



## *Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast*

*July 2, 2023*

*"Our Road to Emmaus"*

*Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.  
[Luke 24:13-16, NIV]*

### **The Many Themes Alive This First Sunday of the Summer Season**

Approaching this Sunday, I found myself overwhelmed with "themes" that we might explore. This is the first Sunday of the 2023 Chapel season of services! At the same time this weekend is the unofficial "beginning of summer" in the ADKs. ... Today when we come to church we have remembrances, reminders of past seasons and years, and of course we remember family and friends who are no longer with us as summer begins and we grieve, not knowing how we will go forward. ... Since today is the first Sunday of the month, it is our tradition to celebrate Communion. ... So the preacher is faced with the dilemma, what scriptures do we read, what theme should I focus on ... Common sense dictates...what?...pick one? Focus on one and choose the scripture accordingly?

### **Looking at the Story in Luke 24:13-25 ("The Road to Emmaus")**



Whenever I have communion, I think of this passage from Luke. As I reread it, it seemed to address many of the themes that were running through my head for this first service! Here are some lessons we might take to heart and open ourselves to how they challenge us (our road to Emmaus):

- The disciples walked to Emmaus with heavy hearts and uncertainty. Their hopes were shattered, and confusion clouded their minds. Perhaps we can relate, as we carry our own burdens and disappointments.
- Jesus showed up in the midst of their confusion. Though they did not recognize Him, Jesus met them in their doubts and walked alongside them. We need to reaffirm our belief that Jesus also walks with us ... whether we know it or not.
- As they walked and talked, Jesus began to unveil new insights from the Scriptures.

The Scriptures came alive as Jesus unveiled their deeper meaning. This summer I hope we will open ourselves to listening to scripture and new insights into the Word of God.

- Jesus revealed Himself at the communal meal when He broke bread, just as He had done at the Last Supper. Communion is celebrated in community; this summer I hope we can gather more intentionally with our faith communities.
- As we gather around the Communion table, let us remember the power of the sacred act of Communion. Holy Communion is not merely a ritual; it is an important remembrance of Jesus' sacrifice.

**Prayer box - let us pray:** for Andy P.'s soul and his grieving family; for Dean's grieving family; for healing and comfort for the ill and those recovering from surgery, including Robin, Joyce, Lynn, and Bill; let us pray for safe travels for Bill and Marcia; let's keep in our prayers those suffering from extreme weather and unhealthy air; and let us give thanks continually for all the support the Raquette Lake Community gives the Chapel!  
Lord, hear our prayer!