



# Iowa Walk to Emmaus Rooster Tales

October 2023

*Community Lay Directors*  
**Brent & Terri Gibbons**

## An Emmaus pilgrimage is more than a weekend event

Another Iowa summer has come and gone. The combines are now rolling, working to bring in the harvest, what God has brought with the effort of the farmers, rich soil, sunshine, and the rains.

of the 4th chapter of the book of Mark: *But those that were sown upon the good soil are the ones who hear the work and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.*

We too should be in the attitude of harvest, in that we reap daily some of the seeds that were planted in our own Pilgrim Walks, be they last summer, or decades ago. Our lives have been

*“God once gifted you a weekend pilgrimage to Emmaus, not so that you could just have a great experience, but in order that you would begin to change the world.”*

God once gifted you a weekend pilgrimage to Emmaus, not so that you could just have a great experience, but in order that you would begin to change the world. In changing the world, we start with ourselves,

enriched by someone that once went out of their way to sponsor us on our Pilgrim Walk.

but we can't stop there. Each and every one of us is part of the priesthood of all believers and, as such, we are called to the action of sharing Jesus Christ.

And so, I share with you the last verse from the “parable of the Sower” verse 20

*Continued on p6 . . .*

# EARN SAVE GIVE . . . all you can

Donations & Event Payments can be made online!

Go to [iowawalktoemmaus.org](http://iowawalktoemmaus.org) and click on

**DONATE/PAY FOR EVENT**

in the top righthand corner of the website.

*Thank you for your contribution & participation!*



## *Announcements. . .*

### **Emmaus Walks**

#### **Fall - Ankeny First UMC**

- Men's - October 26-29
- Women's - November 2-5
- Practice Weekend - Oct 6-7

#### **Winter - West Des Moines UMC**

Not Yet Scheduled - Watch the Website

### **Face to Face Encounter**

April 8, 9, 11 & 12 Laurens United Methodist Church

### **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

## Emmaus brings that intimate & peaceful experience

Hello friends - It's Fall Y'all and you know what that means. It's time for the Fall walk in Ankeny.

I've been thinking a lot and working on the weekend plans for a bit now and I'm really very excited. I'm a bit of a procrastinator and that's not really the greatest asset so I keep reminding myself to Be Still, and allow the weekend and its plans to unfold before me.

Being the ALD at the last two Walks has somewhat prepped me but I know there is going to be a lot on my to do list and I'm working at checking things off.

You know this Emmaus community has been so wonderful to be involved with for the past 13 years, I've loved making new friends and seeing faces

of friends each time I've worked a weekend.

Since I walked in 2010 I'm still considering myself a newbie 4th Dayer, knowing there are 4th Dayers out there who are in the alumni from the 80's and 90's. Those hard working and dedicated servants I've seen in these past years are really awesome,

but I tend to see the same faces.

That is where all of you hopefully reading this come in to my mind, will you new 4th Dayers and those who haven't been

back to Agape in a few years or since Covid-times consider joining us this weekend?

Don't be shy or afraid to come and lend a hand, a prayer or an ear. We need all of you and I can't wait to see



your faces shining Saturday night in the candlelight.

If you know me you know I'm all about big things; events, concerts and venues. There is something to be said for attending a show or speaker in an arena filled with thousands of Christian worshipers, but what makes the Walk just as amazing and fulfilling is the intimate and peaceful experience you get as a Pilgrim and then again when you are working Agape.

Send your pilgrims and pray that their weekend is as touching and awesome as yours was. :) Best, Diana



## 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](http://iowachrysalis.weebly.com)  
will now be: [iowachrysalis.org](http://iowachrysalis.org)**

Both [iowawalktoemmaus.org](http://iowawalktoemmaus.org) and [iowachrysalis.org](http://iowachrysalis.org)  
will now go to the same location

*Email [bcollins@ncn.net](mailto:bcollins@ncn.net) if you have suggestions or see anything that needs to be changed/added*

## Men's Fall Emmaus Lay Director

Bud Young



### Remember your Walk; now is the time to participate again

Remember your walk?  
Remember your table?  
Remember where Christ met you in your weekend?

As lay director of this fall's walk, I am remembering many crossroads in my Walk to Emmaus weekend. I was blessed.

There is not better time to re-engage with the Iowa Emmaus Community.

**Serve** with the agape crew - its a great place to start. You experience a new view of Christ throughout the weekend's by serving on the agape team.

