

Messenger

A monthly newsletter of the Emmaus of the Midlands Community



Volume 24, Issue 6, June 13, 2024

Upcoming Events:

July Board Meeting

July 8, 2024, 7 pm
Red Bank UMC

July Gathering

Friday, July 26, 2024, 7 pm
Northeast UMC
Columbia, SC

August Board Meeting

August 12, 2024, 7 pm
Red Bank UMC

August Gathering

Friday, Aug. 23, 2024, 7 pm
St John's Methodist
Sumter, SC

Team Training Dates

August 30-31, 2024
Location to be announced
September 13-14, 2024
Lexington UMC

September Board Meeting

September 9, 2024, 7 pm
Red Bank UMC

September Gathering

Friday, Sept. 27, 2024, 7pm
Macedonia Lutheran Church
Prosperity, SC

Emmaus of the Midlands Fall Walks

Men's Walk – Oct. 10-13
Women's Walk – Oct. 17-20

“TRAVEL LIGHT”

I am not a woman who usually travels light! I carry too much stuff in my suitcase, too much in my purse too. I have it there in case I might need it! I have everything from hand sanitizer, enough makeup that I could give someone a makeover on the spot and the list goes on! I have been fussed at with people saying I am ruining my shoulder, neck and back because of the heavy purses I carry!

When someone asks me for something, I might say, “I am sure I have it in my purse and then I go digging for it.” Sometimes, I have to empty my whole purse to find it! You get the picture.

This applies to my spiritual life (and just maybe yours too). In lieu of digging around trying to come to terms with who God wants me to be, and what really does matter, I can reach for His truth that resides in my heart, which is what is most important.

There is a Latin saying, “Omnia mea mecum porto”—which when translated means: “Everything I own, I carry with me.” Of course, that is not true of me, but I think this saying may be similar at least to what the psalmist was saying in **Psalm 119:11 NIV** “**I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.**” When we take God’s word to our heart of hearts, we will have it to reach for HIS truth no matter when or where we are.

Who we grow into day by day is truly shaped by what we cannot live without as we go.

With that said, I don’t know about you, but I need to lighten my load! I need to remind myself to travel light, taking with me what I truly need,

“God’s Holy and Living Word,” that resides in my heart!



De Colores,
Faye Stephen, Spiritual Director

CAROLYN'S CORNER

Preparations are well underway for our Emmaus Fall Walks at Camp Agape and I am so excited! The Men's Walk led by Lay Director David Trask will be held October 10-13, 2024. The Women's Walk led by Lay Director Melanie Prewitt will be held October 17-20, 2024. Team Training will be August 30-31 and September 13-14. These will be overnight training sessions beginning at 6 pm on Friday and ending at 4 pm on Saturday. The weekend training on September 13-14 will be held at Lexington UMC, and we are looking for a volunteer church for the August 30-31 training. If you feel your church could provide separate spaces for the men and women to sleep (approximately 28 men and 28 women) in sleeping bags, such as a gym or Sunday school rooms, and then space for each team to go through training, you may call me at 803-414-6216 to let me know. We are asking also for volunteers to provide breakfast and lunch on the two Saturdays. A reunion group could do this, or several individuals could go together to make this happen. If you live close enough to the training site, then you may go home at night, if you wish, and then come back the next morning.

The Emmaus of the Midlands board is in the middle of making some much needed changes so that we can be in compliance with the Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus. One of these changes is that conference room teams must receive 23-26 hours of training before serving on a walk. We realize that this requires sacrifice for each team member, but it will reap greater benefits for everyone.



Please be in prayer for the work that is being done on revamping our Bylaws, obtaining liability insurance for the camp as well as Directors and Officers insurance for the board, applying for 501(c)3 status, having annual audits, and obtaining a valid EIN number. All of this is needed before the board can sign the Covenant Letter with the Upper Room which is required in order to make us an official community. Many of our board members, as well as volunteers who have experience in these areas, have worked long hours. As Board Chair, I am so very thankful for each person who has gone over and above in serving this community that we all love. Together we will be stronger and better than ever before. By serving this community called Emmaus of the Midlands, we are serving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by bringing pilgrims to a closer walk with God through our acts of agape, through fellowship and prayer, through listening to talks and testimonies, and through worship by song. To God be the glory, great things He has done!

Blessings to each of you.

De Colores!

Carolyn McLean, Board Chair

Please note that there will be no June Gathering.

"Jesus, Jesus, can I tell you how I feel.
You have given me your Spirit,
I love you so."



MEET OUR BOARD MEMBER



Hello! My name is Melissa “Mel” Sansolo, I worship at Northeast UMC, Columbia. I attended Emmaus of the Midlands Walk #53 and sat at the Table of Miriam. I currently serve as the Snack Agape chairperson on the Board of Directors.

