



WALK TO  
**EMMAUS**  
THE UPPER ROOM®

**IDAHO WALK TO EMMAUS**  
**El-Gallo Gazette**  
**September 2017**

**GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT**

Dear Emmaus Community,

We continue to prepare for our Winter/Spring Walks on the west side of the State. It is not too early to be planning to serve on the Walks and to start planting seeds with people who should be sponsored as Pilgrims.

By my reading of scripture, Jesus clearly calls us to be servants to each other. The Walk to Emmaus focuses on anonymous servanthood, as well as progressive leadership. We are all busy, but I find the connection (and reconnection) and fellowship with my Emmaus brothers and sisters to be well worth my time. If you are new to Emmaus, prayerfully consider both sponsorship of new Pilgrims and serving on the next Walk. For those of you that have been engaged with Emmaus for a while, you have the opportunity serve and to support the growth of others on their Walk to Emmaus.

Emmaus tries to focus those fundamental aspects of following "that Jesus guy" that we should share. Participation in reunion gatherings and Fourth Day groups helps to keep Emmaus vital and meaningful.

De Colores,

*Jim Dobbins*

IWTE Board President

## 2018 Winter/Spring Walks

The 2018 Winter/Spring Walks will be held in Caldwell, Idaho, March 1-4 (Men) and March 8-11 (Women).

### A letter from Lance Schmidt, Lay Director the men's walk:

*My name is Lance Schmidt, and I will be serving as the Lay Director for the Men's Winter/Spring 2018 Walk to Emmaus. I am looking forward to bringing God's love to a new group of Pilgrims. You know that love you felt on your walk? That love that overcame you, the moment you realized, "all these men came here to serve me?" They did it because they wanted God to do great things in your life. Now is the time to prayerfully consider helping bring that love to the new Pilgrims with me. This can be done by working the walk, and/or sponsoring a Pilgrim. Please feel free to contact me via email, text, or even phone at [lanceschmidt10@g.com](mailto:lanceschmidt10@g.com) or 208-830-2738.*

*God Bless!!*

*Lance Schmidt*

### A letter from Lesli McGowan, Lay Director for the 2018 women's walk:

*Greetings My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

*I am humbled and honored to have been asked to serve as the Lay Director for the Women's Walk to Emmaus Weekend #66. My name is Lesli McGowan and I remember like it was yesterday, my Pilgrim Walk in the Winter/Spring of 1997.*

*I'm certain that this weekend too, will be wonderfully God-led, filled with and led by the Holy Spirit. My prayer is that you will feel called to serve alongside me. Fill out your application to work the weekend and let's get you on a team! Equally important is for you to think of other brothers and sisters that would be blessed by attending the Walk to Emmaus and prayer-fully consider sponsoring them. Feel free to contact me: (208) 284-4585 or [lesli.mcgowan@gmail.com](mailto:lesli.mcgowan@gmail.com).*

*Jesus lead on, I will follow!*

*Lesli McGowan*

## New Application & Forms

CHECK OUT THE NEW IDAHO WTE FORMS AND APPLICATIONS!

**Pilgrim Application Only:** Go to [training.idahoemmaus.org](http://training.idahoemmaus.org) for the Sponsorship Training and the Pilgrim Application.

**Pilgrim Application AND Application to Serve on a Weekend Team:** Go to [idahoemmaus.org](http://idahoemmaus.org) for the Pilgrim Application AND the Application to Serve on a Weekend team.

We are excited about the changes and hopefully the new forms will be more easily navigable. Questions? Ask Char Boyd and/or Dedra Swanstrom. Our contact information is on the applications.

**Forms are also attached for your convenience.**

### THE MENTORING SPONSOR

*They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road while he was opening the scriptures to us?” Luke 24:32*

The church has a rich heritage of spiritual mentorship that goes all the way back to Jesus’ ministry. For years Jesus mentored His twelve disciples, spending special time and attention with Peter, James, and John. After his conversion, Paul was mentored by Ananias. Later Paul would mentor Timothy and Titus in the faith. The Christian faith was spread to others by mentoring.

