



PIONEER COUNTRY  
EMMAUS & CHRYSALIS



# ROOSTER TALES

The monthly newsletter of the Pioneer Country Emmaus Community    Sept. 2024



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## Overview

The Walk to Emmaus develops Christian disciples and leaders by inspiring, challenging, and equipping active adult church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, workplaces, and communities. It also benefits less active members who are seeking to renew a relationship with God, grow spiritually, or discover firmer foundations for their lives.

Through The Walk to Emmaus, as they seek to become healthy and vital congregations, local churches have both a means of growing disciples and a tool for developing leaders for their disciple-making systems.

The program begins with a 72-hour short course in Christianity that is wrapped in prayer and signs of sacrificial service. It continues for the rest of participants' lives

with follow-up groups that, along with the local church's robust offerings, contribute to participants' ongoing growth in grace.

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## **\*Free\*** Emmaus Training

Emmaus University: Training is available for ALL community members at Emmaus Ministries University.

**The Why:** The Purpose of Emmaus

**Community Training:** General Training for All Emmaus Ministries Community Members

**Spiritual Directors Training:** Preparation for Emmaus Ministries Spiritual Directors

<https://emmausministriesuniversity.upperroom.org>

All Community Board Members are highly encouraged to take The "WHY" portion of this training at a minimum.

## **Walks Suspended**

Women's Walk #155 TBD

Men's Walk #156 TBD

Please be in prayer. Hosting consistent walks are an important part of keeping a community alive. We encourage everyone to be open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit for who you might sponsor and get their application in soon.

# Epiphany - Looking for Christ in the Ordinary.

by Sarah Parsons

I don't normally see Christ in my everyday life. Even when I look carefully, even when I try to conceive of Christ in abstract terms, the days look pretty drab and ordinary.

Take today, for instance. It is Sunday. I got up; I studied; I went to church; I studied some more, talked to friends on the phone, went for a run, had dinner with my parents and brother, and now I'm home writing. The day was mostly gray. The only remarkable thing about it was that it was unseasonably warm, but that doesn't make it much more interesting.

When I lament my ordinary, boring life, I am chastised by Rilke's words in Letters to a Young Poet: "If your everyday life seems poor, don't blame it; blame yourself; admit to yourself that you are not enough of a poet to call forth its riches."

This seems to say that there are no boring lives, no boring days, only failures of insight and imagination. If my day seems dull, Rilke says, I am just not reading it right.

## **LOOKING FOR ARROWHEADS**

Finding magic in daily life is hard for me. It requires patience and perseverance, like when I was a kid and looked beside creeks for arrowheads: I never actually found one. I looked and looked, found no arrowheads, just lots of rocks. When I read my regular days, I feel like I am sifting through the gravel of my life, finding nothing but more gravel, never the arrowhead that I'm hoping for.

But what if I'm looking for the wrong thing? What if the arrowhead isn't the only magical find possible? Perhaps there is something of beauty in these rocks themselves. If rocks are magic, then I can read my day differently: I got up on a warm Sunday morning, the air moist and windy, with all the energy of a storm coming. I went to my favorite café to study, drank good coffee, and studied how to run human services agencies well, so that they can do good work and communities can get healthier.

I went to church and heard a sermon about listening to one's dreams, and I felt hope for a new year. A friend called and we made plans to see a movie together. With the evening still warm and blustery, I went for a run and pushed myself hard, listening to

music. I met my parents and brother for dinner, talked about the previous week; leaving, I hugged my parents, told them I loved them. Was Christ not in that day? Was that day so drab, or was Christ with me, born over and over again, and in my cursory first reading I glanced right over him?

## **CHRIST IS HERE**

These Christ-sightings are an Epiphany message for me. Christmas says Christ is here, born into the world. Epiphany says it's up to us to find him, and it may not be easy. We may have to walk a long road, follow strange guidance, and encounter Herod-like dangers. Epiphany celebrates humankind's accomplishment of a very difficult task. Christ's birth is a miracle indeed, but it's possibly a still greater miracle that we, the earnest yet ever-benighted human race, manage to recognize him, tiny and humble, lying in a barn in some no-name town.

Epiphany calls me to step up my theological reflection a notch. When I expect Christ to enter my day with lots of fanfare and, at the end of the day, bemoan that "nothing happened," I wonder if I am getting Christ wrong somehow. Christ originally entered the world in pretty ordinary human style, even more humbly than most humans do. At the same time, the magic of Christ is that love became incarnate here, that we are promised abundant life, triumph over death. Those concepts seem so abstract, too lofty to apply to one day in one small life.

Yet Christ is precisely that point at which the divine and human intersect, where God meets us in our mundane daily reality. This is one of the most beautiful insights of Christianity: that God comes into our place, with all its ordinariness. Our God is willing to live through our boring days with us.

Epiphany celebrates not only that God chooses to do this, but that one day we woke up and noticed it. May we wake up to this fact again and again, experiencing one glorious Epiphany after another.

Sarah Parsons is a social worker and author of the Upper Room book [A Clearing Season: Reflections for Lent.](#)

<https://www.upperroom.org/resources/epiphany-looking-for-christ-in-the-ordinary>

At the August gathering our Community Lay Director, Phillip Christie announced with a heavy heart, that the Fall walks were to be postponed. Primary reason was need for pilgrims and for eligible team members to be workers.

At the gathering, Diann Rudd coordinated the music and in doing so she recruited Joe Jarvis to open the service with worship music. He belted out the songs, stomped the stage to keep us engaged while encouraging us to sing it out in praise. Then, Pastor Cindy Robertson Riedel brought us a great message of hope and reminding us who we are anchored to!

At the conclusion of the service, I felt the call to share a 4th day testimony. So, before anyone could go home, the dear friends of the Pioneer Country Emmaus sat down to hear this story.

In the summer of 1994 we, Randy and Katrina Jarvis, were scheduled to attend our initial walk in June. About 1 week before Randy was to leave, the opportunity to adopt was brought to our door. (This was an answer to many and long offered prayers.) Thinking we/he should not go on the Walk, we sought counsel with our Lost Creek Emmaus pioneer Tom Alexander. Tom's God given wisdom said this was the perfect time to attend the walk as God's timing is perfect for His mighty and amazing provision.

While Randy attended the walk, our son's biological mother moved into our house.

On my walk two weeks later, at dying moments I gave God my fear of the adoption. He blessed me beyond my wildest expectations .

So here we are 30 years later, listening to our son lead music at an Emmaus gathering.

Folks, you never know what a difference your sponsorship and your walk participation will make.

Katrina and Randy Jarvis  
Walk 38 and Walk 37

## Do You Remember This?



Pioneer Country Women's Walk #34  
September 23 - 26, 1993

Unfortunately we do not have the names of those in the picture, but we do know that Vanessa Gate was the Lay Director.

## PIONEER COUNTRY EMMAUS 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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