

Rooster Tales



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July 2020



Upcoming Walk Weekends

Women's Walk #257 - POSTPONED!

Sierra Vista UMC, Sierra Vista

Men's Walk #256, POSTPONED!

Central UMC, Phoenix

Women's Walk #258, POSTPONED!

Central UMC, Phoenix

Gathering Schedule

IN-PERSON GATHERINGS ARE POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

But have you heard? We've had 2 online gatherings this summer and they've been amazing and well-attended! Thank you to Tracy Thompson for organizing these - job well done! We hope to have these online gatherings once a month, so stay tuned for more information to come!

De Colores!

Emmaus Board Position Openings

Pre-Emmaus

The Pre-Emmaus role is essentially the marketing and advertising arm for the Emmaus Community. The Pre-Emmaus Chair works with all churches and proposes and implements with the Board of Directors plans for establishing and extending the Arizona Walk to Emmaus movement within the State of Arizona. This role is responsible for distributing Emmaus literature to churches, connecting and engaging with Emmaus Church Representatives at the individual church level in an effort to promote the movement, and generally make more people aware of the Emmaus movement in Arizona.

4th Day

The Fourth Day Chair plans and conducts the 4th day dinner, is the primary Board contact for Pilgrims seeking Group Reunion partners, conducts leadership training, quarterly workshops, and is ultimately responsible for the 4th Day packets, given out on Three Day Weekends.

If you would be interested in filling one of these important roles and being part of our Arizona Walk to Emmaus Board of Directors, please contact Scott Mathe, Community Lay Director at 602-284-4173, or email Cld.azwalk2emmaus@gmail.com. We would love to hear from you!



From the Spiritual Director's point of view

As I write, it is June 30. It is hard to believe that we are half-way through 2020. I feel as if we have been stuck in an unending "Ground Hog Day" since we entered this season of covid 19. Nevertheless, we are moving forward and engaging this strange season of our lives and the Arizona Walk to Emmaus is planning and working toward the day when we will share in more joy-filled, Spirit-led, head-to-heart, Emmaus weekends. Are you ready? I sure am and wish we could do it now. But we have work to do as we prepare and continue this ministry of renewal and June 30 also marks a transition in your board of directors.

Today we celebrate and give thanks for the leadership and service of two directors who have served well and are moving toward other ministry. **Alan Fisher** has been on the board for several years, serving as treasurer and president. Alan, thank you for your strong leadership and willingness to persevere in difficult times. I look forward to serving alongside you on another walk but today, I give thanks to God for you.

Tracy Thompson has led our "Gathering" ministry and faced head-on the daunting challenge of raising up a new Gathering on-line. With two online gatherings, I am excited because I see this as a way for us to extend gatherings across the state and out of state, to community members who can't physically join us even after we resume in-person gatherings. Thank you, Tracy for your leadership this year and leading these first two online events. We wish you Godspeed in all that you do, and we give thanks for the Holy Spirit so evident in you.

Stepping up to the plate July 1 are three dedicated and willing servants. **Janine and Bill Cluck** are familiar names to many in the community as many of you have served alongside them on weekends. They are your new Gathering team so hang on, gatherings are going to continue to pick up momentum. Hailing from Payson they bring the energy of a vibrant branch of our community and they will need your help to make all our gatherings fun and renewing as we continue to nurture this ministry.

If you are a part of the Facebook group "AZ Walk to Emmaus" (and I don't know why you wouldn't be a part of this support and encouraging group!) then you have met **Scott Mathe**. He has written several devotions shared on the Facebook page in recent months as a way to encourage us to remain faithful, persistent, and serving even while we've been apart.

Walk #20 was a few years ago and Scott has served in just about every area possible in Emmaus – the list would be lengthy. It's the kind of experience we need now as we plan and prepare for how the walks will be managed and experienced in the years to come.

