

August 2026

S I D N E Y E M M A U S
El Quiri
NEWSLETTER

A Message from the Chairman:

Friends,

I hope your summer has not been too hot so far, but I do know one place with some pleasant AC, and that is the sanctuary at 7pm each night we have a gathering over at Sidney First. And wouldn't you know, we just so happened to have a gathering coming up here soon on August 11th. The meal starts at 6pm as always (remember your covered dish to share), but the neat thing is that our August gathering is our "Picnic gathering" for the Greater Sidney Area Emmaus community. There are some exciting surprises and pleasant food fun planned for the picnic. I won't spoil things but check out the rest of the newsletter and keep watching the Emmaus Facebook page for additional details or updates.

This "picnic" gathering for August may be a bit special, but keep in mind that this is also a time that your friends and family are welcome to attend as well. Let me also remind you all that even though we may call this "our" Greater Sidney Area Emmaus gathering, our brothers and sisters in Christ from ANY Emmaus community are always welcome to every gathering we have throughout the year.

We are not a community without connection to Christ and our fellow believers. What better way to enrich that connection than through the fellowship of a shared meal and the worship of our Lord as one body in Christ. I sincerely hope to see you there at our next gathering. Be sure to post your prayer needs on the Facebook page so that we can bear those burdens or join in the joy - together. My prayer for each of you is that every day God gives you is filled with strength of God's spirit and the beautiful love of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

God Bless,

Joe Sutton

GSAE Chairman 2026



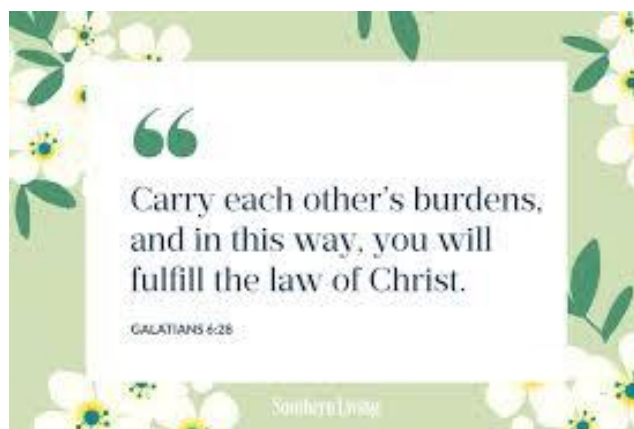
Community Information

The Greater Sidney Area Emmaus holds a monthly gathering. Gatherings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Gatherings are open to anyone! We meet at Sidney First Methodist Church, 230 E. Poplar St. Please join us in the worship and fellowship. Remember, when Emmaus Meets, Emmaus Eats! Bring a dish to share at the Meal which begins at 6 pm with service following and beginning at 7 pm.

2026 dates for gatherings are:

August 11 th	September 8 th	October 13 th	November 10 th
December 8 th			,

THANK YOU, TO THE AMAZING MUSIC LEADERS WE HAVE IN EMMAUS! We sure are blessed to have so many amazing voices within our community. If you'd like to be added to the group for music, whether it's instrumental or vocal, let a board member know.



Welcome To the Emmaus Community.

Pilgrims of Women's Walk #96 -

June 2026

Kirsty Barhorst
Linda Kite
Chelsea Randolph
Jessie Steinke

Christina Bender
Patty Lefeld
Lexi Roby
Louisa Warner

Bethanie Gambill
Brooke Miller
Mary Jo Rupert
Chelsea
Westerbeck

Molly Heath
Theresa Oren
Valerie Schroer
Ashley Wood

Summer Huston
June Penny
Judi Skonieczny

Message from our Lay Directors:

Women's Lay Director

What a blessing it was to be a part of Woman's Walk 96. The Team formation was very successful as the team jelled very quickly. Even though we met as a team weekly, the team members were reaching out to each other during the week. Each team member took their position seriously and they took the initiative to learn their role. As the LD I was there to organize but the team members stepped up and learned their job flawlessly. Because of their focus, team meetings were efficient and always ended on time.

The Team walked into the weekend with a spirit of joy and charity. They were all willing to step in and take care of a task even if it was not their role. The team members were concerned about final output and not who did what. They relied on each other and operated as one body. The Walk was just as successful. We were blessed with a group of Pilgrims that already had a relationship with Christ and was looking to go to the next level.

The Walk was blessed by a group of strong mature ladies that were looking to deepen their Christian faith. This was evident by the deep questions asked throughout the weekend.

The Pilgrims were made up of Christians from many different denominations and all pilgrims participated in all activities. They were open to Emmaus schedule and activities of the weekend. The level of the maturity of the pilgrims was very evident in how they ministered to each other. One example is during the examination of conscience after Saturday candlelight, a pilgrim went to the altar to pray.

