

FOURTH DAY

Newsletter

Great River Emmaus

Thoughts from our Lay Director Judy Hays

Throughout the Bible we read stories of people who were called by God, but did not feel qualified for their assignment. Moses was called to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, Gideon was called to lead an army against the Midianites, Esther was called to plead for her people. In more recent times, Mother Teresa was called to found Missionaries of Charity. I love her quote, "I'm a little pencil in the hand of a writing God, who is sending a love letter to the world."

God always equips and provides.

Great River Walk to Emmaus needs leaders. We need people to carry out God's will - to be the hands and feet of Christ. We currently have four openings for 3-year board terms, one board opening for a 1-year term, and 1 opening for a 2-year term. We have two individuals who have applied for our regular 3-year terms and one who would like to serve the 1-year term.

Many of you have noticed we've had people go off the board before their term is up. That may make some leery to serve. If you want to know more, ask a current board member what it is like to serve. Ask other board members why they stepped off. Better to have facts than to speculate.

Our Board is a working board - which means each member serves on at least one committee and is present to help on our walk weekends. Board members do not serve alone - they are to find community members to also serve on committees so the work is spread out and multiple people know what is required for each responsibility.

Please prayerfully consider serving on the Board. Encourage someone you know who would be a great board member. A write-in space is included on the ballot for anyone feeling called to serve - and/or to vote for another candidate.

Who knows - perhaps you have had life experiences that put you in a position to serve during a time such as this? You may be the pencil in the hand of our writing God. Is Christ calling YOU to be His hands and feet?

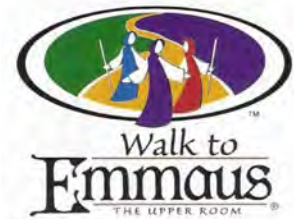
GRE GATHERING - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

First United Methodist Church - 901 Broadway - Hannibal

2-4 p.m. - All are welcome

Please bring food/snack to share

Enjoy food, fun, fellowship & worship with your GRE community



FALL 2023

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"You Gentiles, be full of joy. Be Joyful together with God's People."
Deuteronomy 32:43

On the Road to Emmaus

13 And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about three-score furlongs.

14 And they talked together of all these things which had happened.

15 And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. 16 But their eyes were holden that they should not know him. Luke 24:13-16

WALK #33 Submitted by Lay Director Craig Dennison

DO NOT SAY NO TO GOD. Like past lay directors before me, I believed this was my walk. From team building thru prep weekend and thru the walk. I WAS WRONG. The most humbling experience I learned was that this is God's walk, not mine. From the day of team selection and calling all the names on the sheet plus many more, I was able to build God's team for this walk to Emmaus. Were there glitches? Absolutely. Friends have told me that the devil does not want this walk to happen and he will cause many issues. I, however disagree, I was just not doing what God asked me to do. He knew who would be on the team and how many pilgrims would show up. Did I have a full lay team? No, God said you have what you need. Did I have a full clergy team? No, God said you have enough. Did I have the 18 pilgrims that were signed up? No, God gave me 12.

Walk 33 was one of the hardest, but most humbling and rewarding things I have ever done. The prep and walk weekends were filled with the presence of Jesus. From all the servants working in the background, to the back table and conference room team, it was perfect. We were the hands and feet of God for this Great River Walk to Emmaus 33. I just want to say thank you to the community for having faith and believing in me to be called as the Lay director.

In summary, Trust in God in everything you do and He will lead you. Never tell God no. You will soon realize that you are your own obstacle to Grace. Also know that if God asks you to do something, it's not going to be easy, but extremely rewarding

WALK #33 Submitted by Board Representative Rick Bridges

I would like to start by saying thank you to the Board Members of Great River Walk to Emmaus for putting your trust in me to Represent the Board on Walk #33.

