are children of God, we are loved. Many of our churches are opening, slowly, but opening still. What a wonderful gift, just in time for Christmas. Our Emmaus community will gather again in person. We will gather with family. We'll go back to school and work in person full time. We'll go to ball games, movies, shopping, the theater, concerts, and so many other activities we've shelved this past year.

Refocus on what is important in your life.
Refresh your attitude.
Rejoice in the bounty of God's love for you.

De Colores!
Teri Schell
Prayer Vigil Coordinator

Fundraiser Event

Thank you to everyone who participated in the fundraiser for Randy Hydrick. Here's an update from his wife, Viki: "He is improving every day, he is breathing on his own, trach has been removed, talking more each day. Seeing a little more movement in left arm, left side seems to be gaining more feeling which is a huge blessing, I feel God is healing him! He still has feeding tube until he can pass a swallow test. Prayers for rehab decisions to be made and that God will continue to heal. We are so very blessed to have such a great Emmaus family, and church family praying and loving us each step of the way!! Thank you so much!"

Upcoming Walks

The next Walks are scheduled for March 4-7, 2021 (Men) and March 11-14, 2021 (Women). We need pilgrims for these Walks. Please be diligent in identifying pilgrims for them. Get your pilgrim applications to Mary Brown as soon as you can. Let's pray for full Walks!

Gatherings

We will not have a Gathering in December.

If you would like to host a gathering at your church once they resume, contact Thad Hinnant at 803-490-1202 (thinnant@sc.rr.com).

Prayers, Concerns and Praises

- Pray for upcoming Emmaus events: Walks, Gatherings, Board Meetings, etc.
- Pray for an end to the coronavirus and for healing for those that have it.
- Pray for Sid Hawkins
- Pray for Randy Hydrick

Sponsorship

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 a future Gathering as the need arises. Please submit Pilgrim applications as soon as you can. Pilgrim applications should be mailed to:

Mary Brown (Registrar)
320 Blanding St.
Batesburg, SC 29006
803-447-0179 (cell) maryb1025@gmail.com

If you know of a community member that is not receiving the newsletter, either electronically (check your spam folder) or via hard copy, let me know.

¹⁴ if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. *2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)*

We would like to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas!

DeColores!
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