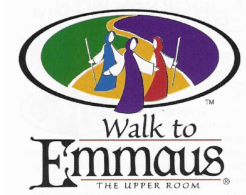


The Joyful Noise



April 15, 2024

Leadership Teams Are Forming For Fall Walks



The next Men's and Women's Emmaus Walks are a few months off, but preparations are already underway and many prayers have been offered for the leaders, team members, pilgrims and volunteers that God is providing. If you should receive a phone call or text asking you to participate in some part of the coming weekend programs, please consider prayerfully what the Lord would have you do in his service.

Thank you to our newest Lay Directors who have accepted the call to organize and lead the teams for our upcoming Walks:

Men's Walk #76 - September 5-8

Wesley UMC,, Bryan

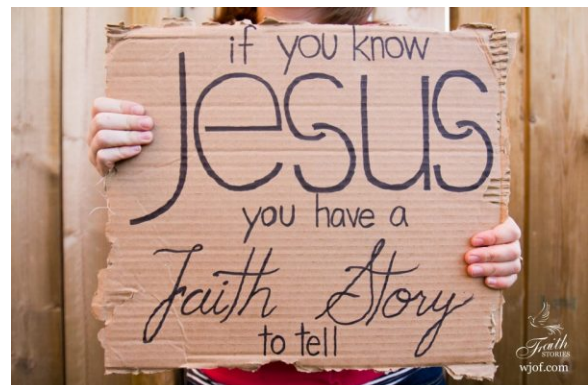
Lay Director - Pete Cousino

Women's Walk #92 - October 3-6

Maumee UMC

Lay Director - Kathy Hartford

Even though our next Walks are a few months off, it's not too early to think about friends, family or acquaintances who may be seeking a stronger faith or a closer relationship with Jesus, and invite them to attend a walk weekend. Sometimes it takes more than one ask, and sometimes people need a little "thinking" time before they will commit to a three-day experience. Just like your spring garden, you might "plant the seed" now, and wait to see if the sprout of interest grows!.



There is plenty of background information and good advice about inviting someone to an Emmaus Walk on our website at www.nwoemmaus.com. From the website, here are some points on the purpose and meaning of sponsorship:

What is Good Sponsorship?

Sponsorship involves someone who takes responsibility for another. The suffix 'ship' refers to the skill involved in the activity.

Therefore, Sponsorship is the skill of taking responsibility for another.

1. Good Sponsorship is the act of revisiting The Emmaus Weekend experience with the person God has laid on your heart. It is the first act of agape before a Weekend ever begins.
2. Good Sponsorship is an act of love for God, for the participants, for the Emmaus Community, and for the church. It is a demonstration of agape love.
3. Good Sponsorship is an important reason why Emmaus Weekends are rarely cancelled for lack of participants. Emmaus participants want to share the gift of those three days with others.
4. Good Sponsorship is integral to some of the unique features and strengths of the Emmaus experience.
5. Good Sponsorship is the direct result of any Emmaus Community's strength in recruiting practices.

It's Tax Day! Are taxes part of our Christian duty?



Since our publication date just happens to fall on the IRS Tax deadline day, we take a quick look at our obligations as citizens and Christians to pay taxes.

The biblical mandate of a Christian's duty to the state is found in Romans 13:1-2: "Everyone must submit to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those that exist are instituted by God. So then, the one who resists the authority is opposing God's command, and those who oppose it will bring judgment on themselves."

In Matthew 17:24-27, we learn that Jesus did pay taxes:

After Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax came to Peter and asked, "Doesn't your teacher pay the temple tax?" "Yes, he does," he replied. When Peter came into the house, Jesus was the first to speak. "What do you think, Simon?" he asked. "From whom do the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes—from their own sons or from others?" "From others," Peter answered, "Then the sons are exempt," Jesus said to him. "But so that we may not offend them, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours."

There are many more references to paying due taxes in the Old and New Testaments. Probably the best-known quote is from Jesus in Mark 12:13-17 when he answered the Pharisees' trick question about paying taxes to the Roman government: "Then Jesus said to them, "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's."

A great conclusion to our duty as Christians was made in an article on *The Gospel*



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Please follow us on Facebook! The Emmaus Board wants to promote more interaction and communication between community members through social media. Check us out at Northwest Ohio Emmaus Community, and feel free to share any blessings or thoughts you may have!



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