

February
2023

Billings
Walk
To
Emmaus

W2E Times

**Important
Dates!**

MEN's W2E, #82
January 18-21, 2024

WOMEN's W2E, #83
January 25-28, 2024

RETREAT
January 13, 2024
9:00 am

POTLUCK
February 3, 2024
5:00 pm

CHRISTMAS SING
December 24, 2023

Contact us...

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**THE 2023 W2E WEEKENDS WERE
RICHLY BLESSED!**



It took three years, three false starts, and one global pandemic, but the Billings Walk to Emmaus weekends #80 and #81 finally happened! Thirty-nine pilgrims (13 men and 23 women) – now new Fourth Dayers – joined our local Walk community.

The weekends were, like all Walk weekends, amazing displays of the work God can do when we open our hearts and minds to His message of love and grace. The team members, many of whom said "yes" to His call three years earlier and hung in there for the duration, provided incredibly moving and powerful talks, leadership borne of the Spirit, and unconditional love for others to share the simple yet overwhelming message of God's love and His grace. We were blessed by spiritual direction under the guidance of Pastors Tim Hathaway and Angie Dornisch. Dave Oltrogge's music ministry was again an integral part of the men's weekend and Suzie Garcia & Carolyn Story provided joyful, inspired music for the women.

While some of us enjoyed the honor and privilege of sharing the conference room with our pilgrims, many more of you worked in the background cooking meals, washing dishes, putting up amazing decorations, sharing agape, praying non-stop each weekend for 96 hours, delivering agape, and so many more acts of unseen love that make these life-affirming and life-changing weekends possible. While many of you will never be known to these pilgrims, you can trust that they recognized and appreciated the agape love you showed through your work.

The love, support, and work of head table members John Felton, Jim Birkelo, Glenn Paulson and Fred Gunville (men) Karen Poling, Angie Klier, Sherry Dompier and Robin Felton (Women), along with the work in the background led by lay coordinators Rich Swartz, Murray Brumwell, Pam Huskey and Patsy Guenther were the final pieces of the puzzle that created another incredible experience for our pilgrims. Looking forward, the next Walk weekends are in good hands with Jim, Glenn, Angie and Sherry at the helm!

It is said that good things come to those who wait ... and in the end, W2E #80 and #81 were worth the wait. God made all things beautiful in His time! We are back on track now and looking forward to W2E #82 and #83 next year. Please prayerfully consider sponsoring pilgrims next year ... you will never regret doing so! DeColores!

SPIRITUAL THOUGHTS

Faith—an unshakable belief that God will do what He promised to do.

Empathy is your pain in my heart.

Comparison is the thief of joy.

We can't change what we experience, but we can choose how the experience changes us.

Biblical hope is a confident expectation of a guaranteed result.

A sin is not simply the bad things we do, but also the good things we do not do.

The single greatest proof that we belong to God is our obedience to Him.

It is not our first response to God's call that is important but our final response.

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."
Jim Elliot

Comments from our new Fourth Dayers

- The grace flowed and flowed and flowed. This was an incredibly restorative and life-changing weekend. I was absolutely blown away by the amount of love, care, generosity and work that went into this. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!
- The love and grace shown in the agape and in each talk, song and experience was exactly what my heart needed. I feel restored and reconnected to the family of God. And to see how God was orchestrating this long before I even decided to attend is truly a blessing! DeColores!
- Sometimes you don't realize you are thirsty until you get a drink. W2E was that drink for me... a refreshing drink of the Lord that I needed.
- The Walk to Emmaus has reconnected me with scripture and helped me realize that I was missing being with Christian women in a group. It has filled my cup to overflowing with love so that I can go out and fill others' cups.
- The Walk to Emmaus reinforced three subjects the Lord has been emphasizing to me: brotherhood, that we are one body no matter the denomination, and listening more than speaking.
- A guiding compass for the rest of my life. Why did I wait so long!
- I found much needed and useful sharing in each and every presentation! As well, in personal conversations I experienced the same.
- I was amazed by the unconditional love I was shown both by new friends and people I never had the opportunity to meet.

