



Iowa Walk to Emmaus Rooster Tales

June 2023

Community Lay Directors
Brent & Terri Gibbons

Workers are needed; stay connected

Greetings from your community lay directors. We pray that this little note finds you and your family blessed and well. As happens so very often many of us have already started on summer travels and activities, and still have much work to be done before we can hold our summer walks in Spencer.

We still have an assortment of roles that need to be filled. Kathy and Travis have been diligent in praying and following up with multitudes of workers that may fill all the roles. Please take

time to prayerfully consider joining us at the upcoming walk, committing to the entire weekend if possible.

As you give some thought to being with us in Spencer and even later in the year

at Ankeny, take time to remember when you were a pilgrim. When you first received the love of the Agape workers to make it possible for your walk.

I remember being awed by so many things that weekend, including all of my needs being attended to, the food, the people driving hours to show up at

“Emmaus is a fundamental path for workers and pilgrims to take Jesus into their very being.”

Continued on p7 . . .

Announcements . . .

Emmaus Walks

Summer - Spencer UMC

- Men's - July 6-9
- Women's - July 13-16

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

We miss you . . . Come work Agape!

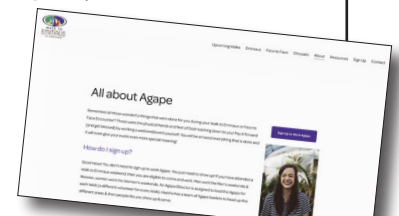


We'd love to have you join upcoming events by working on the Agape team! We're asking you to register so we can do a little better job planning - for the Agape Directors & Cooks!

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!



Online Donations & Event payments can be made on our website. Go to 'IowaWalktoEmmaus.org' and click on the 'Donate/Pay for Event' button at the top right corner. Thanks in advance for your generosity!

Women's Summer Emmaus Lay Director

Kathy Van Pelt



WALK TO
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Be still and know that I am God; be still and listen

As I sit and think about the upcoming Emmaus weekend, I feel all the excitement and joy that comes with every weekend. I anticipate the laughter and the tears and the fun that each Emmaus weekend brings.

This time, as Lay Director, I am also feeling the anxiety and stress that leading brings to me. I am a worrier by nature, and I'll admit, I've done my share of worrying.

Then that still small voice inside of me whispers "Be Still." Sometimes that voice needs to speak louder to get my attention, but when I pause to listen, I hear "Be Still and know that I am God." I think what He is trying to tell me is "I got this!! Stop worrying, get out of the way and let me work."

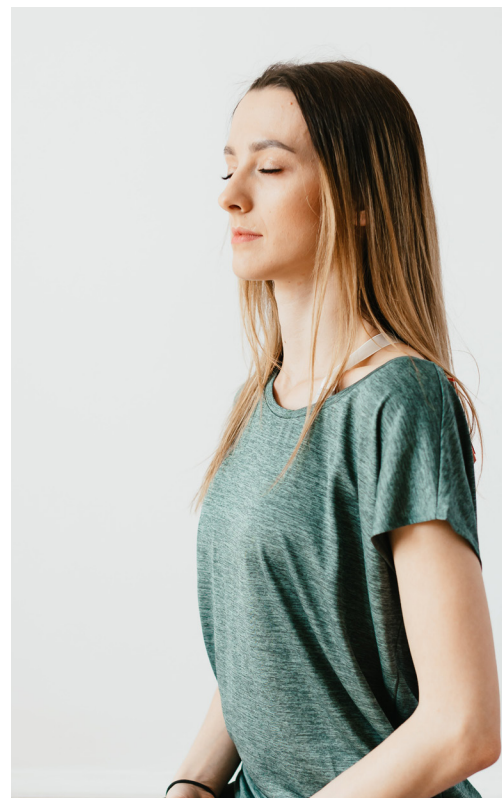
Be still. This is something we all should do often. Be Still and really listen for God. It's easy to praise God in a room full of people who share the same love of God. It is harder to find time to Be Still and listen for what God is trying to tell each of us.