Originally from Ohio, I spent nearly 30 years in Florida and by the Grace of God, my husband, Ira, my daughter, Mara and I landed in Columbia, SC. Although I have 20+ years in corporate hospitality, I am currently working with the Prisma Health – Occupational Health Services.

My Emmaus experience includes my walk, helping in the kitchen, overseeing food agape as well as attending the Gatherings and Reunion Group meetings. I have attended/worked four life changing walks. The last two restored my passion for serving others and helped me grow within my own Church. For me, the Gatherings and Reunion Groups are a great way to stay in touch with the community and find out what others are doing with their Fourth Days! We hope to see you at NEUMC for the July Gathering!

MORE NEWS FROM THE BOARD

Kirk Atwood, who has served many terms on the Board of Directors, has resigned his position as Treasurer effective June 1, 2024. We owe Kirk many thanks for his unwavering service over the years. Kirk has gone over and above, not only in serving as Treasurer, ordering supplies, and setting up book tables for the walks, but also in helping around the camp in setting up and taking down, in the kitchen, in transportation, and in many other anonymous ways.



Kirk will be replaced by Levy Rogers, who was in charge of Luggage and Transportation previously. Levy is well qualified, and we thank him for accepting this new challenge. That being said, the position of handling Luggage and Transportation was left vacant. The bylaws state that the person receiving the next highest votes in the last election should fill a vacancy that occurs on the board. However, we had only five people to fill five positions in the last election. Carolyn McLean, Board Chair, has the authority to appoint someone from the community to fill that vacancy. By a unanimous vote of confirmation by all members of the board, Adam Kiraly was appointed to fill the vacancy and has accepted the assignment of Luggage and Transportation effective June 1, 2024. Welcome to the board, Adam!

Elections for five new members of the board will be held again this year by making ballots available on the first day of September. Voting will take place from then until October 15, with elected members taking office November 1. Nominations shall be solicited and/or accepted during the months of July and August with a cut-off date of August 31. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, please submit your name to the chair, Carolyn McLean, or any of the other board members. Terms are for three years, and you must sign a Statement of Commitment form. Please prayerfully consider serving the community of Emmaus and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in this way. The benefits are out of this world!!

CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| Position | Name | Term Expires |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Board Chair, Newsletter | Carolyn McLean | Oct. 31, 2025 |
| Vice-Chair/Gatherings, Reunion Groups | Kenneth Bundrick | Oct. 31, 2025 |
| Secretary/Send-Off, Sponsor's Hour/Closing | Teri Schell | Oct. 31, 2025 |
| Treasurer/Literature/Materials | Levy Rogers | Oct. 31, 2026 |
| Community Spiritual Director | Faye Stephens | Oct. 31, 2024 |
| Assistant Community Director | Wanda Altman-Shirah | Oct. 31, 2025 |
| Candlelight | Aubrie Bundrick | Oct. 31, 2026 |
| Housing/Camp Set-up/Take-Down | Leonard May | Oct. 31, 2024 |
| Kitchen Co-Chair | Kim Hutchins | Oct. 31, 2026 |
| Kitchen Co-Chair | Christen McConnaughay | Oct. 31, 2026 |
| Mail Room/Table Agape | Terry Peterson | Oct. 31, 2025 |
| Music/Entertainment | Paul McKeever | Oct. 31, 2026 |
| Prayer Vigil/Seed Agape | Wendy McLean | Oct. 31, 2024 |
| Public Relations/Community Training | Thad Hinnant | Oct. 31, 2025 |
| Registrar | Kim Corrigan | Oct. 31, 2024 |
| Snack Agape | Mel Sansolo | Oct. 31, 2024 |
| Transportation/Luggage | Adam Kiraly | Oct. 31, 2026 |
| Website Co-Chair | Bob Martin | At Large |
| Website Co-Chair | Dave Cavazos | At Large |

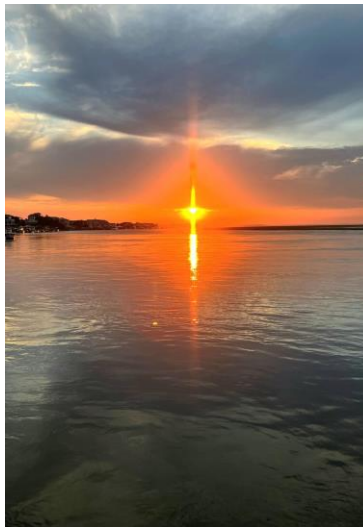


Photo taken by Michele Keller, Edisto Beach, SC

“So that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting people may know there is none besides me. I am the LORD, and there is no other.” Isaiah 45:6

Emmaus of the Midlands
PO Box 1094
Prosperity, SC 29127

