

# The Emmaus News

**Columbus Indiana Area**

**Emmaus Community, Inc**

**November 2021 vol 29 issue 11**



Hello Community,

Fall has officially arrived and very soon we will be gathering around the Thanksgiving table with our loved ones and friends. Thanksgiving commemorates a harvest festival, marked by religious observances and the traditional meal including turkey and all the fixings.

I am grateful to be a part of the Emmaus community. I was just a young mom when I was first introduced to the Emmaus Walk. I really wasn't sure what I had agreed to in attending that 3-day weekend. I just knew that my parents, my brother, and my husband had been changed after they attended their Walks. I wanted to go but I knew that I was an introvert. It was definitely an obstacle that God would help me overcome. The Emmaus Walk showed me the reality of God's love and a commitment to Christ. It provided me a greater understanding of Christian faith with a new sense of divine purpose and direction.

Over the course of several years God has continued to stretch and grow me. I can still vividly remember that first Walk I served on the Agape Team. I had seasoned ladies that would help guide and direct me. Those ladies helped me appreciate the value of serving Christ. As the years would go by, I would be called to serve on another Walk and another Walk and another Walk. God was equipping me to serve Him.

Emmaus transformed me as a shy, introverted person to someone who loves to serve Christ openly and boldly. My skills have been strengthened through serving at different capacities on Emmaus. Through serving on Walks, attending Gatherings and being part of the working Board I can look back and see the progress. The skills that I have acquired through Emmaus have allowed me to serve in other ministries and other organizations.

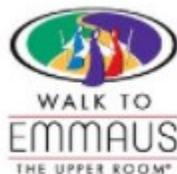
What about you? How is God developing you to serve Him? Are you active in the community? Are you willing to serve on the next Walk? Are you willing to serve on the Board?

Emmaus is a wonderful journey that God uses to bless us by being part of this community of faith. I am very grateful for the friendships He has blessed me with.

Have a very blessed Thanksgiving!!

**De Colores,**

Kim Bieker, Community Lay Director



Renewing Christian Disciples, Strengthening Local Churches

## Fourth Day Living, 4 Days of Giving

November 4-7 marks the 43rd anniversary of the Walk to Emmaus. What better way to celebrate with us than by participating in the Emmaus Ministries Virtual Walk and Challenge. Through this challenge, which ends November 12, pilgrims and their friends are walking the distance between Jerusalem and Emmaus (14,000 steps/ 7 miles/11.5 kilometers). If you are already participating, we say thank you!



If the fitness challenge is not your thing, please consider making an anniversary gift. Every gift matters. Because of the generosity of donors, Emmaus Ministries has been able to offer numerous online Gatherings and incredible support to local communities. New and exciting formational online events are in the works for next year. Please click [here](#) to make a donation.

Your gift today helps us to live out our mission of Renewing Christian Disciples, Strengthening Local Churches.

Thank you for your generosity.

**De Colores,**

In Christ,

Hess B "Doc" Hall, Jr.

Associate Director, Emmaus Ministries

## A Note from our Community Spiritual Director...

This Thanksgiving season, I am so thankful for our Emmaus Board, which has struggled through these pandemic months to make the best calls for our community.

In 2020, it wasn't too difficult to decide to retire that year's Walks, as many churches were closed and we had no vaccines. This spring, the situation hadn't changed much as vaccines were just making their rounds through the generations.

But this fall, I felt hopeful that our Walks could resume. I came to the Board meetings assuming they would happen, but then the Delta variant hit. Suddenly the tide had turned again, and we as a Board had to beseech God's wisdom to again make the best call.

So the members weighed in from their unique perspectives. Health care workers expected a surge in infections and hospitalizations around the time of our Walks. Others reminded us of God's favorite admonition - "Don't be afraid." We pondered how to have the safest possible Walks if we didn't mandate vaccinations of the Team or pilgrims. How could we practice social distancing, and how might the wearing of masks detract from the experience?

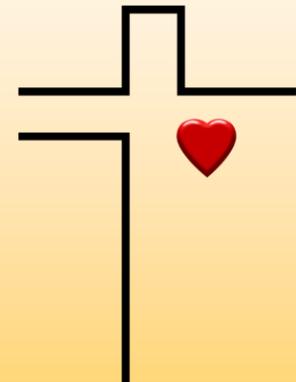
We were reminded that as the Walks drew near, Team members might drop off due to their own infections or a quarantine situation. Would we have enough willing and healthy volunteers available to step in? And if the Delta variant was especially striking children, would we accept the risk of a parent or grandparent getting infected on a Walk and taking it home? These certainly weren't all the thoughts offered and questions asked, but I offer this glimpse into how your Board struggled with so many unknowns and possibilities this fall.

In the end, we respected the different viewpoints shared, and chose the path of caring and precaution over our strong desire to hold these Walks. We reluctantly came to the conclusion that this was not yet the time to host them. But early in 2022, your Board will be revisiting many of these same questions, and assessing how our situation might have changed by then. So both your new and remaining Board members will appreciate your prayer support as we continue to rely on the Spirit's guidance for our Emmaus Community!

**De Colores,**

Mike Seaney,

Community Spiritual Director



*Thankful*  
for YOU

*I thank my God in all my  
remembrance of you*

*Philippians 1:3*



*Rejoice always, pray continually,  
give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is God's will for you  
in Christ Jesus.*

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

**Happy Thanksgiving Day**

## Community Gathering

No Gathering in November

The Caterpillar and Emmaus Applications are posted on the website.

You may download one at:

[Columbus IN Area Chrysalis Flight Application](#)

[Columbus IN Area Emmaus Walk Application](#)



## Spring 2022 Flights/Walks

Chrysalis Flights #79 & #80 ~ March 5 to 7, 2022

Emmaus Men's Walk #123 ~ March 31 to April 3, 2022

Emmaus Women's Walk #124 ~ April 7 to 10, 2022



## Board Meetings

Chrysalis - Tuesday, November 2, 2021 @ 6 pm

[3990 Rocky Ford Rd, Columbus, IN](#)

Emmaus - Saturday, November 13, 2021 @ 9 am

[Westside Community Church, 124 Tipton Lakes Blvd., Columbus](#)

# NOVEMBER

We are on

Facebook!



Columbus Indiana Area Emmaus Community, Inc.

[www.columbusareaemmaus.community](http://www.columbusareaemmaus.community)

Emmaus Information Page (for community members)

Username: Columbus password: 4thday!