**Sponsor** someone you know. A relative, a friend or a church member needs to experience a Walk to Emmaus weekend. The time is ripe for an invitation.

**Participate** in the fall walk. You will be glad you did

Be a blessing.  
Be blessed.  
Serve His kingdom!

Des Colores! Bud Young, Lay Director

P.S. Pray for your pilgrims.  
Come to Candlelight & Closing.

## Community Trainers

Jeff & Toni Anderson

### Plant 'trees' under whose shade you do not expect to sit

"American history shall march along that skyline," announced Gutzon Borglum in 1924 as he gazed at the Black Hills of South Dakota.

It was three years later that he began sculpting the images of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson, and Theodore Roosevelt on the face of Mount Rushmore.

---

*"If you want to leave an impact on this world, do something that will outlive you . . . invest in others' lives and lead them to a more meaningful relationship with Christ."*

---

Working with jackhammers and dynamite, Borglum's team removed

around 400,000 tons of outer rock, working to within three inches of the final surface.

Sadly, Borglum died in March of 1941. His masterpiece was finally finished years later.

It's been said, "The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit."

Some of the greatest visionaries who have ever lived never got to see their visions take shape. Instead, they had a vision so big that just achieving it took longer than the remainder of their lives.

If you want to leave an impact on this world, do something that will outlive you. That doesn't mean you have to



carve a mountain. But you can invest in others' lives and lead them to a more meaningful relationship with Christ.

When you live beyond yourself, there's no limit to what God can accomplish through you. **Who are you going to invite to the Walk to Emmaus in October?**

# Community Spiritual Co-Director

Rev. Shannon Pascual

## We are all commanded to do the job of discipleship

23 Let us hold firmly to the hope that we have confessed, because we can trust God to do what he promised.

24 Let us think about each other and help each other to show love and do good deeds. 25 You should not stay away from the church meetings, as some are doing, but you should meet together and encourage each other. Do this even more as you see the day coming. Hebrews 10:23-25

I've said it before and I'll say it again, 'I believe that the Walk to Emmaus is as close as we will get to heaven on earth.' I love the experience of each weekend I can be with my brothers & sisters in the faith.

It's the in-between time that may be difficult to hang in there. That's when I struggle and question my faith. I question if I am devout enough, if I'm really making good choices according to God's will, and if I have actually consulted God long enough in matters. That all involves a level of trust that has taken me years to develop.

It's been nearly 20 years ago that I sat in the office of a psychologist in Des Moines as she reviewed the results of several tests that were required for the ministry. I had lost my dad as a senior in high school, been through a bad marriage and even worse divorce, and

was unsure if I was really hearing the call of God on my life to be a pastor.

I don't remember much about the review but I do remember this: the psychologist told me that she could read between the lines and see that I had 'major trust issues.'

Now, I understand more about what she was talking about. It relates to my BPD (borderline personality disorder), wherein one of the main 'symptoms' is fear of abandonment and rejection.

I put up walls and especially in the church, did not trust too many people to cross into my personal space. If you don't let people get close to you, then you may avoid the hurt of separation.

---

***"You can leave God out of decisions or get sidetracked by 'life' but God will never let you go . . . spending the weekend with brothers & sisters is a reminder of what God gives to us."***

---

But to trust God is something that never should have been tough to do; because God never abandons you or rejects you. You can leave God out of decisions or get sidetracked by 'life' but God will never let you go. Spending the weekend with brothers and sisters at the Walk to Emmaus is a reminder of what God gives to us, not just during that one weekend but every day in between.

This is what I am reminded of when I read the words of the author of Hebrews. Even in the early days of the church, it must have been problematic to get people to show up to church.

As a pastor, the unspoken expectation was that I had the whole or main responsibility to 'get people to church.' 'Since you are young, with a family, you should be able to attract the young people to church.' And even if I could meet that expectation, bring young people into the church, it was not entirely my responsibility to keep them coming back. Although there were many folks in the congregations that I served, that would beg to differ.



My point is that we are all commanded to do the job of discipleship, to invite and invite and invite. We are all required through our faith to trust in God's promises and to believe that through that trust we will have times of great sorrow and joy. We will be alright as long as we have someone to share the burdens and the love with. That's my reasoning for encouraging 'the gathering together with one other'; for support and for sharing the joys.

