

The Messenger



A monthly newsletter of the Emmaus of the Midlands Community

Emmaus of the Midlands
PO Box 85
Lexington, SC 29071

Volume 25, Issue 4, April 20, 2025

Upcoming Events:

April Gathering

Friday, April 25, 7 pm
Rehoboth Methodist

Community Training Event

Saturday, April 26, 10 am
Brookland UMC Upstairs

Board of Directors

Team Building/

Planning Event

Saturday, May 3, 9 am
Brookland UMC

Board Meeting

Monday, May 12, 6:30 pm
Brookland UMC

May Gathering

Saturday, May 17
Picnic at 12:00 pm
Gibson Pond Park
Lexington

Starving in a Pie Factory, A Fourth Day Reflection

Linda Kiraly, Board Chair, Gatherings and Reunion Groups

I was once invited to a friend's house for dinner. His father, Dave, traveled as a contractor, and told a story of working in Florida as we ate. Dave said that he was talking to another contractor there while on break and complained that he was hungry. His new friend replied, "Man, if you're hungry in Florida, you would starve in a pie factory." His friend showed Dave how to dig up clams, and Dave went back to work full and happy.

Much like in a pie factory, there is an abundance of food available to us as Christians. We are instructed to pray to Him to give us this day our daily bread, and assured in Psalms 81:10, "Open wide thy mouth, and I will fill it." This is true for our physical AND spiritual food needs. In Matthew 4:4, Jesus rebuked Satan, saying, "It is written: 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Our Lord continually invites us to the banquet to eat.

Dave's 40-year-old story showed back up for me this month as I talked to people about starting or



joining a reunion group. I often heard some version of the story told by Dave. Some of the people I approached to ask about starting or joining a reunion group told me that they are so busy doing work in their church or community that adding another action felt overwhelming. In the next breath they would often tell me that they were WORN. DOWN. (HUNGRY!) I felt mildly shocked by this information. For me, my reunion groups offer a chance for all of us to feast on piety and study. Don't get me wrong. I do organize and coordinate dinner when it is our turn to host, so action is also involved. This action isn't an expenditure, though. It is an investment with a guaranteed return. My reunion groups are where I refuel when I get spiritually hungry. It's not another chore on a list of things to do any more than eating when I'm physically hungry is something to miss because I am too busy. Spiritual nutrition is even more important when I am engaged with heavy discipleship actions that require a lot of spiritual energy to complete.

As disciples, we pour ourselves out. There is always more need than there is us to go around. It is so important to recognize that one of the people in our world that needs replenishing is us. Me. You. Us. Our daily bread was so important to Jesus that he instructed us to petition for it in the Lord's prayer. We cannot pour from an empty cup. Will you consider who might be able to help you replenish, and start a reunion group with them? It might just be the pie factory you've been waiting for.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL YOUR HELP WITH SUPPLIES FOR SNACK AGAPE!

Here are some fun facts for Walk #56.



Volunteers provided all the water and sodas. Using mandarin oranges rather than regular oranges was a hit! Fruit Salad was added to help use up apples and provide other fruits like pineapple, strawberries, and blueberries. Veggie trays and Charcuterie boards provided a bit more variety. The men were hydrated, and the women were caffeinated. There were fewer baked goods this year, but we will work on that for future walks.

Extra food and drinks left over were offered to those who attended the closing ceremony for the Women's Walk, as usual. We also took some leftovers to the Batesburg Police Department, the Ronald McDonald House, and some will be used for the monthly training meetings!

Because of your help, we were able to bless the pilgrims, staff, and volunteers, as well as share the Emmaus program and goodies with other members of the Midlands communities.

De Colores, Melissa Sansolo, Snack Agape Chairman

April Gathering

**Date: April 25, 2025
Friday, 7:00pm**

**Rehoboth Global Methodist Church
6911 Two Notch Rd,
Columbia, SC 29223**

To: Emmaus of the Midlands Community

I would like to remind every one of the April Gathering on Friday, April 25,
at Rehoboth Global Methodist Church.

