

# The Emmaus News

Columbus Indiana Area Emmaus Community, Inc.

June 2023 vol 31 issue 6

Greetings Emmaus Community,

We just celebrated Memorial Day and I want to personally thank all the men and women who sacrificed their lives to secure and maintain our freedoms. Because of them, we have the freedoms granted to us in the constitution, including the freedom to worship and to meet together at events like the walk to Emmaus.

We are a blessed country, and a blessed community to have this thing called The Walk to Emmaus. Many communities are struggling since the pandemic to regain the activities and strength of their organizations. While we have not regained our attendance at Gatherings, we have been strong in attendance at the walks.

Let's make a commitment to use our freedom of worship, not only in our local churches, but also at our Send-Offs, Candlelights, Closings, and monthly Gatherings. Speaking of Gatherings, thanks to all who came to Parkview Nazarene in May. It is a beautiful church in a beautiful location. Thanks to the Pastor and congregation for allowing us to use their facility.

Also, a big shout out to Dale and Linda Guse for sharing their Fourth Day story, which has been in progress over the last thirty years. You two are an inspiration to all of us. Thank you for serving and sharing.

On another note, I have been asked by some of the Butterflies if they can go on an Emmaus Walk? The answer is yes. It is not required to serve on a walk, but it is permitted. If you are a parent of a Butterfly, please pass this on. The only requirements to attend a walk are to be 18 or over and be active in your local church.

That reminds me, we are looking for team applications now from those who want to serve on the Fall walks. You will find those on the Emmaus website.

Are you praying about who to sponsor on the Fall walks? It would be a welcome surprise to the registrar to get some applications this month.

**De Colores!**

Dave Goodner, Community Lay Director



## *From our Community Spiritual Director...*

One of the reasons we celebrate this new Pentecost season is that Jesus ushered it in with a great promise – “But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.” (John 14:26)

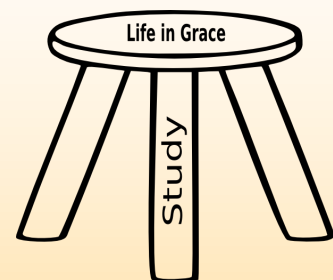
One of the legs of that stool that appeared in some of those talks we heard focused on our need for study. We especially need to mine the Scriptures for truth. But we probably should have warned you. Study might just challenge some of our traditional beliefs and practices!

The Apostles of Christ studied the Scriptures, and discovered that Jesus was indeed the Messiah, the expected Christ! In this new truth, they chose to obey God rather than to support old traditions. And through their own studies, other Christians over the years have challenged what was previously thought to be true and proper – Martin Luther did, John Wesley did, abolitionists did over black slavery, women did concerning their place in the Church, & today those of the gay community are challenging traditional Christian beliefs and practices.

That promised Holy Spirit wants us to know the truth, and to live by it. As we dive deeply into the Word, we might just confirm our traditional beliefs, or we might find we need to make some changes. But as we study, may the Spirit lead us into truth, and give us the courage to stand in that truth!

**De Colores!**

Pastor Mike Seaney,  
Community Spiritual Director



Perry Shepard Walk 93 Table of Mark...

Hello Columbus Area Emmaus Community.

I grew up in Seymour and my wonderful wife Gail is from Ogilville. We've been married 44 years and are members of Ogilville Christian Church.

We retired in 2019 and are now members of SOWER's (Servants On Wheels Ever Ready), an RV ministry for Christian couples. We live full time in our motor coach and travel 6 to 7 months a year serving at places like Christian based camps, ranches, missionary support and flight centers, and schools. We're so blessed to be able to help fill some of the needs of all the camps and facilities God calls us to serve.

We're also blessed beyond words to be a part of this community. As we look back, we realize our walks and the people we came to know became our first steps in what God has planned for our lives. Wow, what a 4<sup>th</sup> day! Being a part of this community is one of just a few things we miss while living on the road and we're thankful for the time we get to spend serving and seeing everyone while in the area.

After serving on a team my first time, I knew agape was the only place for me, but God had other plans. I'm now excited to be the lay director for the upcoming fall walk and can't wait to see who will attend, who will serve, and what God has in store for all the men. As you all realize, God touches each person in a unique way on their walks.

Thanks to all of you for your prayers and support as God makes His plans known!

God bless you all.

Happy to be in His service... Jeremiah 29:11

De Colores



## Meet our fall 2023 Walk Lay Directors

Hello, my name is Susan Criswell. I am privileged and at the same time shocked to be asked to serve as the lay director for the upcoming Fall walk # 130.

I am a retired teacher. God has blessed me with a loving husband and 2 precious adult children.

I remember on my fall walk # 13, I was like a deer staring into bright headlights.

I drew closer to my Lord and Savior. I was also blessed to serve more in my home church after my walk experience.

My prayer for the pilgrims on walk # 130 is that their hearts would be set on fire for Jesus.

Thank you for all your prayers and continued prayers and support.

De Colores,

Susan Criswell



Dear Emmaus Community,

I want to thank you for the honor to be lay director of Walk 127. What an amazing opportunity that I will remember for a lifetime. I am so excited to see what God has planned for us as a community with the fall Flights and Walks. Every time I get to serve, I feel like that walk/flight was better than the last, but I am realizing that is because I see God working in me and others in new ways. I see things being done that I didn't know needed done. As lay director, I got to see several of these things and thought I would take advantage of this opportunity to write a letter to the community to share what they may not be aware of. Agape is not just for the pilgrims, but for the team.