BIBLE TRIVIA
(Christian Missions)

1. Who prayed with John that the Samaritans would receive the Holy Spirit?
Hint: Acts 8:14-15

2. Who was sent by God to restore Saul's eye sight?
Hint: Acts 9:10-12

3. Who witnessed to a eunuch in a chariot?
Hint: Acts 8:26-27

4. Who was the prophet the Ethiopian eunuch was reading?
Hint: Acts 8:30

5. Who interceded on behalf of Saul after his conversion?
Hint: Acts 9:27

6. Who caught Philip up, and the eunuch saw him no more?
Hint: Acts 8:39

7. Who wanted to buy the power of the Holy Spirit?
Hint: Acts 8:18-19

Potluck

Everyone Brings Something to the Table.

The annual
POTLUCK
to welcome our
new Fourth Dayers
was a
HUGE
success!



THANK YOU to the
225 persons
who attended!
There was an
abundance of food,
laughter, smiles,
hugs, music, and
JOY!!



Welcome, New Fourth Dayers!

**Kimberly Anton, Laura Bailey, Susie Barbero,
Therese Bertrand, Justin Carlton, Isymae Carlton,
Pat Case-Threet, Cody Dutton, Sandi Eoff, Linda Fettig,
Rob Harsha, Traci Harsha, Doxey Hatch, Meg Hatch,
Leonard Iverson, Linda Iverson, Caroline Kale, Tim Keller,
Ella Kindness, Jeff Klier, Jennifer Larson,
Timothy Lucas, Deborah Martens, Jennifer Mercer,
Krissy Miles, Bill Morris, Timothy Morris,
Bill Nicholson, Marquel North Piegan, Jaylene Phillips,
Sheila Ryan, Logan Schwope, Jessica Smith,
Paige Thompson, Randy Witzel**

May the Spirit of the Lord be Upon You!

A Village Church

A story is told of a village church in Kalonovka, Russia, where attendance at Sunday school picked up after the priest started handing out candy to the peasant children. One of the most faithful was a pug-nosed, pugnacious lad who recited his Scriptures with proper piety, pocketed his reward, then fled into the fields to munch on it.

The priest took a liking to the boy and persuaded him to attend the church school by offering other incentives. There, the priest managed to teach the boy the four Gospels. In fact, this little boy won a special prize for learning all four by heart and reciting them nonstop in church!

Fast forward 60 years, and the boy still loved to recite Scriptures, but in a context that would horrify the old priest. For the prized pupil who memorized so much of the Bible is Nikita Khrushchev, the former Communist leader. The same little lad who nimbly mouthed God's Word as a child later declared God to be nonexistent.

Khrushchev memorized the Scripture for the rewards rather than for the meaning it had for his life. Artificial motivation will produce artificial results. So as you learn the Word of God, keep your motives pure and make it an exercise of both the heart and your mind.

MEN'S W2E #80 (a recap by Dave Mosdal, table leader)

Thursday, January 19, 2023, heralded the first Walk to Emmaus since the Pandemic, at First United Methodist Church. The men's weekend was number 80. The women's Walk, number 81, began the following Thursday. My wife, Cheryl, and I sang in the candlelight choir on Saturday night, but beyond that, someone else will tell the lady's story.

Let me tell you a little about the men's weekend, though. It was a smaller group but our pilgrims, like I imagine the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock, hit the beach at full stride, ready to meet whatever may lay ahead. We had a total of thirty-three people but only twenty-two names to learn. There were four Tim's, three Jim's, three Dave's, two each named Bill, Jeff or John and one very special Angie.

(To be fair, the others, in alphabetical order, went by Bernie, Cody, Doxey, Fred, Gabe, Glenn, Greg, Joe, Justin, Leonard, Logan, Mark, Paul, Randy, Rob and Ryan).

Anyway, this group came prepared. They were quiet and respectful on Thursday night. They were drawing very insightful posters on Friday, writing and performing spot-on skits throughout, and singing in 2-1/2 part harmony from their socks to the top of their lungs all weekend long! It would just make your Methodist toe twitch.

Of our motley group of 33 sojourners, I counted at least 20 who showed up on Saturday night to serenade the ladies at dinner. Here's an interesting aside. The dictionary defines serenade as, "A musical composition in several movements that has no fixed form". And so it will be with the class of W2E-80. I expect that this family of Fourth Dayers are already praying and naming in their hearts the men who will accept this call to learn more about God's grace in their lives when January rolls around again.

