

January 2026



A Message from the Chairman:

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as chairman in 2025. Part of the chairman's responsibilities is to pray over the pilgrims at Closing each walk weekend, that was truly a blessing for me as we welcomed 85 new brother and sisters-in-Christ to our Emmaus family in 2025! Every walk provides an opportunity to each of us to continue growing in our own personal relationship with Jesus as we love and serve just like He did. We have a savior who can relate to us, welcomes us with open arms, is never too busy to listen to our sincere prayers, and most importantly guides and directs us.

I pray you all had a beautiful Christmas season with your families celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The holidays can be a rush, a blur of flurried activities that pass quickly. I also know winter, as a season in our lives, can be a struggle for some people. The shorter darker days along with cold temperatures can make it hard to find a reason to smile with joy. Our amazing God is with us in this season as much as any - remember that He never leaves us nor forsakes us (Deuteronomy 31:6 & Joshua 1:5), so we are never walking alone. Reach out to each other, you never know when you may just be the answer to someone's prayer and you will be blessed more than you can imagine for your obedience to that nudging from the Holy Spirit! Invite someone to Gathering, serve in the kitchen, attend Candlelight and Closing in February and March; just be the salt and light everywhere you go.

In a few weeks we will celebrate Lent in preparation for Easter, and that is the best news of all - an empty tomb as Jesus defeated death. Take advantage of the new year and days inside to commit and connect to our Lord as we reflect on His timing and are "being still" (Psalm 46:10). In the meantime, grab a steaming cup of coffee, hot cocoa or tea and snuggle under a blanket as you open your Bible to the beautiful love story our Heavenly Father wants to share with you personally!!!

Love and prayers,
Dawn Heppard



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 come 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:

January 13th	February 10th	March 10th	April 14th
May 12th	June 9th	July 14th	August 11th
September 8th,	October 13th	November 10th	, December 8th

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 #94 -

October , 2025

Lupita Aguirre Mtez	Becky Barag	Brittany Beckstedt	Annette Castle	Lindsey Catron
Julie Compton	Marisa Couchot	Alisha Davis	Angie Hall	Madison Harrison
Miki Kincaid	Ginny Livermore	Valerie O'Reilly	Sandy Spriggs	Mandy Wright
Dawn Yates				

Message from our Lay Directors:

Women's Lay Director

I would like to thank the Emmaus Board for this amazing opportunity! What a learning experience. There is so much involved that I felt like I had a part time job. From the very beginning, team formation, meetings - to the very end, walk weekend, and closing, I knew we were just along for the ride. This was the very first time that myself and many team members met our Spiritual Director, Bev Hurlburt. What a true blessing she was for this walk. Her sweet spirit and gentle way were perfect for this team and pilgrims. God put an amazing team together and these ladies got along really well. Their hard work and dedication to this community could be seen in everything they did. Their love for God and others was so evident during the weekend. I was so blessed to just sit back and watch the Holy Spirit at work. I know all the pilgrims felt the love. It was great to see the interaction between the pilgrims and the team. I felt like a proud momma. This Emmaus Community is special. The people we meet become lifelong friends. I have sent cards to the pilgrims from our walk, making sure they know to reach out to any of us and to become involved even in little ways. It definitely enriches our spiritual life. This was truly one of the most amazing spiritual experiences I have had, and it was because of all the wonderful people God placed in my life!

