



The Emmaus News

Columbus Indiana Area Emmaus Community

JANUARY 2025 Volume 33 Issue 1

A Note from Our Community Lay Director...

Happy New Year Columbus Emmaus Community,
I pray that your Christmas and New Year celebrations were filled with time with family and friends. I pray that those missing loved ones during this season found comfort from our Heavenly Father and knowing that we will one day join them in Heaven.

I am excited to get to serve as the Community Lay Director for the next year. This is going to be a fun and challenging year, but I know we are up for the challenge.

I will talk about that more in a minute.

I am excited to get to serve because as most of you know my family is active in Emmaus because it has had such a big impact on my life. Some of you have heard my testimony on walks, but for those who haven't I want to share a quick version of it.

I grew up in Brown County the oldest son of a pastor. I heard someone once say they were a "drug" child, they were drug to church Sunday morning, Sunday night, Wednesday and any day the church doors were open. That was me. I graduated high school and moved out to go to college. I no longer had anyone to drag me to church so I didn't go. A couple of years go by and I end up moving back in at Mom and Dad's house. Which meant going back to church (rule of the house). That is where I met my beautiful wife, Nichole. We met on Oct 31st, 1999, and married 4 months later on March 11th, 2000. I began an apprenticeship to become an electrician. I was always one who would go above and beyond if you bragged on me. So, I started to work a lot of overtime. I wanted to be the "go-to guy." I also thought that as I made more and more money each year, I was doing a great job as a husband and dad. The first couple of years were rough. Nichole and I are both the oldest children from our family, which means we can be slightly hardheaded. Within the first 8 years of marriage we had our 3 boys (Benjamin, Elijah and Ezra). I was attending church and small group (sometimes) with Nichole. At that point I think I am doing well, I am financially providing for them, and I pray with them before we eat (when I am home). After 10 years of marriage Nichole and I decided to divorce. We are both broken. I was not near the man I thought I was. The way that I had broken her down over the 10 years was shameful. What is sad was it took another 2 years for me to see that. While working out the logistics of how to get divorced, Nichole started going to counseling, where she finds happiness. I couldn't understand this newfound happiness, I would see her reading her Bible on her bed, she would tell me she was praying for me and being around her was totally different. I thought she was trying to trick me into staying married. She asked and I agreed to go to counseling... which helped but didn't fix our marriage.

CLD NOTE CONTINUED.....

I decided to take a job traveling, where I could make more money, have a better title and to not be home to fight with her. Then, two years into the new job I am working in South Carolina. I was there to do two projects, but one got put on hold. My project manager told me I shouldn't be working more than 20 hours a week, that I was salary and should enjoy the free time in Charleston. There was a foreman for one of the subcontractors we were using whom I had become friends with on a previous project down there. He told me I was welcome to deer hunt out at his place. He belongs to a hunting club that had 1,300 acres that 10 of them shared. So, most days I would leave the job at noon and go to Charlie's to hunt. While sitting in the middle of 1,300 acres I realized it was quieter than hunting in Indiana. There wasn't any noise from traffic or nearby houses. I started to realize that when I was at my hotel or in my truck traveling I always had something that made noise around me. I started to struggle with the silence and sitting there thinking about Nichole and the boys back home. I started to take the Gideon Bible from my hotel room and read it. I quickly realized I was empty inside and didn't like who I was as a man. I stopped at a bookstore and bought me my own Bible and a book and started to read it. It talked about a dad and husband being a man that was there for their family, not a man who paid their bills. It was then that I realized that I had never had a relationship with Christ. What I had was religion growing up and even during the first part of my marriage. It was then that I surrendered to Christ and started the journey of finding out who I was as a man. This has been a long journey, for me it wasn't instantaneous. I remember calling Nichole that night as I left the woods telling her I was quitting this job and coming home, that I wanted to be a husband and a dad. I will never forget when she said "why?" I had treated her so badly and had made empty promises in the past, why would she believe me this time. It took a couple of years for healing to begin. There is still healing taking place, because I am far from perfect. It was in the years following moving home that I started getting active in BSF and Emmaus again. I started to read my Bible and pray on my own. My family was restored by God. I can't help but serve and worship Him for the miracles that he has and continues to perform in my life. Nichole and I are going on happily married for 25 years, and our boys are now 23,18 and 16.