When we look at Jesus’ encounter with the two disciples walking to Emmaus we see a model for a mentor relationship. As a good mentor, Jesus walked beside the two on their journey to Emmaus, being present in their confusion. As a good mentor, Jesus helped the two disciples process what they were experiencing. And as a good mentor, Jesus helped the two disciples experience God’s agape love.

1. Good sponsorship is your first act of agape before the Walk ever begins and the experience of the Walk for a pilgrim really starts with how we handle sponsorship. As we look at how Jesus modeled being a mentor on the road to Emmaus, we see a model for being effective sponsors for pilgrims on the Walk to Emmaus. When we sponsor a pilgrim, we are called to do a lot more than just signing someone up for the weekend. We are called to be an expression of God’s unconditional love before, during, and after the Walk to Emmaus weekend.

2. Good sponsorship undergirds the weekend with sacrificial love on behalf of each pilgrim or interprets the weekend so that pilgrims are fully prepared to enter the weekend without fear or anxiety. Sponsorship also means that we walk with them through the experience ... from the gathering of agape letters, to send off (sponsor’s hour), to candlelight, to closing, and then to a Fourth Day reunion group.

3. Good sponsorship is the foundation for a healthy, effective Emmaus Community that is fulfilling its true purpose... the development of Christian leaders and the renewal of the church in ministry.

Mentoring someone through sponsorship means that we help our pilgrims get connected to a small group and continue to encourage their spiritual growth. Our focus is not only on the weekend but the Fourth Day experience of our pilgrims as they return to their churches and their communities energized by the grace of God. We mentor pilgrims to find a support group that will nurture the new life and call to servant ministry that was experienced in the Walk to Emmaus.

Personally, I was blessed to have such a sponsor who mentored me to and through the Walk to Emmaus and into a grace-filled Fourth Day experience. It is my prayer that our acts of sponsorship will mentor others to similar fulfilling Fourth Days.

De Colores!!

Char Boyd  
[cbpianomom@gmail.com](mailto:cbpianomom@gmail.com)

## 4<sup>th</sup> Day Reunion Groups

Most of us came down from a Walk to Emmaus weekend thinking, “Wow! That was an amazing, life changing experience!” Then, almost immediately, life grabbed hold of us again and we were back on the raceway of jobs, families and commitments. Somewhere, though, our souls are still seeking that “something” amazing and powerful that we experienced with God on that Emmaus weekend. What was it exactly, and how do we stay connected to it?

You may have left your Walk to Emmaus weekend with a blur in your memory about a talk that described Emmaus Group Reunions, also known as Reunion Groups or 4th Day Groups. Yet, you may not have processed it as anything important. However, Emmaus Reunion Groups can be very important. These small groups are a powerful tool to stay connected and committed to God, and to keep your spiritual life growing.

What exactly is an Emmaus 4th Day Reunion Group? The Walk to Emmaus “Group Reunion” Booklet says it in a nutshell: “The Emmaus Group Reunion is a small accountability group of two to six people who want to continue their pursuit of a life lived wholly in the grace of God. These small follow-up groups help pilgrims translate the message conveyed on the Walk to Emmaus weekend into a daily walk with Christ. With the regular support of a few faithful friends, the gift of God’s love in Jesus Christ becomes a lifestyle of Christian discipleship through the threefold discipline of piety, study and action.”

Some key words and phrases that stand out here are: accountability, grace, daily walk, support, faithful friends, God’s love, discipline, and of course, piety, study, and action. All these words can come to fruition through an Emmaus Reunion Group.

Emmaus Reunion Groups can be broad and varied. I belong to a 4th Day Group comprised of seven women from my home church. Through the years our group has grown and changed in many ways, as our lives have changed. The focus of our meetings has varied as well, but one important aspect has been to discuss the Service Sheet that we all obtained at our Walks. The Service Sheet asks four basic questions:

1. At what moment this past week did you feel closest to Christ?
2. At what moment during this week did you feel you were responding to God’s call to be a disciple?  
Where did you participate in being the Church this week?
3. When was your faith tested this week through failure?
4. What is your plan for piety, study, and action for the week to come?

