

GREAT RIVER EMMAUS (GRE) COMMUNITY UPDATE

March 2021

WAYS TO STAY IN TOUCH AND SUPPORT GRE!

Be a part of your Emmaus community through Facebook! This is a private group. Simply hit "JOIN GROUP" if you do not have full access. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/GreatRiverEmmaus/>

Visit our website!
www.GreatRiverEmmaus.org

Watch your email for ongoing communications & updates!

If you are not in a Reunion Group, get involved by emailing Craig Dennison (cdennison09@gmail.com) for a list of Reunion Groups – or start your own.

Be an active participant in the Emmaus community!

Luke 24: 13-35



2021 WALKS

Despite COVID obstacles ... Walks 27 & 28 will take place one year later! Plans are underway to hold a walk in 2021.

Your 2020 board realized Walks at Quincy University's Retreat Center might not materialize in 2021. They had the foresight to form a team to look at different options. The team checked out several sites and found a viable alternative in LaMoine Christian Service Camp and Retreat Center in Tennessee IL.

Your 2021 board voted to organize a set of trial Walks at LaMoine, including prep weekend, Men's Walk #27 and Women's Walk #28.

Why try a new location? At this time Quincy University is not opening the Retreat Center for Walk weekends. Meanwhile, LaMoine has plenty of space to allow distancing, as well as room for volunteers to stay overnight at no charge. The mission of LaMoine Christian Service Camp is to provide a Christian camping environment that challenges youth and adults to love and serve Christ – and proceeds from renting their facilities go back into their ministry. LaMoine provides home cooked meals, and has a variety of open dates. GRE will be the only group utilizing the grounds during our Walks. And yes, the fees are lower at LaMoine. Cost was not the reason for the decision, but was included as a positive option since GRE's treasury has been subsidizing walks (Retreat Center charges have exceeded fees collected – and in the future every person staying on the premises will be charged the full fee, including volunteers, regardless of the number of nights stayed).

Please pray for lay directors Carl Herman (Walk #27) & Lisa Herman (Walk #28) and take this opportunity to sponsor pilgrims!

Mark your calendar & plan on spending at least a portion of your weekend checking out LaMoine Christian Camp and supporting your Emmaus community as a volunteer.

Prep weekend	August 13-15
Men's walk #27	August 26-29
Women's walk #28	September 9-12

HELP!

Our community database is outdated!

Please complete a Support Team Service Commitment, which includes your name, address, email, phone, and past walk participation. Clergy – please complete the Clergy Team Service Commitment. These forms are available on our website.

STAY INFORMED & INVOLVED!

GRE Website

www.GreatRiverEmmaus.org

Pilgrim, sponsor, Support Team Services Commitment & Clergy Team Service Commitment forms are in the FORMS section. General information and newsletters are also on the site.

GRE Facebook

Participate in the Great River Emmaus private page on Facebook!

PILGRIM AND SPONSOR FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE “FORMS” SECTION ON OUR GRE

WEBSITE: www.GreatRiverEmmaus.org

Thank you to retiring board members LeVon Baker, Tammy Carman, Robert Green, Elvin Hodges & Candy Moore. Their time & energy working to fulfil the GRE mission is appreciated!

NEW OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT GRE AND FUTURE WALKS!

Plans are underway to develop on-line donations. In the meantime, our DONATE tab on our GRE website does explain how donations are used/why they are needed – and mailing information.

GREAT RIVER EMMAUS COMMUNITY

Gatherings: Watch email and Facebook for details on future Community Gatherings! While we all want to meet in person, the safety of our community is of utmost concern. Enjoying fellowship and food is missed – and we are all looking forward to gathering soon, whether in person or via Zoom.

Board Meeting: The next GRE Board meeting is Monday, March 22, at 7:00 p.m. Please request a Zoom meeting link on the GRE website if interested in attending.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR

Greetings, Emmaus family! I'm Deb Meservey, your Community Lay Director. It is good to connect with you today. As many continue to social distance, love may seem more aloof... harder to find. It is important to remember that Jesus never increases His social distance from us! He is still walking right beside us, there for us to lean on... hold His hand... cry out to for help.

One of the areas on the group reunion card is study. My 'study' today was Hebrews, Chapter 13. Here are some of the verses that God cast light upon for me:

Hebrews 13: 1 – 2 Let brotherly love continue. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels. (NKJV)

Hebrews 13: 5 **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.** (NLT)

Hebrews 13: 8, we learn to 'be content with what we have, because **God said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."** (NIV)

I leave you with this final verse 16: **Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."** (NIV)

Through it all, Jesus is our constant, so let us continue to love one another and spread the love of Jesus throughout the world. Please be praying about pilgrims who need an Emmaus Walk to solidify and strengthen their relationship with Jesus.

GRE 2021 BOARD OFFICERS

Community Lay Director, Deb Meservey
Community Spiritual Director, Mike Wilson
Secretary, Amanda Barlow

Treasurer, Tim Kamradt
Assistant Community Lay Director, Kevin Cadwell
2nd Assistant Community Lay Director, Judy Hays

Our next Community Update will include a list of Board approved committees.