There are a lot of details that I left out in that, but that is the quick or quickest version I can share, and I hope you see that when we surrender Serving in Emmaus is part of my response to a life being transformed.

I look forward to serving alongside all the wonderful board members. We are trying to be open and intentional in our communications. We want to see our community active. From sponsorship, to gatherings, to serving on teams, and being behind the scenes on the walks. Please make attending Gatherings a priority. Recently, I had a quote shared with me that I love. "Tradition shouldn't be the worship of ashes, but the preservation of the fire." With that in mind, let's make our Gatherings about preservation of the fire, not just getting together because it is the 3rd Friday of the month.

DeColores,

Kenny Harrison, Community Lay Director

A Note from our Community Spiritual Director...

As some of you may be making resolutions for the new year, might I suggest that you choose your inspiration from the following article about Noah's Ark:

“Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah's Ark.

One – Don't miss the boat.

Two – Remember that we are all in the same boat.

Three – Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.

Four – Stay fit.

Five – Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

Six – Build your future on high ground. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

Seven – For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

Eight – Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

Nine – When you're stressed, float a while.

Ten – Remember, the ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

Eleven – No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.”

Did one of these “resolutions” strike a nerve? Perhaps, you could apply one each month and review the results in December. Then, you could decide which one you most needed to hear.

Consider letting 2025 be a Noah's Ark Year for you, as you resolve to better notice God responding to your needs this year!

DE COLORES

Mike Seaney, Community Spiritual Director

But my God shall supply
all your need according
to his riches in glory
by Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:19



ANNOUNCEMENT

JANUARY 17TH, 2025
**EMMAUS
GATHERING**



Worship to be led by Justin Reid

7:00 PM Worship

7:30 PM Service

Last name A-M bring snacks & drinks

@ St Louis Crossing

6271 E 800 N, Columbus, IN 47203



A NOTE FROM OUR CHRYSALIS COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR...

The Lord has definitely shined his light on the Chrysalis ministry in 2024. He has blessed us with a supportive community, an active and passionate Chrysalis Board, with faithful and committed Lay Directors, and with willing and capable teams and Caterpillars excited for what He had prepared for them. In short, He has provided all we have needed and more than we expected.

One blessing you may not have thought much about is how the financial needs of the Chrysalis side of our Emmaus Ministry are met. We receive funding from three main sources. It's probably no surprise that team fees and caterpillar fees make up the largest portion. We also receive half of the offering from Gatherings. These two "normal" sources don't cover our costs alone. There is a small but critical group of generous people from the community who provide special financial gifts that close the gap for us. I think of these people as angel donors. Maybe they have seen Chrysalis work positively in their grandchildren or maybe the Holy Spirit has created in them a heart for young people? Whatever the reason, this third funding source is critical, and we could not be able to continue the Flights in the way we have without them. We thank God for their faithful contributions.

Looking forward to 2025, I pray the Chrysalis Board and all of you in community seek and listen carefully to the Father's guidance about our Emmaus/Chrysalis ministry and act in accordance. I can say I have never been more confident that the Lord will find us faithful in this.

Of course I have to mention the upcoming flight the weekend after Easter (April 26th – 28th) at Hilltop Camp. You can do your part in at least a couple of ways. First, sponsor a young person, our awesome registrar (John Shoemaker) is excited to receive your Flight Applications! You can find the applications on the Emmaus website. Secondly, help us make connections with the Youth Pastor/Leader at your church. We'd love to be able to send information and even come to a youth meeting to share about Chrysalis.

May the Lord bless you and your family in the New Year.

Fly With Christ!

Mark Kelly

Chrysalis Community Lay Director

mkelly@columbusinemmaus.org

[Click Here For Caterpillar Applications](#)



A NOTE FROM OUR**SPRING FLIGHT LAY DIRECTORS....**

The Lord has continued to amaze us as He has guided us in putting together the team for the upcoming flight! We have been so blessed with the willingness of the community to serve. Currently, we have a full team!

