

October  
2021

Billings  
Walk  
To  
Emmaus

# W2E Times

## Important Dates!

MEN's W2E, #80  
April 21-24, 2022

WOMEN's W2E, #81  
April 28-May 1, 2022

## Contact us...

WEBSITE:  
billingsemmaus.com

EMAIL:  
info@billingsemmaus.  
com

FACEBOOK:  
Billings "Walk to  
Emmaus"

MAILING  
ADDRESS:  
P.O. Box 1975  
Billings, MT 59103



Help Someone  
Become A  
4th-Dayer

## In Memory of Pastor Jim Fitzhugh

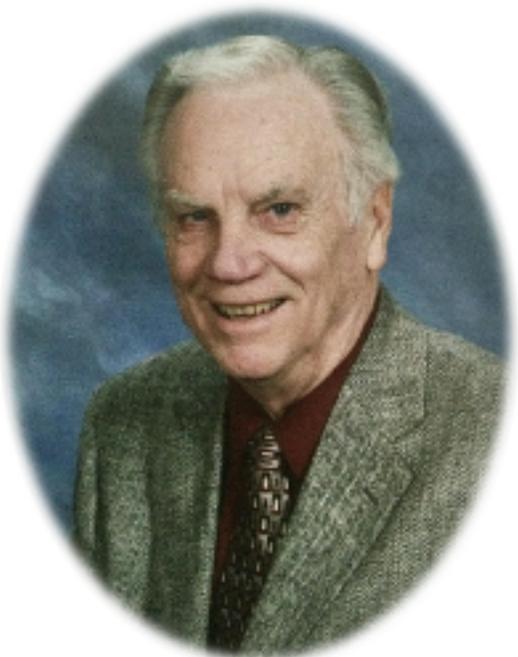
On September 19 our father, grandfather, great grandfather, and spiritual leader to so many, Rev. D. James "Jim" Fitzhugh, passed away peacefully in his sleep at 91 years of age. Jim was born May 12, 1930 on a rural farm near Maumelle, Arkansas, to Deward B. Fitzhugh and Georgia Anna Lillian Wier Fitzhugh. He was the first of 7 children, of which only he and his brother Delbert, 9 1/2 years his junior, survived past early childhood.

Life was tough on the farm during the Depression, with no electricity, indoor plumbing, or running water. Despite the hardships, Jim excelled in school, and was even double promoted, yet maintained such a naive innocence that he dreamed of going to "exotic" places he saw on the bus marquees passing by, like Fort Smith, 150 miles away.

When he was 15 his life changed, with the family moving to Chicago, about as big a culture shock, and as far from life on the farm, as one could imagine. Yet it was in Chicago that his life began to truly take shape.

It was there that he met the love of his life, Rosemary McMahon, at the church they attended, which was pastored by her stepfather. She was a beautiful, intelligent and musically gifted young woman who won his heart. He graduated as valedictorian of his high school, then graduated from Illinois Institute of Technology as a civil engineer. Before ever spending a day as an engineer, he answered a calling to the ministry, and enrolled at Garrett Theological Seminary, beginning his lifelong journey towards serving his Lord.

While in Seminary he and Rosemary married on December 23, 1951, one day before her 21st birthday on Christmas Eve. December eventually became an even more crowded month for family events, with first born James Blake, "Jimmy," arriving December 14th the following year. There followed son Kim Blaine 3 years later, and daughter Dawn Karyl, 2 years after that. They ended up sharing over 58 years of marriage, and they were truly each other's rock.



Jim spent 14 years pastoring churches in Indiana and northern Illinois before eventually "falling apart spiritually," as he put it. He left the ministry, sold everything, packed up the family and pets, said goodbye to Illinois, and headed west, not knowing what he would do, or where they would end up.

The family eventually landed in Billings in June of 1966, low on funds, and he needing to go to work. He did everything from trying to sell cars, (he couldn't), to being a milk man making deliveries at night. During this time he began meeting with a lay prayer group that eventually led him to a personal relationship with the Lord, rebirthing his faith. Shortly thereafter he was asked to join the staff at First United Methodist. There, for the next 17 years, he and Rosemary had a high school ministry that touched many lives, with her directing various youth choirs and musical productions. Eventually he moved on to Evangelical United Methodist, where he spent the next 9 years as pastor. His pride and joy though was his work, for over a decade, as Spiritual Director for the Walk to Emmaus. He made many lasting relationships and touched many lives in that capacity.

