



Iowa Walk to Emmaus Rooster Tales

January 2024

Community Lay Directors
Brent & Terri Gibbons

God is showing us the path into 2024

Greetings Emmaus community from the snowy home on the hill. Terri and I pray that you and your family were blessed with some time together over the Christmas holiday and that you continue to be guided and inspired by our Lord and Savior in this new year.

With snowy and cold conditions, we hope that you have continued to support and attend your local churches. Please remember always, the reason for every Emmaus

event is to create and inspire stronger disciples who passionately serve their home church and congregation. We can't just love and serve on our three-day weekends, but the need and directive is to carry that in to the world.

Speaking of three-day weekends, our two Lay Directors, John Stokka and Nikki Rose, have been busy praying, discerning and sharing their vision and calling for the West Des Moines Walks with their table leaders and other team members.

We look forward to our practice weekend February 2nd and 3rd where

we see God's influence in forming messages to be delivered to the Pilgrims.

John and Nikki have table leaders and assistant table leaders preparing talks and bringing prayers over those who will be in attendance.

I encourage the entire Emmaus community to be in prayer for Pilgrims who are already signed up and those who have yet to answer their invitation.

We would like to take this opportunity to discuss a few changes to our schedule for 2024. We currently have four events on our calendar.

Our kickoff events are the Winter Walks in West Des Moines Feb 22-25 for the gentlemen and Feb 29-March 3 for the ladies. They were slid back in an effort to relieve conflicts with Valentine's Day and some football game.

We are interested in tweaking and adjusting so that we might put on even more successful weekends. If you have any ideas that you would like to

Continued on p10 . . .

Announcements. . .

Emmaus Walks

Winter - West Des Moines UMC

- Men's - February 22-25
- Women's - Feb 29-March 3
- Practice Weekend Feb 2-3

Face to Face Encounters

- April 8, 9, 11 & 12 Laurens UMC
- Sept 16-20 Ankeny First UMC

Summer Emmaus

Dates TBD Spencer UMC

Chrysalis Flight

Not Yet Scheduled - Watch the Website

Important Happenings

- **Setup for Walks** - Thursday before men's Walks; typically around 4:00pm at the host church. Many hands make light work!
- **Candlelight Services** - Saturday night of Walks starting at 8:30pm
- **Tear down & Packing Up** - Sunday of Women's Walk; typically starting around 3:00pm at host church. Many hands make light work!
- **Closing Services** - 4:30pm on Sunday of each Walk



“Come to me all you who are weary”

Hello to all of you wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ. Hopefully you are finding warmth in these fringed temperatures. Can you believe we are a month away from the Walks? Time has flown by for sure.

I want to introduce myself for those who are not familiar with me. My name is Nikki Rose. I live in Grand Junction, IA. I attend Cornerstone CMA in Boone. I am married to John and together we have 3 children.

I am the Winter Lay Director for the women. I feel blessed to be called to this roll. Though I am a nervous wreck right now, I know that the Lord will pull me together when the time comes.

I have been back and forth trying to stay organized with the roll of Lay Director. Seems that once in awhile life's challenges will take over and lead me astray. Rest assured, the Lord keeps leading me back to the needs of the upcoming Walk.

I continue to hear in my head “Come to me all you who are weary.” This verse from Matthew 11 reminds us all that Jesus is here for us. We are not alone so long as we accept His grace in our lives. I know this is God's way of reminding me that he has my back and everything will be fine so long as I continue to look to him.

I am excited to see the faces of the new Pilgrims as they come to the registration area. I pray that they come with open ears, hearts and minds.

I am also excited to see the faces of all of you, as you come to assist in God's work in the agape team to show the love of Jesus to these new Pilgrims. I know it's not always easy to

join us for the full weekend, but I am prayerful the Lord will lead many of you to join for an afternoon and/or for Candlelight.

For those who are not able to be in person, don't count yourselves out yet. You could be just as useful. We can always use prayers for the weekend.

I would also like to remind everyone; it is not too late to sponsor someone to be a Pilgrim. Let's try to fill the conference rooms completely full.

