

June 2022

Fourth Day Journal



Message from Community Lay Director:

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.” ACTS 2:42

Have you recently pondered the times during your Emmaus weekend when you were feeling what the apostles experienced during those early days of the church? The awe and wonder of the moment when the Holy Spirit was all around and the believers were of one mind and one accord. After the last 2 years, I can understand how difficult it is to get that feeling back. But we have a golden opportunity to regain that feeling, that love, that sense of oneness, unity, and fellowship. Always remember *we are the church*.

On May 20th, we gathered at the Family Worship Center for our monthly Ultreya. I saw some folks I haven’t seen in a long time. I met Pastors Pam and Tom. Some of the FWC members who attended in-person experienced our Emmaus Community for the first time and there were members from FWC watching online. The music was awesome as the Music Team, led by Sean Murphy, rocked the house and glorified God. In total, we had 40 people in attendance and 4 online connections. This is about our average since we began gathering in-person in February. I’m hoping we can continue to increase our numbers in the months ahead.

As we move forward, we will continue to evaluate the possibility of bringing back meals prior to the start of our worship time. We will also look at ways to offer child care for those parents who have small children. We do not want to appear to be slow in getting back to our traditional gatherings. But we are being very deliberate about making our gatherings as safe as possible. We will continue keep you up-to-date via the website and our email group as more information becomes available.

Community Lay Director continued:

Livestreaming Update - Several folks let us know that they are having difficulties connecting to the livestream. Part of the challenge is that the livestreaming process and technology is different in each church that hosts the Ultreya. The technology team will work on resolving this issue. In the meantime, we encourage everyone to attend in-person if they can.

June Ultreya - The June Ultreya will take place at Bethel UMC on June 24th (NOTE: The date was moved because of a conflict with the Virginia Annual Conference. We are looking forward to another night of great worship as the Chrysalis community will be leading the Ultreya.

Finally, as we continue to get our Emmaus Community back up and running, we have two critical needs. The first and arguably the most important need is to invite our fellow church members to attend an NCA Emmaus weekend. We have been working hard to validate the status of the applications that were previously in our database. Unfortunately, many of the prospective Pilgrims have either moved away or are no longer interested in attending the weekend. This means that we will be relying on new applications to fill our weekends. We will not be able to hold weekends without Pilgrims. So, we are asking you to take a moment and look around at the people you know who would benefit from going on a weekend and pass on the love.

The second need is to fill several community support positions. We need people to step up and fill these positions, as well as some folks who can serve in a back-up role for these positions. Please consider helping our Emmaus Community to thrive. Members of the Board will be contacting those individuals who have served faithfully over the years and determine if they are willing to continue serving. Using the website and Community email, we will communicate those roles that will need to be filled. Please consider serving in one of the vacant roles.

Please stay safe and I pray you stay virus-free.

De Colores,

Tom Lambert

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Message from Spiritual Director - Pastor Tony Aronald

When Jesus told his disciples what would happen to him in Jerusalem, Peter said that even if everyone else abandons Jesus, he would not abandon him. We all know what happens next. Much to Peter's distress, Jesus tells Peter that in the moment of decision, when he has the opportunity to put words into action, Peter will deny even knowing him; not once, not twice, but three times. However, as bad as that seems, Peter made a mistake not of substance but of timing.

We feel uneasy reading this story because we wonder if we would have done the same thing had we been in Peter's place. But Peter's mistake was a mistake of timing. Long after these events, Peter's words were put to the test again and this time he was ready to go with Jesus to prison and to death. He followed through. The substance of his words was sound; the timing was off. Are there times in our lives when the substance of our words is sound, but our timing is wrong?

We can learn from Peter that we will be strengthened by God's Spirit over time. There is comfort in this because we come to understand the beautiful truth that Jesus is Lord even over our failures, redeeming them in his perfect timing. After all, the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost changed everything. In that moment this fearful man was transformed and empowered to boldly proclaim the gospel before large crowds. As we reflect on the birth of the church and the miracle of Pentecost and the pouring out of God's presence among all those who acknowledge Christ as Lord, we too can experience the fullness of the Holy Spirit and do things we never thought we could do. De Colores.

Pastor Tony

From the NCAE MD

Psalm 147:1 "Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God, for it is pleasant, and Praise is beautiful."

Last Ultreya was full of praise music, offering, and blessing.

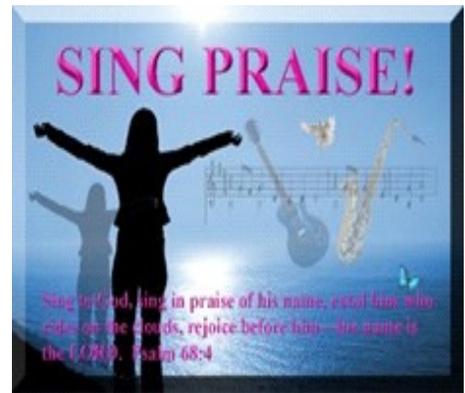
To sing with the community in the location where we had recorded for 2 years during the pandemic was joyful. Praises. Thank you, Lord.

June will be lead by Chrysalis and Nathan Greene. Nathan is a skilled and sincere young music leader - praises for his talents and willingness to serve. Come out and join in song and sing praise!

The Lord bless and keep you!

We love you !

Jim and Mae Krauss



June Ultreya

Ultreya - June 24, 2022

Bethel UMC

13506 Minnieville Rd, Woodbridge, VA 22192

Service begins - 7:30 pm

No meal or childcare will be available due to COVID restrictions.

Check website for Links to live-streaming and Facebook.

Emmausnca.org

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