

# As the Rooster Crows February 2024 Vol. 54

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## Thoughts from the Assistant Community Lay Director

What is the state of affairs with the Fox Valley Walk to Emmaus Community? What's happening?

I spent most of this last weekend (February 16-18) being present and supporting the Conference Room Team Training. God was truly present in a powerful way at the prayerful anointing ceremony for the Team Members on Friday evening. The teams are ready to go.

**We can always use more Pilgrims so get those applications in. The deadline is March 18.**

The Board of Directors has essentially completed its work for the 2024 Walks. At the March Board meeting, we start planning for the Walks in 2025. Yes, the process starts one year in advance.

The basic purpose of the Board is to plan and put all the pieces together for the Walks. And there are a lot of pieces that have to come together in a timely fashion if the Walks are to happen. I think I can safely say that without a hard-working functional Board the Walks will not happen.

That brings me to the next activity of the Board and *this is a serious concern*. Can we find enough individuals who are willing to do the work that it takes to put together the 2025 Walks?

The FVWTE By-Laws has a list of 17 individuals that are assigned specific tasks (i.e. Agape, Facilities, Team Selection, Music, Gatherings, Sponsorship and more) for a functioning community. This list is 24 pages long and is modeled after lists prepared by The Upper Room, the organization that oversees the Walk to Emmaus worldwide.

This last year the Board had only 14 individuals and several of the members double and triple tasked.

For the 2024-2025 year, there will be only 7 Board members that are going to carry over.

*We need 10 individuals from the community to step up and say I am willing to be a member of the board and do whatever it takes to hold walks in 2025.*

We have over 600 individuals that have completed a Walk with FVWTE and are receiving this newsletter. Are there not 10 who are reading this and are willing to step out of the boat and do what has to be done to hold walks in 2025?

If you are one of the 10, please email me, Donald Genrich at [donald.genrich@gmail.com](mailto:donald.genrich@gmail.com) or Wendy Cole at [wendy-jo-03@hotmail.com](mailto:wendy-jo-03@hotmail.com).

**God Bless & Decolores,**

**Donald Genrich, Community Lay Director,  
FVWTE #7.**

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# Greetings from Fox Valley Walk to Emmaus

The Walk to Emmaus develops Christian disciples and leaders by inspiring, challenging, and equipping active adult church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, workplaces, and communities. It also benefits less-active members who are seeking to renew a relationship with God, grow spiritually, or discover firmer foundations for their lives. The Walk to Emmaus is an ecumenical program that invites and involves Christians of many different denominations. Have you heard about the Walk? Your church has been blessed to have past participants in the walk. They may be your active committee leaders, your bible study facilitators, your pastor, or your coffee hosts. People who have experienced the Walk tend to want to bring the Love and Grace of Jesus back to their friends and church families. What happens on the Walk? You will enjoy three days of singing, learning, laughing, worshiping, reflecting, praying and participating in small groups. Discussions center around fifteen talks given by laity and clergy. These talks present the theme of God's grace, how that grace comes alive in the Christian community and how it is expressed in the world. You'll also discover how grace is real in your life, how you live a life of grace, and how you bring that grace to others. You will have the opportunity to participate in the daily celebration of Holy Communion and to understand more fully the body of Christ. The walk experience is unique for everyone who attends.

**When is the next Walk to Emmaus?** Our Spring Walks are at Camp Fairwood in Westfield, WI. The 2024 Men's Walk is April 18 – 21 and the 2024 Women's Walk is April 25 – 28. If you're being led by the Holy Spirit to participate in a Walk or if you're interested in more information, please check out our website: <https://www.foxvalleyemmaus.com> or contact Stephanie Dutkowski (920) 676-0514 or Laurie Graber (661) 406-1721

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## Message from the Community Communication/Website/Database/Email Chair

We have met all the needs but always could use additional assistance especially supporting Walks that will be coming very soon. If you could be available to help for the month of April that would be greatly appreciated.

**Web: FVWTE Walk To Emmaus [page](#)** is working well. Forms links have been updated to provide you updated Forms for the 2024 Walk. We are working to make the forms able to be populated and linked online. So in the future you can populate and submit in one step. Wow, won't that be great!!