"It's easy to praise God in a room full of people who share the same love of God. It is harder to find time to Be Still and listen for what God is trying to tell each of us."

My hope for this Emmaus weekend is that we can all take time to Be Still and listen for God. God is so very present to each of us at Emmaus. We just need to take

the time to listen for Him.

I am praying for the Pilgrims who will attend this walk. We may not know all the names yet, but God does! I am praying for the team of amazing people who will serve God as Agape or in the Conference Room. I am



praising God for His amazing grace and unconditional love that makes all of this a reality.

Men's Summer Emmaus Lay Director

Travis Garrett



WALK TO
EMMAUS
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The Emmaus Lay Director position is a humbling experience

Emmaus brothers and sisters, just wanted to put a together a quick note about what being a lay director has meant to me so far.

First, I just want to say that it has given me a new appreciation of what the Emmaus board of directors and all past lay directors have had to undertake to

make each and every walk happen.

There has been some joy as I look forward to having a couple of new speakers in the conference room, whom I am sure God will bless with great messages for the pilgrims. It has also given a greater appreciation for some guys that are always around and

willing to step into roles as needed. Last, but certainly not least, I continue to pray that this summer walk in Spencer will do what past walks have done, to make greater disciples for Jesus at local churches. I give thanks for those who continue to help me, and especially for God directing and preparing my life for this time.

Community Spiritual Co-Director

Rev. Shannon Pascual

God's timing & plans are always better than ours

God Directs- Proverbs 16:9

"In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps."

We are all guilty of pre-planning out our future, sometimes it is good but many times it is not. When we create a long-term plan in our hearts, we then quickly find ourselves disappointed and even lost. But if we confide in the Lord and let Him bring us to where we need to be, there isn't any room for these hurt feelings and the steps we took to get to these great moments in our lives are enjoyed throughout our journey. **

It was a long, drawn-out process. In March, the local library advertised a position open for Library Director. I was excited about the opportunity, knowing that it was part-time, and I was confident that I had the skills to fill the position. I applied for the job in mid-March. The Library Board did not meet until mid-April, so in the third week of April I interviewed. They wanted to offer me the job but my schedule with the Nature Center wasn't going to work well with their needs.

I began a process of working with my boss to re-arrange my schedule at NC, to make it fit their needs. Approval was needed on both sides. In the meantime, the Library Board advertised the position again; with a May 5th deadline. The position had new applicants and

new competition for the job.

This whole time, I knew I had other goals to reach as well. I was determined that I could do it all. But in those moments of doubts and

asking myself, "Is this really worth all the effort? Will this give me satisfaction?", I prayed. "God, you know what lies ahead. You know that

I like to have everything in order. I am trying not to stress too much. I am trying not to become overwhelmed and say 'yes' to too many things. Please, let me know what I should do."

And so, I put it in God's hands. Which is a big deal for me, an infamous control freak. I interviewed again for the job the third week of May. Approximately 8 weeks from the first application submission. I was in the interview for ten minutes! I arrived

home and within another ten minutes, I received a call from the Library Board.

I didn't get the job. They decided to hire within. Someone who had worked in the library for four years but had not applied the first time. They said they could sure use me on staff. I said 'yes.'

God knew that I was going to be stepping into a big mess as a director. God knew that trying to juggle two

jobs would be difficult and maybe, miserable. He answered my prayer but delayed the process so that the library employee could have the opportunity to apply the second time through.

Why is it that we, as humans, think we know best about every decision in our lives, rather than giving God his time to discern and guide and give the best answer? Maybe in six months or a year, the Library Board and I will be ready to try the director position and the current director will decide to retire. (She is 76 years old.) Maybe not. It's all in God's timing.

