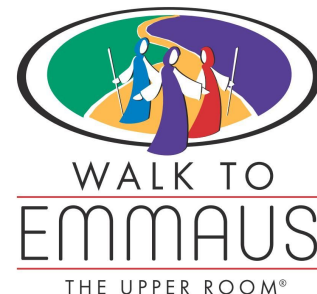


Lansing Area Emmaus FOOTPRINTS



October, November, December 2017

NUMBER 17-4

Community Lay Director Ray Francis 989-330-9135 drrayfrancis@yahoo.com	Community Spiritual Director Ted Orwig 989-755-3150 orwigted@yahoo.com	Chrysalis Community Lay Director Peggy Pirhonen 989-307-5816 orold.foh@gmail.com	Outreach Chair Doris Shaw 989-506-9400 dorishshaw@gmail.com
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Dear Lansing Area Emmaus Community,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our community members who have demonstrated that “servant’s heart” through their ongoing volunteer efforts at gatherings, during walks, on committees, and other roles. It is only through the actions of our community members that our community can thrive and move forward in our common mission.

In addition, on a personal note, I would like to thank the 2017 Board of Directors for the Lansing Area Emmaus Community (LAEC) for their service to the LAEC. Their work, effort, expertise, and commitment has been a blessing in all areas of the community.

As we move into and through 2018, keep in mind that we have walks planned for the spring (Men’s Walk #99 and Women’s Walk #100), to be hosted at the St Louis United Methodist Church (St Louis, MI). And, we are working toward our fall walks, as well. Be sure to check the Internet homepage for the Lansing Area Emmaus Community for key dates and events throughout the year at: <http://www.lansingemmaus.truepath.com/>

I hope to see you at an upcoming Gathering.

Blessings,

Ray
Ray Francis
Community Lay Director, Lansing Area Emmaus Community

Men’s Emmaus Walk #99

Date: March 1-4, 2018
Location: St Louis UMC
116 S Franklin St
St Louis, MI 48880

Minimum Deadline: Feb 1

Application Deadline: Feb 15

Women’s Emmaus Walk #100

Date: March 15-18, 2018
Location: St Louis UMC
116 S Franklin St
St Louis, MI 48880

Minimum Deadline: Feb 15

Application Deadline: March 1

Greetings in the mighty name of Jesus.

As we go into the new year, let us take inventory on our walk with Jesus. Has our walk grown or are we at the same spot as we were a year ago? It is up to each of us to do this. I can't answer for you and you can't answer for me. We need to grow in several areas. The first being in our spiritual walk. How do we do this? We attend church, we pray every day, we read our bible, we witness about the saving grace of Jesus. We follow each and every step that the Holy Spirit leads us on. The second would be our families. Are we closer to our loved ones or are we farther from them? Always make sure you are clear and doing everything you can do to keep this relationship good. Thirdly, we need to grow mentally, one book we need to read daily is our instruction book the Bible. There are also many great Christian writers out there who have written books that will help us to grow. Keep on growing, keep on witnessing, keep on going.

In the next year, be intentional in your growth walk. As you do your part, God will do his part.

Let me leave you with a quote: "Don't let society determine your beliefs, let your beliefs determine society."

Have a great New Year. Pastor Ted



Emmaus, Chrysalis, and Keryx Deserve a 2018 Resolution

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow.

You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that." (James 4:13-15 NASB)

I've never been good at keeping resolutions. In fact, if I'm being honest here, it's been many years since I've even made a list. But when I was asked to write a note for our newsletter for this time of the year, I decided to make this plea: Will you add our Emmaus, Chrysalis, and Keryx to your priority list in 2018? My name is Greg Buchner, I took Walk #149 in October 2001 with the North Indiana Emmaus Community and I sat at the table of Mark. Hint: put your information on the back of your name badge, it helps! Since then, as many others have too, I have worked in a variety of Emmaus groups and now call the Lansing Area Emmaus home. I currently work with some other board members on Facebook group page. In a recent Facebook post, I asked a simple question, "Why we need Chrysalis, Keryx, and Emmaus in 2018, and then what we're willing to commit to in order to make that happen?" The poll answers used Emmaus to represent Chrysalis, Keryx, and Emmaus.

The poll offered these answers to the first part of that question.

- 1) We need Emmaus to keep us spiritually filled.
- 2) We need Emmaus to support leadership in our churches.
- 3) We need Emmaus in order to offer Emmaus to others.