Many Blessings,

Annette Schroerlucke

WW #94

Pilgrims of Men's Walk #85 -

November , 2025

Luke Cantrell	Tommy DeMarcus	Adam Elliott	Ben Lovell	Brian Malone
Greg Midlam	Neil Murphy	Brett North	Jeff Schultz	Tim Schutte
Jacob Springer	Mike Stark	Ethan Ward	Bruce Wilson	Tyler Wilson

Men's Lay Director

Many, many thanks to the board and to the community for giving me the opportunity to be the Lay Director for Walk #85. From the very beginning, team selection came together swiftly and smoothly. I was so blessed to have the Holy Spirit lead me in choices and in direction while putting this group

together. They were outstanding! The team gelled quickly, and immediately began to liven up with great discussion, laughter and fellowship. Everyone, and I mean everyone contributed. I love these guys. With me being an overly analytical person, tending to “study” everything, I prayed to let God take the wheel in meeting setup, function, outcome and path forward, and did He ever! After initial somewhat “clumsy” meeting startup, I got myself out of the way and they smoothed out and felt very natural and Spirit led. The Pilgrims entered into the weekend at send-off with some of the typical angst and uncertainty, but it was incredible to watch them change, grow in trust and in fellowship and ultimately to flourish in God’s love and grace. They began to change quickly. It is always heart warming and reassuring to watch the Pilgrims grow, however from the Lay Director’s perspective, it seemed even more amazing and wonderful. It felt very poignant. I love these guys too! The table teams listened to the Pilgrims at their tables with empathy and focus. They created great discussion and I commented several times about feeling joy in hearing the voices during discussions. The flow of the weekend felt very natural and every part is placed perfectly by our God and the Holy Spirit to glorify Jesus.

Our Spiritual Directors absolutely poured their hearts out and were the perfect vessels for God’s wisdom and grace to be showered on everybody in the room. They were funny, serious when led to be and stirred the Spirit in the Pilgrims in a huge way! I love these guys! The music was tremendous and holy, the voices powerful and true and the instruments rang with worship that created joy and assurance in all. The food was, as always, incredible and many thanks are sent out to the wonderful kitchen crew! The ALD’s were always where they needed to be and when they needed to be there. I felt very relaxed and confident in their involvement and dedication to the Pilgrims. The logs were very dutiful and did a fabulous job for everyone! I love all of these people.

Being a Lay Director was humbling and life-changing. I will always cherish doing it. It gave an entirely different lens for watching the change in people when in the presence of God, the Holy Spirit and our Savior, Jesus. Again, I appreciate the opportunity and blessing of being in this position on the Walk To Emmaus. I am forever blessed.

DeColores!

Ed Skidmore

MW#85

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

Women's Walk #95, February 19 – 22nd 2026

Men's Walk #86, March 12th – 15th 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 allows 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

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.

Sidney Emmaus Kitchen Serving Schedule



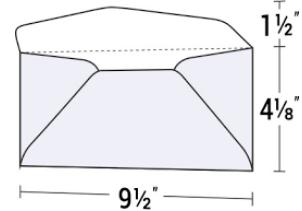
AGAPE REMINDERS!!



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 Courier 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**

NEW

- 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 Heppard

Chairman-Joe Sutton

Vice Chairman-Maurya Ryan

Treasurer - Deb Loewer

Secretary- Jill Ludwig

Sponsorship- Sarah Steenrod

Men's Registrar-Jaysen Rump

Women's Registrar- Sandy Freewalt

Agape-Ron/Shari Courier

Men's Good Shepherd-Monte Heppard

Women's Good Shepherd-Mickey Shoffner

Supplies Kelly Swarts

Logistics- Brent Roessner

Literature-Fran Miller/Christy Akers

Social- Deb Schmidt

Worship—Audra Sutton

Music-Dave Rump

Outreach-Bill Schmidt

Newsletter – Trena Hershberger

Kitchen - Lisa Viers /Dawn and Scott Pulfer

Spiritual Director- Pastor Eileen Hix

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

De Colores!


GREATER SIDNEY AREA
Walk to Emmaus
WILLING SERVANT FORM

Date: _____

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 shore group? _____ Women _____ Men _____ Both _____

Name of shore group _____ Are you accepting new members? Yes _____ No _____

Members of Shore 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 Gathering

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 shore 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 admin@sidneyemmaus.org

Rev 08-17-2015

GREATER SIDNEY AREA EMMAUS WALK WILLING SERVANT FORM 2015

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

**Please
Stamp**

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.