

January, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

I want to encourage you about the Walk to Emmaus. I took my Walk to Emmaus back in 1985. I confess I did not think I would like it but it turned out to be one of the best experiences of my life. I have served on many other teams giving talks and being a Spiritual leader.

The Walk to Emmaus is a 72 hour, Thursday evening through Sunday afternoon, experience based on Luke 24:13-35

*That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, (14) and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. (15) While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. (16) But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. (17) And he said to them, "What is this conversation which you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. (18) Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" (19) And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, (20) and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. (21) But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since this happened. (22) Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning (23) and did not find his body; and they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. (24) Some of those who were with us went to the tomb, and found it just as the women had said; but him they did not see." (25) And he said to them, "O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! (26) Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" (27) And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. (28) So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He appeared to be going further, (29) but they constrained him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. (30) **When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. (31) And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; and he vanished out of their sight. (32) They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?" (33) And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven gathered together and those who were with them, (34) who said, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" (35) **Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.*****

The Walk to Emmaus today is held in a local church. You eat great homemade food, hear 15 messages, 10 by lay persons and 5 by clergy. All are based on the Scripture and emphasize the Grace of God. You discuss the talks, celebrate Holy Communion together and have many wonderful surprises from our Lord. You might laugh til you cry and might cry til you laugh. It is truly a wonderful life experience.

Dates for the Walks in our area for 2016 are as follows: (all Walks are held at Wesley UMC in Bryan, OH)

Men's	February 11-14	Women's	March 10-13
Men's	October 13-16	Women's	July 7-9
		Women's	November 10-13

You can see more information about the Walk at <http://emmaus.upperroom.org/>  
Emmaus is part of our United Methodist Board of Discipleship and Upper Room ministries.

If you have never attended I encourage you - it could be one of the best experiences of your life. It can change you, your family, and your church family. Others will follow you. Find someone to sponsor you. If you can't find a sponsor I will find one for you.

For the Risen One who Walks with us,



Rev. Scot Ocke  
Maumee Watershed Superintendent