The community should be proud of your Lay Director, Craig Dennison. I can report that I think Craig has left Great River Walk to Emmaus as good as, or better than, he received it. The team was prepared coming into the weekend. Leadership all around the room was spot on. I believe that Team of #33 will be in the minds and hearts of the Pilgrims for many years to come. Job well done.

The paperwork model for the weekend says we needed 26 team members to make a complete team, but God said " I'll give you 22 to work with," and work they did. The model also says that we need 5 Clergy on the weekend, but God said "I'll give you 4". It Worked. Early in the week we heard that we would be blessed with 18 pilgrims, but God said "I'll give you 12". Twelve men ,kinda rings a bell doesn't it. We also wondered how many from the Community would be there for Candlelight, but God said " I will send enough".

Thank you community for showing support and love for these pilgrims.

WALK #34 Submitted by Lay Director Dana Reid

Greetings! When thinking about Walk #34, Ephesians 3:20 & 21 comes to mind. "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."

We certainly had our struggles, but if you look beyond that, God's love prevailed and this team persevered! This team was fantastic – members stepping up at the last minute, some giving 2 talks, everyone doing what was needed.

I can't begin to thank the logistics team for ALL they did to make sure every single detail was taken care of.

Thank you for blessing me with the opportunity to serve as your lay director. I am deeply humbled.

WALK #34 Submitted by Board Representative Lisa Herman

Praise and Thanksgiving be to God the Father ... for the women's walk #34. He provided for all pilgrims, team members and volunteers. It amazes me how He brings all the talks together for His purpose for all women and men to hear, learn and accept - and then get refreshed in His love, even though everyone is different ages and seasons and journeys in our lives.

All the tables meshed together early on with much conversation and cooperation with the posters. Many spoke of how touching the entire weekend was emotionally and spiritually. At closing it was expressed that feeling would carry on in their fourth days and many had excitement to bring others to the Emmaus walks.

Thank you to all who participated in any way to make His walk a success.

Upcoming Walks - Quincy University

Walk 35 - February 22-25 - Elvin Hodges Lay Director / Gary Sheets Spiritual Director

Walk 36 - March 24-27 - Joyce Whitaker Lay Director / Helen McFarland Spiritual Director

Start inviting people now - before the holiday rush sets in! Applications are online at greatriveremmaus.org

Your GRE Board continues looking at different walk locations to give our community a variety of options -- and also gives different geographic areas of our Great River Walk to Emmaus community an opportunity to shine.



GREAT RIVER EMMAUS MEN'S WALK =33
August 24-27, 2023

ROW #1: Tom Wemhoener, Charlie Janus, Carl Herman, Rusty Schultz, Rick Bridges, Craig Dennison, Eric Anderson, Claudia McCain, Helen McFarland, Davin Englund.

ROW #2: Andrew Camphell, Dennis Mayer, **Carter Kasparie, Caleb Kasparie, Chris Fletcher, Scott Seals, Ed Reid, Todd Jackson, Corey Vinyard, Joe Booth, Jonathan Monk.**

ROW #3: Bobby Smith, Tom East, **Justin Knox, Jim Olsen, Justin Snow,** Tom Lemons, **Shane Malin, Alan Noll, Derek Wheeler,** Chris Patterson, Kyle Phillips, Ayobami Timothy, Archie Wells.

Pilgrims are denoted in **BOLD** print.



GREAT RIVER EMMAUS WOMEN'S WALK #34
September 7-10, 2023

ROW #1: Barb Edwards, Debbie Schutz, Chris Vonderheide, Tammy Carman, Dana Reid, Mike Alberts, Claudia McCain, Helen McFarland, Tom Lemons.

ROW #2: Lisa Herman w/Rex, **Teri Paul**, Jen Dougherty.

ROW #3: **Chenoa Butler**, Carla Rabe, Sue Hartman, Dana Knox, Ginny Ersery, Kathy Bridges, **Becky Campbell**, Sherry Clingingsmith, Evelyn Gilpin, Susan Abbott, Missie Martin.