The poll offered these answers to the second part:

- 1) Because we need Emmaus, I will do everything that God is leading me to so to make it happen.
- 2) I'm willing to make Candlelight a priority.
- 3) I'm willing to get trained and sponsor others.
- 4) I'm willing to go to more Gatherings at both locations
- 5) I'm willing to do more in 2018 than I did in 2017.



Most folks, if and when they found the post, replied in some way. I'll be honest, the poll questions were more for me than for anyone else. I believe the first three answers wholeheartedly. Emmaus, for me, has always about the Spirit moving people and their churches to build great leaders to lead new believers to deeper levels of faith. Emmaus, in all its forms, is necessary and, I believe, vital to assisting God with his plan for our congregations.

The second set of answers is my Emmaus, Chrysalis, and Keryx to do list for this coming year. I invite it to be yours, as well. I know that I'm needed. I know that I'm able. I now have to be willing. We have to be willing. We know that the Lord is! While I can't speak for you, I know I want to be caught doing everything in my power to live for Jesus Christ. I know that any time spent in the Lansing Area Emmaus Community will be time doing just that.

So, may God bless you and yours in 2018 and far beyond. May God bless the congregation you serve so that they may love God and love others in familiar and unfamiliar ways.

And may God bless us, the Lansing Area Emmaus community, so that we may pray with all confidence, grace, and power: 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 ever enjoy your consolations. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Star Giving

What I'd really like to give you for Christmas
is a star.

Brilliance in a package,
something you could keep in the pocket of your jeans
or in the pocket of your being.

Something to take out in times of darkness,
something that would never snuff out or tarnish,
something you could hold in your hand,
something for wonderment,
something for pondering,
something that would remind you of
what Christmas has always meant,

God's Advent Light into the darkness of this world.

But stars are only God's for giving,
and I must be content to give you words and wishes and
packages without stars.

But I can wish you life
as radiant as the Star
that announced the Christ Child's coming,
and as filled with awe as the shepherds who stood
beneath its light.

And I can pass on to you the love
that has been given to me,
ignited countless times by others
who have knelt in Bethlehem's light.
Perhaps, if you ask, God will give you a star.



YESTERDAY IS HISTORY

Yesterday is history. Tomorrow a Mystery. Today a Gift.
Did you get up this morning and Thank GOD for this day.

When you go to bed at night, do you remember to Thank GOD for all the good things he provides. Think of the many gifts he provides every day. He doesn't wait until Christmas to provide a gift but provides gifts every day, every hour, and every minute.

How many do we just take for granted.

Let us not forget that the gift of smiling at someone, talking to someone, especially someone that is alone, may be the best gift they receive that day or week.

Not all gifts have to be big or expensive.

Look around and see if someone could use your help, smile, handshake, hug, or a few minutes conversation.

Let them know they matter and are important.

Let us remember GOD and all he has provided for us.
Be a good and faithful servant throughout the entire year.
Share the Gifts you have been given.

Ask GOD to search you, mold you, and use you as he needs. Most importantly, be willing to answer His call, especially when it puts us out of our comfort zone.

Let us remember to brighten other's lives, bear each other's burden, help with each other's loads; offer a hand and smile.

Let God's love shine through you in all you do.

Please join us for our Chrysalis Flights: Girls Flight July 13-15, 2018. Roxanne Denson will be the Flight Lay Director.

Boys Flight July 27-29, 2018. Joe Denson will be the Flight Lay Director.

Both flights will be at Clare UMC, Clare, MI.

Rush will be March 10; April 14; May 12; June 9; August 11; September 8 and October 13 from 5 - 7 p.m. at Zion UMC, 423 W Washington, Ionia.

You do not have to have been on a flight or walk to attend the Rush. At a Rush we have a potluck supper, worship, fellowship and fun activity. Please join us and find out more about Chrysalis. Please visit our Chrysalis website at <http://flightofhopeweebly.com>

If you have questions or would like more information about Chrysalis, please feel free to contact Peggy Pirhonen, Chrysalis Community Lay Director at 989-307-5816 or clld.foh@gmail.com

God really got ahold of my life in a powerful way just a couple years after I graduated from college. I had been wandering spiritually and trying to fill a void in myself for some time with things that just did not work, then suddenly the grace of God overtook me and began a work of transformation in me. It was less than a year after that new commitment in my life that I went on my Emmaus weekend. I was blown away. Probably many of us can remember how we were struck by the amazing grace and love of God that we experienced through the kindness, service, words, prayers, and presence of others. It was immediately after the closing of my weekend that, for the first time, I confessed my sins to someone. It was my pastor. I had to let him know that I was a sinner. I could not keep that part of me hidden any longer.

