

United Emmaus Community Newsletter

Johnson City, Tennessee

De Colores

November 2020

Greetings from the Community Lay Director



Board Officers

Class of 2020

One Year

Randy Hite, Logistics
Gail Stoops, Facilities
Mike Larsen, Database
Dell Gates, CLD**2019
Steve McAuley, CSD

Class of 2021

Two Year

Kevin Haynes, CLD 2021
Jay Curtis, Communication
Ben Cassell, Database
Kelly Haynes, Treasurer
Cathy Fitzpatrick, Kitchen
Tim Hicks, Supply, Lit
Jennifer Hill, Sponsorship
Kathy Hensley, CLD 2020
Brian Taylor, CSD

Class of 2022

Three Year

Amie O'Neal, Agape
Lisa Plaster, Candlelight +
Kristina Hoyle, Secretary
Tom Grutsch, Music
Dale Stoops, Reunion Gps
Ken Lytton, CSD

This is our last newsletter of the year and my last as Community Lay Director. This year has definitely not been what I expected from an Emmaus standpoint or any other for that matter.

Our walk teams are anticipating a "go" for the men's walk with Bob Cantler leading April 15th to the 18th. T. R. Barnes will be leading the women on April 22nd to the 25th. Walks are scheduled at Appalachian Christian Camp for the next five years. We will press on with the full expectation we will not have to postpone yet again and we encourage you to sponsor a pilgrim. Get them on the list now. We have 8 men and 8 women signed up. If Covid is still limiting group sizes, we will change our minimum to 12 and a maximum of 20 pilgrims on each walk.

It's not too soon to think about the fall 2021 walks with the men's being October 14th to the 17th and the women's October 21st to the 24th. If your prospect can't go in the spring, you can always see if fall works better. We are already in the process of team selection.

Speaking of teams, even though you fill out a form at the end of your walk indicating your interest in serving, it would still help if you contact us reiterating that interest. The purpose of Emmaus is to build up our leaders in our churches, but we also have to be continuously training our Emmaus leadership so we can keep having the "best walks ever."

We also look at how active you are in the community. When it is more conducive, attend the monthly gatherings. A list of dates and locations can be found on our website. When we are able to resume walks come to send off, candlelight and closing and to camp to serve in the kitchen or do agape.

To let us know if you are interested in being on a team, contact our new Team Selection Committee board representative Teresa Sims at tbsims55@yahoo.com.

And don't get discouraged if you aren't selected immediately. There are a limited number of team positions on each walk and they are equally divided in three levels of experience. There are the highly experienced who have served on numerous teams in most or all positions: the moderately experienced with some positions held on 3 or 4 walks; and those with no experience other than volunteering. We need everyone.

We have one more gathering this year and it is on Nov. 21st at 6:30 pm at Word Fellowship in Gray or via live stream on our United Emmaus Facebook page. If you can't attend or watch that night you can always go back and view them anytime. We will have great time of worship; a fourth day speaker Vikki Hise and our spiritual director will lead in holy communion.

On January 1st we will have our New Year's gathering at 10am at Summit Leadership, 3104 Hanover Rd., Johnson City. We will have our customary fellowship brunch but ask that you bring individually wrapped food if possible. We know there are food favorites that won't fit this request, so for added protection, a masked and gloved Board of Directors will serve the food.

I would like to give you words of encouragement as we bring to an end a year filled with so much angst, uncertainty, illness and death, loneliness, division, turmoil and the list could go on. Turning the page on a calendar will not end these difficulties, but we always seem to find a little hope and the possibility of a better day when we see a new year coming. The turned page that will bring the most peace is in our Bibles. There is a promise of a better tomorrow and an answer to every question there. Deliverance is not promised to be immediate or without struggle, but the promise is there if we turn to God, see our hope in Jesus and beg the Holy Spirit to lead us.

We have seen and attended many calls to prayer from our city streets to the National Mall in Washington, D.C. God's people coming together in prayer must be a sweet sound to God, but he also calls us to go into our closets. We keep telling people, "It's not religion, it's about relationship." Exercise your relationship with God one-on-one and in humility beg His favor in your life and the life of our bleeding nation. Ask His help.

I encourage you to visit our website, unitedemmaus.org, and our Facebook page often to keep up with our business and events.

I pray health, both physically and mentally, throughout the upcoming holiday season and into the New Year. Even during this time of uncertainty, we have assurance in the Almighty. He will accept our thanksgiving with relish as many will struggle to find those words after such a stressful year. We should celebrate our Saviors birth more this year than ever for it is in His birth and death that we find eternal life where there is no more sorrow and fear. Halleluiah!!! Happy Thanksgiving, Merry CHRISTmas and Happy New Year!