ROW #4: **Debbie Powell**, Tracie Jackson, Cindy Rice, Levon Baker, Tori Nichols, Mandy Hatchel, **Katie Malin**, Helen Hettinger, Amy Conover, Desiree Dennison.

Pilgrims are denoted in **BOLD** print.

Nomination Form for 2024 Board

We are in need of four lay and one clergy board member. We also have two open positions, one for 1 year and one for 2 years. So - write in votes are encouraged. Please only write another's person's name in if they have consented to serve. Send the ballot to Judy Hays at hays89@comcast.net, mail to 635 South 12th Street, Quincy IL 62301 - or take a picture & text to 217-242-0122. Deadline: Ballots must be received by November 11, 2023.

LAITY CANDIDATES

James Abbott - I have been part of Emmaus since 2006, on my first walk, 196Q. In 2011 I gave my first talk. I've served on the steering committee and was on CIE board shortly before GRE became our own community. Previously served on the board for three years and have been off the board for six years, although filled in for six months in 2022 to have a full board. I would like to serve the vacant term expiring January 2025.

Brandy Miller - My first walk was Walk 8. I volunteer when I can and love being part of the Emmaus team. Being on the Board would be a new way to be part of the community. I love everything about Emmaus. I hope I can be part of the board, so I can help a new way.

Dina Spencer - Bringing others to walk with Christ is a passion of mine since my Pilgrim Walk. I want to serve others and make the walks available for as many people as possible. My job requires good communication and organization skills that I can bring to the board. I am a hard worker and love to get in the trenches to help.

Is Christ calling YOU to serve?

CLERGY CANDIDATES

Eric Anderson - I was asked by three people to consider serving as a board member, so someone sees something in me that would be good. I am a simple, straight-forward person, who is quite open and does not play "games". I have been described as a "boy scout", which I was and I am not ashamed of the caricature. I am not coming in with any agenda and I do not carry grudges. I find it difficult to recruit people and I am a bit absent minded. If selected I will do my best to serve, however, I will show preferences as follows: 1) Special events of the local church; 2) Northeast District Board of Ordained Ministry (of which I am currently chair) 3) Special family activities (these are usually ones I do not have control over the schedule. I am willing to serve on weekend a year. Palmyra has a Saturday as well as Sunday worship service, but with enough advance warning I could be off for one weekend. I am currently not willing to be off two weekends (for Walk Weekend and Prep).

Mary Jean Sheets - My term as interim CLD for CIE ends December 31, 2023. I took that position at the resignation of our CLD in April 2023. Previously, served as CIE - CSD for 2 years and trained current CSD. I love Emmaus and want to serve always. "What will I do with my weekend experience?" I went back to school and am now an ordained minister and pastor. Initial walk #155 in Greater Indianapolis Area, Table of Mary, April 2009.

GREAT RIVER EMMAUS 2023 BALLOT

Great River Emmaus Board Laity

4 open 3-year terms

1 open 1-year term & 1 open 2-year term

Please vote for the following candidates. Feel free to submit your own name if you are willing to actively serve on the board – and/or vote for someone you know who is willing to serve.

3 Yr Term (4 open positions)

	Brandy Miller
	Dina Spencer

2 Yr Term (1 open position)

--	--

1 Yr Term (1 open position)

	James Abbott

Great River Emmaus Board Clergy

Vote for 1 open 3-year term

	Eric Anderson
	Mary Jean Sheets

Please PRINT your name _____ and send ballot to Judy Hays – Email hays89@comcast.net – or text picture to 217-242-0122 – or mail to 635 South 12th Street, Quincy 62301. Ballots must be received by November 11. Thank you or taking the time to prayerfully consider your decisions.

SUPPORT YOUR GREAT RIVER EMMAUS (GRE) COMMUNITY

This time of year we receive many appeals for donations. Prior to year end many organizations ask for money, reminding people their contributions are tax deductible.