**Database: Ministry Manager (MM)** this month I are reviewing the Reunion Groups. I sent an email to all leaders with the extract of the Reunion Group information to validate and waiting on replies. Some already have. This will also allow me to update the Reunion Group list on the FVWTE Web page.

**Communications:** If you think you're not getting the newsletter or other communications you should let me know @ [SiggiWE@outlook.com](mailto:SiggiWE@outlook.com)

**De Colores**  
**Siggi Eckhardt**  
**FVWTE Communications/Web/Database**  
**"Eastern Shore of Virginia" ESWTE #80**

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# Prayer Corner for February 2024

## February 22 – 25, 2024

New-Ark Emmaus, Men’s Walk	OH
Heart of Carolina, Women’s Walk	NC
Greater Cincinnati Emmaus, Men’s Walk	OH
Great River Emmaus, Men’s Walk	IL
Great Plains Emmaus, Women’s Walk	OK
Greater Sidney Area Emmaus, Women’s Walk	OH
Memphis Emmaus, Women’s Walk	TN
Iowa Walk to Emmaus, Men’s Walk	IA
Big Country Emmaus, Women’s Walk	TX

## February 29 – March 3, 2024

Richmond Emmaus, Men’s Walk	VA
Arizona Walk to Emmaus, Women’s Walk	AZ
Iowa Walk to Emmaus, Women’s Walk	IA

## March 7 – 10, 2024

GRACE Emmaus, Men’s Walk	TX
West Tennessee Emmaus, Men’s Walk	TN
Cross Bayou Emmaus, Women’s Walk	LA
Great Smoky Mtn Emmaus, Women’s Walk	TN
Greater Sidney Area Emmaus, Men’s Walk	OH
North Georgia Walk to Emmaus, Men’s Walk	GA
Dayspring Walk to Emmaus, Men’s Walk	GA
Dan River Emmaus, Men’s Walk	NC
Florida Crown Emmaus, Men’s Walk	FL
Carolina Foothills Emmaus, Men’s Walk	SC
Piedmont Emmaus, Men’s Walk	NC
Faithwalk Central Alabama, Men’s Walk	AL

## March 14 – 17, 2024

Mesquite Country Christian, Women’s Walk	TX
Richmond Emmaus, Women’s Walk	VA
GRACE Emmaus, Women’s Walk	TX
Greater Cincinnati Emmaus, Women’s Walk	OH
Great River Emmaus, Women’s Walk	IL
North GA Walk to Emmaus, Women’s Walk	GA
Dayspring Walk to Emmaus, Women’s Walk	GA
Florida Crown Emmaus, Women’s Walk	FL
Carolina Foothills Emmaus, Women’s Walk	SC
Piedmont Emmaus, Women’s Walk	NC
Cedar Rapids Emmaus, Men’s Walk	IA

Faithwalk Central Alabama, Women's Walk AL

**March 21 – 24, 2024**

New-Ark Emmaus, Women's Walk OH  
West Tennessee Emmaus, Women's Walk TN  
Dan River Emmaus, Women's Walk NC

**De Colores**

**Dave Rimple  
Agape Chair  
FVWTE #19**

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**Agape News:**

**Ways to help with the Spring Walks**

Our daffodils are peaking out so spring can't be far away, which means our walks are soon too, only 2 months away!! Here's a few ways you can help with this spring's Walks.

**Prayers:**

Our Conference Teams are assembled and started their journey with training last weekend, so it's time for us to be praying for those Spring Walks. Praying about who God wants us to sponsor (the deadline is March 18<sup>th</sup>), where God wants us to help, when God wants us to participate in the prayer vigil, what God wants us to provide, or simply for the Conference Team & Pilgrim's. (The Prayer Vigil is no longer in Ministry Manager and can be accessed from the website under Fourth Day/Prayer Vigil.)

**Volunteering:**

Many have already volunteered to help Agape this spring, but we can always use more, especially when so many are needed for setting up the special Saturday meal or helping with the "entertainment". Please consider volunteering to help and call me at 920-639-2054.

**Book Table:**

Many will be doing Spring Cleaning soon, getting rid of things you don't use anymore. Please consider going through your bookcases and donating some of your Christian books to our Book Table. Pilgrims enjoy current books to start their new journey.