Needless to say, these questions can lead to some very intimate, profound, inspiring (and convicting) discussions. The discussions then lead us directly to God, His grace, and what God’s call for each of us is.

Sometimes in my 4th Day Group we have included a study of some sort, such as a bible study or study on a topic. Sometimes we have opted to just meet and visit. Other times we have been called to serve together as a group within or outside our church. Because of our 4th Day Group, we have all been inspired to serve on various Walk to Emmaus weekends. Through the years our group has taken many forms and directions, and we have had our up and downs, but two things remain constant – the growing love and care we feel for each other as sisters in Christ, and most importantly, our deepening love for God and commitment to serve Him.

There are several 4th Day Reunion Groups listed in this newsletter that you may contact to join in with. Or, it is easy to start an Emmaus Reunion Group yourself. The “Group Reunion” Booklet mentioned above and also the “Day Four” Booklet which you received at your Walk are wonderful guides. If you would like to purchase them or if you have any questions, you may contact the IWTE Board at: [idahowte@gmail.com](mailto:idahowte@gmail.com). Then, call an Emmaus friend or two, set a date and time, and start down the path. God will always join in with you on your walk.

De Colores!

Connie Pile

## MEN'S 4th DAY GROUPS

### Gooding Men's 4th Day

Gooding United Methodist Church  
Tuesdays at 7am, potluck breakfast  
Contact: Steve Waugh email or 208-934-4689

### Boise 4th Day

The Sunshine Rest on State Street  
Tuesday mornings 7:30 to about 8  
Contact: Keith Gabriel 863-9474.  
(Call first to make sure we are meeting because some are snowbirds and travel so we don't meet when we only have one or two)

### Pocatello 4th Day

Paul DeLong's house, 366 so 19th Ave, Pocatello  
Tuesdays at 4-5pm  
Contact: Paul DeLong 208-244-4609

### Idaho Falls 4th Day

1st and 3rd Wednesday at 7pm  
We meet in each other's homes  
Contact: Rick Demmer 208-589-4858

## WOMEN'S 4th DAY GROUPS

### Four Rivers 4th Day (Fruitland/ Ontario/ Payette)

Meets 4th Saturday each month 6:30pm  
Potluck, singing, agape, Holy Communion  
Contact: Letha Essinger 208-452-5447

### Meridian 4th Day

Meridian United Methodist Church  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month, 12:30pm  
Contact: Connie Pile 208-888-1490

If your 4<sup>th</sup> Day group is not included in this list, or you are aware of a 4<sup>th</sup> Day group that is not included, please email [lindavillasenor@hotmail.com](mailto:lindavillasenor@hotmail.com) with the details, including the contact person and it will be included in the next El Gallo and put on the IWTE website.

## Gatherings

### **Western Idaho Walk to Emmaus Fall 2017 Gathering**

**Saturday September 23, 12:30 pm – 2 pm**

**Fellowship Hall**

**Cathedral of the Rockies – Amity Campus**

**4464 S Maple Grove Road, Boise, Idaho**

**WHAT TO BRING:** Your favorite dish to share, place settings, and a drink.

**WHAT WE DO:** Fellowship, reconnect, sponsorship, serving on a team, sing and worship

**WHO TO BRING:** All community members, recent sponsors bring your pilgrims.

**Musicians eat free!!**

Questions? Call Char Boyd at [303-204-1059](tel:303-204-1059)

**Hosts Needed:** We are looking for churches that are willing to host Western Walk Gatherings for November 2017, February 2018, April 2018, June 2018 so far! If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Char Boyd. [cbpianomom@gmail.com](mailto:cbpianomom@gmail.com) to make a plan! We have a team who will train you.