As always continue to pray for the upcoming Walks, teams and unnamed Pilgrims.

De Colores!!



“Come to me all you who are weary . . . he has my back and everything will be fine so long as I continue to look to him.”

“I know its not always easy to join us for the full weekend; but I am prayerful the Lord will lead many of you to join for an afternoon and/or for Candlelight.”

Share the gift that you have been given

I remember when I was touched by God about 3 years ago after walking in the wilderness for 40 years. That day I was born again. That day I was given a new heart. I knew God was real and I just couldn't wait to share that with other people.

People had to know! They had to know what I didn't know and it was my new job to tell them.

Three years later that fire is burning just as brightly. My message has been refined. My tactics have matured, but if someone will stand still for 5 minutes to an hour, I will share my experience and I will share the truth about the gospel of Jesus Christ with them.

The same was true when I walked to Emmaus that summer in 2021 in Spencer. I experienced Christ in a whole new way that deepened my faith even more. It brought me closer to God and I felt the presence of the Living Christ throughout the weekend. Sometimes so strongly that it brought me to tears. Not tears of sadness, but tears caused by the intense palpable presence of the Holy Spirit stirring inside of me.

When we are in the presence of Christ, it is overwhelming. It is unmistakable. It's obvious from these small brushes

that we are totally incapable of being in the complete presence of God while we are but flesh in this world.

Do you remember when you were born again? Do you remember when you walked to Emmaus? Don't keep it to yourself. Share that experience with someone else.

Share the gospel of Jesus Christ wherever you go, and sponsor someone to come to Emmaus on February 22nd, or February 29th for women. Come and rekindle your passion by working agape and feel the body of Christ all around you in fellowship.

The team for the Walk came together so quickly and easily. It was as if it was meant to be. God is great. All the time. His ways are not our ways. His ways are to do His work through us, the Body of Christ. The true church.

What will you do with your arms and legs and voice for this upcoming Walk? How will you share this amazing gift you have been given?

I thank God for each of you and I thank God for choosing me to be a brother in Christ,



working together in this ministry with each of you, to glorify God and expand this ministry.

Your fellow brother in Christ,
John R. Stokka
De Colores!

John's weekend experience . . .

"I felt the presence of the Living Christ throughout the weekend. Sometimes so strongly that it brought me to tears. Not tears of sadness, but tears caused by the intense palpable presence of the Holy Spirit stirring inside of me."

Men's Winter Emmaus Agape Director Scott Hunt



Dear Agape family,

It is that time again for another "Walk to Emmaus" weekend event. We are grateful for such a great turn out of men and women at the last Walk that it made life at these events even better.

The body of Christ at work in all of us coming together to bring others to a deeper understanding of who Christ is makes why this event is always so important.

We still have plenty of positions to fill to make everything flow smoothly. As always, many hands make light work. We would love to see you come, assist and help to bring the love of Christ to

those who are experiencing this event for the first time.

If you haven't been a part of the Agape team, we strongly encourage you to come experience the love behind the scenes and allow your heart to be filled with Agape love again a

second time. You will get to experience the 'wheels' that make this major event work. You will see the body of Christ perform many miracles as well as be a miracle and an answer to prayer for others.

The weekend events for the men's Walk will be on 2/22/2024. We will start unloading the sleeping cots and mattresses around 4:30pm. The women's Walk will start on 2/29/2024.



We always encourage you to invite someone to be a Pilgrim, who hasn't been to the Walk; we are always open to bringing new Pilgrims into the body of Christ in the Emmaus community.

If you have a specific role that you would like to fill on the Agape team please let me know by email or calling me at 515-865-1853

We look forward to your assistance in being the body of Christ for this next Walk.

De Colores

"We'd love to see you come, assist and help to bring the love of Christ to those who are experiencing this event for the first time."



