

Rooster Tales



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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 are doing online gatherings every month. Stay tuned for information on the next gathering. We are looking for people to help with music and testimonies if you'd like to participate. More information to come in our Email Blast! Or check the website at www.azemmaus.org!

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.

Gathering Chair

The Gathering Chair is responsible for coordinating the gatherings for the state and working with area coordinators when needed. They coordinate with the spiritual team for clergy and speak with former lay directors for personal testimonies, and the music chair for musicians. More info to come.

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!

JANUARY

Emmaus January 2021

Y2K. Do you remember the panic? December 31, 1999, I sat in the communications center for Flagstaff Police/Fire/EMS and 9-1-1 for the northern third of the state. The hype had built over the weeks leading up to the first minute of 2000. Would the electric grid work? Would we have phones? How about the trucking industry and the food chain? Would public safety radios work? Oh, my, would 9-1-1 fail? The clock ticked closer and closer, 11:58, 11:59, then 00:00, 00:01, 00:05. Nothing. In fact, it was one of the quietest New Year's Eves we had experienced. When the clock ticked over to 1:00 a.m. I went home. For those of us who prepared, tested, and knew what would happen, it was an uneventful night. But the country, and world were in fear.

Disasters and tragedies do happen as we've seen in 2020. My prayers are different coming into 2021 than they were at Y2K and I'll bet yours are too. The stress and uncertainty of covid-19, I believe, is responsible for other deaths than just from the virus. Sadness, isolation, depression, fear, job losses, business failures, and other sad circumstances have dealt levels of stress on each of us.

Enter the Emmaus community. Yes! When I look at the leaders in each church I've served in, I see Emmaus community guiding and leading. One of the goals of Emmaus is spiritual renewal and we'd all agree it does that well, but a natural consequence of spiritual renewal is "action." Do you remember that leg of the three-leg stool example? This is a direct result of discipleship. When we follow Jesus, study, meet regularly for worship, and pray, we build discipleship. There is no wonder you, who make up the members of the Emmaus community, are leaders in your own church – whatever church you serve in.

You have been faithful in your churches, wherever possible, in 2020 and I know you will this year, it's who you are in Christ. None of us know what 2021 will bring but I am drawn to a verse in Revelation 21:5, "And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." (ESV) God is not responsible for coronavirus, but he can bring good out of the tragedy. I believe this has shaken the church out of our lethargy and "lukewarmness" as we have been forced to discover new ways to communicate thanks to the internet, but also rediscovering old ways – relationships built on time, trust, scripture. This is exactly what the reunion group is intended to do. When you meet together as a small group, you are the church! This is how it was done for hundreds of years after Jesus ascended.

The strength of God's church is not built in "holy sanctuaries" of glass and stone, but rather in the holy sanctuaries of small groups of believers who pray for each other, care for each other, study with each other, serve with each other, who love each other. Doesn't that sound like your Emmaus small group?

Paul encouraged the believers not to give up meeting together. Please, please find ways to meet. Phone, zoom, facetime, in person. Just meet. Connect. Pray. Worship. If there was ever a time that Emmaus can shine, it's now. God needs you. If we do this, along with our new methods of communicating our Sunday and other gatherings, we may just spark a new revival and the kingdom will grow.

Philippians 3:14, "I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Covid has no hold on Jesus or his grace, so we work wherever God has planted us within our little "bubble" if you will. Press on! You don't need your pastor to tell you how to do this. Share Jesus! Share the joy he brings for you. Share the freedom. Be real, we all fear, but with the Holy Spirit I don't have to let fear rule. Fear cannot stand facing the power of God in the Holy Spirit.

Brothers and sisters, I pray that God will continue to use you, push you, grow you, in the coming year and the kingdom will grow. It will take effort, perseverance, strength and the confidence and Power of the Holy Spirit. Finally, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)

Peace & Grace

~Pastor John Fairchild

Happy New Year!

I know we are all looking forward to 2021. As we move forward into 2021, we must reflect on 2020. It has been a challenging year for everyone, so many crazy things, the shortages of groceries, personal care items, and of course the run-on toilet paper, hand sanitizer and antibacterial wipes. Then the shutdown of almost everything. 2020 has pushed our thought process in multiple directions - we can do business, worship, and see family in many unique ways, like Zoom, Web-ex, Go to meeting. It has required us to be aware of everyone's personal space, the importance of washing your hands and not spreading the virus. We have seen lots of change this year. As Christians, we have had to adapt to some changes in how we worship, live streaming, outdoor, drive up services and limited face to face contact once able to meet in the building again. It goes to show that God will show up if we are faithful. We must pray without ceasing and continue to seek His will. God will give us the strength to endure all this craziness and adapt or change how we do things, but we can make changes, find ways to continue and move forward based on His ideals. I believe we as Christians are extremely resilient. How are you showing your resilience to others? It's through our giving and money; we give of our time, like checking in on your neighbors, family and asking if they need help. My favorite example of this was early in the pandemic, our friends and neighbors would call and say we are headed to the super-market to pick up some things, is there anything I can get for you while we are there? Or they would call and say I scored packages of toilet paper and paper towels, do you need any? I will share my bounty with you, and the receiving person asked how much do I owe you? The response is we got this today, just do the same for someone else as you can. It does not need to be a momentary thing, it could be something as simple as pulling out the neighbor's trash container that is truly a huge blessing to that individual. To me that is showing God's love to your community. Community is the essence of the Walk to Emmaus. We are all about community, from the very first talk on the weekend, "Priority", to the last talk, "Fourth Day," we expound on the need of community. So, as we step into the new year "2021," we need to focus on how we have adapted and will continue to adapt to be able to meet the needs of ourselves, family, neighbors, cities, counties, states, countries and even the world. We need to focus on the blessings in our lives. I know sometimes it's hard to see the blessings, but they are there. Sometimes we must look for them in the midst of the chaos, but God does provide, He Always Provides!

As I was preparing to work on this article, I started reflecting on an old family book of quotes, called "The Treasure Chest" copyright 1965 by Charles L. Wallis.

"AMEN" - This little word has entered more languages (perhaps over 1000) than any other single word in a human speech. How that came to be is a fascinating story. It is said that in Alexandria, Egypt around 250 B.C.E., King Ptolemy desired a translation of the Hebrew Bible. He set 70 or 72 scholars, chosen from the Jewish community, to work on the translation. They reached the word "Amen," first cousin of Emet (truth). "Amen" meant "So be it" or "May this prayer come true." There was no single Greek word expressing this thought, so they turned it into a Greek word—"Amen." When the Bible was translated into Latin, "Amen" became a Latin word. And so it went.

Your Community Lay Director,

Scott Mathe



BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2021

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