An amazing thing happened when I finished confessing. My pastor did not run away. He did not tell me I was no longer welcome. Instead he told me that Jesus loved me and that because of Jesus, I was forgiven. That was a transformative experience in my life and it still causes emotion to well up within me. I do not know if you have ever experienced this, but the devil seemed to whisper in my ear that people would not want me around if they knew my faults. It was terrifying. I do not know about you, but I do not function best when I function out of fear. So when my pastor offered that truth of forgiveness, chains fell off. My heart was free.

I was early on in my commitment to Christ and I was still learning a great deal, but one of the things I knew about myself early on was that I could not walk the journey of faith alone. I needed help. It was through other people, both counselors and kids at church camp that God got ahold of my heart in order to transform me. It was the Emmaus Community that God used to affirm my calling into ministry. It was through my pastor that I better understood not only forgiveness, but also how sin isolates us. I needed people I could trust to support me and hold me accountable. Because of that, when I returned from my weekend and was told that I should have an accountability partner, and even a group, I was not only willing, but it made complete sense to me. It is funny to me now, looking back on it, but having an accountability partner or group – people I can be completely honest with – happened so early in my discipleship that I cannot understand Christian life without it. It is, quite simply, a part of who I am. I met with an accountability partner while I was engaged, who encouraged me to stay faithful in thought and action. I met with a wonderful group of men during my first year of marriage, the year prior to moving to seminary, and formed lifelong friendships and experienced the love and grace of Christ in profound ways. I sought out accountability partners in seminary, and we bared our souls to each other as God shaped and prepared us for ministry. I found an accountability partner to meet with now that I am a pastor, because I need to be healthy and spiritually nurtured in relationship so that I can lead as a pastor. Just recently, I have also begun weekly phone calls with a seminary friend from out of state, where we discuss how our souls are doing. We are walking with each other through the ups and downs of ministry.

This past year I have had the opportunity to reflect a bit on this faith journey that I have walked with others. As I wrote above, God put this in my life so early in my discipleship journey, that it is simply the norm for me. I cannot imagine living out my Christian faith apart from relationships that nurture, challenge, and hold me accountable. This past summer I preached a bit on the importance of small groups. For that sermon, I went through and pulled together pictures of the men that God has put in my life in a small group or accountability relationship. When I looked at those pictures, I cried tears of thankfulness. I would not be the man I am today, if it weren't for those men, whom God has used powerfully in my life. Are you neglecting this aspect of your faith? I strongly encourage you to seek out people with whom you can meet and grow in faith.

“And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Hebrews 10:24-25

-Andy Croel-





Have you heard about the United Methodist Camps in Michigan?
Have you EVER heard about the UMCamps in Michigan?
Well, if you enjoy camping and want a place to go as a family or to send your child or grandchild, a place that is fun, and shared by other Christian families and youth, we have a place for you.
Throughout the State of Michigan we have 9 camps, campgrounds, and retreat centers just waiting for you to check us out and visit. Take a peek at Umcamping.org.

So, you are probably wondering where these camps are. Here we go! Picture this in your mind as we travel the state by naming camps. If you follow along on a map, we will make a circle around the state:

- Lake Michigan UMCamp and retreat: Pentwater, MI.
- Lakeview Family Campground: Lakeview, MI
- Albright Park UM Camp and retreat: Reed City, MI
- Camp Kinawind: Boyne Falls, MI
- Lake Huron Retreat: Burtchville, MI
- Myers Lake Campground: Byron, MI
- Judson Collins Center: Onstead, MI
- Wesley Woods UM Camp and Retreat: Dowling, MI
- Crystal Springs UM Camp and Retreat: Dowagiac, MI

Each of our camps, campgrounds, and retreat centers has something unique, which helps those who visit to experience God's awesome handiwork and presence: dunes, lakes, rivers, activities like 9-square in the air, high ropes, low ropes, kayaking, canoeing, swimming, fishing, go carts, archery, basketball, and life-size chess. The list goes on.

One mom posted on Facebook, that when she told her son that the upcoming summer might be too busy for him to go to camp, he responded "No way mom! That's Where I feel God's love the best. It's my special place!"

We would love for you to bring your family, or send you child/children, or grand children to camp, so the connection with Christ can grow. Actually, you could even go with your grandchild to camp. We have a program for grands and their grandchildren too! We are here for you, year round! Yes. I did say year round! Our retreat centers are open all year and offer facilities for groups of all sizes. Why not consider us for a retreat or Emmaus event.

