

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 7, July 23, 2025

Upcoming Events:

Team Training #1

August 1-2, 2025

Northeast UMC

4000 Hardscrabble Rd
Columbia, SC 29223

Team Training #2

August 15-16, 2025

Beulah Methodist

161 Beulah Church Rd.
Gilbert, SC 29054

September Gathering

Friday, September 19, 2025

Wightman Methodist

302 N. Main Street

Prosperity, SC 29127

6:30 pm Sponsorship Training

7:00 pm Fellowship Meal and
Worship

Fall Walks

Men's Walk, Sept. 25-28

Women's Walk, Oct. 2-5

Camp Agape

Fourth Day Follow-Up and New Member Celebration

Saturday, Oct. 11, 11:00 pm

Location to be Announced

MIKE'S MESSAGE

"But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called today" Hebrews 3:13

We may think we understand encouragement until we see how deeply the bible roots it in the way of Jesus. Encouragement isn't just passing along a kind word. It's a spirit-empowered way of living and loving together! So, you too can encourage someone around you today.

De Colores

Rev. Mike Evans

Community Spiritual Director

BANNERS, WE NEED BANNERS!

I know we have some very crafty members of our community, and the Emmaus of the Midlands is in dire need of some new banners for the conference room. If you feel led to create a banner that can be used to represent one of the fifteen talks from the weekend, please let me know. If you, like me, are artistically challenged, there are many ready-made banners for sale, even at Amazon. The Board felt that it would be nice to have a banner representing each talk that could be displayed following the speaker's presentation of his/her talk. I just saw one online that said "Come, Holy Spirit." Wouldn't that be a great one to hang for the entire weekend!! We have wall space for hanging larger banners, or perhaps smaller banners could hang from the podium while a speaker is giving a talk. I'm sure you, or your Reunion Group, could



work on one together as an act of agape. You may not have time before our fall walks in September and October, but the spring walks in March of 2026 would give you enough time to either create one or buy one. If you would rather donate money toward buying a banner, please make your check payable to EOM and note that it is for a banner.

COMMUNITY FOURTH DAY REFLECTIONS

Hello. My name is Christen McConnaughay, I live in Batesburg. I went on EOM Walk #51 where I sat at the Table of Martha, and I am looking for a new church home.

In your piety, study and action in the last week; was there anything that stood out to you?

Actually, yes. My son is struggling. I was reading my devotion Wednesday, and I read Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. It really struck me, it made me rethink, for myself and for him. It was a good reminder for us both. He's going through a divorce and also struggling with his faith. So, that really struck a nerve with me and I sent him a text message, and I put that scripture in it. I just reminded him that God's always there, no matter what we do, He's always there, and we need to learn to lean into Him.



I do my devotion every morning. My devotion leads me, starts me off and then I journal three or four times every week. I told my kids, "One day, when I'm long gone, you will sit down and read, and you will see where I've prayed for you continuously. Struggles that y'all faced, prayed for you to find the right mate, and prayed for you when you started talking about starting a family." Since becoming a Christian, every step of their life I've prayed for them.

At what moment in the past week did you feel closest to Christ?

We had to put our pup, Chloe, down. That was a struggle. In making that decision, that was when I felt Him the most. I had a sense of reassurance that I was making the right decision. Since then, a couple of times I questioned, "Did I make the right decision?" Then God steps in and He says, "You did what was right, She's better off now She's with me."

At what moment during this week did you feel you were responding to God's call to be a disciple?

Sharing the Word with my son. Just letting him know that God's always with him. A lot of times when we're at our highest highs we don't see Him, and when we're at lowest lows we turn to Him, but sometimes it takes us a little while to get there. He commented to me that he was waiting for that moment to know he was doing the right thing. And I explained to him that, sometimes we don't see that until we get to the other side. So, I'm just reminding him to be strong, and that He is strong and He is capable, and everything will be okay if he just continues to lean into God and listen to Him and let Him guide his path.

Submitted by Linda Kiraly

UPDATED FORMS

The EOM Board of Directors has been very busy updating and clarifying some of our forms along with updating the Lay Director's Manual, the ALD Manual, the Three-Day Schedule for the Walks, and Team Training Schedules. If you need a Pilgrim's Application, Sponsor's Covenant, Sponsor's Checklist, or a sample Agape Letter, please go to the midlandsemmaus.com website and download copies of what you need.

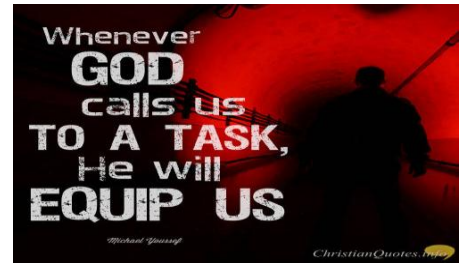


ANNUAL ELECTIONS

It's that time of year when we begin looking for five people to replace the five board members who have completed their terms on the Emmaus of the Midlands Board of

Directors. Nominations shall be solicited and/or accepted between July 1 and August 31. Each nominee, prior to consideration as a nominee, must sign a Statement of

Commitment form approved by the Board verifying his/her willingness to serve as an elected Director of the Board of Directors. In order to be eligible to serve as a Director, nominees must be an active member of the community and will agree to serve a three-year term. Ballots will be published the first business day in September and disseminated to the community. Completed ballots shall be accepted through October 15 according to instructions printed on the ballot. The names of the elected Directors shall be announced during the remainder of October to reach as many community members as possible. Elected Directors shall take office on November 1, 2025.



