



WALK TO  
**EMMAUS**  
THE UPPER ROOM®

# JACKSON AREA EMMAUS

Newsletter

FALL 2021



Walk #64! What can I say about it? From team selection, team meetings, menu planning, practice talks to team building it was “one-of-a-kind.” The six Pilgrims who made the journey’s lives will never be the same and their faith has a strength now that they never had before.

From a beautiful Candlelight dinner to a bubble and popcorn party, and finally to the emotional and “binding ties” made during the Closing ceremony on Sunday, this Walk showed love, acceptance and understanding of the grace of God to all. A forever bond was created between all those involved in the Walk that will never be broken or forgotten.

Brookside UMC provided such a warm and welcoming site for the Walk—all our needs were met many times over. We are so looking forward to the Reunion and Gathering that will take place there on Saturday, October 16th. Hoping to see all of you then!

De Colores!

Karen Glaser—Lay Director, Walk 64

## *Jesus, Jesus, Can I tell You how I feel?*



*"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life" – John 8:12*

I went into this walk with no expectations and a healthy dose of insecurity about the whole thing. At one point I was going to call my sponsor and tell her thank you, but I am just not able to go on the walk. God had other plans though.

This walk was powerful. This walk was amazing. This walk was life-changing!

I am not a "baby Christian", but I am not a "full grown" or "even adult Christian". I'd like to think of myself as a "Preschool/elementary school Christian". This walk allowed me to seek truth and light through times of silence, testimony, and above all love!

I saw God in the eyes of those at my table, Jesus in the acts of service from others that poured love upon me like a rain shower, and I felt Him in every freely given hug I received (even if it was from a complete stranger.)

I can relate to the disciples that were walking on that road to Emmaus. I believed in Jesus as my savior and claimed him publicly many times. I, however, had some doubts, some misunderstandings, and just needed to "see" Him so I could be 100% certain that He still lives. Through the experience of this walk...I was able to see Him more and more. I was able to encounter, experience, focus on, and feel His presence within myself and those walking with me. As each speaker spoke or as each song of praise was sung, I grew to understand that I do see Him in the bonds I built. I felt Him in the softening of my heart over the weekend and I heard Him in the times of reflection and silence.

God used so many people on this walk to show Himself to me and I could not be more thankful! I am truly filled with unexplainable joy and although it has been a full week, I am still holding onto my Jesus with a fire in my heart that I have never felt before! I have been on retreats before. I have hung out with fellow Christians for hours on end. I have even heard too many testimonies to count, but this weekend was indescribably different.

The way the walk is designed is a beautiful structure that incorporates scaffolding for self-growth in Jesus. It allows for personal testimony, personal reflection, and personal experiences as He uses others to meet you where you're at and then grow you just that much more. Learning about how the heart, the brain, and the body are all intertwined so we can go on and make disciples is just the beginning. The true agape love that I experienced on this walk will stay with me forever. He is truly incredible!

De Colores, Kymalee B. Gresh

*"You are CHOSEN and LOVED" – Eph 1: 4*



# *Have you seen Jesus my Lord? ...He's here in plain view!*

What a weekend! But let me start at the very beginning ... Some people at my church had been trying to get me to go for about 5 years. I simply didn't want to. The thought of spending 3 days with a bunch of people totally turned me off. Besides, I don't like crowds.

This year I really didn't want to go, either. I had the choice of going on a vacation or going on the Walk but I felt a nudging in my heart. So with a little trepidation, I agreed to go. Then on the Tuesday night before I was to go I was watching Amir Tsarfati doing a teaching on YouTube and he began teaching about the Road to Emmaus. I don't believe in coincidences so that sealed it for me. I knew I was supposed to be there. However, I still went not expecting anything good to come of the weekend but hoping against hope.

Let me tell you, it was the most AMAZING experience of my life! Friday was difficult for me. I was very tired by dinner time and was feeling overwhelmed. But people must have been praying for me because I felt much better Saturday.