**Community Services:**

Please mark these dates on your Calendar and plan to attend. Anyone who has participated in a 4<sup>th</sup> day weekend event is welcome at our Community services.

**Sponsor's Hour:** April 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. This service follows the Pilgrim's sendoff when the community sings the Pilgrim's and Conference Team off to the Conference Room. We then gather in the Chapel to pray over each of the Pilgrim's crosses individually. Pilgrims arrive by 6:45 pm and services start at 7:15 pm.

**Candlelight:** April 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. This is a Community Communion service prior to the Pilgrim's entrance on Saturday evening when the Pilgrim's crosses are prayed over again. Services start at 8:15 pm

**Closing:** April 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. A 4:30 Community service welcoming Pilgrim's into the Fox Valley Community and hearing how the weekend affected them.

Please make plans to attend **one** or **ALL** these events to help us enrich the Pilgrim's weekend experience.

Keep working on those Agape gifts. Currently, we are asking for 50 Agape Gift for each of the Spring Walks (Men's & Women's). We appreciate all and any contributions.

**Thank you,  
Dave Rimple  
Agape Chair  
FVWTE #19**

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## **Witness Article – Upper Room**

**MY FOURTH DAY STORY**  
**by Susie Gilley**

I had my Walk to Emmaus experience with the Chattanooga-Lafayette Community in 1993. At the time, I was raising a small child who had been diagnosed with a rare type of cancer at birth. So, my Walk found me in a state of shock and tiredness from much traveling to and from the hospital that was 7 hours away. I loved my Walk, but for obvious reasons, I wasn't able to take it all in at the time. However, it gave me hope as I embarked on my Fourth Day.



Over the years I have been on various event teams, but an event I attended 5 years ago impacted me the most. Previously, whenever I was invited to be on a team, it was always during a low time in my life, and I really needed it. This particular time I was excited to be a table leader again, but then again I wasn't. I prayed to God to send me participants who weren't needy or had other problems. But we all know how that goes—be careful what you ask for.

Continue reading Susie Gilley's Fourth Day Story [here](#).

We want to hear from you. [Click here](#) to share your Fourth Day story.

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## **Gatherings News:**

### **Upcoming Gathering:**

Please join us for an afternoon of fellowship and worship and welcoming new pilgrims. Be a Friend, we would love to see you!

Please bring a dish to pass around and share. We furnish the tableware, coffee, & water

# Fox Valley Walk to Emmaus

Potlucks start at noon.

March 2nd, 2024

- East- Salem UMC-120 Sheboygan Street,  
Fond Du Lac, WI 54935
- West- No Gathering
- South- Hillcrest Bible Church-  
752 E. Netherwood St. Oregon, WI 53575

April 2024

- Men's Walk- April 18th-21st.
  - Women's Walk April 25th- 28th.
- Camp Fairwood- W7905 S. Pleasant Road,  
West Field, WI 53964

Join us on Saturday Night & Sunday Afternoon!

Volunteers Needed please contact Dave Rimple

May 11th, 2024

Post Walk Gathering- St. Paul's- The Springs  
UMC- 600 Wlshire Blvd. Stevens Point, WI 54481

June 1st, 2024

Community Gathering- New London United  
Methodist- 709 W. Pine St. New London, WI 54961

**Due to scheduling conflicts** the Black River Falls church and in others churches (Mine included), I am cancelling the Gatherings on the West side of the state.

If you or your reunion group would like to host a Gathering at your Church. Please contact me at [lahumphrey06@gmail.com](mailto:lahumphrey06@gmail.com) or call me at 608-343-7015 and leave a message.

**De Colores**

**Lynn Humphrey  
Gathering Chair  
FVWTE #20**

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# WORDS FOR REFLECTION from the Upper Room

As we enter into Lent, we remember Jesus’ time in the desert, his temptations and how he prepared for his salvific mission. We invite you to take this important time to reflect on your own journey, on what “deserts” you are crossing, what temptations you are confronting, and how you prepare for the mission that God has entrusted to you.

During Lent, fasting and abstinence are common practices for many people. Some people choose to give up something for Lent, such as candy, social media, etc. This Lent, we invite you to reconsider what your fast and abstinence will be. We challenge you to choose less superficial things and instead choose things that will really transform your lives and the lives of our Emmaus Ministries.