The Nominations/Election Committee will consist of the five (5) off-going Board Directors:

Kenneth Bundrick (has completed a three-year term)

Tina Lipscomb (has served one year as an at-large member, now eligible to be elected for a three-year term)

Carolyn McLean (has completed a three-year term)

Jodie Harper (has finished out the last few months of Teri Schell's position on the board as Secretary, now eligible to be elected for a three-year term)

Terry Peterson (has completed a three-year term)

If you are interested in serving the Lord and Emmaus by volunteering for the Board of Directors, please see one of the above persons. We ask that you prayerfully consider how God can use you!

One thing to keep in mind is that monthly board meetings are required. Currently we are meeting on the second Monday of each month at Brookland UMC on Meeting Street in West Columbia. Several of our members have begun preparing a light supper, so if you would like to eat with us, come at 6:30 pm. The meeting itself begins at 7:00 pm.



MEN'S AND WOMEN'S WALKS ARE ALMOST HERE!

Terry Booth, Lay Director for the Women's Walk #57, reports her team is in place. Due to circumstances beyond his control, Bill Rose had to step aside as Lay Director of Men's Walk #57. After praying, checking his calendar, and checking with his wife, Pat Longshore has

agreed to lead the Men's Walk. Thanks be to God and to Pat and Dorothy for accepting this challenge! The Men's Team lacks a couple of Table Leaders at this time, but we know that God is in control and all will be well.

Now, we need pilgrims. But to get pilgrims, we need sponsors to step up. Pray that God will lay some soul upon your heart that needs this amazing weekend with other Christians. Make an appointment to talk to this person about Emmaus, help him/her fill out the application. Then you fill out the Sponsor's Covenant and mail it along with the completed application and deposit to Emmaus of the Midlands, PO Box 85, Lexington, SC 29071 to the Attn: Registrar.

You are Invited to our Next Emmaus Gathering!

Friday, July 25, 2025

Northeast United Methodist Church

4000 Hardscrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29223

Sponsorship Training - 6:30 pm

Fellowship Meal - 7:00 pm

**Bring your favorite dish to share and join us for a
time of fellowship and worship.**



BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

From Terry Peterson: Your help is needed to set-up the camp for the upcoming walks. Please meet at Camp Agape on Wednesday, September 24, at 9 am if you can help set up tables and chairs in the kitchen and dining area, in the conference room, and in the Prayer Chapel. Many hands make light work. Men and women are needed, so please set aside a few hours to help. Even though this is working in the background, it is your service to God so that these walks can happen.

From Christen McConnaughay: Workers for cooking and serving meals during the walks are always needed. Please set aside time to come to the camp to help with meals. If you can come to help with one meal, that is wonderful! If you can work all three meals on one day, that is wonderful also! If you can do the entire weekend, then God bless you!! Please let me know by signing up to work in the kitchen.

From Wendy McLean: The 72-hour Prayer Vigil will be available soon so that you can sign up to pray for the walks, the team, the sponsors, the pilgrims, and all the behind-the-scene workers. You can sign up for 30-minute increments as many times as you like. This is so very important to the success of each walk. We hope to have a separate prayer chapel set up for these walks that will be in a different room than the Sanctuary Chapel that the pilgrims use during the walks for Dying Moments and other chapel visits. There will be a list of names of pilgrims and team members to pray for, and also a list called Prayer Prompts for the Prayer Chapel that will be useful. If you are coming to pray for a speaker, please remember that you are to stay in prayer in the Prayer Chapel until the speaker has given his/her talk and has returned to the prayer chapel for a closing prayer. DO NOT sit in the back of the conference room while the speaker is giving his/her talk.

From Melissa Sansolo: Donated snacks for the Snack Agape Table are always needed and appreciated. A list will be available soon showing what items are needed.

From Greg Bowers: It's that time again to begin making table agape for the walks. Get together with your reunion group, or make agape items on your own. We usually need around 50 pieces of each agape item for both the Men's Walk and the Women's Walk.

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

Fall Walks

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

Camp Agape

Lay Director – Pat Longshore

Women's Walk #57 – October 2-5, 2025

Camp Agape

Lay Director – Terry Booth

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

August 1-2, 2025, at Northeast UMC

August 15-16, 2025, at Beulah Methodist, Gilbert

Fourth Day Follow-Up and New Member Celebration

October 11, 2025, 11:00 am

Location to be Announced

Spring Walks

Men's Walk #58 – March 12-15, 2026

Camp Agape

Lay Director – Ken Medlin

Women's Walk #58 – March 19-22, 2026

Camp Agape

Lay Director – Tina Lipscomb