We would just like to remind the community, that there are still many other ways to serve. Other ways to serve include sponsoring a caterpillar, writing letters, attending candlelight, attending big house, making agape, and so on. The Chrysalis and Emmaus communities have played a large role in our own faith walks and we are so excited to be able to continue to witness The Lord work through the caterpillars, the team, ourselves, and the rest of the community as we serve as the upcoming Lay Directors.

We continue to lean on Him and seek His guidance as we approach the busy and exciting weekend, but we already know that He has good plans.

We can't wait to see you all in April!

Fly With Christ-
Baylee and Jasmine Mosier

[Click Here To Join the Big House Team](#)



A 4TH DAY NOTE FROM A BUTTERLY...

Hello Community,

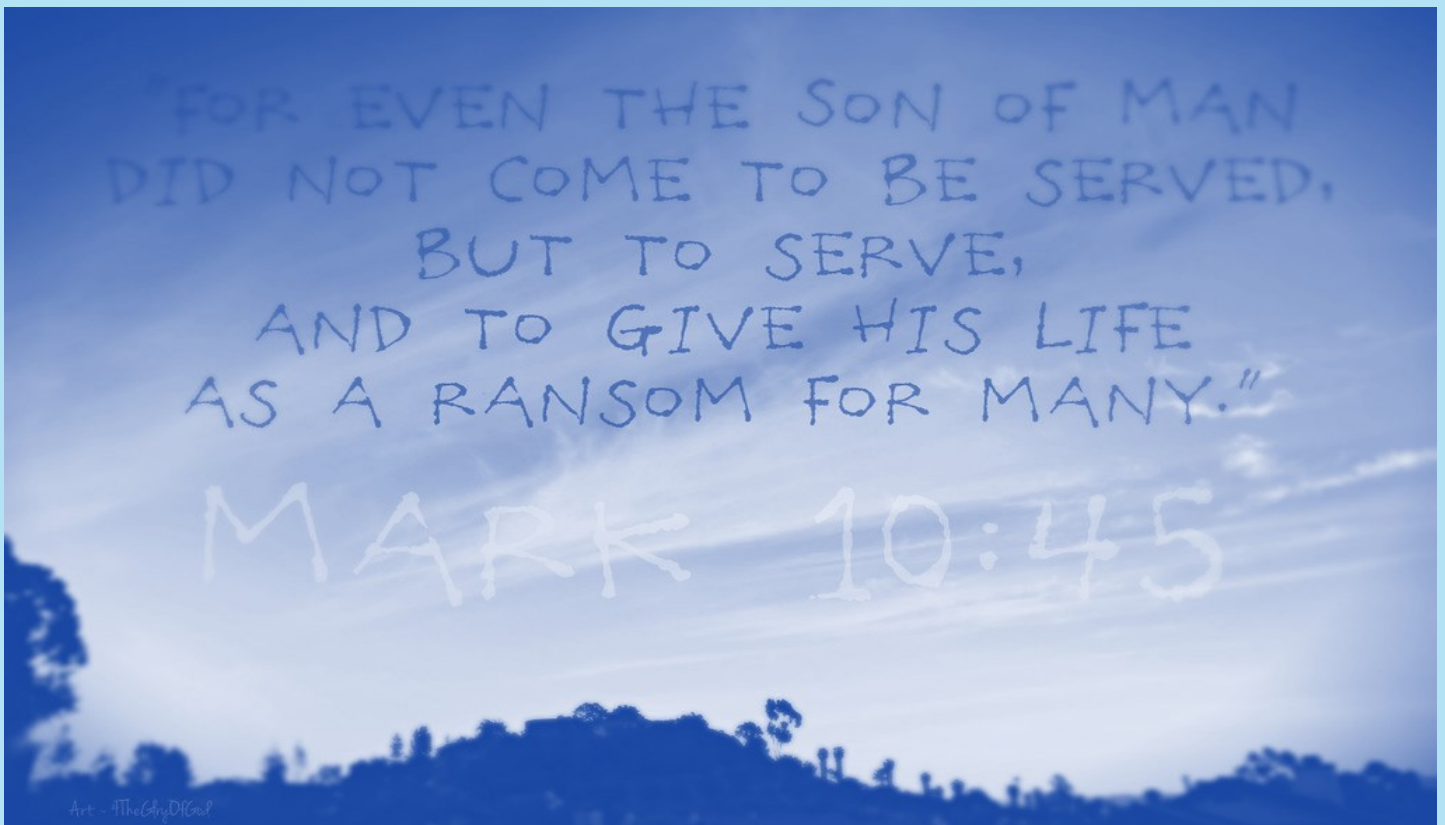
My name is Elijah Harrison, I attended Chrysalis Flight #81.