May God help us to fast and abstain from what prevents us from living abundant lives!

**Rev. Lilia Ramirez**  
On behalf of The Upper Room Emmaus Ministries staff

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## Important FWTE Action

### 2024 COVENANT AGREEMENT for FWTE Board Members

The 2024 Covenant Agreement signing is now in the Ministry Manager application. The Covenant is now being signed electronically through this application. Before you can complete the signing, you will be given the entire Covenant Agreement to read and then verify that you have read it. The electronic means of completing these steps should make it much easier to sign the Covenant Agreement this year.

There are a couple of video tutorials that will help you. These are located under the FAQ button at the bottom of any Ministry Manager page once you have logged in. You can access a video tutorial from last year that explains the process of filling out a Digital Covenant. Since the process hasn’t changed, you can use it as a guide to complete your 2024 Covenant Agreement without being in Ministry Manager.

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MUSIC NOTES  MUSIC NOTES 

### You are being called to serve God with your gifts and talents!

No try-outs, no requirements except a willing spirit and a desire to praise God!

We need you at:

**Monthly gatherings** – 3 gatherings a month, in different parts of the state = 6-9 musicians

**Men’s and Women’s Walk weekends – Candlelight and closing Services** = 3-6 musicians each weekend.

Men’s Walk weekend – Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> and Sunday April 21<sup>st</sup>

Women’s Walk weekend – Saturday, April 27 and Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup>

Come and be a part of the candlelight service – Do you remember your walk?

JESUS, Jesus, Can I tell you How I feel? You have given me your spirit; I love you so!

Closing services on Sunday are just as important – hearing the testimonies of the pilgrims, and closing the weekend with “These are the Days of Elijah”.

Please mark your calendars and be ready to say yes when you are called. Volunteering is even better! Send me an email and let me know you are willing to be a singing, praising, strumming, plucking, musical servant!

**Cheryl Rykken** [cryk22@gmail.com](mailto:cryk22@gmail.com) call or text – 920-379-0942

**Music Chair, FVWTE**

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## **SAVE THE DATES from the Upper Room**

**As we enter the new year**, The Upper Room Emmaus Ministries Office invites you to save the following dates.

### **INTERNATIONAL VIRTUAL GATHERING: April 19 at 7:00 p.m. (CT)**

This yearly event will bring together Emmaus Ministries community leaders and members from around the globe. Together, we will praise God in song and hear from lay and clergy speakers as they share their Fourth Day experiences. We will meet in small groups to share and encourage each other on the journey. The session will end with a love feast that will provide us with an opportunity to continue to open ourselves to God’s grace.

We do hope you have found this Newsletter both helpful and informative. If it's important to you, then it's important to us. Please let us know how you are doing with your Fourth Day, in your local congregation, or in your reunion group by clicking the link below. We will be glad to include your announcement or article in the next edition.

**[REGISTER FOR THE VIRTUAL GATHERING](#)**



**DAY FOUR RESTORE: June 29, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (CT)**



Renew your commitment with  
**Day Four Restore**

JUNE 29, 2024

**Join us for the first offering of Day Four Restore Year Three**

Day Four Restore Year Three (of the three-year cycle) is the first hosting of the new materials in the one-day retreat model designed to refresh the spirit and renew the commitment of those who have attended any Fourth Day movement event. As we worship, pray, listen to speakers, and share together, participants will experience God's grace in new and refreshing ways.

Together, we will be renewed in our faith and inspired for ongoing leadership and service. This event also promises to be an excellent opportunity for communities interested in hosting Day Four Restore in the future.

**[REGISTER FOR DAY FOUR RESTORE](#)**

**Year Three Agenda (all times listed are Central Time)**

- 9:00 a.m. Spiritual and Lay Directors openings and devotional table introductions
- 9:30 Spiritual Directors' meditation
- 10:00 Talk #1 given by the Spiritual Director
- 11:15 Talk #2 given by the Lay Director
- Noon Break for lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Spiritual Practice Exercise - Loving the World with God in a Fourth Day Lifestyle
- 3:15 Closing with a Love Feast

**Register for the inaugural Day Four Restore Year Three virtual event [here](#)**

**REGIONAL GATHERING AND CELEBRATION: August 30–31, 2024**

This year's Regional Gathering and Celebration will be held in the Buffalo, NY area. The event will offer Emmaus Ministries community leaders and members an opportunity to meet The Upper Room Emmaus Ministries staff, deepen their understanding of our overall mission and the implications for their ministry, network and share best practices, and receive further training in specific aspects of the work of Emmaus Ministries.