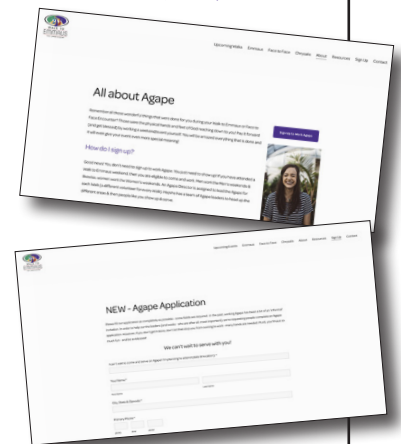
We've missed you . . . Come work Agape!

We'd love to have you join upcoming events by working on the Agape team! Please take a little time to register so we can help with planning - for the Agape Directors & Cooks!

Here's what you need to do:

- Go to About>Agape to learn what it's all about
- Then click the 'Sign Up to Work Agape' button to register
- Complete the online form and click 'Submit'

Many hands are needed! If you don't get signed up, don't let that stop you from showing up. PLUS, you'll have so much fun!



Community Spiritual Director

Rev. Dennis Shepherd

As yet another new year comes before us, we prepare ourselves for the opportunities of introducing new candidates to the spiritual experience of Iowa Walk to Emmaus in February.

Many highs and lows were experienced in 2023, but Christ encourages us to grow stronger through the lows and focus on the positives that help us do God's work in 2024.

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

With the men's weekend beginning February 22 in West Des Moines, let us all take the energy of our spiritual highlights of the past and be energized, with God's help, to guide our new candidates through their best adventure of a life-time. "I long to see you so that I may impart to you some

spiritual gift to make you strong—that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith" (Romans 1:11-12).

I am always lifted by the Isaiah passage 40:31, "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Let us as spiritual leaders doing the Lord's work through the tool of Walk to Emmaus, be empowered to bring joy into the hearts of those who seek to fill a void in their lives.

"Let us hold accountable those who waiver, and seek to lead as Jesus Christ has selected us to carry forward. "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do

not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9).

We are to stand firm and remember that our labors in the Lord will not go unnoticed.

We do not know what the Lord has in mind for the February Walks, but we are to hold true to our faith that there is a plan far greater than what we might imagine on our own. Continue to invite new candidates and allow God to bring the plan to fruition.

Blessings in Christ. Rev. Dennis Shepherd

"Let us all take the energy of our spiritual highlights of the past and be energized, with God's help, to guide our new candidates through their best adventure of a life-time."



We've Merged Websites!

In order to keep continuity and be 'one community', we've merged the Walk to Emmaus & Chrysalis websites.

**The old Chrysalis address: iowachrysalis.weebly.com
will now be: iowachrysalis.org**

Both iowaWalktoemmaus.org and iowachrysalis.org will now go to the same location

Email bcollins@ncn.net if you have suggestions or see anything that needs to be changed/added

Face to Face Lay Director

Dick Pipho



Face to Face coming to Laurens in April

Having participated in four Encounters over as many years, it has continually amazed us at how the more senior (over 60) aged Pilgrims have responded so enthusiastically to their Emmaus experience called the “Face to Face Encounter”.

They have come from all Walks of life and all varieties of spiritual backgrounds, much like the younger aged, typical Emmaus Pilgrim. Some simply renew their Walk with Christ and others find a new relationship with Him. The testimonies at the closing ceremonies are heartwarming.

By the time these folks reach the golden age, perhaps retirement at 65, they might have been attending church 3,380 times in their life. At age 75, possibly 3,900 times.

Doing anything this often could easily lead to becoming a routine, redundant,

almost thoughtless, habit on Sunday morning. After all, if you do the same thing regularly over 3,000 times, wouldn't it tend to have that effect on you? It did me!

“They have come from all walks of life . . . some to renew their walk with Christ and others to find a new relationship with Him.”

The Emmaus experience has a unique and wonderful way of changing that. It helps and encourages us to enjoy a Walk with Christ or just helps to

renew a continuous journey with Christ in our daily lives...regardless of age.

The next Encounter in Laurens in April, hosted by Rev. Deb Parkison, will most certainly have the same rewards...that of making Christ real and alive in the lives of our senior friends.