After a total of over 40 years in the ministry, Jim retired and returned to First United Methodist as pastor emeritus, not wanting to cast a shadow over his successor at EUM. He and Rosemary then immersed themselves in their prayer ministry and other service. The Jim and Rosemary Fitzhugh Prayer Room is a testament to his and Rosemary's lifetime of service and dedication to their faith and church.

Jim was proud that he not only made it to Fort Smith, but that he and Rosemary traveled the country and world, visiting just about every state, as well as Europe, the Holy Land, and their favorite, Hawaii, which they visited often. Though Rosemary was blind due to retinitis pigmentosa, he was proud to be her "seeing eye husband."

Jim cherished time he and Rosemary spent with their grandchildren, especially after retirement, participating in their "plays," games and various other forms of fun humiliation. Jim was a lifelong Chicago White Sox fan and enjoyed watching all their games on television. He was also a Montana Grizzlies and Dallas Cowboys fan, and watched their games whenever he could.

He was proud of the legacy he left behind in the lives he touched, and grateful for the lives that touched him.

Pastor Jim is survived by daughter Dawn, (Dan) Bryant of Billings; son Kim, (Carol) of Lake City, Florida; and son Jim of Billings; 18 grandchildren and many great, and great-great, grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Rosemary and brother Delbert.

Jim's life was celebrated Saturday, October 2nd, at 12:00 noon, at First United Methodist Church, 4th Avenue North and Broadway, in downtown Billings, with reception following.

Memorials can be made to the charity of ones' choice, or the Foundation Fighting Blindness.



# Testimonies to Pastor Jim Fitzhugh

Although involved in religion since childhood, Wallace and I had no experience with grace until we went on our Walks to Emmaus, except to be occasionally threatened by the idea of “falling from grace.” At our weekends, the brilliant “talks” enlightened us, especially those clergy talks describing the different facets of grace. But most convincing were the pilgrims who lived gracefully. Pastor Jim Fitzhugh personified De Colores: humility, peace, trust, vulnerability (remember him in those goofy skits?), and loyalty. His friendship and support continued all the years since. Adios!

**Gayla Bradberry**

Jim and Rosemary were always so special to myself and my daughter. I attended the Walk in 2013 and when Jim gave his testimony, I couldn't stop crying from the love I felt for this man. He had lost his wife and was having some health issues, but he still stood in front of our group with strength and courage. He will always be gold to me. Heartfelt thoughts....

**Kelly Starr**

Over the last three years as was permitted, I would bring our Walk newsletter and board minutes up to Pastor Jim and read them to him. On one occasion I mentioned to him that I had given my testimony to several groups in our community, and he asked that I share it with him. At our next meeting I read my testimony and as I looked up, he said with a tear in his eye, “Larry, yours is a great message of redemption, but always remember that our testimonies are all about Jesus and how He works His grace in our lives.” A humble message from a humble man of God.

**Larry Atkins**

Pastor Jim was the founder and the heart of the Billings Walk to Emmaus. Because of that, he will forever be in the hearts of nearly 3,000 people who have been blessed to attend the Walk to Emmaus weekend. Jim was a vital part of 80 weekend retreats. The ripple effect of all those changed lives will continue for generations. What a God-filled legacy that is!

Just as Jesus walked with Cleopas and his companion on the Road to Emmaus in Luke, chapter 24, we know that Jim's loving spirit will always journey with us. We know that the loving guidance we have received from Pastor Jim will always be with us, helping us keep our eyes open and our hearts burning for God's grace and love.

We can only imagine the joy in heaven as Jim is reunited with his “special angel”, Rosemary and they are embraced by the Lord! The entire community of the Billings Walk to Emmaus is grateful for our friend, Jim Fitzhugh, and his dedication to this tremendous ministry which will continue to flourish in his memory. Praise God!

**Dan and Karen Poling**