## Emmaus Elections

The Apostle Paul wrote:

*There are different kinds of spiritual gifts. But the same Spirit is the same source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God that does the same work in all of us. 1 Cor 12:4*

I don't know why I am always surprised, but our Lord continues to perform mighty works in the lives of the pilgrims and team members during walks. Speaking personally, my faith in God Is increased each and every time I participate in an Idaho WTE walk. There is great power in witnessing men and women working together in the harmony of the Spirit to bless the pilgrims, building up the body of Christ and ultimately the Church. November is an important month for the continuance of this thing we call the Walk to Emmaus. We will be having elections to replace 8 members on your board who have completed their 3-year term of office. We meet 4 times a year, make friends, make decisions and choices for our community. We could use you ... if you've been in the community 1 year or 10 years.

If you are interested in serving on the board, come to the Western gathering this month. You can talk to current board members are present. In addition, nominations from the floor will be accepted to this time. Thank you in advance to those who have served so faithfully and those that have agreed to come on Idaho WTE Board of Directors. If you love the community and want to improve our walks, please be in prayer and consider this opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors of the Idaho WTE. If you have any questions, please contact a board member.

## New Board Member Welcome

Pastor John Mars of Meridian United Methodist Church has been appointed by President Jim Dobbins to finish out this year as Board Spiritual Director and to continue on during 2018 while hopefully training another clergy to become the 2019 Board Spiritual Director.

## Calendar of Events

September 23	Western IWTE Fall Gathering, Boise First UMC - Cathedral of the Rockies
November 4	IWTE Board Meeting, Jerome UMC
March 1-4	Men's Winter/Spring Walk in Caldwell, Idaho
March 8-11	Women's Winter/Spring Walk in Caldwell, Idaho

## 2017 Board Members /Contact Information

**President:** Jim Dobbins, (208) 520-8561, [dobbins.jim.connie@gmail.com](mailto:dobbins.jim.connie@gmail.com)

**President Elect:**

**Vice President:** Connie Pile, (208) 888-1490, [conniepile@yahoo.com](mailto:conniepile@yahoo.com)

**Past President:** Sam Pile, (208) 867-8748, [sam.pile@yahoo.com](mailto:sam.pile@yahoo.com)

**Head Clergy:** John Mars, (208) 888-2245, [pastorjohn@meridianumc.com](mailto:pastorjohn@meridianumc.com)

**Sponsor's Hour/Candlelight:** Malena Rodriguez, (208) 420-8076, [mrod1957@icloud.com](mailto:mrod1957@icloud.com)

**Secretary:** Paula Blair, (208) 523-2597, [blair12345@msn.com](mailto:blair12345@msn.com)

**Prewalk Coordinator:** Char Boyd, (303) 204-1059, [cbpianomom@gmail.com](mailto:cbpianomom@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Carl Christensen, (208) 407-7011, [carl@cpaforyou.net](mailto:carl@cpaforyou.net)

**Newsletter:** Linda Villaseñor, (208) 283-1731, [villasenorfamily@hotmail.com](mailto:villasenorfamily@hotmail.com)

**Operations Chair:** Calvin Connell, (208) 280-0880, [cconnell@tailoredliving.com](mailto:cconnell@tailoredliving.com)

**Team Selection Chair:** Dedra Swanstrom, (208) 345-4896, [dedra@swanstrom.net](mailto:dedra@swanstrom.net)

**Music Chair:**

**Kitchen Chair:** Eric Shaner, (208) 631-4819, [eshaner1@msn.com](mailto:eshaner1@msn.com)

**Board Member:** Gene Summers, (208) 351-1499, [Joke2boy@aol.com](mailto:Joke2boy@aol.com)

**Board Member:** Bill McHargue, (208) 420-9599, [billmchargue@rocketmail.com](mailto:billmchargue@rocketmail.com)

## IDAHO WALK TO EMMAUS WEBSITE

[www.idahoemmaus.org](http://www.idahoemmaus.org)

Go to the Idaho Emmaus Website to find: dates and directions to the gatherings, map and directions to the church holding the next Walk, contact information of a board member or Walk Director, forms to serve on or attend a Walk. Download forms at [www.idahoemmaus.org/forms.htm](http://www.idahoemmaus.org/forms.htm).