It's hard to express what my experience meant to me and my walk with the Lord! I'm super grateful to have a family involved in the Emmaus community and I love getting a chance to serve. I serve my home church in Cornerstone Youth, Operation Christmas Child, am a part of the Hospitality Team, Enter His Courts Basketball, and in many other ways. I have served on 3 Chrysalis flights and have helped with many Emmaus things! Serving has given me a new depth in my faith and a chance to serve and to meet others going in the same direction as me!

I have so many good/Godly examples to look up to and am able to set an example for others! I love serving in any way possible in our community and through Emmaus I am able to have more opportunities. It's given me a chance to make friends with other youth, looking to please the Lord and I still stay in contact with those people to this day! I look forward to serving and making an impact in others' lives!

FLY WITH CHRIST

Elijah Harrison Flight #81 Table- Fantabulous Fortnite God Squad



Meet the New Faces of the Columbus, IN Emmaus Board

COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR

Hello, My name is Kenny Harrison. I am excited to get to serve on the Emmaus Board again. I originally attended Walk #57 and set at the table of Luke. I have been married to my beautiful wife Nichole for 24 years, who attended Walk #58. We are blessed with three wonderful boys. Ben (23), Elijah (18), and Ezra (16). All three of our boys have attended Chrysalis and love serving on Chrysalis teams. I am excited about my new role on the board as Community Lay Director. My Favorite Bible verse(s) right now is 2 Chronicles 34:30-31



COMMUNITY SECRETARY

Greetings to you in Christ Jesus! My name is Debbie Raynor, Walk #36, Table of Deborah. It is my honor to serve on the Columbus IN Area Emmaus Board of Directors as secretary for these next 3 years. I am married to Philip Raynor (Walk #35, Table of Matthew), we have 4 grown children between us and 8 wonderful grandchildren. My church is Ogilville Christian Church and I absolutely love it because the Lord is active and working through His people there! I love to praise the Lord and seek His Face! May His will be accomplished as we all serve together to bring others to see His amazing greatness!

TRANSPORTATION/FACILITIES

Hello, my name is Cody Mosier. I attended walk #95, table of Andrew.

I will be forever grateful to Bob Casey for sponsoring me.

I have been married to Jessica Mosier for over 28 years and we have 4 children. Our sons, Baylee(his wife Jasmine,) Layton(his wife Jillian,) Hayden(his fiancé Caity,) and our daughter Emilee (boyfriend Emmett,) through the blessings of God have ALL attended and worked on many walks and flights.

I was grateful to serve as Walk #131 Lay Director and together, my wife and I, served as Chrysalis Lay Directors a few years ago.

We attend and are members of Ogilville Christian Church where I currently serve as one of the elders. I also regularly attend a Thursday morning reunion group.

I am forever grateful for ALL Emmaus has done for me and look forward to serving on the board in the Transport/Facilities role. Thank you Michelle Weintraut for leading this the last few years and helping me transition into this role.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

I'm Jeremy Keller, walk #95. I have a wife Cindy and two daughters, Shea and Ali. I have served on numerous walks, flights, and REC weekends in various roles. Because I believe in Emmaus and what it has done for me, I am now serving on the board and have the privilege of calling different churches to host gatherings. If your church has the facilities to host a gathering and have not hosted one recently, please feel free to text me at 260-729-2353 and we will see about getting something reserved. I would say my life verse would be Luke 21:1-4. God does not need me to have it all figured out. God does not need me to be qualified. God does not need me to have a lot to offer. God has called me to simply give what I got and let Him use it.