Thank you, Alan and Tracy! Blessings on new adventures in ministry! Pray for them and give thanks for them. Now, I commend Janine, Bill, and Scott to you along with the rest of the board. Pray for them and the rest of the board. Pray for the AZ Walk to Emmaus. Be ready when your phone rings, it may be God offering you an opportunity to serve him.

Peace & Grace,

Pastor John Fairchild
Spiritual Director, AZ Walk to Emmaus



A Message from the New Community Lay Director!

Hello Emmaus Community!

As my journey begins as the Community Lay Director, I know we as a community are faced with many challenges. 2020 has been a bang-up year so far, with so many challenges. The only thing that is unfailing is God's Love for us, His chosen people. We know He is present for each of us. He is faithful and His love is everlasting. We as Christians have had to really think outside the box in these past 6 months, with our limited interactions, in our face-to-face contact and with family or other Christians. I honestly believe we have done well in adapting to the times. We are a strong perseverant people and will persevere through these unprecedeted times. God's people, the church, are finding ways to hold services, like on Zoom, Go To Meetings, or FB Live. Even Sunday school classes are happening against all obstacles to grace that have been thrown at us.

My question to you is: Are you still grouping? Are you social distancing with your group brothers and sisters? I know many of you are grouping by phone, in open air locations, public spaces, limiting your group sizes, wearing masks or different internet options. We as Christians will find a way because we know there is a huge value to grouping and staying connected, it keeps us in our walk with the Lord. More than ever we need to walk on that road, you know the one, the one called Emmaus. As we walk on that road sometimes, we are people that don't realize Jesus is also walking with us, we are so caught up in the moment we don't see Him, because the chaos has totally consumed us. I say to myself a great deal of the time, just stop and take a breath. The Lord will assist you in refocusing your thoughts and calming your nerves.

Matthew 11:28NIV states, "come to me, all you who are burdened, and I will give you rest." Now more than ever we need Christ. We need our group brothers and sisters to keep us grounded in the faith that we have in Christ to keep us level-headed and knowing there is a higher purpose for each of us. God continues to provide for us in these times of challenge. We need to stop and listen to that small but strong voice. It is imperative that we be silent and just listen. He continues to communicate with us and constantly only wanting what is best for us. Pray for Him to reveal the solutions to all our concerns. Pray for understanding because He is faithful. We must persevere in faith to find perseverance in life.

We can stand on the promises of God. He will provide us shelter and give us strength to endure whatever happens in this life. In so many ways we must be the light to the world, now more than ever. We are like that single candle in the darkness creating light, when we come together in the darkness each of our lights illuminates more, creating a glow beyond belief. This light will allow us all to see even in that darkest space, truly showing how God's love is the light. It also teaches us that without other Christians we will struggle to see or even be seen. Remember, that when we are struggling to keep our light glowing our group brothers and sisters stand with us causing that flame to reignite within us. Our group brothers and sisters provide us that certain strength needed by their light, just as we do for them in their time of challenge. It is my belief that God puts people in our path to not only strengthen us, but to reciprocate that strength to them, in their time of need. He gives us hope and strength for the future. As we walk through this life it is our call to help others that cross our path. It could be strangers, friends and even our family, that may require us to be available to serve and love them. We need to do this out of love, prayer, and thanksgiving. This is what makes us real to the world, but to endure the challenges, we need to group with those who are of a like mind. It allows us to remain steadfast in His Love and helps us have perseverance in life and whatever gets thrown into our paths. Remember God's Grace is sufficient to sustain us. 2 Corinthians 12:9 ... My grace is sufficient for you...I will continue to pray for each of you, the churches, Walk To Emmaus, and for our leaders, from local to the federal level. I genuinely believe we can come out of this quandary if we pray for God's blessing on this Nation. It's what we were founded on so many years ago. Please be faithful with your prayers, thoughts and deeds toward everyone and everything. God bless you.

De Colores,
Scott Mathe

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2020

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