As Emmaus 4th dayers, we all have our own stories of God's timing. We understand the need for God to smooth out the bumps and remove the obstacles that are in the way of getting new pilgrims

to our weekends; or to get a team put together in the conference room or Agape chapel. Continue to pray that God will lead you to your best decisions. Continue to pray that God's timing will be

your timing. Believe that God continues to offer order in the chaos of our lives. Believe that God continues to use us as people of faith to evangelize.

Former Iowa Bishop Julius C Trimble often said, "No prayer, no power. Little prayer, little power. Much prayer, much power!" Thank you, Lord, for your power and timing in our lives!

** From internet website, *Abide and Seek*, 2018

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, 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 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."



Community Trainers

Jeff & Toni Anderson

Aging is a lifelong trade-off of the physical for the spiritual

Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 2 Corinthians 4:16

A new member of the bridge club showed up one afternoon wearing a beautiful gold locket. Another player approached her and said, "That's such a lovely piece. Do you keep a memento in it?"

"Yes," the woman answered. "It's a piece of my husband's hair I keep to help me remember."

"Oh, I'm so sorry," the player replied. "How long ago did he pass away?" The newcomer quipped, "Pass away?"

Oh, he's still alive. It's his hair that's gone!"

Someone once said, "Do not regret growing older. It is a privilege denied to many." And with so much focus today on doing whatever it takes to stay young, many people completely miss out on a biblical understanding of what it means

to age. They miss the fact that their gray hairs, baldness, wrinkles, and aches all have a purpose in the plans of God.

"Many people miss the fact that their gray hairs, baldness, wrinkles and aches all have a purpose in the plans of God."

So, what is the right biblical understanding of aging? Well, as we see in the above passage, aging is a lifelong trade-off of the physical for the spiritual. Young people may have more physical vitality but are usually less mature spiritually. As we get older, however, we may lose our physical strength, but we grow spiritually and become more equipped to invest in others' lives.

Be willing to make that trade-off. We're all involved in the work of making disciples. The question is, whose disciples are we making? Every single day, through your words, actions, or



even inaction, you draw someone near to Christ or push them away. It's a heavy responsibility to know that you're a disciple maker. So, who's reading the Gospel you're living out today?

The point is that the world is watching, and what they think of Jesus may come down to what they think of you. Please consider sponsoring someone or working the upcoming Walk.

"The world is watching, and what they think of Jesus may come down to what they think of you. Please consider sponsoring someone or working the upcoming Walk."



Face to Face Report

Dawn Parker & Netha Pipho



Des Moines Face to Face is an inspiring success in April

The April Face to Face Encounter, held at the New Hope UMC in Des Moines, was a resounding success and the pilgrims shared some heartwarming stories about their personal experiences.

The team, led by Lay Director, Netha Pipho, and Spiritual Director, Ken

Miller, did an inspiring job. The Agape team, though small, worked hard to provide the support for a great weekend. As always, the most popular person, on any Emmaus event, is the head cook and Linda Burk certainly upheld that tradition with some fine food.

The pilgrims came from Des Moines, Ankeny, Winterset and Pleasant Hill, for a total of 15 pilgrims.

They were so enthused with the Emmaus program that they immediately followed up on the 4th day talk and formed a reunion group and named it the "4th Day Explorers". They meet on the 3rd Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. currently at the New Hope UMC. Other community members in the Des Moines area have also started joining this group.

"They were so enthused they immediately formed a reunion group and named it the '4th Day Explorers'."

Anyone is invited to join in this exciting new fellowship of 4th dayers.

Plans for our next Encounter are going forward. No details yet except that the location will probably be in the northwest part of the state. Please keep us in prayer as we move forward.

Stay connected to Christ, your local church & this wonderful Emmaus community!



Your chance to pass it on

"I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase." 1 Cor 3:6-9

Just ask. God will do the rest.

You know someone who could benefit from an Emmaus, Face to Face or Chrysalis Event. Complete the registration on the website:

www.iowawalktoemmaus.org

Go to: About>How to Be a Sponsor

Don't think about it too much. Just do it.