Since the four daytime sessions are from 9:00am to 3:30pm, we have the candlelight after a banquet lunch on Thursday and closing at 2:30 on Friday. This event is on April 8, 9, 11, 12, 2024 at the Laurens UMC.



As always, you are invited to join in with the Agape team at any time and we hope you will attend candlelight and closing as well.

Blessings;
Dick Pipho, Lay Director, Face to Face Encounter #5



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.

Community Trainers

Jeff & Toni Anderson

Become a Giver . . . ask someone to attend; God will do the rest

Do you know that God has a message that He wants to say to the world through you? It is a unique message that only you can share. It's called your life message. If you don't share that message, if you don't express it, two very sad things happen.

One, the world gets cheated. If you don't share your life message, nobody else will. And second, you will lose your passion.

Why? Because you reflect the character of God when you become a giver. You were made for more than taking in. You were made to give out. That's an important part of living a passion-filled life.

How long has it been since you told someone about what God has done for

you? The Bible (The Message) says in 1 Peter 2:9, "You are God's instruments to do His work and speak out for Him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference He made for you ..."

You don't have to be a theologian. You don't have to be a Bible expert. You just express the difference God has made in your life. God created us to take in and give out.

"You don't have to be a theologian. You don't have to be a Bible expert. You just have to express the difference God has made in your life."

Isn't this the message we need to take to others about what the Walk to Emmaus has done in our lives? Just tell your story, share your experience, and God will take care of the rest.

Someone once told us that you have not received the full benefits of the Walk to Emmaus until you have sponsored someone. That message

has been true in our life, and we hope it will be true in yours.



Support the peeps (ok Pilgrims) . . .

Whether it was last week or a decade or more ago, we all remember how special our Emmaus Walk was. Now is your opportunity to pay it forward and help make the next Walks just as special for this new group of precious Pilgrims.

- **Pray!** - today, tomorrow, every day during the Walks and days after.
- **Work Agape** - It's not just work; it is a whole lot of fun too.
- **Sponsor** - God picks who he wants at each Walk; your job is to just ask.
- **Attend** - Come to Sponsors' Hour, Candlelight and/or Closing, you'll be so blessed & happy you did.
- **Unload, Setup & Packup** - Nobody really likes these jobs but many hands make light work!



Emmaus Winter '24 Teams

Men's Weekend - February 22-25
Women's Weekend - February 29-March 3
West Des Moines UMC, 720 Grand Ave, West Des Moines

Conference Room Team

	<u>Men's</u>	<u>Women's</u>
Lay Director, Perseverance (14)	John Stokka	Nikki Rose
ALD 1, Priorities (1)	Gary Paglia	Korey Averill
ALD 2, 4th Day (15)		Sadie Groves
ALD 3	Brad Peterson	
Spiritual Director, Means of Grace (7)	Todd Schlitter	Shannon Pascual
ASD, Prevenient Grace (2)	Gary Freeland	Mechille Boldt
ADS, Justifying Grace (4)	Jerry Neal	Jane Shepherd
ASD, Obstacles to Grace (9)	John Williams	Melinda Stonebraker
ASD, Sanctifying Grace (12)	Dennis Shepherd	Jane Shepherd
TL, Priesthood of All Believers (3)	Ken Roth	Daphne Pruiser
TL, Life of Piety (5)	Rick Arnold	Aishel Arboleda
TL, Growth thru Study (6)	Ardian Ford	Bre Dailey
TL, Christian Action (8)	Steven Tanner	Danielle Shelley
TL, Discipleship (10)	John Lizer	Rhonda Giebelstein
TL, Changing Our World (11)	Bobby Pate	Mary Patterson
TL, Body of Christ (13)	John Rose	Jackie Black
Assistant Table Leaders	Shannon Adams	Jolynn West
	AJ Giebelstein	Taylor Stevens
	Eli Miller	Mickell Gerth
	Wade Roberts	Kelli Stokka
Conference Room Music	Jeff Patterson	Jennie Gervais
Board Representative		Angie Renner