SPONSORSHIP/REUNION GROUPS

Hello Community, my name is Carolyn Pool, Walk #27 table of Sarah at Camp Moneto My husband Steven attended Walk #48 and our son Christopher Pool was on Flight #21. I will be taking care of Sponsorship/ Reunion Groups. Jeremiah 29:11 is my life verse. “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”



AGAPE

My name is Mike Shoemaker, Original Walk #67 table of Andrew. My wife is Sarah and we have 2 adult children Kaitlyn and Lincoln. We have 3 grandchildren Alex(8), Oliver(6), and Ella(3). I enjoy fishing and going to concerts with friends. My favorite verse, as my flesh can sometimes struggle with this is Ephesians 4:29, “Let no unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building up the one in need and bringing grace to those who listen. I am looking for to serving on the Emmaus board as your Agape Rep.

TRAINER

I am John Weintraut, Original Walk #109, and am blessed to be considered as being worthy to be on the Emmaus board. I look forward to filling the trainer position and serving the body as our King desires. We have been also blessed with loving family, 6 children and 9 grandchildren. Our favorite times are Sunday after worship and praise, sitting around the table, breaking bread, and just fellowshiping. God has poured out His Mercy and Grace on us this year in amazing ways and we wouldn't change a thing. Our prayer is for His glory and praise. I look forward to getting back in the jail for ministry and working with the men who have battled some of the same demons I have. Introducing them to the One who sets free forever and teaching them their identity in Him is my greatest passion. May God Who created all things strengthen and give you peace this year as He continues to grow you and transform you into the image of His Son. Amen



The Community would like to extend a gracious “Thank you” to our Outgoing Board Members. Your service to the Lord and thus to our Emmaus Community is gratefully appreciated.

WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANTS

Amanda Edwards– Secretary

Deanna Glick– Music

Kathy Rudolph - Agape

Michelle Weintraut– Transportation and Facilities

Peggy Ganus - Agape



UPDATES for the COMMUNITY:

Hello everyone, I am excited to share some of the following updates. Lots of good things are happening.

- I want to thank Dave Goodner for the last two years he spent as Community Lay Director. This position is typically one year, but when no one was there to fulfill the role the second year Dave continued to lead, serve and guide our community. I am grateful for his heart for Christ and his willingness to serve our community. I am excited to have his guidance this next year as he continues to serve on the board as Past Community Lay Director.
- We have several new board members. The website has been updated to show your current board members. I just want to remind you that the people filling the different roles on the board are responsible for the roles and responsibilities for the position they are in. This doesn't mean they can only do the R&Rs by themselves. Let's be a community that serves. Look at the board positions and board members and see how you can help them. We all live very busy lives and helping each other not only makes the jobs easier, but also allows us time to fellowship and disciple one another.
- Open board positions. We currently have 2 open board positions. They are Music Coordinator and Agape. I would ask that you pray about these positions. I heard a sermon by Francis Chan once where he mentioned that we should be serving and praying, asking God if I should stop serving (paraphrased). We should assume that He wants us to serve. It is a different mindset than our normal asking God if we should serve. I love it and think it embraces our call to love and serve others more accurately. The two open positions would be 2-year positions. If you feel like these are positions where you could help your community, please reach out to Greg Johnson.
- Lastly..... what are we doing for a conference room. Several volunteers from the board created a committee to solve the issue. We met at camp Sunday, December 22nd with some tables and open minds. We prayed before starting the meeting and were able to quickly come up with some wonderful solutions. Not saying there isn't still work to do. Here is a brief overview of the plan. Details will be worked out as we go through the manual and Agape handbook. We don't think the change is going to be difficult. We also don't feel that the change makes us compromise or give up things, just changes them. As a reminder.....