And Sunday was out of this world! I had never been in the midst of so much love in my life! I began to feel immersed in God's presence. All of that love had (and continues to have) a huge impact in me. I came away from the experience with many new sisters in Christ and a feeling inside that is hard to explain. It's like a calm assurance mixed with God's love.

I still have a long way to go on my walk with the Lord but I know I'm not alone. I have the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit ... and my new Emmaus family.

Thank you everyone who helped to make this Walk possible whether you were in the spotlight or behind the scenes praying. Thank you so very much!

-Tal Rodriguez



# Meet Chuck Tuckey—multi-term board member

## extraordinaire



Of course, if you have been in the Jackson Area Emmaus Community for long, you probably already know Chuck, because he has been a part of the community since the beginning. Chuck took his Emmaus Walk in 1993 at the Lawrence Avenue United Methodist Church (Charlotte), and sat at the Table of Mark. The walk was being conducted by the Lansing Area Emmaus.

Since his walk in 1993, Chuck has served in every position on the conference room team, with the exception of music director. In 1996, Chuck served as the lay director for the second men's walk in the newly formed Jackson community. In 1997, his wife Debbie was lay director of a women's walk. He jokes that he was first in the family to be lay director, but Debbie was better.

Not only has Chuck served in the conference room, but has been a dedicated servant in the auxiliary and on the board, having served 3-4 terms. He has been in charge of Candlelight/Sponsor's Hour/Closing exercises at various walks, has been the Registrar, and is currently serving as the Mailroom/Agape coordinator.

At various walks he has been involved with luggage carrying, setting up and tearing down, and has spent many hours making new friends while washing dishes.

There are a couple of reasons that Chuck makes the drive clear from Dexter to be part of the Jackson Area Emmaus community. One is that he enjoys the wonderful fellowship that Emmaus has to offer. What really stands out to him, however, is the utilization of lay people in this important ministry. When asked what he would like to see for the future of Jackson Area Emmaus, he responded that it is his prayer that we will continue to have Emmaus weekends.

Chuck is a mild-mannered and quiet man, but his service to the community is an inspiration to us all. He was a bit shy about being interviewed for this article, as he prefers to serve anonymously and without fanfare - and that is what makes him a model Emmaus servant.

*"Make me a servant, humble and meek.*

*Lord, help me lift up those who are weak.*

*And may the prayer of my heart always be*

*Make me a servant today"*

# REUNION AND GATHERINGS

The Reunion for Ladies Walk #64 and the October gathering will be held on October 16th. Reunion begins at 3:00 pm.

SPONSORS: It is YOUR responsibility to get your pilgrim to their reunion and the gathering. PLEASE NOTE: The date differs from our usual gathering the 2nd Saturday of the month.

A sponsorship training will be held at 2:00 pm, before the reunion.

At 5:00 the potluck dinner begins. Please bring food to share in a great time of fellowship, and welcome our new community members. Announcements, election, and worship follow the meal.

Come and celebrate Thanksgiving at the November gathering, November 14th.

In December, join in a Christmas caroling party before the gathering on December 12th. (Details TBA)

Gatherings are held at Brookside United Methodist Church, 4000 Francis St. Jackson—usually on the second Saturday of each month



## Thank You, Faithful Servants!

I WOULD LIKE TO SEND OUT THE BIGGEST VIRTUAL HUG TO ALL YOU SERVANTS WHO ANSWERED THE CALL TO SERVE ON THE WOMEN'S WALK #64. WOW OH WOW IS ALL I CAN SAY...I ALWAYS COUNT ON THE LORD TO SEND THE PEOPLE TO GET THE WORK DONE AND HE ALWAYS PROVIDES.

OTHERS ASK ME, WHO DO YOU HAVE FOR THIS POSITION OR THAT POSITION, AND I OFTEN SAY NO ONE YET, AND THEY SHAKE THEIR HEADS OR GET UPSET...I HAVE LEARNED THAT IT DOES NOT PAY TO GET UPSET BECAUSE THAT SHOWS LACK OF FAITH IN MY LORD.