Agape Team

Agape Lay Director	Scott Hunt	LuAnn Gafford
Assistant Lay Director	Gary Vossburg	Chrissy Seaholm
Spiritual Director	John Meister	Teresa Wilkinson
Kitchen/Cooks	Dave Thompson	Alice Erb
	Travis Garrett & Brad Peterson	Twila Breede
Dining Room Leader		Kathy Van Pelt
Agape Chapel Leader	Chris Nygaard	
72 Hour Prayer Vigil	Chris Nygaard	
Agape Music Leader		Jo Bardole
Housekeeping Leader		Karen Collins
Mail Room/Computer		
Supply/Runner		Dick Piph

See website for latest Team & Pilgrim Lists

2024 Board of Directors

Community Lay Directors

Brent & Terri Gibbons, Minburn

Community Spiritual Co-Directors

Pastor Dennis Shepherd, Panora
Pastor Shannon Pascual, Ruthven

Members

Jeff & Toni Anderson, Belmond
Trainers

Jerod Arrowood, Okoboji

Linda Burk, Ankeny
Treasurer

Mark & Becky Collins, West Bend
Communications Chairs

Brian DePrez, Ankeny
Community Agape Director

Rhonda Giebelstein, Ames

John Lizer, Fort Dodge

Brian & Dawn Parker, Perry
Face to Face Committee Chairs

Dick & Netha Piph, Grimes

Jason & Angie Renner, Adel
Chrysalis Committee Chairs

Sarah Strohmman, Emmetsburg
Registrar

Pastor Lana Williams, Ankeny

Rosie Wurpts, Ogden



*"If anyone is in
Christ . . . you are
a new creation."*

2 Corinthians 5:17

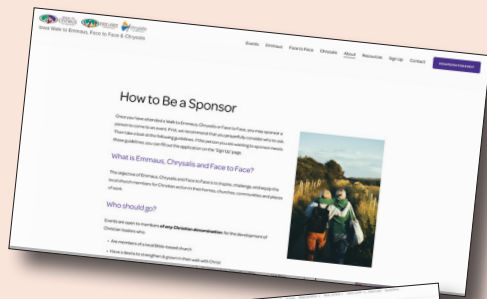
Hey . . . how do I sponsor someone for an Emmaus event?

We're so glad you asked! Sponsoring someone for an Emmaus event is so easy. First, ASK SOMEONE! Then, PRAY that God will do his work in their lives and prompt them to say YES!

To complete an application:

- Go to www.iowaWalktoEmmaus.org and then to the 'Sign Up' menu
- Choose either 'Emmaus Candidates & Sponsors' (use this for Face to Face too) or 'Chrysalis Caterpillars & Sponsors'
- Your Emmaus or Face to Face Pilgrim should complete the '1st Time Attendee Online Application' (we really like it when you complete the online version) Your Chrysalis Caterpillar should complete all the applications on the Chrysalis Signup page
- If you are sponsoring someone for Emmaus, YOU need to complete the 'Sponsor Online Application'. This is not required for Face to Face or Chrysalis

Learn More at www.iowaWalktoEmmaus.org>About>How to be a Sponsor



EARN all
SAVE you
GIVE can



Donations & Event Payments can be made online! Go to iowaWalktoemmaus.org and click on

DONATE/PAY FOR EVENT

in the top righthand corner of the website.

Thank you for your contribution & participation!

Face to Face April '24 Teams

April 8, 9, 11 & 12

Laurens United Methodist Church
201 W Main Street, Laurens, Iowa

Conference Room

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Priority-Lay Director | Dick Pipho |
| 2. Prevenient Grace-Clergy | Deb Parkison |
| 3. Priesthood of All Believers-Table Leader | Rose Robertson |
| 4. Justifying Grace-Clergy | Jerry Neal |
| 5. Life of Piety-Table Leader | Jeff Anderson |
| 6. Means of Grace-Spiritual Director | Ken Miller |
| 7. Christian Action-Table Leader | John Lizer |
| 8. Obstacles to Grace-Clergy | Karen Currier |
| 9. Discipleship-Table Leader | Dan Keen |
| 10. Changing our World-Table Leader | Jan Mason |
| 11. Sanctifying Grace-Clergy | Mike Currier |
| 12. Body of Christ-Table Leader | Cathy Farwell |
| 13. Coping in Tough Times-Laity or Clergy | Kristi Bihrer |
| 14. Perseverance in the Next Day-Lay Director | Dick Pipho |
| Coaches | Toni Anderson & Ken Meyer |
| Music | Kathy Fox |