Before the Spiritual Director could go to the pilgrim, two other pilgrims from the team went to her and prayed with her. Another example is we had a couple of team members that experienced a migraine over the weekend. Several pilgrims stepped up to check on the team member and they were concerned about her health and were checking in on them. By the end of the weekend, I felt the line was blurred between who was on team and who was a pilgrim. Before the team meetings began, my hope and dream for the weekend was that the team and pilgrims got closer to Jesus through our shared joy. I can say that my hope and dreams were realized as this was the most joyful team that I have even been a part of. I was truly blessed by their love for each other and the pilgrims, and the love and joy they showed me. And yes, I had the time of my life and I owe it all to God.

Blessings,

Deb Loewer, Lay Director

We are prayerfully planning for the next set of walks!!

Women's Walk #97, October 8th – October 11th 2026

Men's Walk #87, November 5th – 8th 2026

Please check website www.sidneyemmaus.org for list of past team members and pilgrims. Team rosters will be posted well before the walk and pilgrims for upcoming walks will be posted 3 weeks before the walk.



SERVING IN THE KITCHEN

NEW Kitchen Sign Up

We now have an online option to sign up for kitchen crew! This will allow everyone the opportunity to sign up to serve and cook in the kitchen during the Walk weekends. Although, there are a couple of ways to sign up.

1. There is a link on the Emmaus Facebook page that will take you to the signup web site.
2. You can click on the link below and that will also take you to the signup web site.

https://www.sidneyemmaus.org/v2_kitchen.htm

3. Don't have Facebook? You can contact Deb Loewer and she can sign you up. daloewer@gmail.com or 937-570-0798



Sidney Emmaus Kitchen Serving Schedule



Some features of the sign-up process:

1. Allows you to sign up yourself and others. Please remember, you must have attended a Chrysalis or Emmaus weekend to help in the kitchen.
2. Provides everyone with a view of the spots that are open and where we still need willing servants. (Note - even if all the spots are filled, you are welcome to join the kitchen crew and lend an extra hand).
3. Allows everyone to remove themselves from a spot if he/she is no longer able to serve.
4. If you enter your email address, you will receive a reminder email 7 days before your time to serve. (Note - their privacy policy states they will NOT sell your email address to other marketers).

We are hoping the online process gives everyone more opportunities to serve and be part of the kitchen crew during the Walk weekend. If you have any questions, problems, or concerns, feel free to contact Deb Loewer at daloewer@gmail.com.

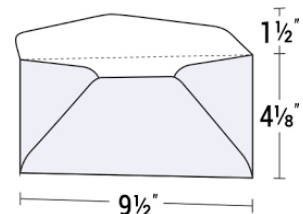
AGAPE REMINDERS!!



Thank you to our AGAPE Servants – Please see Shari or Ron with any questions

Just a few reminders about Agape for weekends:

1. If you have **bedtime or meal** Agape, there needs to be **60 pieces** if it is for all. If you want it to be just **pilgrim bedtime**, there needs to be at least **30**. **If you have a preference, please mark accordingly or let us know when dropping off. **
2. **NO MEGA AGAPE!!** What is considered Mega Agape? Anything larger than an envelope is considered mega agape. While we all know it is nice to receive these, please save for after the walk when your pilgrim is picked up on Sunday. We need to make sure that whatever is given to pilgrims fits in their envelope packet on Sunday. (This includes for team also. If you want to make gift bags for team, please deliver them Thursday evening or throughout the weekend on your own. It makes more work for your logs who are passing out the bedtime agape to try to get it all done!
3. **PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL AGAPE IS MARKED WITH FIRST AND LAST Name!!** Also, adding “pilgrim” or “team” helps. Please try to make sure there is no Agape marked, “mom”, “dad”, “Aunt Sally”, “Uncle Joe”, etc. as we are not always sure who it belongs to with those markings, and we want to make sure it gets to the right person. (There is a sample of this on the Emmaus Facebook page!) Please remember: **PILGRIMS RECEIVE NO PERSONAL AGAPE EXCEPT IN SUNDAY PACKET!!** Please see Facebook page for “how-to’s” if you have questions. If it is for a team member giving a talk, please mark, “Talk Agape” on the envelope or include the name of their talk so they get it at the proper times. Also, team can receive Agape Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening. Please mark which evening if you’d like them to receive it on a specific evening.
4. If you have Agape for the spiritual directors that are not live in, please mark them. If they are not a live in, we have a hard time getting their agape to them after their talk.
5. There are baskets in the Agape room that are labeled. Please make sure to use the baskets or leave them on the table. **PLEASE DO NOT GO BEHIND THE TABLE**. This can confuse things for those working in the agape room as they have their own system.
6. There are cards, bookmarks and writing utensils available in the Agape room if you need to write Agape during the weekend. We ask that if you use these, please drop in the correct basket when you are finished and please put pens and unused things back in basket they were provided in.
7. If you have any questions, please contact Ron/Shari Courter and they will be happy to help you!



