

### I would like to know more about South Central Emmaus

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Mail this form to: South Central Emmaus c/o First United Methodist Church of Shelton 188 Rocky Rest Road Shelton, CT 06484



# The Emmaus Experience

"Emmaus for me was a chance to get my life back on track."

S.H.

"It gave me a better outlook on life." J.J.

"I've never felt so accepted in my life. Nobody's fake here." J.B.

"Emmaus is the first time I encountered Jesus Christ in my life."

A.A.

"It's a fun safe place to make new friends."

## South Central Emmaus



Weekend XXXIX April 20 – 22, 2018

First United Methodist Church of Shelton 188 Rocky Rest Road Shelton CT 06484 Church Office: 203.929.3528

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#### What is an Emmaus weekend?

An Emmaus weekend offers young people of high school age a short course in the Christian way of life. Those who come to an Emmaus weekend experience Christian community, and a time of reflection and insight into their own lives. There is uplifting music, a chance to meet and get to know new friends, opportunity to know oneself, others and God on a deeper level, and to share the joyful and loving relationship that is central to the Christian experience.

#### Who can be a candidate?

Generally, anyone enrolled in the 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade on the date of the weekend can be a candidate. Candidates are sponsored by a member of an Emmaus, Chrysalis, Tres Dias or similar community, and applications are accepted on a first come first served basis. The sponsor supports the candidate before, during and after the weekend, offering encouragement and taking care of any special needs.

## How many people are there on a weekend?

A group of about 40-55 people serve on an Emmaus team. About two-thirds of the team are teens and the rest are adults. There are usually 15-20 candidates.

#### Who leads the weekend?

One or two ordained clergy serve as spiritual directors for the weekend, but primary responsibility for leadership rests with the laity.

#### What happens on a weekend?

There are talks about Christian faith followed by small group discussions. Talks and small group leadership are shared by both adults and teen team members. The weekend, which runs from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon, is held in a retreat setting. However, there is no fasting and very little solitude. There is discussion, fellowship, good food and much fun.

#### How about religious background?

Candidates come from a wide variety of religious backgrounds. Some may attend services worship regularly, some occasionally, and some almost never. Clergy and adult team members are from many Christian denominations. Worship services follow the order given in the Pilgrim Guide given to you on the weekend. Candidates are encouraged to continue as active members of their own regular worship communities after the weekend. Nothing will be asked of candidates that in any way conflicts with Christian beliefs or Biblical teachings.

#### What happens after the weekend?

On the first Sunday of each month, many in the community gather at an afternoon reunion at First United Methodist Church of Shelton to meet old and new friends, to share in Christian fellowship, and to continue to support and encourage one another.

#### How much does the weekend cost?

The total cost is \$50.

## When and where are the weekends held?

An Emmaus weekend is usually held each spring (April or May) and fall (November). We typically hold the weekends at the First United Methodist Church of Shelton at 188 Rocky Rest Road, Shelton, CT, St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 210 Church Street, Naugatuck, CT or Trinity Episcopal Church at 91 Church Street, Seymour, CT. Our Spring 2018 Weekend will be held at First United Methodist Church of Shelton.