



Cross Point Emmaus

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April 2020

In mid-March, due to concern of the Coronavirus, the Emmaus Board approved postponing the remaining two training dates and moving the Men's and Women's Walks #109 & #110 to the Fall. April 4th (today as I write this) would have been the final training and commissioning. With everything that has happened, I believe we made the correct decision and would encourage everyone to "stay safer at home" at least through April 30th. If we can flatten the curve of spreading COVID-19, we may can hold the final two trainings and the commissioning (which dates will be determined later.)

The new dates for the Emmaus Walks are Sept 17th-20th for the Men and Sept 24th-27th for the Women.

I asked the Women's Emmaus team to check their calendars and let me know if they could still work the weekend on the new dates. At the time I felt like it was an unrealistic dream to hope for, but I truly hoped each one on the team would be able to continue with THIS team in the Fall. I have honestly grown to appreciate EACH and EVERY one on the team and what a blessing they've been to me in my life as we've walked this journey this far. It was AMAZING to me to learn that so many team members were available for the new dates! There are a few who are still waiting to see and two that won't be able to for sure due to previous commitments. OVERALL, I feel like God reassured me that HIS team would be together when we do GET to hold the walks. God has reminded me OVER and OVER since the decision was made on March 17 to change the dates that He's got this, He's got this team and He's got all of us. NOTHING is wasted. We (& HE) will use ALL of this for His Glory. AND as He told me in the verse He gave me for the Walk, "No eye has seen, no ear has hear, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love Him." (I Corinthians 2:9 NIV)

I have to tell you that we DID HAVE two awesome trainings!! One was at the Christ Community Church and the second one at the Davis UMC Pathways Church. Worship was AWESOME at both churches and so was the food!! It was so neat to spread out across the area and be in churches we haven't been in for awhile. I could tell you all day long for weeks about the team bonding that took place, about the concerns shared, about the prayers prayed, about leaving items used at training behind by accident and awesome replacements used (prayer shawl/pastor's stole), about gluten free bread in abundance (& now frozen), about the Holy Spirt moving and guiding, about how God has confirmed SO MANY things about each team member (to me) and to each team member (for themselves) about why they are serving on the team....ALL DAY LONG FOR WEEKS (I mean it...so many things to be thankful for!!!)

I'm thinking this is an important time to work together to encourage each other and to keep the Emmaus spirit alive. Both Gary and I will encourage our teams to attend the gatherings (between now & the walks WHEN we are allowed to meet again) and continue the work we've done to build the strong Emmaus bond we've been experiencing and sharing together.

As the walk times for the spring come up here in a couple of weeks, I might shed a tear or two for a moment. I was mentally ready to do this now. (Gary knows how I feel...He was the same way...LET'S DO THIS ALREADY!!) HOWEVER, God KNOWS how much better it will be when we DO get to have it AND I am leaning into Him, KNOWING He knows what He's doing. (continued on page 2)

DeColores!

FOR GOD HAS NOT GIVEN US A
SPIRIT OF FEAR,
BUT OF **POWER** AND OF **LOVE**
AND OF A **SOUND MIND.**

2 TIMOTHY 1:7

I cannot tell you what it has meant to me for the many of you who have reached out to me to encourage me, strengthen me and let me know you are praying for me and these sets of Walks. Not ONE day has gone by since I sent the email out to the Women's conference room and Hands and Feet teams, that God hasn't reminded me something of Emmaus. The first thing that happened was the team responding overwhelmingly that they would be able to reschedule for September. After that....so many things, so many days. One day it was the mentioning of the 'Hittites' in my Bible App reading for the day. (That made me SMILE!) One day it was a picture of Agape someone texted me that they were going to begin working on. (This made me smile too!!) There have been so many devotions on WAITING on God (yes, I'm waiting with Him). Also, phone calls to check in and see if my initial sadness about postponing the Walks had lifted. Texts for prayers over me and my family and sharing of concerns individuals have. There was even a handwritten letter that came in the mail!! God has been SO GOOD to remind me that He has big plans for these sets of Walks and we will see it all unfold one day when we get to camp....BUT in the mean time, we will continue to watch for His hand and guidance in all things...for the two (or four) positions that may need to be filled, for when to start the trainings and where to host them, for WHO God is calling to attend as pilgrims and WHO God is calling to sponsor them.