Example:

First Name Last Name -- Pilgrim

First Name - Last Name – Team -
Thursday, Friday or Saturday or Talk Agape

P.S. Only team members can be in teams sleeping quarters!! PLEASE don't take any agape and put on team's beds during the weekend. If a team member needs something, please give to the logs, or leave in Agape room and they will give it to the team member. If you have team agape for your prayer partner, please place on their bed as not to make extra work for LOGS.

Emmaus Etiquette Reminders

- 1) Try to always wear your name tag to Emmaus functions.
- 2) Be considerate that only speaker requested prayer partners listen to talks.
- 3) Keep the holy atmosphere at candlelight.
- 4) **No photographs at any Walk weekend Emmaus activity.** We need to honor the pilgrim's privacy.
- 5) No one other than pilgrims and live in team are allowed in the conference room or sleeping quarters.
- 6) When volunteering during the weekend you should have minimal contact with pilgrims and live in team.
- 7) Working in the kitchen as support of the weekend you should keep your intended contact with the pilgrims within the task or service you are performing. Some examples:
 - This is the pilgrim's weekend and not yours, but that does not mean you should be silent or ignore them in a disrespectful way. Be loving, be a good listener, be flexible, but also understand that in serving the pilgrims as part of the weekend, you need to be genuine and focused on serving the walk. Focusing too much attention on particular team members or pilgrims may pull the focus of the weekend away from moving the pilgrims towards the love Christ has for each of us.
 - Christ is all about relationship and this weekend is about moving the pilgrims to a deeper relationship with Christ. You are Christ's representative as part of the kitchen's support to the weekend. Be of service but also be aware of the bigger picture.
 - If a pilgrim talks to you or initiates a conversation, don't push them away or cut them off. It is not "illegal" or "punishable" to talk to a pilgrim or team member, but we need to be aware that we should not be the ones to pursue it or maintain it longer than a moment or two.
 - The team members are working to a schedule and the pilgrims are also. As kitchen team members, we need to try and not hold up the team members or pilgrims. Breaks or "downtime" are not free time for the kitchen team to simply pull a pilgrim or team member aside for lengthy conversations.
- 8) When to wear your purple cross? It is not against the rules to wear it any other time, but we ask you to make sure you bring it to closing as a showing of community.
- 9) Respect the wishes of Sidney First Methodist. We are their guests.
- 10) If you move something in the church building, please put it back when you are finished.
- 11) Please Leave the church building as clean or cleaner than you found it.
- 12) Wednesday night setup per Sidney First Methodist requirements:
 - a. **Report to 1st floor for setup instructions at 8:30PM**
 - b. **No one allowed on other floors or areas of the church until instructions given**
- 13) No live in team member in the church **before 4 PM on Thursday** afternoon during walk weekends.
- 14) When volunteering please use the "buddy system". Do not go anywhere alone.
- 15) **No children or others that have not attended a weekend may attend Candlelight or Closing.**



Sponsor Responsibility/Etiquette

- 1) Honestly answer all pilgrims question and explain what goes on at weekend. There are no secrets.
- 2) You are responsible to make sure pilgrim **has at least 15 pieces of personal agape letters**. These should be brought to the Agape room at sendoff on Thursday night. We really don't want to have to read off a pilgrim's name at Candlelight.
- 3) Personally bring your pilgrim to Thursday night sendoff. It is your responsibility to bring them and help them settle in.
- 4) If your pilgrim is unable to attend the weekend immediately contact the Registrar or Sponsorship board member so we are not waiting for them to show up.
- 5) Attend Sponsor's Hour Chapel immediately after Thursday night sendoff. It is your responsibility to pray over your pilgrim's cross as part of the extended weekend team.
- 6) Attend Candlelight and greet your pilgrim! **(No pictures and no agape!!)**
- 7) Attend Closing. **(No pictures, No Children and No guests unless they have attended Chrysalis or Emmaus!!!)** Don't forget to grab your pilgrim's Agape packet from the Gathering Place after closing. Anything that is left will be available at gathering or on the next weekend.
- 8) Take your pilgrim home. Be sure to check in on them throughout the week.
- 9) Help your pilgrim get into a share group. If help is needed, contact the Good Shepherd.
- 10) Bring pilgrim to the walk reunion gathering (typically next gathering after walk weekend)



