

**October
2024**

**Billings
Walk
To
Emmaus**

W2E Times

Important Dates!

CHRISTMAS SING
December 12, 2024

TEAM RETREAT
January 11, 2025
9:00 am

MEN's W2E, #84
January 16-19, 2025

WOMEN's W2E, #85
January 23-26, 2025

POTLUCK
February 1, 2025
5:00 pm

Contact us...

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info@billingsemmaus.com

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Billings "Walk to
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PRAYER REQUESTS
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Another Way to Pay It Forward

By John Felton (2025 Men's Lay Coordinator)

One of the many amazing aspects of the Walk to Emmaus experience is that we do not ask pilgrims to pay for their weekend, which costs roughly \$180 per pilgrim. Instead, we ask sponsors and other Fourth Dayers to support pilgrims financially, believing that we should "pay it forward" to remove barriers to this incredible, life-altering experience that we all know and love.

Money is important, but there is so much more that goes into creating the Walk experience. It takes people and time to do the many tasks that usually go unnoticed by the pilgrims. We call this part of the weekend "working in background." These hardy folks do everything such as decorations, cleaning, cooking and serving meals and snacks, organizing registration, and the myriad of other activities undertaken by people the pilgrims likely will never see or meet ... our background teams are the hands and feet of Jesus as much as those the pilgrims meet in the conference room.

If you have never helped in the background, I encourage you to offer your time and talents as a way to pay it forward. Our labors of love are as important as our treasures in making certain that pilgrims have the best possible experience on their Walk to Emmaus.

You don't need any special skills to help. You simply need a willing heart and a little time. Some background workers spend the whole weekend at the church cleaning and preparing rooms for the various services. Some come in for a little while every day to wash dishes or help distribute agape. Some come in one time to help with some particular activity. There is room for everyone at this inn!

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Lay coordinators are former lay directors who oversee most of the background activities related to preparing the church for the weekend, keeping it clean, setting rooms for the various services, etc. There are committees that work on kitchen, snacks, picnic, Christmas dinner, decorations, and many other aspects of the Walk. No matter what you want to do, we have space and open arms to welcome you as you pay it forward.

We have been holding Walks in First United Methodist Church since the first one in 1983 ... in January 2025 FUMC will host our 84th and 85th weekends! We are eternally grateful that FUMC has been our home all these years. There are two times that we could really use some extra hands and feet, so maybe here is an opportunity for you to dip your toe into the background!

On the Thursday of the men's weekend (January 16, 2025) we need to transform FUMC into the home for the weekends. This involves setting up cots and sleeping rooms, preparing conference rooms to receive the pilgrims, getting decorations to Brother Van Hall, setting up dining spaces, etc. None of the work is terribly difficult, but it does take time and people. If you can offer some time that morning and early afternoon, please contact me at 406-670-2664 (text or phone call) or e-mail me at johnfelton1958@gmail.com. I assure you that we will have an opportunity for you to pay it forward!

The other time we need lots of help is the Sunday morning of the women's weekend (January 26, 2025). FUMC graciously allows us to leave our sleeping rooms and conference rooms intact between the men's and women's weekends, but they need the church returned to its original condition for Sunday School and church services on the last day of the women's weekend. Again, it is not difficult work, but we need hands and feet to take down cots, re-set rooms with tables and chairs, clean floors, etc. If you can help us, please contact me or the women's lay coordinator Karen Poling (406-670-8570 or karenkpoling@hotmail.com) and we will happily welcome you to join us.

It truly takes all of us to create the amazing experience we all remember so well. Please join us in paying it forward so our newest Fourth Dayers will enjoy that same spa for the soul!





The annual **Walk to Emmaus KICK-OFF Potluck** on September 22nd was a joyful gathering of many Fourth Day friends. THANK YOU to everyone who attended. The food was abundant and delicious. We were greeted by our W2E Board Chairperson, Robin Felton, who introduced the members of the board. We were inspired by messages from our Lay Directors, Glenn Paulson and Sherry Dompier, who introduced their head tables and team members. Becky Muller (Women's Vice Lay Director) spoke about the importance of sponsoring folks who are spiritually mature and ready for the call to discipleship that the weekend inspires. John Goodheart and Dana Shepple performed an entertaining (and informative) skit that dramatized the characteristics of folks we should (or shouldn't) sponsor to attend the Walk. We joined together in song, led by "Sugar, Spice & Everything Nice" (Suzie Garcia, Carolyn Story & Sherry Dompier). And we were blessed by the presence of our Spiritual Director, Pastor Tim Hathaway, who led us in the sharing of communion. It was a wonderful way to prepare our hearts for the upcoming weekends and we were challenged and inspired to participate in the weekends by volunteering, sponsoring and praying.

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THE GIANT SEQUOIA

The giant sequoia tree is an amazing example of strength that comes from surrounding support. These giants of the forest can grow to around 300 feet tall with a diameter that exceeds 20 feet. The incredible thing about these trees is that they can grow in just three feet of soil and withstand high winds. Their strength lies in the fact that their roots intertwine with other sequoias, providing mutual strength and shared resources. God's plan for us is like that. Our ability to stand tall despite the storming winds of life is related to the love and support we receive from God and one another. Did you know there are 59 "one anothers" in the New Testament? Love one another, encourage one another, pray for one another, serve one another, honor one another, and so on. There is great power in the entwining gifts of words of encouragement, prayers of intercession, weeping together, and sometimes just sitting with one another sharing the presence of our support and love.

Let's all step up and "one another" by volunteering for the coming Walk. It takes a village, and we are counting on you.



Are you looking for ways to serve during the Walk to Emmaus weekends?

Decorations

You are invited to join the Decorations Committee as they prepare the Dining Room for each meal during the Men's and Women's weekends. This committee will meet at First United Methodist Church on Saturday, October 12 at 9:00 am to work on items for the beautiful table decorations. Come to the 4th Ave. door and join us as we enjoy refreshments, fellowship and work on various craft projects.

Call Diana (406) 690-1035 for more information.

Kitchen

The Walk to Emmaus weekends are always blessed with delicious meals. Our kitchen coordinators would welcome your assistance with meal preparations and dishwashing. The pilgrim's souls will be nourished in the conference room and their bodies will be nourished by the wonderful meals. If you would like to help in the kitchen, call...

Virginia (Men's Kitchen Chair) (406) 671-2171 – Marti (Women's Kitchen Chair) (406) 670-1982

Set-Up, Tear Down, & Cleaning

During both weekends, many volunteers work behind the scenes to set up & tear down cots, tables, chairs, etc. and keep the building clean and sparkling. If you would like to serve in this way before, during or after a weekend, please call...

John - Men's Lay Coordinator (406) 670-2664

Karen - Women's Lay Coordinator (406) 670-8570

Prayer

You can bless the Walk to Emmaus weekends by participating in the 96-hour prayer vigils. You can sign up for ½ hour slots on our website, billingsemmaus.com. Be sure to scroll to the bottom of the page and click "SUBMIT" to save your selections. You can pray in the privacy of your home or wherever you go about your day.