"The objective of Emmaus is to inspire, challenge, and equip the local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, communities and places of work".

I ask that you keep the Emmaus purpose and this quote (slightly modified) in mind as you look at the changes and possibly serve on the upcoming team.

"Hard times create strong people, strong people create good times." - G. Michael Hopf

UPDATES for the COMMUNITY Continued

Let's have some good times together. The board realizes there might be some tweaks to the plan after the walk. We are open to meeting or reading notes from those who served on team to see if further modifications are needed (please document your changes during the walk). So, with all that said here are the high-level changes.

1. Mohegan to be the conference room.
 - a. 7 tables max – number of pilgrims to remain at 36
 - b. The music team size suggested to be 3-4 people
 - i. Suggested no drum sets – but other percussions instruments might fit (cajon, tambourine, cow bell) □
 - c. The conference room will only change to chapel for a couple times for specific events – should be easy for those who have served in REC.
 - d. Book table we most likely be down at the dining room (like Chrysalis)

I know these plans are very vague..... I guess you will have to wait for more details to be released, serve on team, or join the board to get the details quicker.

Below are a few pictures from our meeting and a couple of layouts Mark Kelly worked up. As you can see, it will all fit. We set up the tables in Mohegan and 7 of us set around a table and had space for our stuff.

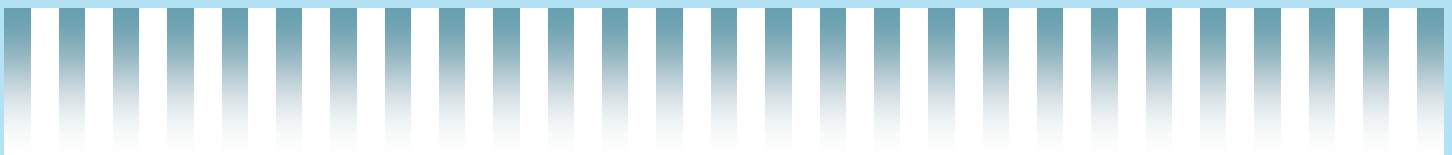
Please continue to pray for those on the board who will be working through the manuals adjusting these changes