And when I begin to doubt my faith, question if my decisions have been made under God's consultation, or think about my trust issues, I look forward to gathering with all of you. Not just because it is a church thing but more because it is a time to be encouraged and loved by others that understand what you are going through, every day.

# Info from the Registrar

Sarah Strohman

## Remember these tips when sponsoring a Pilgrim

It looks like Summer is finally here!

You know what that means!?! Our summer walk! Have you thought about inviting someone to attend the Walk to Emmaus? Here are a couple of tips to encourage your success:

1. Pray, pray pray! Asking someone to attend without praying is like planting a flower and never watering it! Prayer is the basis of the whole walk. Pray before asking them, during the time leading up to their walk, during their walk and following their walk.
2. Make sure the person you have in mind is in a place mentally to be able to handle the weekend. It is ok and important to prepare them for this by telling them that they will be encouraged to set aside their watch and phone for the weekend. The reason for this is not to cut them off from the outside world, but to allow them the time needed to be fully engaged in the weekend.
3. Make sure your candidate is already part of a church. We don't make this suggestion to limit participation

but to be sure that the person has the proper support both before, during and after their walk. If they are not yet part of a church, consider assisting them to find a church home first. If they are attending a church, let their clergy know that they are attending this walk.

4. As a sponsor, make sure you are prepared and able to assist with any urgent issues at home while they are attending their walk. Also, it is your responsibility to reach out to family, friends, clergy, fellow church members for Agape mail. This is so important for the pilgrim experience and for a long time after their walk.
5. And finally, after their walk is over, make sure they are connected with a reunion group if available in their area and continue to touch base with them to see how their walk is going. You will find this to be beneficial for them and for you.

Following these steps will ensure a successful walk for your pilgrim both during and after!

Ready to sponsor? Our website, [www.iowawalktoemmaus.org](http://www.iowawalktoemmaus.org), has 2 options for filling out sponsorship forms and applications.

You can print the application and email or mail to the Registrar or complete the application online and submit!

While on the website, you can pay for your pilgrim to attend by clicking on the purple box stating "DONATE/PAY FOR EVENT".

If you have any questions on sponsorship, please reach out to any member of the board. If you have questions on registration, please feel free to reach out to me, Sarah Strohman by email at [smstrohs@yahoo.com](mailto:smstrohs@yahoo.com) or phone 712-298-1137. My mailing address is 1503 Union Street, Emmetsburg, IA 50536.

**"Only God knows the physical & emotional needs of some of your acquaintances . . . allow the Walk to become an opportunity for God to open new doors & windows of love for struggling friends."**



. . . continued from p1

Concerning the Walk To Emmaus there are two critical ways to bear good fruit. **One** is to come back and join us (time and time again) in serving others in their walk. There are still roles that need to be filled for both the women and the men's weekends. Don't wait to be asked.

What is in your heart? Has God given you a warm spot in your heart for the spirit of Agape service? Remember, a burning ember separated from the rest of the fire will wither and cool. But that same ember, when joined with others, will cast off light and heat in all directions.

If God moved your heart in reading this, PLEASE give us a call, we can only burn more brightly together.

The **second** fruit: both the world and "the Walk" are in dire need of is Pilgrims. I challenge each and every person that calls themselves a 4th Dayer to look inward at what effort they have given over the years to recruiting brothers and sisters in Christ to come spend 72 hours away from the world. Then having the small flame of their ember brought in to the glory of the light of God burning brightly in each.

During the time of Covid we collectively saw many ember's wane, but those days are over and we are in a time that, though a fervor of activity, we may begin to touch more lives that will help strengthen more churches.

See, we don't do this work so that the Walk is sustained, but the work of the



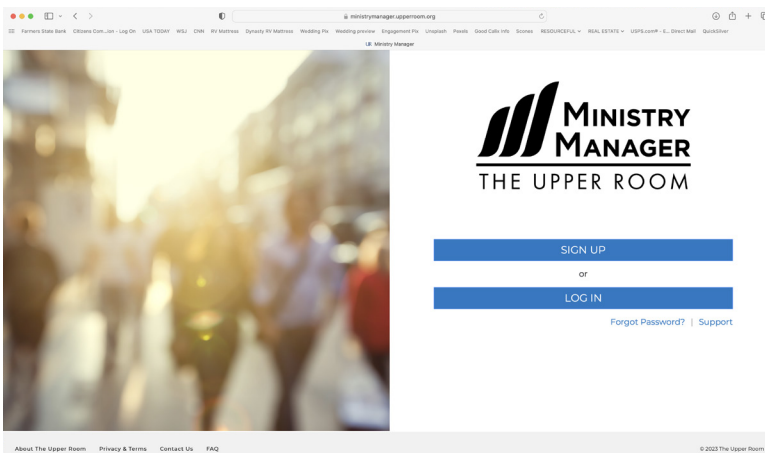
Walk is that disciples of Jesus Christ are so committed to answering the Lord's call that they help to invigorate their local churches.