Did you know that the team is made up of first timers, somewhat experienced, and very experienced community members? Did you also know that when serving for your first time you can only serve on agape or kitchen team? Did you know that when following those guidelines and ratios that typically a team should only have 6 first time team members? That is really difficult because typically we gain 60-72 men and 60-72 women per year. Most of them want to serve after having just been on their walk. So, I think this list below is vital because as you see below there are so many opportunities to be a part of the walks and team. Being part of the team out at camp is great, but selflessly loving others with out them always knowing..... that sounds like how our Heavenly Father loves us. We would not have a growing and successful community if people were not already doing these things. I am grateful for all of you who already do them. I just wanted to share the opportunity with new community members. Also don't hesitate to ask new members to help you if you are doing some of these things, or things that I missed. That is what makes our community so special to me. The love we have for each other. There is a reason Cindy named the camp "Love View" because our love for one another is visible, by the invisible way we love.

1. Pre-talk and post-talk agape. These letters or "agape" encourage the speaker letting them know that you love and support them.
2. Piano player for agape meal. This adds such a beautiful touch to the agape meal, if you are blessed with this talent, you can always reach out to the lay director and volunteer (usually an ALD oversees this, but the lay director will know which one)
3. Agape meal servers. I think everyone is aware of this opportunity, so I won't go into detail on this one. The only thing I would add is the skits really amplify this special time, so if you are serving you might be thinking of a skit you would want to help with.
4. Thursday night pilgrim monitor. After sendoff and sponsors hour you stay and are there for 30-60 minutes to allow the team to have their first team meeting. The pilgrims are in silence, so you are there just incase they need something. I always feel bad as an ALD asking someone to do this, so if you feel this fits you, you can always volunteer.
5. Candlelight camp watch. When the bus/vans leave the camp for candlelight someone stays at the camp and just makes sure everything is secure. All the cabins and lodges are left unlocked during this time. I really feel bad asking someone to miss candlelight, but I know candlelight isn't always everyone's thing, so if that is you..... feel free to call the lay director and vol-

Continued on page 5...

6. Meal during training. Volunteering to make a meal for the team. I have seen this done by a reunion group but not very often recently..... at least on the men's training. If you want to bless and support the team this is a great one to volunteer for.
7. Taking a number to pray for. This has always been such a blessing when I have had the opportunity to do this. I am really grateful for those that organize this. Typically, 1-2 Gatherings before the walk you can sign up for a number. The order that the pilgrims sign up is tracked and you receive a text that gives you a name to go with the number you have been praying for. You can also write an agape letter to this pilgrim letting them know you've been praying for them before you even had a name to go with the number, how special for that pilgrim to be showered with love in this way!
8. Prayer chart. This one has been struggling to get filled. I hate to see that, because what better way to selflessly love someone than to pray for them. If we want to have an impact on a walk, lives of those working or attending a walk, our community and families, then we have to take this opportunity seriously and with excitement! Our conversation with our Heavenly Father changes things. If we are not a praying community, we will quickly become a weak and struggling community. There is power in prayer. This one not only blesses those being prayed for, but the person praying.
9. Candlelight cleanup. This usually gets dropped on the church hosting it, which isn't always fair. Several hands make this work light. Most of it is putting away tables and chairs after the community has written any last-minute agape letters. If you want to volunteer to help with this, contact the board person listed as facilities on the website.
10. Closing/Camp cleanup. Another opportunity to serve behind the scenes. This is loading all the supplies used at camp back into the trailer so they can go to storage. The agape and kitchen team typically have a majority of this ready and can be loaded right before closing. All it requires is to show up early for closing. If you want to volunteer to help with this, contact the board person listed as supplies on the website.

Thanks again for the amazing opportunity. I look forward to continuing to serve and love others with you all.

De Colores,

Kenny Harrison

**Please note the dates and locations for the upcoming Gatherings**

**(Gatherings begin at 7pm unless otherwise noted)**

June 16th ~ Edinburgh UMC (A-M bring snacks and drinks)

July ~ NO GATHERING

August 18th ~ Asbury UMC (N-Z bring snacks and drinks)

September 15th ~ Garden City Christian Church

(A-M bring snacks, N-Z bring drinks)



## Community Gatherings

June 16th, 2023 at 7pm

Edinburgh UMC at 107 W Campbell St, Edinburgh, IN 461240

**LAST NAMES A~M PLEASE BRING SNACKS AND DRINKS**

Chrysalis Flights #85 and #86

September 2-4, 2023

Currently accepting applications

Men's Walk #129

October 26-29, 2023

Currently accepting applications

Women's Walk #130

November 2-5, 2023

Currently accepting applications



## Board Meetings

**Chrysalis** ~Tuesday, June 6th, 6 pm at

The Rock 3990 Rocky Ford Rd, Columbus, IN 47203

**Emmaus** ~Saturday June 10th, 9 am at

The Rock 3990 Rocky Ford Rd, Columbus, IN 47203



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!