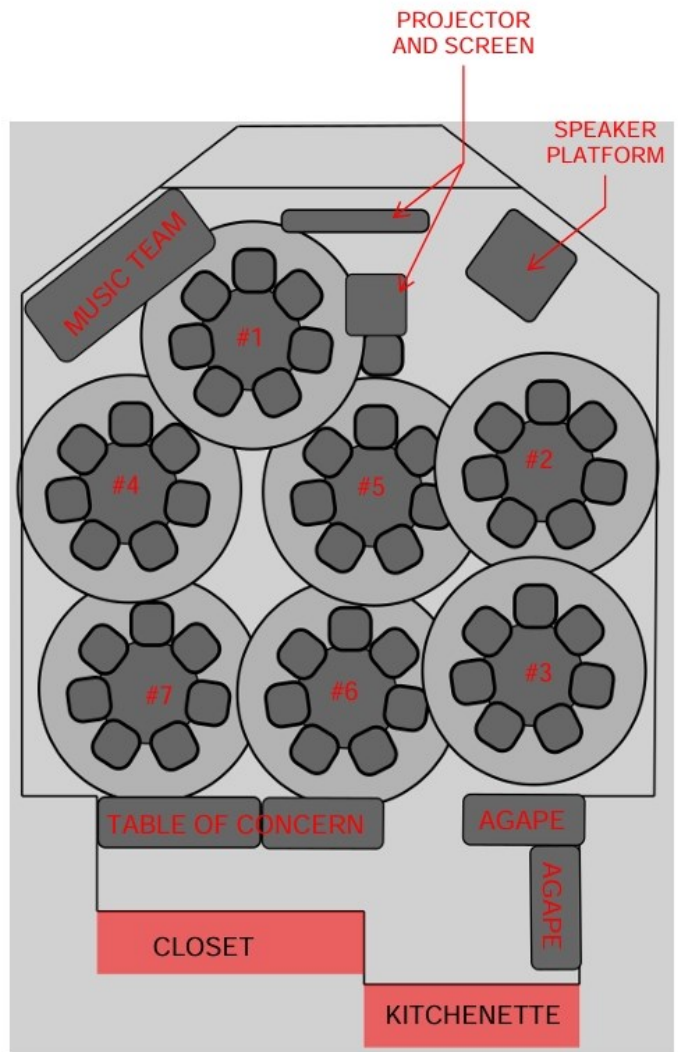
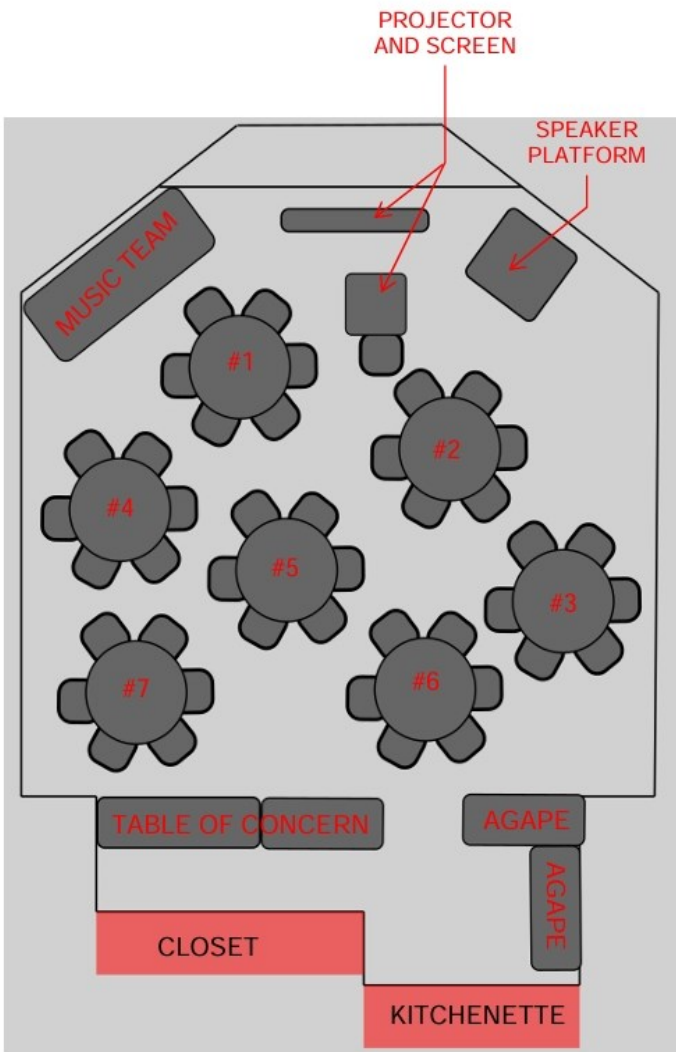
I ask that you keep the Emmaus purpose and this quote (slightly modified) in mind as you look at the changes and possibly serve on the upcoming team.

"Hard times create strong people, strong people create good times." - G. Michael Hopf

DE COLORES

Kenny Harrison, Community Lay Director





Upcoming Community Events

Community Gatherings 2024-2025

Jan 17th — 7:00 PM Worship
7:30 PM Service
Last name A-M bring
snacks & drinks

ST LOUIS CROSSING
6271 E. 800 N Co Rd
Columbus, IN 47203

Feb 21st — 7:00 PM Worship
7:30 PM Service
Last name N-Z bring
snacks & drinks

BROWNSTOWN CHRISTIAN
703 W SPRING ST
BROWNSTOWN, IN 47220

March — No Gathering Due to
SPRING WALKS
DETAILS TO COME



Gather
AND BE GRATEFUL

Board Meetings

CHRYSALIS— JANUARY 7th at 6:00PM

SANDY HOOK UMC 1610 TAYLOR RD CLMBS 47203

EMMAUS— JANUARY 11th- 9:00 AM

OCC 7891 W 450 S, Columbus, IN

BOARD CONTACT INFO



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