



Rainbow Connections

Kalamazoo Area Emmaus Community

[HTTP://WWW.KALAMZOOEMMAUS.ORG](http://www.kalamzooemmaus.org)

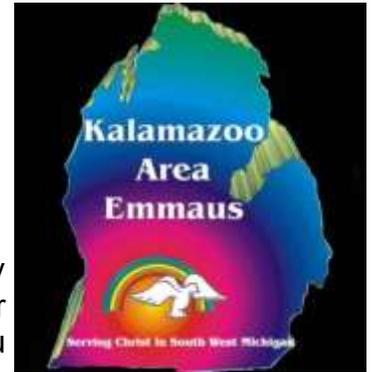
From Our Community Lay Director

As your community director I would like to welcome you.

You have now started the journey of your life and what better way than with God and your new family. As you return home and share your new found faith take heart if you feel satan wanting to attack you while you are on your mountain high remember—we will be here for you as a community as a family and for your support take your newfound energy and excitement and praise God with all your heart and with all your might and renew your church and your family and your life.

Don't anticipate what the future holds just embrace it with a new found energy and love for Christ. Looking forward to seeing you at our next gathering.

GLYASDI
Rae Williams



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Blessings from the Community Spiritual Director

We are blessed when God gives us the mission of the Emmaus Walk. We are blessed when He gives us pilgrims to experience the Walk to Emmaus. We have been given a blessing by brothers and sisters in Christ that will help to make this walk a success. Count your Blessings and let God lead us in this great endeavor before us.

GLYASDI
Your Brother in Christ
Robert Barton

Did you know?

There is always sponsors training at the combined gathering after the walks.

Its never too early to start praying for pilgrims to sponsor for the next walk!

From the Men's Lay Director—Ken Franklin

Luke 24:33 (NIV): "They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "it is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread."

We are going to have a Walk! We are going to have a walk! After years of cancellation and discouragement and confusion, we are going to share the reality - the grace - the Love of Christ with new people! What a blessing!

We are sharing anew the excitement that the two men from Emmaus felt when they met Christ face-to-face. However, we also face a devious temptation.

One of the reasons that Christ despaired over his disciples was that they were stuck thinking about how to build a kingdom in human measure. In sizes of armies. In amounts of funds. In units of political influence.

And none of that mattered to Christ. None of that was relevant to Christ. And his word teaches us that none of that should matter to us.

What am I about to say, I am alone responsible for; but these are the words on my heart.

It is a real temptation to use this successful recruitment to immediately think about our organization as a community - about our finances - about our influence with other organizations. There is certainly work to be done there.

But first, and most importantly, this walk must be an act of worship. This community must be a sacrifice to the Lord. This must be walking the walk of Loving the Lord. Not for our community's glory - not for the Emmaus movement's glory - but for God's glory.

If we go through this walk worrying, "OK, how are we going to rebuild the board, how are we going to revitalize Fourth Days, how are we going to build the community," this may well be the last walk we ever have.

However, if we are obedient and faithful, and focus on this being a weekend of loving these pilgrims for Him, God will take care of all the other stuff. He will rekindle the hearts of the faithful, and He will renew the face of the earth.

As I prepare to be the Lay Leader you have asked me to be, I will start every action with prayer: "How should this be done for You, Lord?"

Followed by LISTENING. Then OBEDIENCE.

To God Be The Glory for the Things We Will Do.

See you in South Haven
God Bless,
Ken Franklin

From the Women's Lay Director—Tammy Kling

Servants of the Lord,

On the Walk to Emmaus and through the team experience, we listen for Jesus' word and His inspiration in talks, worship, communion, and intercessory prayer. We are invited to serve and to be served. New disciplines daily and reliance on the Holy Spirit for guidance with direction pursuing piety, study, Christian action through prayer becomes a beautiful way to be more aware of God's goodness and mercy reflecting on our personal relationship with Him focusing on His intentions for our life.

Opportunities to revisit familiar scriptures that speak to our heart and joyful music that fills the room singing praises to our Lord and Savior offers worship edifying His name through the body of Christ. We speak before each talk "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 every enjoy your consolations. Through Christ our Lord". Amen. God's power fills the hearts and minds of those who love Him as He completed everything on the cross.