Bring a covered dish to share in the meal beginning at 7 pm in the fellowship
hall followed by the worship service in the sanctuary.

We hope to see everyone there!

De Colores,

Linda Kiraly,
Board Chair, Gatherings & Reunion Groups
(803) 727-6997

CAROLYN'S CORNER

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! As we are still rejoicing over the Holy Spirit's presence during the Men's and Women's Walks #56, the BOD is preparing for the fall walks. We have confirmed dates with the camp, and a date for Team Selection and location has been set. Also, we are looking at dates and locations for Team Training, and we continue to hold Leadership Training once a month. We have, I believe, host churches for the rest of the year for our Gatherings.

Our New Member Celebration was well-attended after the spring walks, and new pilgrims show interest in Fourth Day Reunion/Accountability Groups. Many would like to either join an established group or form a new one. The Board is organizing a team-building/planning retreat to tweak the walks and make future plans. God is doing great things, and we are enthused, excited, and blessed to be His hands and feet. If your church can help us by hosting any events, please let the board chair know.



The Board of Directors for the Emmaus of the Midlands is a dedicated body of servants, generous with their time and talents who works hard to get things right. Above all they love God!! They love Emmaus and serve with joy, humility and gratitude. The Canon is read before each meeting along with the prayer to the Holy Spirit for direction and wisdom.

Emmaus of the Midlands Board of Directors Canon

I am a member of the Emmaus of the Midlands Board of Directors.

I am here only in a servant's role.

I will serve this Community with humility and gratitude for the opportunity to do so, and I will remember that the Holy Spirit calls for my love, patience, kindness, and self-control in everything that I do for this community. I will always pray for God's will to be done, and not my own.

I will remember that I am only to be used by God to renew His Church.

I will remember that God's work is done through me—not because of me.

I will ask God to bless all other members of the Board and ask His blessings on the role in which they serve.

I will give God the glory for everything that is done by the Board.

I will always remember that any doubts I might have must be turned to God in prayer.

I will praise God for the servant's role He has allowed me to occupy and the opportunity to serve His Church through this vehicle called Emmaus. My prayer must always be "Not I, but Christ."

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, and we shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy your consolations. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

MAY GATHERING

Our May Gathering will be Saturday, May 17th, beginning at 12 noon at 241 Gibson Road, Lexington, SC. We are planning an outdoor picnic and service at the covered pavilion at Gibson Pond Park in Lexington. BBQ chicken will be served. Please feel free to bring a covered dish, dessert, or outside games. Outdoor chairs are also encouraged. After the communion service, we will be hanging out and playing music. We look forward to seeing you there!



MONTHLY TRAINING

Everyone is invited to the monthly Emmaus Training which will be held on Saturday, April 26, at Brookland UMC on Meeting Street in West Columbia. It begins at 10 am and lasts until 12:30 pm, and is conducted by Adam Kiraly, Community Trainer. The training this month will be on team building and being part of the Emmaus team. It's a great way to learn more about our community and how you can best serve our Lord with your time and talents!!

******Important Dates – Mark Your Calendar******

Fall Walks

Men's Walk #57 – September 25-28, 2025

Camp Agape

Lay Director – Bill Rose

Women's Walk #57 – October 2-5, 2025

Camp Agape

Lay Director – Terry Booth

Board Retreat for Team Building/Training

Saturday, May 3, 2025, 9:00 am

Bookland UMC, Meeting St., West Columbia, SC

Team Selection Meeting for Men's and Women's Walks #57

Saturday, May 24, 2025, 9 am

Location to be announced

(Includes Team Selection Chair, Lay Directors, Lay Directors-in-Training, Immediate Past Lay Directors, Community Spiritual Director, Team Spiritual Director, Registrar, Board Chair)

Team Training for Men's and Women's Fall Walks #57

Dates and Location to be announced

(If your church can host Team Training by providing sleeping arrangements, kitchen, meeting room for both teams together, and separate rooms for training for men and women, please contact Carolyn McLean, Board Chair, at 803-414-6216. We will set the dates shortly.)

2024-2025 Board of Directors

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