

May 2026

El Qwiri

NEWSLETTER

A Message from the Chairman:

Fellow Community Members and Friends,

I hope this letter finds you blessed by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. When considering what wise and inspirational words to bring you, God ended up doing what He does best, which was make my head go blank. That's when He reminded me for what seemed like the 15th time these past few months, to stop trying to fit my "self" into the world around me and let more of Him in. It seems all too often we find ourselves trying to "fit in" or "conform" to a world that seeks to consume and control our minds with selfish or worrisome thoughts.

One of those "reminders" from God I had was a recent devotion that had focused on Romans 12:2, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will".

There are TWO primary ways that I feel we can accomplish this verse friends. The first being reading those small doses of His word in whatever way we can take it in, and the second being the wonderful fellowship of our Sidney Emmaus Community. Along with your church families, we, as the body of Christ, are incomplete without either of these two aspects of our spirit being renewed on a regular basis. Whether it's your 31st fourth day or your 3031st fourth day, I want you to know that you have a place and a purpose here in the Greater Sidney Area Emmaus Community. I look forward to seeing you at our next Gathering or weekend event, but if not, know that you are in my continued prayers. As Chairman of this community, I am humbled and honored to serve our Lord and Savior with all of you fine folks. We are a strong community of believers because of Christ's love, and how that light shines in each one of YOU!

*With Christ's love,
Joe Sutton
GSAE Chairman 2026*



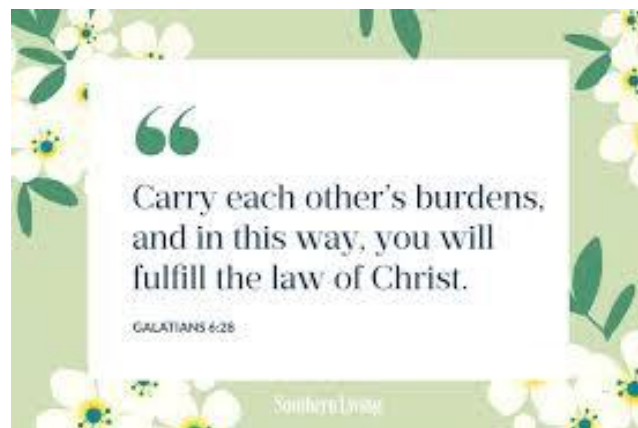
Community Information

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:

May 12 th	June 9 th	July 14 th	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 #95 - February 2026

Dawn Bair	Lily Burd	Tonia Butler	Danika Crawford	Jamie Creeden-Kerns
Erica Cruse	Tammy Crusey	Adrienne Davies	Sherry Dearth	Michele DeMarcus
Dawn Eilert	Dawn Figel	Karen Gates	Jayna Geuy	Paula Hill
Traci Koontz	Emily McMaken	Christina Meyers	Kiersten Riley	Shellie Schnarre
Leilanie Serrano	Michelle Sudovich	Keona Suttles	Amber Temple	

Message from our Lay Directors:

Women's Lay Director

I would have never imagined on Women's Walk #66, when I was a pilgrim that 11 years later, I would be asked to be the Lay Director for Women's Walk #95.

Throughout the team formation there was calm and peace over me that at times could not be explained, even when 5 days before the first team meeting and the day before the second team meeting 2 current team members needed to step down and be replaced. God placed the 27 team members on Women's Walk #95 that were supposed to be on the team.

The scripture verse for the Women's Walk #95 was "Be Still and Know That I Am God."-Psalm 46:10. Several times throughout the team meetings and the weekend of the walk God needed to remind me of this, so that I would stay out of His way and He could do His amazing work, not only in the lives of the team members and the pilgrims, but in my life as well.

During team meetings LOTS of questions were asked, which allowed the understanding of the flow of the weekend to occur and create peace of mind in all the team members. Because of the spirit of charity and cooperation during the team meetings we were all able to go into the Thursday night at send-off with the "heart-set" that Women's Walk #95 was not about us, but about being the hands and feet of Jesus to all these beautiful women that came to draw closer to Jesus.

The love, unity, and commitment to serving Christ was evident in every moment of the weekend. Lives were changed, burdens were lifted, and hearts were renewed in the lives of the 24 pilgrims this weekend. There was a wide range of pilgrim's ages on the walk, and would we have any doubt that God would place each of these ladies at the exact table He knew they needed to be at! Each table leader and assistant table leader did an amazing job of meeting each pilgrim right where they were at.

Two of my favorite times on an Emmaus Walk is send-off and closing. To see the transformation from Thursday evening to Sunday afternoon always reminds me that God can and does change the hearts of His beloved children.