As Luke says in the book of Acts, chapter 16 verse 5: *So, the churches were strengthened in the faith and they increased in numbers daily.*

I share these words with you in love and thanksgiving, for the work you have done and will do. But I also share with you that I believe our challenges as Christians will continue to mount from outside and even inside of the churches. We can't be overly strengthened in our faith to God and the sharing of that faith with one another.

***"A burning ember separated from the rest of the fire will wither and cool . . . but that same ember, when joined with others, will cast off light and heat in all directions."***

## Have you setup your Ministry Manager Account?



The Upper Room Ministry Manager account is your access to your Emmaus info, as well as a way to search for other Emmaus, Chrysalis & Face-to-Face brothers & sisters.

1. Go to <https://ministrymanager.upperroom.org>
2. Click 'Sign Up' and follow the prompts to setup an account.
3. Update your personal info by clicking the 'person' icon next to the word 'Support' at the top right hand corner.

Lots of great info is available on this website - set up your account today!

# Emmaus Fall '23 Teams

Men's Weekend - October 26-29  
Women's Weekend - November 2-5  
Ankeny First Methodist Church, 206 SW Walnut Street

## Conference Room

	<u>Men's</u>	<u>Women's</u>
Lay Director, Perseverance (14)	Bud Young	Diana Weesner
ALD 1, Priorities (1)	John Stokka	Nikki Rose
ALD 2, 4th Day (15)		Korey Averil
ALD 3	Chris Nygaard	Kathy Bice
Spiritual Director, Means of Grace (7)	Dennis Shepherd	Deb Parkison
ASD, Prevenient Grace (2)	Ken Miller	Angie Loomis
ADS, Justifying Grace (4)	John Williams	Melanie Hauser
ASD, Obstacles to Grace (9)	Michael Currier	Lana Willisma
ASD, Sanctifying Grace (12)	Gerald Neal	Leila Blackburn
TL, Priesthood of All Believers (3)	Cody Walker	Breanna Dailey
TL, Life of Piety (5)	Jeff Anderson	Karen Collins
TL, Growth thru Study (6)	Gary Paglia	Ruth Tomlinson
TL, Christian Action (8)		Luann Gafford
TL, Discipleship (10)	Dean Kluss	Daphne Pruisner
TL, Changing Our World (11)	Chris Nygaard	
TL, Body of Christ (13)	Steve Ackerman	Amy Jo Kerr
Assistant Table Leaders	Jeff Farwell & Larry Taylor	Jeanette Lanstrum
	Rick Arnold & Duane Asbe	
	Adrian Ford	
Conference Room Music	Jeff Patterson	
Board Representative		Terri Gibbons

## Agape

Agape Lay Director	Brad Peterson	Sadie Groves
Assistant Lay Director	Brian DePrez	
Spiritual Director	John Meister	Christy Ehrle
Kitchen/Cook	Brent Gibbons	Chrissy Seaholm
Dining Room Leader		Kathy Van Pelt
Dining Room Assistant		
Agape Chapel Leader		
Chapel Assistant		
72 Hour Prayer Vigil		
Agape Music Leader		
Housekeeping Leader		Jackie Black
Housekeeping Assistant		
Mail Room/Computer		
Snacks		
Supply/Runner	Dick Pipho	Netha Pipho
Facilities & Unloading	Dick Pipho & Brent Gibbons	

## 2023 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  
Board Secretary

Rhonda Giebelstein, Ames

John Lizer, Fort Dodge

Brian & Dawn Parker, Perry  
Face to Face Committee Chairs

Dick & Netha Pipho, Grimes

Jason & Angie Renner, Adel  
Chrysalis Committee Chairs

Sarah Strohman, Emmetsburg  
Registrar

Pastor Lana Williams, Ankeny

Rosie Wurpts, Ogden

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

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

See website for latest Team & Pilgrim Lists