Agape

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Agape Director | Netha Pipho |
| Agape Spiritual Director | |
| Agape Chapel Leader | Ruth Neal |
| Mail Room/Computer | Netha Pipho |
| Dining Room | Rose & Scott Robertson |
| Housekeeping | |
| Kitchen/Cooks | Jay Bargman & Sharon Meier |
| Prayer Chapel | Jackie Black |
| Banquet & Closing | Bud & Bonnie Young |
| Board Rep | Dawn Parker |

... continued from p1

discuss to improve our weekends or organization please contact us, or any of the board reps.

In April we have a Face to Face event in the Laurens community on April 8, 9, 11 & 12. Laurens is enthused to be hosting this event with Dick Piphos as the Lay Director. We look forward to sharing Jesus with them through all who will participate.

Later in the summer we still plan to have our Walks in the Spencer area with TBD dates.

The biggest change we have on the schedule at this time is Ankeny First United hosting a Face to Face (F2F) event the week of Sept 16-20.

Currently there has been a heavier demand for F2F and we are excited to offer this second event this year. At this time this event will be in lieu of the traditional Fall Walk.

We celebrate our increase in retirement age participants while we search for the remedy to reach more parents and youth. In reality, it takes about 35-40 persons to put on a Walk along with the community helping with loading, unloading, candlelight and closing services.

On the plus side it takes about the same amount of help to facilitate a Walk with 25 or 30 Pilgrims as it does for the 12 to 14 we have been averaging. Please note also that we have yet to get a Chrysalis flight put together. If sharing our ministry with our youth is a passion you have, please reach out

to Jason and Angela Renner, Chrysalis Committee Chairs, or Terri and I.

Let me ask you, as the community, how many candlelight and closing services have you been to in the last year? If you have been to one, we thank you. If you have been to two or more, good job, and if you have hit three or more, well done thou good and faithful servant.

Now, that leaves a whole lot of community members that we haven't seen in a year or more. Do you remember when you Walked?! Do you remember answering those two questions? "What has this weekend meant to you" and "What are you going

to do about it" were answered by each and every one of us.

I have been to many, many closings and don't think I've heard

anyone answer the second question with anything like "I'm going to head home, having witnessed true AGAPE and have no interest in ever giving that gift to another". Sooooo, where are all who answered that question with "I want to share" "I want tell others" "I want to be the hands and feet of Christ" "I want to give the blessing of the Walk to Emmaus to others".

The truth of the matter is we need to dig deep, lean into the work and celebrate what God does, in and through us. We have asked the board members to pick up their crosses in service and now I am asking you the community to be showing up, doing some of the things you said in answering "what will you do about it".

I have a new question for you, does Walk to Emmaus mean enough to you, that you will commit to carrying it forward? Even more than the basic work of the weekends, who do you know that God might lead you to sponsor. Have you prayed "God open my eyes to who I might sponsor?"

I share these words of Paul's from Philippians 1:3 "I thank God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus".

I am going to leave with some excerpts from Dieterich Bonhoeffer's book, The Cost of Discipleship. "Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate."

"Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will go and sell all that he has."

"Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock. Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ."

"It is costly because it costs a man his life, it is grace because it gives a man the only true life".

We have no doubt that God provides a path, only question is, who will walk upon it?

In service of our sovereign Lord,
Brent & Terri Gibbons

"The truth of the matter is we need to dig deep, lean into the work and celebrate what God does, in and through us."



www.iowaWalktoemmaus.org iowaEmmaus@gmail.com

facebook.com/iowa-Walk-to-Emmaus