

Rooster Tales



Vol. 24 No. 8– December 2023

According to Luke, chapter 1, when Zechariah was able to speak again after the birth of John (the Baptist), he praised God saying (in part): And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, 77 to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, 78 because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven 79 to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.” (NIV)

May you experience His forgiveness and tender mercy, and may the rising sun shine in your darkness this Advent season, and may all our feet be guided “into the path of peace.”

I hope you have considered with whom you could share the peace that the Walk to Emmaus has brought you. Have you invited them to sign up for an upcoming walk? If not, what is holding you back? If sponsorship is too great a burden, financial or otherwise, reach out to the community for help. Perhaps the pilgrim is willing to pay all or part of the cost of the weekend. If not, perhaps several people in your community or reunion group could pitch in. Enlist the aid of others in gathering agape. We are a community, and not meant to do it alone. Our job is “to prepare the way” for others to experience Jesus on the road to Emmaus as we did.

Remember, the go forth date for the February walks is December 15th, so get applications in. So far we have 17 Women and 7 Men for the Lakeview Walks. And there’s only a little more time before applications need to be in for Flagstaff as well, so reach out to those in northern Arizona and also to those in central and southern Arizona who would love to spend a summer weekend in Flagstaff!

De Colores and Merry Christmas!

Barbara Fike
Community
Lay Director



Upcoming Walks for 2024

Go to azemmaus.org for new applications and deadlines.
zemmaus.org for new applications and deadlines.

Lakeview UMC, Sun City

Men’s Walk 259 2/15/24
Lay Director Ed Taylor

Women’s Walk 260 2/29/24
Lay Director Joyce Trevolt

Trinity Heights UMC, Flagstaff

Men’s Walk 261 7/18/24
Lay Director Scott Mathe

Women’s Walk 262 7/25/24
Lay Director Julie Vlieg



Dear Friends,

Thanksgiving has passed and, as you are reading this, Advent is beginning. The preparation for Christmas is underway and neighborhoods have started the transformation with yard decorations and Christmas lights adorning the eaves and yards.

Sponsors for pilgrims for the February Walk weekend are as busy as Santa's elves, requesting letters, making banners, and doing the things to get ready for a weekend. I know from my own experience that I am often more excited about a walk weekend than the pilgrim. The anticipation of what they will experience and what they will find to be the most exciting part of the weekend go through my mind, much like the anticipation of that goes on for Christmas.

My family, not surprisingly I guess, spends a lot of time at church on Christmas Eve (and the week leading up to it), then heads home to finish wrapping presents, making last minute dishes for Christmas dinner, and visiting with family that has arrived for the big day. Our home traditions include breakfast casserole and cinnamon rolls for breakfast, then opening the stockings and eventually the presents that have found places under (or around) the tree. Dinner is a big (calorie-laden) event with all gathered around the table and sharing family stories and recalling the birth of Christ – the purpose of the celebration. Then we break out the games and play until late into the night.

The walk weekend has some similarities. There are worship services and meals and conversations. Gifts are given and received. Stories are shared and we relate to those around us in different ways. Love pervades the atmosphere and the story of Christ is told and experienced through the events of the weekends. There is a lot of preparation to make everything happen and everyone who works on the weekend is exhausted by the time it comes to an end.

It is my prayer that in this festive season you are preparing to celebrate Christ through your traditions and through new activities and experience. May Christ fill your hearts and be present in your life each day and may you find ways to share the love of Christ with everyone you meet. Merry Christmas, one and all.

De Colores

Carl Peterson-Community Spiritual Director



Some more thoughts on Grouping:

I did my Walk #149 in October 2004. My close friend, Sandy, who attended the Presbyterian church at that time, said to me one day, "I am going to do the Walk to Emmaus, do you want to do it with me?" I said, "Sure what is it?" The rest is history as they say. At the time, I was attending Payson UMC and still do, but we didn't have an Emmaus Group at our church at that time. We do now and have had for quite along time. Our Pastor, then, Rev. Mel Munchinsky, now retired, was an Emmaus Pastor. He became my Sponsor!

The Walk was incredible and definitely changed my life. I started Grouping with the Group at the Presbyterian church along with my friend. I Sponsored my husband for his Walk #150 the following February (2005). It changed his life, too, and made us closer as a couple! We stayed with the Presbyterian Group for quite a while

Later, Sandy started attending Payson UMC and by that time a few more people from our church had been on a Walk and we started our own Group. Now we have several Groups. We not only keep each other accountable, but we share so much and help each other through so many of life's problems that I would not know what to do without them. We are there for each other, no matter what, and we can share anything and know it will not go out of the Group, if the person sharing doesn't want it to. Our Group members have changed through the years, at least one of them has been with our Lord for quite some time now, one of them has moved away, and new members have joined, we depend on each other and support each other no matter what life throws at us.

During the Pandemic we met on Zoom and that really helped us get through those many months of staying at home! Also, I had been commissioned in February 2020 to be Lay Director for Walk #258 in October 2020! Because of the Pandemic, that Walk did not go until October 2022. My Grouping sisters not only helped me through the two year wait, along with the part of the Leadership team that had already been put together, but along with the Lord leading the way they were a tremendous support for me the whole time before and through the Walk. Several of them even served with me on the Walk!

I look forward every week to our time together and thank the Lord for my Grouping sisters' love and support! Grouping is an experience stemming from the Walk that helps keep each of our Walk experiences fresh in our minds every week. At least, it does for me!

Blessings and De Colores,
Janine Cluck
Arizona Walk to Emmaus
Fourth Day co-chair

Christmas
for **Christ**

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