I DO MY BEST TO STAY POSITIVE, BUT I AM HUMAN LIKE YOU AND I MAY GET DOWN HERE AND THERE, BUT THE LORD PICKS ME BACK UP AS HE NUDGES ME, AND REMINDS ME WHO'S ACTUALLY IN CHARGE!! WE WERE FEW IN NUMBERS, BUT THE LORD DID AS HE ALWAYS DOES AND PROVIDED JUST ENOUGH PEOPLE TO GET THE WORK DONE.

SO AGAIN, I AM SAYING THANK YOU FOR ALL THE SWEAT, TIME, ENERGY, BLOOD-YES EVEN BLOOD SHED, MONEY, CREATIVITY, PRAYERS, FOOD, COOPERATION, AND TOILETS CLEANED-EVEN ON A SERVANT'S BIRTHDAY!

- Sue Miller



# NOMINATE NOW

IT'S ELECTION TIME...PLEASE NOMINATE SOMEONE OR YOURSELF TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS!! Please make sure the person you are nominating is ok with being nominated!!!

COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR  
COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR  
ASST COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR  
DATA MANAGER  
SUPPLY TRAILER  
KITCHEN HEAD AND KITCHEN TRAILER  
SECRETARY  
FOURTH DAY/GATHERING

Please remember...without a board our community does NOT survive! It's a three year term commitment. Only one meeting a month-4th Tuesday @ Brookside UMC, 4000 Francis St. Jackson.

WE WILL BE HAVING ELECTION/NOMINEE BALLOTS AT THE OCTOBER GATHERING ...WE WILL ANNOUNCE WINNERS/NEW BOARD MEMBERS IN NOVEMBER AND INDUCT THE NEW MEMBERS TO THE BOARD IN DECEMBER, THEN TO BEGIN THEIR NEW POSITIONS IN JANUARY 2022.

To volunteer or to make a nomination, contact Sueny Miller at [m1lrt1me@hotmail.com](mailto:m1lrt1me@hotmail.com) or **517-358-8752**. She can also answer any questions you might have regarding the positions that are open.

If you cannot serve on the board at this time, but would like to help out with music, set up/tear down at gatherings, making phone calls to update mail lists, write articles for the newsletter, or have ideas to share—please contact Sue Miller.



## CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

**\*\*Deb Spicer Benedict -Secretary (Fill In) and Assistant Community Lay Director...**  
[spicerdebbie@hotmail.com](mailto:spicerdebbie@hotmail.com)  
**\*\*Pastor Dave Goolsby- Community Spiritual Director...** [goolsb19@comcast.net](mailto:goolsb19@comcast.net)  
**Dan Walsh- Treasurer...** [dwalsh54@att.net](mailto:dwalsh54@att.net)  
**Heather Williams- Data Manager...** [hmw621@yahoo.com](mailto:hmw621@yahoo.com)  
**Michelle Walsh-Music Director...** [mwalsh43@att.net](mailto:mwalsh43@att.net)  
**Kim Miller-Registrar...**[cevinscollision@comcast.net](mailto:cevinscollision@comcast.net)  
**Mary Wood-Auxiliary Head...** [mawood1961@gmail.com](mailto:mawood1961@gmail.com)  
**\*Lyn Melling-Kitchen Head...** [lynmelling@live.com](mailto:lynmelling@live.com)  
**Maranda Stoner-Prayer Vigil...** [marandahanks@yahoo.com](mailto:marandahanks@yahoo.com)  
**Butch Walker-Site Selection/Set Up -No Email**  
**Chuck Tuckey—Mailroom/Agape (734) 426-5248** [CRTuckey@charter.net](mailto:CRTuckey@charter.net)  
**Rick Denig- Sponsors Hour/Candlelight...** [rickydenig@aol.com](mailto:rickydenig@aol.com) and [rickenig@gmail.com](mailto:rickenig@gmail.com)  
**\*\*Sue Miller -Community Lay Director ...**[m1lrt1me@hotmail.com](mailto:m1lrt1me@hotmail.com)

\* Term expiring—eligible for reelection

\*\*Term expiring—not currently eligible for reelection (for one year)

# From our Community Lay Director

Hello, my name is Sue Miller, your Community Lay Director. I took my walk to Emmaus in November of 1999 at Calvary UMC in Jackson and sat at the table of The Melting Martha's-because we cried all weekend long!!