May the God who loves you so much draw you ever close to Him in your daily walk to Emmaus growing in faith, being His instrument for His purpose, sharing agape' love to all you meet on your 4th days! God loves You and so do I!

To HIS Glory,
Tammy Kling

Be sure to check out

<http://www.kalamazooemmaus.org/>

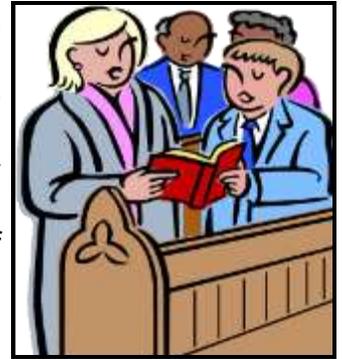
For all the information you will need on YOUR new
Community!

There are many, many ways for you to live out your 4th Day.

God Loves You and So Do We!

Board and Community Activities

The Kalamazoo Emmaus Board has been working to establish gatherings in our various communities, in part to come together as a community and to identify the needs of each community as it relates to the Walk to Emmaus. For example, where best to try to help others find or create a fourth day group, or to hear of prayer concerns of those we love in our community. And frankly some of us need to go where two or more are gathered in God's name, to hear an uplifting message, or be the body of Christ. It also keeps the community informed of upcoming walks and opportunities to serve.



The Board has recently made a decision to go to a one walk per year format for both men's and women's walk. We are going to try this model and see how it works. The next walks have been established as the last weekend in May 2015 (Men) and first weekend in June 2015 (women). We will be holding the walks at Crystal Springs Camp, Dowagiac, MI. The Board is aware that the first weekend in June 2015 is the West Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church and may need to revise future walk dates. This will be the first time we have moved the weekends from the Fall, Spring, time periods. We expect this to be better for some, and will create some issues that we may have to work through. However, like we heard on Thursday night of the Emmaus weekend, *"lets not judge until we have experienced how this will work"*.

Thanks for your prayer and feedback as we continue to work for the good of our community.
Respectfully submitted – Karen Thompson, Board Secretary

Sponsorship

Good Reasons to sponsor someone on an upcoming walk:

- Give the gift of love you received when you took your walk, pass it on!
- Help your Christian brother or sister reignite their passion for God, so they will take that fire back to their local church to serve God
- To encourage someone to strengthen and build a closer relationship with God
- To have the benefits of love and support through your fourth day groups and the Emmaus community.

***Did you know?** You can receive one on one sponsor training by calling the KAE Board member assigned to training.*

Emmaus Walk

You know you are on an Emmaus walk when:

1. You have to be quiet for a whole night and morning, who does that?
2. Breakfast, lunch and dinner appear without lifting a finger
3. The sanctuary has boxes of Kleenex and you wonder why...
4. Your luxurious sleeping accommodations come with 10 roommates and ear plugs
5. Somehow you're singing about roosters, hens and babe chicks
6. You wonder how you can eat anymore, but get in line for snacks anyway...
7. You hear things like "God Loves You and So do I"
8. You get all of this cool agape to remind you that you are loved
9. You start to think that Kleenex might be your new best friend
10. And finally, you know you're on an Emmaus Walk when....

You feel God's love and grace in a way you've never felt before.

Current Emmaus Community Gatherings

Region	Place	Date/Time/Contact
Battle Creek/Hastings/Delton		Dorie Litchfield
Big Rapids	Judy and Arnie Issette 8948 Rambling Way, Canadian Lakes	Judy Issette & Karen Thompson
Coldwater	Coldwater UMC	Duane Baire
Grand Rapids/Holland	TBA	TBA
Hartford	Dave & Tammy Klings	2nd Friday of month 6:30 pm
Kalamazoo	Westwood UMC, Kzoo	Mary Brooks
Mendon/Three Rivers/Vicksburg	Center Park UMC	1st Sunday of month 6 p.m. Laurie Smith or Kristen Hossink
Niles/Buchanan	1st UMC Buchanan	1st Saturday of month - Noon
Scottsdale/St Joseph	Scottsdale UMC, St Joseph	Last Saturday of July, August, September - 3 p.m. Picnic Potluck
Shelbyville/Martin/Allegan	Alternating UMC Churches Shelbyville Church	1st Tuesday each Month, 6 p.m. Potluck Patsy Hoekstra
South Haven	TBA	TBA
Sturgis	Coldwater UMC	<u>Tom Scheetz</u>

The Silversmith

Author Unknown

Some time ago, a few ladies met in a certain city to study the scriptures. While reading the third chapter of Malachi, they came upon a remarkable expression in the third verse:

"And He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver (Malachi 3:3)"

One lady proposed to visit a silversmith, and report to them on what he said about the subject. She went accordingly, and without telling the object of her errand, begged the silversmith to tell her about the process of refining silver.