****Please make sure there are no phones at candlelight or closing!! Photography or videos are not permitted at gatherings, candlelight or at closing! We also ask that there be no children at Candlelight or Closing as these events are also only open to those that have attended a walk or Chrysalis flight! Gatherings and Sendoff are open to anyone!!****



Other Updates

Team Fee Updates:

- *Due to increasing cost of food and various items, Team Fees are now \$70*

Sunday Kitchen Servers – Parking Update:

- *In respect and honor of attendees to church services, please park on the street when serving in the kitchen on Sunday.*

Board Meetings

Meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of each month, meet in Chapel at 6:45 pm. If you would like to be added to the agenda, please contact Joe Sutton or Dawn Heppard.

PLEASE NOTE:

We can now accept credit card payments for the weekend and for book table!! If you have any questions, please see Deb Loewer or any board member!

WILLING SERVANT / SHARE GROUP FORMS

Forms are available on our Emmaus Website : www.sidneyemmaus.org, under forms or on the Facebook Page. You can mail it to Sidney First Methodist at the attached address or send to princess_lumc@yahoo.com.

Or bring it to a Gathering and put it in the collection plate. We need this information, so we can contact you to serve on future teams, and to keep you updated on events.

Board of Directors

Leadership-Dawn Heppardt

Treasurer - Deb Loewer

Men's Registrar-Jaysen Rump

Men's Good Shepherd-Monte Heppard

Logistics- Brent Roessner

Worship—Audra Sutton

Newsletter – Trena Hershberger

Database/Tech Team-Corinne Olson/Scott Newcomer/Rhonda Wildermuth/Gary Cron/Pam Wagner

Chairman-Joe Sutton

Secretary- Jill Ludwig

Women's Registrar- Sandy Freewalt

Women's Good Shepherd-Mickey Shoffner

Literature-Fran Miller/Christy Akers

Music-Dave Rump

Kitchen - Lisa Viers /Dawn and Scott Pulfer

Vice Chairman-Maurya Ryan

Sponsorship- Sarah Steenrod

Agape-Ron/Shari Courter

Supplies Kelly Swarts

Social- Deb Schmidt

Outreach-Bill Schmidt

Spiritual Director- Pastor Eileen Hix

De Colores!





Date: _____

WILLING SERVANT FORM

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. - 2 Corinthians 9:12-13

Name _____ Birth Year _____

Mailing Address _____

City State Zip code _____

Email address _____ Church _____

Phone Number: Home _____ Mobile _____

When and where of original walk _____

Interested in serving on Live in team? _____

Are you in a share group? _____ Women _____ Men _____ Both

Name of share group _____ Are you accepting new members _____ Yes _____ No

Members of Share Group (First and Last Name) _____

When (Day/time) and where (City) you meet _____

**We ask you to PRAY about your commitment and to serve in any way you can.
Remember that it should be done in God's timing and not your own. Christ is counting on you!**

**The following are ways that you can serve during the year and walk weekends. Please mark the areas you are willing to serve.
You can also contact your Emmaus Board to see where you can help. Visit www.sidneyemmaus.org for current board list.**

Walk Weekends:

- ____ Serve in Kitchen by Cooking or Serving
- ____ Assist with set-up/teardown for Send Off meal
- ____ Assist with set-up for Candlelight dinner
- ____ Assist with weekend clown ministry

Music:

- ____ Sing / play guitar / piano / other instrument
- ____ Special Music at Gatherings
- ____ Dinner music for Candlelight dinner
- ____ Saturday night entertainment
- ____ Serve on live in team as Music Director/Asst

Monthly Gatherings (2nd Tuesday each month):

- ____ Assist with Meal set-up or clean-up
- ____ Give a Fourth Day Talk
- ____ Special Music at Gatherings

Weekend Agape:

- ____ 72 Hour Prayer Vigil
- ____ Meal Agape
- ____ Bedtime Agape

**Please help us to update these records so we can contact you for future walks.
Make copies and pass them out to others in your share group or church that have attended the walk to Emmaus.
You can mail this form to the church as addressed on the other side or email to sidneyemmaus@gmail.com**

Greater Sidney Area Emmaus Community
Sidney First Methodist Church
230 E. Poplar Street
Sidney, Ohio 45365

Please
Stamp

Leadership Chairman
Greater Sidney Area Emmaus Community
Sidney First Methodist Church
230 E. Poplar Street
Sidney, Ohio 45365

EMMAUS - The focus of Emmaus is God as known in Jesus Christ and how that finds expression in the local church. The objective of Emmaus is to inspire, challenge, empower, and equip local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, and places of work. Emmaus lifts up a way for our grace-filled life to be lived and shared with other