More information will be coming soon, but reserve the dates and plan to join us in Clarence, NY

### **VILLAGE ENCOUNTER: September 5–21, 2024**

Emmaus Ministries offers a virtual program, Village Encounter, that provides space for adult participants to experience God's grace in new and transformative ways. It seeks to renew Christians in their faith and further inspire, challenge, and equip them for Christian leadership in the various spheres of their lives.

The experience begins with an invitation to a deeper journey with the risen Lord and continues, throughout its seven sessions, to move participants to new levels of openness and commitment as disciples of Christ. This event also promises to be a wonderful opportunity for leaders of Emmaus Ministries communities and local churches interested in hosting this online experience to come and learn.

#### **The September 2024 Village Encounter Schedule (all times listed are Central Time)**

Orientation: Thursday, September 5, 7:00 p.m. – 9:10 p.m.

Session 1 – Friday evening, September 6, 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Session 2 – Saturday morning, September 7, 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session 3 – Saturday evening, September 7, 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Session 4 – Saturday morning, September 14, 8:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Session 5 – Friday evening, September 20, 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Session 6 – Saturday morning, September 21, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

[REGISTER FOR VILLAGE ENCOUNTER](#)

### **HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE: December 1–10, 2024**

This pilgrimage is open to leaders and members of Emmaus Ministries communities around the world, their family members, and friends. During the ten-day event, participants will:

- join in daily reading and reflection on carefully selected passages of scripture
- hear speakers from the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim religions who will bring their various faiths and cultures together for interaction and understanding of present-day realities
- be invited to sit with a grassroots movement of understanding, nonviolence, and transformation among Palestinians and Israelis
- continue to experience God's grace in new ways
- become increasingly sensitive to situations of injustice in their respective communities

- reflect on ways in which, as followers of Christ, they can contribute to the building of a more just society

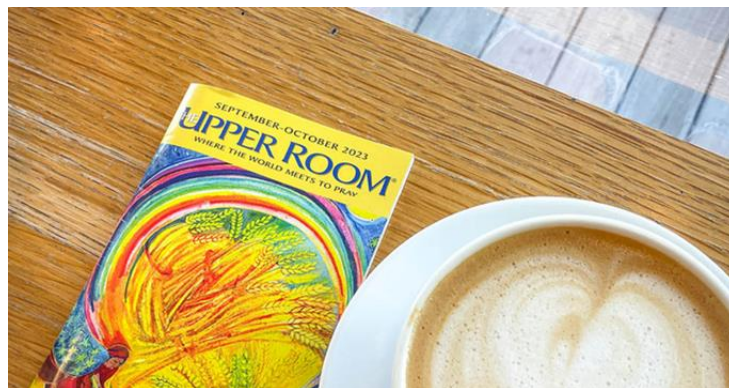
Don't miss this opportunity to retrace the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus, taken by the two discouraged followers of Christ, as recorded in the Gospel of Luke. Come with us to explore how, as a result of their encounter with the risen Lord, these two persons rushed back to Jerusalem to be fully part of what would become a transformative community.

When registering, please use 56077 as Host ID and Stephane Brooks as Host name.

We look forward to having you join us for this wonderful experience!

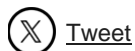
[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER FOR THE PILGRIMAGE](#)

### LOOKING FOR A DAILY DOSE OF INSPIRATION?



Connect with God and others every day with The Upper Room daily devotional guide. This trusted devotional, written by real people about real faith, will immerse you in scripture, prayer, and sacred story, and inspire you to notice where God is active in your own life. Available in print and digital subscriptions, with generous bulk discounts — large print and Spanish-language editions are also available!

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[UpperRoom.org](http://UpperRoom.org)

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The Upper Room  
1908 Grand Avenue  
Nashville, Tennessee 37212

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## [FVWTE "As The Rooster Crows"](#)

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Use this link for our Website <https://www.foxvalleyemmaus.com/>