A little story for you-maybe some of you can relate...when I took my walk I kind of just did it because my parents-mainly my mom, pushed me to go. I honestly should not have been there, being the state of mind, I was in. I had just lost our first and only baby a few months before and I was an emotional wreck and was really mad at God.

When I got there, I was not happy, I had an attitude the whole time, I did not feel good-at the time I was like the woman who hemorrhaged for 12 years. It got so bad that I eventually had to have a hysterectomy. Anyways, I went through the motions, still not knowing why I was there-remind you of anyone yet?! Friday came and I had migraines so bad that I was popping ibuprophen like it was candy and then developed a bad rash all over my face and neck. I just wanted to go home. Then Saturday came, I still wasn't happy and still had an attitude. Then dying moments happened. Still not sure what I was doing there, but followed along.

Then it happened, the Spiritual Director on that walk-Kathy Nixs sat with me for almost an hour. I missed two talks I believe, but she stayed with me in the chapel until I filled up about ten of the 3X5 cards with baggage that had a tight hold on me. She even said, If I could shake you and get away with it, I would, but as a Pastor I just can't. Without touching me she shook every bit of baggage holding me down, and because God sent her to me, I was forever changed from that moment. My attitude changed, I was literally about 50 pounds lighter than I was, and I learned to participate instead of anticipate and regret being there. I learned that on Sunday, after closing, that I didn't want to go home and I actually wanted to stay and get more-remind you of anyone?



Who would have thought that one day, that stubborn, closed minded, attitude filled girl would one day be head of the Emmaus Community of Jackson?!!

I am still amazed at the work God did in me and through the prayers of a ton of people who didn't even know me. He sent the vessel to plant the seeds and to show me the road, but God provided the healing, He provided people to stand in the gap with me and that was all due to Emmaus. If you have felt down or distant for whatever reason, think about your walk and what that spark was on your Sunday, at closing when you gave those two answers-what the walk meant to you and what do you plan on doing about it? Do you remember your answers? Do you remember how on fire you were at that moment? Emmaus hasn't gone anywhere, but maybe you have...we are only a step away! We would love to see all of your faces again!! Whether on the board, or on the walks as servants in one form or another!!

My term as your Community Lay Director has come to a close already-man that flew right on by!! I will hand over the reigns to a new CLD in December to begin their term in January.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve in this position for the past 3 years. Don't think you are getting rid of me though, because I will still be around and making sure we all work hard to keep this Emmaus Community going and thriving forward.

Much love to you all.  
Sue Miller

An important reminder for ALL believers 🙏

## *Why have we gone astray?*

World says: Stay away from the sick

God says: Lay hands on the sick

World says: My body, my choice

God says: I formed you in the womb

World says: You cannot gather

God says: Gather together, fast and pray

World says: God is not essential

God says: I am the beginning and the end

World says: Fear

God says: Do not fear or be afraid

World says: Stress is normal

God says: Come to me & I will give you rest

World says: We are in this together

God says: Where two or more gather and pray, I am in your midst

World says: Focus on man

God says: Focus on Me

World says: Protect yourself with cleaners, distance, and masks.

God says: He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

World says: Follow guidelines

God says: Follow me

World says: You aren't enough

God says: I am enough!





# *Men's Walk to Emmaus*

**2022**



March 24-27, 2022

Bethel Baptist Church

1691 Springport Rd. Jackson, MI

Pray, pray, PRAY—then ACT!

Pray that God will direct you to a gentleman that will benefit from this walk, then go and invite him. Applications available on the website: [jacksonemmaus.org](http://jacksonemmaus.org)