

The Messenger



A monthly newsletter of the Emmaus of the Midlands Community
Emmaus of the Midlands
PO Box 85
Lexington, SC 29071

Volume 26, Issue 2, February 19, 2026

To the Emmaus of the Midlands Community,

I am so excited!! We are having a walk!

Even though we have enough pilgrims for the walk to occur, we are accepting more registrations! Please prayerfully consider sponsoring a woman on this walk. God has made His will very evident – to have this walk! He is already working miracles, and I can only imagine what He has in store on Women's Walk #57. Let's fill up the Conference Room!

Your Board of Directors has been working very hard.

- We are updating and revising the by-laws, and you will be receiving those soon for your perusal.
- We are focusing on sponsorship and prayer as those are the most basic of components of the Emmaus movement.
- We hope to get the banners repaired for the upcoming walk. If you are interested in helping with this, please let me know (225-205-4534). I already have two ladies interested in helping with this, and we need more!!
- The Board has decided that all Board members will complete "Emmaus University" which is found on the Upper Room website. It is a comprehensive review of the Emmaus movement and clarifies the various components of a Community and a Walk. I would encourage you to go to the website and look at, and even complete, this educational offering.

Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to work toward complete compliance with the Upper Room and as we prepare for Walk #57.

De Colores!

Jodie

Jodie Harper
Emmaus of the Midlands
Community Lay Director

Please Turn in old BINDERS and USB DRIVES

If any of you have a binder or a flash drive from a previous walk, please return these to a board member as soon as possible. There have been some changes in the walk manuals from the Upper Room and we need to be absolutely sure that all of our binders and flash drives have the same information. This will avoid a lot of confusion. Please do not keep any materials from the past

Loving Others

I know that members of the Emmaus community as well as members of our various churches support various political parties and beliefs. While we each see the world through our own perspectives and the lens of our experiences, as Christians, we are guided by the teachings and examples of Jesus. Not all Christians interpret the Bible the same way (like or not, admit it or not, each person interprets everything they read, see, heard and experience. Such interpretation is part of being a thinking human being). I find it difficult, if not impossible, to read teachings of Jesus and ignore what Jesus identified as the two greatest commandments—love God with your whole self and love your neighbor as yourself. (Matthew 22:37-39; Mark 12:28-31).

Notice the scripture does not say love the neighbor who is like you. It says love your neighbor like you love yourself. Unfortunately, many first world, twenty-first century people may be treating others hatefully because they are hating, not loving themselves. One of the messages of the Walk to Emmaus is that everyone has value and worth, that everyone is loved by God. One of the old outlines for the Obstacles to Grace talk listed the obstacles so that the acrostic self-hate was formed when just the first letters of the obstacles were read. While I believe you can love someone if you don't love yourself (I know that is contrary to what is usually said), I don't believe you can truly accept love from someone else if you don't love yourself. If the amount of love you are accepting is limited, the amount of love you have to give is limited. (My definition of love is wanting and working toward giving the very best to the person you love.)

February contains both Valentine's Day, a day focused on love, and the beginning of Lent, season focused on a love so great that it was expressed by the greatest sacrifice ever made. We can show our love for God and the friends and family who are on the women's walk by praying daily that they will encounter God in a life-enriching way and by serving behind the scenes and attending community events during the walk. But Jesus asks for more. In Matthew 5: 27-28,31-34, Jesus says

This is what I say to all who will listen to me:

Love your enemies, and be good to everyone who hates you. Ask God to bless anyone who curses you, and pray for everyone who is cruel to you. . . . Treat others just as you want to be treated. . . . If you love only someone who loves you, will God praise you for that? Even sinners love people who love them. If you are kind only to someone who is kind to you, will God be pleased with you for that? Even sinners are kind to people who are kind to them. (Contemporary English Version CEV)

During Lent, I challenge each of us to look for ways to bless those in our lives who are hard to get along with, hard to love. Look for the positive and good in those persons and let them know that you see it. I have been told that if a person hears an affirmation thirty times each day, they will develop new neurons that will allow them to replace negative beliefs about themselves with positive beliefs about themselves. Your words can help a person move from self-hate to appropriate self-love and appreciation. In Philippians 4:8, Paul said, "keep your minds on whatever is true, pure, right, holy, friendly, and proper. Don't ever stop thinking about what is truly worthwhile and worthy of praise" (CEV) I believe Paul said this because he knew we see what we are looking for. If we look for the negative in another person, we will see it. If we look for the good in another person, we will see it. Unfortunately, most of us are conditioned to look for the bad and see it easily. Sometimes the good is much harder to find. Keep looking..

Mary Frances Thompson, Spiritual Director

**EOM Board meeting:
 Monday, March 2, 2026 6:30pm at Lexington UMC.
 Note the change in date and location. Please try to attend as we
 finalize plans for the women's walk.**



New Bedding!



Jan Gathering

Yes the Camp has new Bedding- much Thicker Mattresses. Also we had about 40 at the January Gathering at St. Johns UMC on Jan 23.

Spring Walks

LOOKING FOR ALL SERVANTS! WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

Womens Walk #57 is coming up March 19-22, 2026. We need your help in the following areas:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camp Set-up/Take-Down • Candlelight • Kitchen - see info below • Mail Room/Table Agape • Skits | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration • Snack Agape • Send-Off/Sponsor's Hour/Closing • Luggage |
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WHEN A BOARD MEMBER CALLS TO ASK YOU TO SERVE, PLEASE SAY YES, or call and volunteer

The kitchen is always looking for help. Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings are always a little lacking in help. If you have just a little time on either day it would be greatly appreciated. Every little bit helps. Text me, Christen at 803-603-0317

Womens Walk #57

Please be in prayer 🙏 for these pilgrims and team members!

Team: Terry Booth Wanda Altman-Shirah Aubrie Bundrick Blakely Cahoon Debbie (Deb) Cavazos Pat Christiansen Delores Fish Becky Goudelock Jodie Harper Beverly Heinly Jessica Jones Alston Lippert Tina Lipscomb Joe Long Gail Luckey Sheri McClendon Wendy McLean Colleen Motley Debbie Nix Kellye Rembert Nikki Shaffner Cynthia Taylor Allison Thompson Mary Frances Thompson Debra Weatherly	PILGRIMS Deborah Perkins Brandy Moore Mackenzie Knick Victoria Foote Brianna Dorr Kelly Galloway Baker Dana Carter Julie Gazda Carmon Williams Teresa Crossland Rebecca Deering Sarah Gates Sandra Hoyle Lexie Chatham Karen Johnson Janet Von Ville Alaina Peay Kait Corrigan
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**EMMAUS OF THE MIDLANDS
FEBRUARY GATHERING
FEBRUARY 27, 2026**

Who? ALL EOM Community Members

Where? Beulah Methodist Church
161 Beulah Church Rd. in Gilbert

When? 7:00pm

Wear your name tag and bring a food item to share with everyone. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!!

BRING A FRIEND!!!

Newsletter submitted by Shuler Burton at



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