EARN all
SAVE you
GIVE can



. . . continued from p1

candlelight, the food, the speakers that shared their witness with us, the food, table leaders and assistant table leaders that gave up three days to guide us, the food, and finally the celebration of pilgrim's witness at closing.

I know that we all have incredibly busy lives, with jobs and families to support, but I would like to share this story I heard on my walk.

Most of us have flown somewhere on a commercial airliner and heard the following instructions (even if you don't remember). They instruct that if the cabin loses air pressure the oxygen mask will drop from the cabin ceiling. If this happens you are instructed to first affix the mask to yourself before you help another person. You are NOT to help others (even children or physically disabled).

At first, this may seem counter intuitive to a Christian and our service to others, but this is at a very basic level. If indeed

we are trying to help others we may lose consciousness, then not being able to help the one we started, nor ourselves, rendering us helpless and maybe lifeless.

Now think about this as we are to God. If we don't take the time to stay connected, and directed by God, our lives can run off course in all manner of ways.

Emmaus is a fundamental path for workers and pilgrims to take Jesus in to their very being. Have you seen Jesus my Lord? There has been a bit of struggle to maintain numbers during and through Covid, but we now have the opportunity to move the Emmaus community forward.

As we sponsor greater numbers of pilgrims, actively inviting and staying connected with them so that they also have the opportunity to sponsor and give of themselves. In Agape there is growth in this Christian community that will continue to serve and call the world to discipleship.

**Donations & Event
Payments can now be
done 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!*



Thank you for your generosity . . .

The Iowa Walk to Emmaus Community would like to acknowledge the generosity of our deceased 4th day brother, Fred Bryson, who left \$1,000 in his will to our Emmaus group.

If you are interested in making a contribution to Iowa Walk to Emmaus, please contact our treasurer, Linda Burk at lb Burk07@gmail.com.

Emmaus July '23 Teams

Men's Weekend - July 6-9
Women's Weekend - July 13-16
Spencer UMC - 311 2nd Ave W, Spencer

Conference Room

Lay Director, Perseverance (14)

ALD 1, Priorities (1)

ALD 2, 4th Day (15)

ALD 3

Spiritual Director, Means of Grace (7)

ASD, Prevenient Grace (2)

ADS, Justifying Grace (4)

ASD, Obstacles to Grace (9)

ASD, Sanctifying Grace (12)

TL, Priesthood of All Believers (3)

TL, Life of Piety (5)

TL, Growth thru Study (6)

TL, Christian Action (8)

TL, Discipleship (10)

TL, Changing Our World (11)

TL, Body of Christ (13)

Assistant Table Leaders

Men's

Travis Garrett

Bud Young

Ken Miller

Ken McQueen

Dennis Shepherd

Steve Swenson

Mike Currier

Robert Allen

John Rose

Dick McCord

John Stokka

Scott Hunt

Jay Bargman

Women's

Kathy Van Pelt

Diana Weesner

Nikki Rose

Jane Shepherd

Shurmaine McAlpine

Susan Rohden

Elizabeth Odor

Shannon Pascual

Cathy Farwell

Jackie Black

Breanna Kerr

Danielle Shelley

Lori Hawbaker

Amy Jo Kerr

Breanna Dailey

LaShonda Small

Conference Room Music

Board Representative

Jenny Gervais

Rhonda Giebelsein

Agape

Agape Lay Director

Assistant Lay Director

Spiritual Director

Kitchen/Cook

Mike Thatcher

John Meister

Mark Willson

Teresa Wilkinson

Dining Room Leader

Dining Room Assistant

Agape Chapel Leader

Chapel Assistant

72 Hour Prayer Vigil

Agape Music Leader

Housekeeping Leader

Housekeeping Assistant

Mail Room/Computer

Jeff Patterson

Dick Pipho

Snacks

Supply/Runner

Facilities & Unloading

Dick Pipho

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