

Dear Emmaus Family,

October 21, 2021

*“Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord is one.  
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
and with all your soul, and with all your might.  
Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart.”*  
(Deuteronomy 6:4-6)

This passage of scripture, known as the *Shema*, for ‘listen’ or ‘hear’, is the centerpiece of both morning and evening prayers for devout observers of the Jewish faith. It affirms for them – and for us – that our faith is built on our trust in one God.

The words of the *Shema* were given to the Israelites by Moses. He knew that the people needed direction or they would be lost. They were already on a journey through the wilderness – a journey that would take forty years to complete. If they were lost on this wilderness journey, they certainly didn’t need to be lost on their faith journey.

So Moses gives them direction for their faith journey – *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.”* Following this commandment and putting God before all else, the Israelites would receive every blessing and every hope, every protection and every mercy.

Moses told the people to keep this command in their heart. Keeping this command in their heart would mean that these would truly be words that they would live by. Our lives will follow our heart. If we love God, we will live in such a way that God is honored by what we say and do. This is what is really behind the words of the *Shema*.

Following this primary command to love God places us on the pathway of righteousness – that right relationship with God. We can’t do this on our own. Faith is a gift from God. God freely gives to us. Our response to God is love – to love God with all our heart, and soul, and might.

**This week at Emmaus:**

**Sat., Oct. 23**

5 p.m. – Sanctuary Worship  
6:30 p.m. – Portico Worship (outside)

**Sun., Oct. 24**

10 a.m. – Sanctuary Worship  
11 a.m. – Adult Study in the Fellowship Hall or via Zoom conferencing

**Mon., Oct. 25**

Noon – AA meeting  
7 p.m. – Cub Scouts

**Tue., Oct. 26**

10 a.m. to noon – Food Pantry Distribution  
Noon – AA meeting  
6:30 p.m. – Boy Scouts

**Wed., Oct. 27**

Noon – AA meeting  
5:15 p.m. – Jubilate Handbell Choir rehearsal

**First day to order tickets to the Stetson Christmas Concert**

**Thur., Oct. 28**

Noon – AA meeting  
3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. – Interfaith Kitchen at The Bridge  
7 p.m. – Emmaus Book Club

**Fri., Oct. 29**

Noon – AA meeting

**Sat. and Sun., October 30/31 – Reformation Observance**

**Wear something RED for worship**

**Stetson Christmas Candlelight Concert** – We have been waiting for this live concert for two years. You will want to purchase your tickets without delay. The tickets will sell quickly. Tickets will go on sale this Wednesday at noon. A link will be published on the Stetson University website. Due to campus safety restrictions and protocols, tickets will be sold online only. All seating is general admission, \$40 per ticket with a \$1 processing fee. Guests are asked to wear a face mask at all times and observe physical distancing guidelines. Concerts will be held on the following dates:

*Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30pm*  
*Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30pm*

*Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm*  
*Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:30pm*

**Part-time Office Coordinator/Bookkeeper** – Emmaus is currently looking for someone to fill the position of part-time Office Coordinator/Bookkeeper. Call the church office at 386-775-9676 if you have any questions or recommendations.

**Adult Study** – We have been studying books from the Apocrypha for the past several months. Last Sunday we finished our study of 1 Maccabees and we are resuming our study of the canon of scripture – i.e. the Bible as we know it. This week we are studying Mark 12:28-34. In this passage, a scribe asks Jesus, “What is the greatest commandment?” Everyone is invited to sit in on the class. There’s nothing to join. There is no requirement for previous Bible Study. Just come and have some fun and learn something about our study passage.

Through our study of scripture, and applying what we learn, we are doing what Moses commanded his people in ancient times. We are putting God first and loving God the best that we possibly can.

***From life to new life*** – Don Prether passed into eternal rest in God’s glory on Monday, October 18. Our prayers are with Janet and with all the family and friends. God grant hope, peace and strength to all who mourn and bring them to the joy of new life in Christ.

Know that my prayers are with you every day and that you are always in God’s care.

Grace upon grace,  
~Pastor Mark