Whether or not you itemize your taxes -- Christ needs your support to continue His work within your Emmaus Community. It's common knowledge costs are rising. Your board is doing everything possible to keep the fees as affordable as possible. Many team members and pilgrims need a scholarship to help offset the costs of participating. We don't want to turn away a pilgrim or a team member who needs this weekend with Christ and fellow believers!

In addition, it is important GRE invests in technology to meet the needs of our community and future pilgrims. Your board is looking at mechanisms to allow electronic submission of pilgrim, sponsor, and board applications. In addition, technology such as Zoom and online giving comes at an expense. Mail service isn't always dependable, and does not provide the turn-around time needed to receive applications and respond back to pilgrims/sponsors in time to prepare for walks.

Your financial contributions are important to the Great River Emmaus community and our future pilgrims.

Please prayerfully consider a contribution to Great River Emmaus.

GREAT RIVER EMMAUS
P.O. Box 5215
Quincy IL 62305

Want to do something now?

- Pray for our community and Emmaus communities around the world!
- Mail your donation to GRE!
- Pray for guidance and start inviting pilgrims to upcoming walks!
- Start making agape! 50 pieces are needed for each walk. Search Pinterest or Google Agape items for ideas.

There are more specific volunteer needs on page 9.

Questions about serving on the board? Reach out to a current board member.

Contact a board member if you are interested in volunteering to:

- Collect Agape letters from Emmaus communities around the world for our walks - and share our letter with them for their walks
- Produce the Spring and Fall Newsletter
- Learn and manage a GRE texting system
- Phone people to verify information or secure volunteers for walks
- Help with logistics/behind-the-scenes for the upcoming walks
- Compare Ministry Manager, MailChimp & our gmail email addresses to combine & clean up our files.
- Share your talents in whatever way may be helpful!

GRE Board of Directors (by class)			Updated September 2023
Name	Committees	Phone	Email
Dennison, Craig	Logistics	217-242-2157	cdennison09@gmail.com
Dewey, Jim	Communications & Supplies/Storeroom	573-231-8347	jimbacca74@yahoo.com
Edwards, Barb	Music/Entertainment	217.779.7974	bje12854bje@yahoo.com
Hays, Judy (CLD)	Community/Walk Training/Upper Room Liaison	217-242-0122	hays89@comcast.net
Herman, Lisa	Agape Chapel & Team Selection/Support Crew	252-318-2013	bibosmom63@gmail.com
Jenkins, Connie (C)	Kitchen & 4th Day Chair	217-430-7564	cjenkins@casscomm.com
Lemons, Tom (C)	4th Day Chair & Communications	573-248-4349	jlemons@nemonet.com
Malin, Tobey	Logistics & Supplies/Storeroom & Workroom	217-291-5331	tobiasmalin1@gmail.com
McFarland, Helen (CSD)	Candlelight/Sponsors' Hour & Clergy for Walks	573-231-2391	helenmcf95@yahoo.com
Miller, Nancy	Historian & Workroom/Personal Agape	573-795-3296	roynancy.miller@yahoo.com
Reid, Ed	Kitchen & Team Selection/Support Crew	573.248.6270	edreid73@icloud.com
Vonderheide, Chris	Registrar & Logistics & Workroom	217-257-0845	kvcv1990@gmail.com
C = Clergy			
CLD = Community Lay Director			
CSD = Community Spiritual Director			

Ask your Reunion Group -- and anyone you know in the GRE community -- whether they received this newsletter. If they did NOT, their email is not up to date in our records. Ask them to update their profile in Ministry Manager. They can receive this newsletter by emailing greatriveremmaus@gmail.com

We no longer mail the newsletter because so many addresses are out of date and postage costs are high. We depend on email and Facebook to keep our community up to date. Help us by encouraging those not receiving GRE communications to reach out and update their information.