The support from the Emmaus Community throughout the weekend was such a blessing. A special thank you to Jill and Tim Burden for coming to the church at 11:00pm on Saturday night and bright and early on Sunday morning to assist anyway they could due to the elevator breaking down. Our community is so blessed to have a strong "family" Emmaus Community, and there will be several women from Women's Walk #95 that will continue to make our Emmaus Community stay strong.

Thank you for trusting me to serve as the lay director for Women's Walk #95. I am truly honored and so humbled by the opportunity to have been the hand and feet of Jesus. My prayer is that each one of us can find time to "Be Still" and recognize the mighty works God has done and continues to do in all our lives.

DeColores,

W.W. #95 Lay Director-Theresa Mikolajewski

Pilgrims of Men's Walk #86 - March 2026

Braxton Adams	Richard Bailey	Jason Cavinder	Randy Cummins	Craig Flack
Jacob Gates	Tony Gibson	Torrey Gibson	Hunter Hott	Ray Jackson
Jeff Jenkins	Steve Johnson	Braydon Kimmel	Byron Kimmel	Landon Kimmel
Mason Kimmel	Mark Lennartz	Karl Lichtle	Justin Peeks	Aaron Powell
Ryan Price	Tyler Ridenour	Eric Roe	Brian Smith	Brad Steinke
Clayton Weaver	Nate Westerbeck	Nick Wood		

Men's Lay Director

I would like to express my thanks to the Emmaus board for selecting me to be the Lay director for March 2026. I also appreciate their help and flexibility during team selection and answering any question I had. I was a little nervous at first to get it all started. After the team selection and meeting dates set, we were off and running.

I was also so excited I forgot about our vacation in February, and the board and Church worked with our meeting schedule plan. As we kicked things off with 6 planned meetings Mother nature decided we needed to do it in five meetings.

Emmaus has taught me to be very generous and a giving person. I decided with the church's approval to come in on Friday early evening and with the help of my wife Sam we would set the room up. The reason for this was so the team could come in and have coffee and donuts before the start of the meeting and socialize and get to know one another.

The team quickly became a unit of one and many people did not know each other, and it was absolutely amazing to watch them all get to know each other. The ALDs were amazing from the start. You know the lay director should run the meetings, but these three men decided different. They gave me time to do what I needed to do but they went above and beyond from the start. They made sure all paperwork, money, announcements were taken care of. This continued this right through the weekend. All three will make wonderful Lay directors.

The weekend started off with a bang on Thursday night. When we went over for our new best friend the volume was crazy. They were already having a lot of fun and laughs getting to know each other. After new best friend, the night started and we ended in silence.

Friday started as usual and started our talks and during Pastor Lee Carlson first Sidney Emmaus Grace talk, we had some rough weather and we lost power. Lee was great, he never stopped or made a comment about the lights, it was pretty neat, all you saw was the light beaming up from his iPad. The team and Pilgrims never flinched, and we continued through Lee's talk. After his talk, the Logs went and brought battery powered lights to the conference room and kitchen. They were very resourceful and creative. Only issue we had was lunch. We were having baked potatoes and wings. I gathered the ALD's, Joe Sutton, David Loewer, Lisa, and Dawn (Kitchen Leaders) We discussed options and decided baked potatoes would be okay because the wings were not fully cooked. We went back to our meeting and within an hour the power came back on, and lunch was served with both baked potatoes and wings.

As the weekend went on the relationships between all pilgrims and team just kept growing. All the talks were spot on, and several pilgrims made mention that the information is just what they needed due to something in their lives needed attention. We had a lot of Jesus time and lot of fun. We even had an excellent group of guys that came tighter with a singing skit. Their Assistant table leader asked if they could do it at closing as an act of agape for the community. I think the community liked it.

I want to give a big thank you to our spiritual director Mark Kaufman, Leity, Music guys Dave Rump and Steve Elsass (we found out he was my asst music guy on my original walk) and all that participated from the beginning, through the weekend to make this special for all involved.

Rick Brubaker

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

Women's Walk #96, June 4th – June 7th 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.

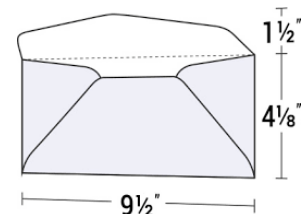
AGAPE REMINDERS!!



Thank you to our AGAPE Servents – 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 8:12-13

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.walktoemmaus.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:

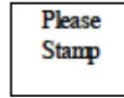
- _____ 72 Hour Prayer Vigil
- _____ Meal Agape
- _____ Bedtime Agape

*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 aldoveremmaus@gmail.com*

Rev 08-17-2013

**GREATER SIDNEY AREA EMMAUS WALK
WILLING SERVANT FORM 2015**

The *Sidney Area Emmaus Community*
Sidney First Church
230 E. Poplar Street
Sidney, Ohio 45365



Leadership Chairman
The 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 object 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 others.