**De Colores,
Kathy Hensley, CLD 2020**



Community Spiritual Director Corner

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

The apostle Peter wrote this in his first epistle (4:12).

Especially in our current world, some may feel that they are facing a "fiery ordeal" ... let's remember this: "Stop, Drop and Roll" and its spiritual significance related to your current circumstances.

What is God's will for my life? I hear that question a lot as a minister.

It's an easy answer that's found in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

I like to remember it as:

"Stop, Drop and Roll"

1 Stop and rejoice always

2 Drop and pray continually (this is to have a continual attitude of prayer and communion with the Lord throughout your day... I call them "popcorn prayers") remember, He is always with you!

And,

3 Roll on in your life by giving thanks (in all circumstances)

Remember, only God can cause all things to work together for good! (Romans 8:28)

And He alone is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all we can ask or even imagine! (Ephesians 3:20).

Here's another great Scripture to remind us all of God's sovereign grace: "Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" Psalm 46:10

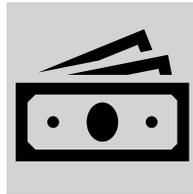
Praying that you and your family will experience God's peace that passes understanding as we wrap-up this "unusual" year.

I'll echo Paul's sign-off as he ends his letter of 1 Thessalonians with this wonderful blessing:

"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you."

De Colores!

Pastor Steve McAuley
Community SD 2020



Finances

In light of all that is happened in 2020 our faithful Emmaus members have continued to contribute. To date, we have received \$22,521.69 in donations. We had one sizable anonymous donation. We thank all those that have been able to continue donating not only monetarily but also praying faithfully for the United Emmaus Community.

If you would like to make a donation, checks can be mailed to: Treasurer, United Emmaus Community, PO Box 4543 CRS, Johnson City, TN 37602-4543. You can also donate online at unitedemmaus.org and click on the "Donate Online" tab and choose your donation type.

Kelly Haynes, Treasurer



Sponsorship

Our Emmaus Walks may have been on hiatus this year due to the pandemic, but with God's help, we'll be back in 2021 and will have The Best Walks Ever in the spring! It's not too early to sponsor pilgrims for the spring walks, which will be April 15th through the 18th. for the Men's Walk and April 22nd to the 25th for the Women's Walk. Prayerfully consider whom you might sponsor, talk with them, get the dates on their calendars early before they book those weekends with other things, and fill out the applications, which are

downloadable from unitedemmaus.org. Look around at your family, your friends, your church. Who has been a strong servant for Christ in your church and in the lives of others during the pandemic? Who is ready to take that next step in their faith and in growing as a Christian leader? Sponsor that person! Individuals, reunion groups and churches are welcome to sponsor!

We are looking for individuals to serve as church liaisons within the churches represented among the membership of our United Emmaus Community. These liaisons are folks who can serve as point persons to communicate and share United Emmaus Community news with pastors and church members who are part of our community and who can help steer church sponsorship efforts. This will not be a time-consuming commitment but is very important. If you are willing to serve in this capacity, please contact Jennifer Hill at jhill12@icloud.com.

Thank you,
Jennifer Hill



Reunion Groups

Hello Emmaus Community,

I am reaching out to all reunion groups to see who all are still meeting through this time of COVID-19. How are you staying linked up, whether face to face meetings, Zoom, or Microsoft teams? I would love to hear from you all. I am trying to evaluate the groups who are still active and to assist those who are inactive due to the current health situation. I want to hear the stories of the hurdles, social distancing restrictions, and resiliency of the reunion groups. Please contact me Dale Stoops at dale.stoops@gmail.com.

Be safe out there and keep the focus on Christ!
Dale Stoops



Music/Entertainment

Hello United Emmaus Family,
I'm sending out this message asking anyone if they would like to be a part of the music and entertainment part of the Emmaus Community to either sing or play individually, duets, trios, quartets, or in bands for the monthly "Gathering". I'm looking to build bands for future lay directors to pick from or groups of singers. Give me a call at 423-677-3297 if interested. Leave me a message so I can return your call. (If I don't recognize your number, I let it go to voicemail.)
We will continue to use "Nobody" as a sort of house band until some of you want to step up. Contemporary Christian, Southern Gospel or any Christian music is good.

Once we get food back in your will have a 3-4 song set and a communion song. Right now, it's two 3-song sets and a communion song.

I look forward to hearing from you!!!

Tom Grutsch



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