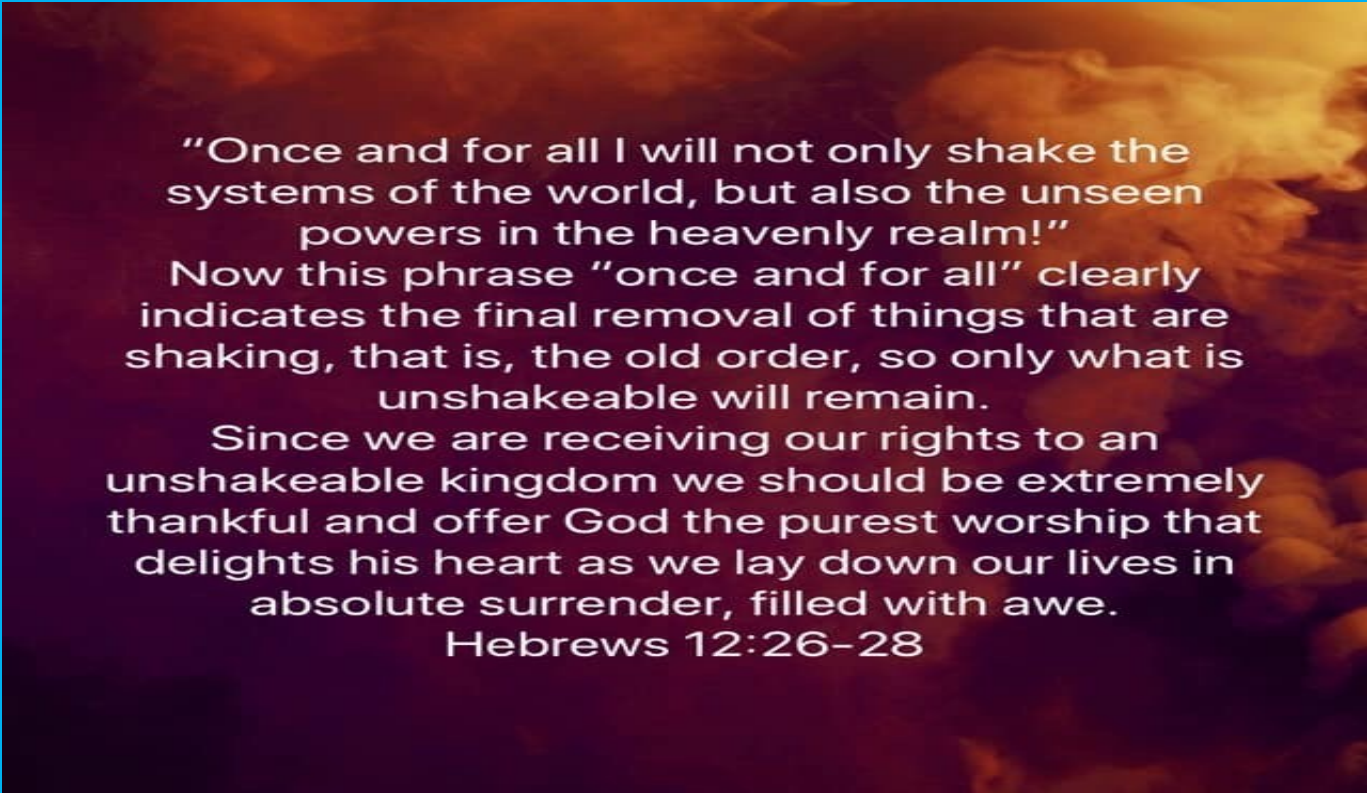
I am still honored to get to lead the Women's Walk #110. I even have a talk prepared for it now!! (God had me WAIT to write it until very early one morning before we knew anything about COVID-19.) Let's pray together and seek to know what God's plan is in all this. Prayers for all your families during this different, novel, challenging, and social distancing time. May you know God's peace and protection in a way you've never experienced before. I know He's been showing me this (and how sovereign He is) and I'm SO VERY THANKFUL.

De Colores,
Melissa Grace
Lay Director Emmaus Walk #110

PS - I'm also on the Emmaus Board over Prayer part of which is being responsible for the Prayer Vigil sign up, but until the Walk is over Shawna Carnahan (outgoing board member) is handling these duties so I'll encourage you – as sponsors and members of the community – to sign up for slots for the 72 Hour Vigils online and when we get to meet again to sign your names on the empty spots on the big posters that will be displayed at the appropriate time during the Walks.

Due to the increase in concern of the Covid-19 & the suggestions of people gathering in groups no larger than 10 and after speaking with Lay Directors, Gary & Melissa and their spiritual directors, it is with much sadness that we will need to postpone the Spring set of walks. PLEASE let us keep the Spirit of God alive over these next few weeks and keep Gary & Melissa in your prayers and the teams and pilgrims. We are anticipating Fall Walks and have set dates in September so keep praying for pilgrims! Thank you so much for your prayers and dedication

De Colores Crosspoint Emmaus Community Lay Director Amy Heller



“Once and for all I will not only shake the systems of the world, but also the unseen powers in the heavenly realm!”

Now this phrase “once and for all” clearly indicates the final removal of things that are shaking, that is, the old order, so only what is unshakeable will remain.

Since we are receiving our rights to an unshakeable kingdom we should be extremely thankful and offer God the purest worship that delights his heart as we lay down our lives in absolute surrender, filled with awe.

Hebrews 12:26-28

Greetings, Community. Thank you for all of the candidate (pilgrim) applications that have been sent so far. We all are saddened that the Walks had to be rescheduled, but we are still looking forward to the great things God has planned. I have mailed updated letters about the new dates to all current pilgrims and sponsors, so be on the lookout for yours. At this moment, I have more women applications than men. Please continue praying about someone or couple that you can sponsor. I'm excited about what God has planned for the Fall!

De Colores!

Kenna Johnson, Registrar

On the Road to Emmaus

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles^[a] from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him.

....
²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

—Luke 24: 13-16, 28-32



We're on the web
www.crosspointemmaus.org

My name is Rick Hamilton. I am a member of the First United Methodist Church in Marietta. For the past two years, I have served the Walk to Emmaus Board as the Music/AV Tech. It is my job to make sure that music and song books are available for all Gatherings.

I have a heart for Emmaus because during Walk #103, I gave my life to Jesus Christ. Since that day, He has blessed me in so many ways—ways too numerous to mention. For the past three years, I have attended Celebrate Recovery. This program is one that Jesus has laid on my heart. The Walk to Emmaus, along with Celebrate Recovery, have totally changes my life.



Note: If you have anything to add to the next quarterly Newsletter, send your copy or photos to Sonya Morris at faronjrx@gmail.com

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Most members of the Cross Point Emmaus community receive Newsletters and information by email.

Also, please ask your Emmaus friends if they receive the Newsletter? We do not want to accidentally omit anyone.