After he had fully described it to her, she asked, "But Sir, do you sit while the work of refining is going on?"

"Oh, yes madam," replied the silversmith; "I must sit with my eyes steadily fixed on the furnace, for if the time necessary for refining be exceeded in the slightest degree, the silver will be injured."

The lady at once saw the beauty, and comfort too, of the expression, "He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver." God sees it needful to put His children into a furnace; His eye is steadily intent on the work of purifying, and His wisdom and love are both engaged in the best manner for us. Our trials do not come at random, and He will not let us be tested beyond what we can endure.

Before she left, the lady asked one final question, "When do you know the process is complete?"

"Why, that is quite simple," replied the silversmith. "When I can see my own image in the silver, the refining process is finished."

Hey Auxiliary Workers: It works the best if you complete a registration form ahead of the weekend, so the kitchen can buy enough food.

New Kalamazoo Area Emmaus Community Members—South Haven Walks

Royal	Boulter	Martin
Ron	Childs	Hamilton
Kyle	Dury	Vicksburg
William (Bruce)	Ferguson	Grand Junction
Matthew	Fitts	Holland
Aurelio	Flores	Kalamazoo
Larry	French	Kalamazoo
Michael	Gruis	Allegan
Brian	Kelley	Grand Rapids
Sean	Kidd	Martin
Pat	Luma	Kalamazoo
Jerry	Mauchmar, Sr.	Shelbyville
Rey	Mondragon	
Cory	Pierce	Kalamazoo
Matt	Raterink	Holland
Keith	Rice	Holland
Kevin	Secord	Kalamazoo
Jason	Smith	Kalamazoo
Jeffrey	Stevens	Battle Creek
Marc	Sugden	Mattawan
Matt	Thies	Hamilton
Steve	Thurston	Mattawan
Daniel	Vandenburg	Hamilton
Ron	Vandenburg	Hamilton
Scott	Warner	Martin

Dawn	Alexander	Hamilton
Cheryl	Anderson	Coldwater
Betty	Arevalo	Mendon
Rhonda	Bassett	Hartford
Della	Bellgraph	Martin
Amber	Childs	Hamilton
Vasha	Ferguson	Grand Junction
Nancy	Fitts	Hamilton
Laura	Gruis	Allegan
Wanda	Horton	Kalamazoo
Nancy	Jensen	Wayland
Jenna	Johnson	Kalamazoo
Helen	Lancaster	Kalamazoo
Helga	Mortensen	Kalamazoo
Sandi	Nyboer	Hamilton
Anne	Oyerly	Berrien Springs
Sue	Pulling	Kalamazoo
Lynne	Rarick	South Haven
Judi	Rice	Hamilton
Terri	Shaler	Otsego
Michelle	Shirey	Hamilton
Valerie	Sievers	South Haven
Patricia	Smith	Berrien Springs
Billie	Sugden	Mattawan
Beth	Sweet	Kalamazoo
Nancy	VanderRoest	Portage
Mary	Warner	Martin

Now you know:

An Emmaus tradition you often hear goes something like this:

Leader: God is good

Response: All the time

Leader: All the time

Response: God is good!

If you hear someone start the phrase....don't leave them hangin...

If your name is not listed above, we are very sorry.

It just means that the newsletter was printed before your registration was received!

Kalamazoo Area Emmaus
Community

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Climax, MI 49034

Next Emmaus Walks

The next Walks have been scheduled!! The Men's Walk to Emmaus is scheduled for May 28-31, 2015, and the Women's Walk to Emmaus is scheduled for June 4-7, 2015.

Both these Walks will be at Crystal Springs United Methodist Camp in Dowagiac, Michigan. Feel free to check out their facilities at <http://www.crystalspringscamp.com>.

Praying to see you all there!