We would love to connect with you in ministry and as a family. For more information please contact:

Rev. George Aoub
Executive Director of Camping Ministries
executivedirector@umcamping.org
616-970-7838

Nine Beautiful, Natural Locations Set Apart for Growing Disciples of Jesus Christ

MICHIGAN AREA
United Methodist
CAMPING
www.umcamping.org
registrar@umcamping.org



Albright Park Camp & Retreat Center

3156 190th Ave., Reed City, MI 49677, 231-832-9094
campgroundregistrations@umcamping.org

- Scenic, wooded cabins, and large meeting and worship spaces available for group rentals, family reunions, specialty camps.
- Amenities include swimming pool; canoeing, kayaking, tubing on the Hersey River; sports field; nine-square-in-the-air; gaga ball.
- Centralized layout that brings groups together.
- Wish list: Need a truck



Judson Collins Center

1000 Hane Hwy., Onsted, MI 49265, 517-467-7711
info@judsoncollinscenter.org

- Summer camps for K through high school including camps for adventure-seekers, horse-lovers, water-bugs, crafty-kids, and the popular "You Can't Do That at Camp." Day trips include water parks, the dunes and Michigan's Adventure.
- Adults with special needs enjoy "Summer Fun" camp.
- Book your family camp, reunions, year-round retreats. Lodges for year-round accommodations and cabins for a more rustic stay.
- Activities include team-building initiatives, low- and high-ropes courses, climbing wall, lakefront activities (swimming/canoeing/kayaking), archery and visiting barnyard animals.



Camp Kinawind

9885 Thumb Lake Rd., Boyne Falls, MI 49713,
734-355-7485 (director), 231-549-2149 (summer)
campkinawinddirector@umcamping.org

- Small-group K - adult camps in a woody up-north setting, including specialty camps like horses, backpacking, kayaking.
- Amenities include beautiful spring-fed lake for swimming and water activities, climbing wall, prayer labyrinth, hiking, low ropes course, home-in-the-woods, campfire cookouts.
- Unique themes include "A Very Potter," & "May the Forest be with You" camps. Special day trips include zip line, night sky park, water park, Mackinac Island, and Bridge Walk.



Crystal Springs Camp & Retreat Center

33774 Crystal Springs St., Dowagiac, MI 49047, 269-683-8918
crystalspringscampdirector@umcamping.org

- Summer camps for elementary through college students, including specialty camps for fine arts, horses, and faith-based service.
- Available for short-term rental for retreats, group events, and weddings.
- Amenities include swimming pool, nature trails, pedal race cars, canoes, picnic and campfire areas, sports field, climate-controlled buildings, and Wi-Fi.

CONTINUED ON REVERSE >>>



Camp Changes Lives™ Recharge Your Batteries with the Power of the Sun!



Lake Huron Retreat Center

8794 Lakeshore Rd., Burtchville, MI 48059, 810-327-6272
lakehuronretreatdirector@umcamping.org

- Year-round hotel-style retreat facilities available for your group.
- Specialty camps for seniors, music, and special needs adults.
- Private cottage available to clergy and laity for the specific purpose of spiritual growth and study. The two-bedroom cottage sleeps four comes with a fully equipped kitchen and Wi-Fi.
- Peaceful, relaxing setting on Lake Huron beachfront with swimming, outdoor benches and swings, indoor and outdoor chapels.
- Volunteers needed during events for adults with special needs.



Myers Lake Campground

10575 Silver Lake Rd., Byron, MI 48418, 810-266-4511
info@myerslake.org

- Individual and group campground for RVs, tents, cabins on picturesque Myers Lake.
- Amenities include water and 50/30/20 electric hook-ups; swimming; fishing; canoes, paddle and row boats; bikes; horseshoes, volleyball, basketball, baseball; billiards, table tennis and video games; weekend activities; Sunday worship.
- Pavilion and family cabins available.



Lakeview Family Camp

5300 W. Cutler Rd., Lakeview, MI 48850, 989-352-6896
campgroundregistrations@umcamping.org

- Individual and group campground for RVs, tents, cabins on Townline and Bass lakes.
- Amenities include water and 30 amp electric on every site; swimming; fishing; canoes, paddle and row boats; horseshoes, volleyball, basketball, disc golf, prayer garden; weekend activities; Sunday worship service by the lake.



Wesley Woods Camp & Retreat Center

1700 Clear Lake, Dowling, MI 49050, 269-721-8291
wesleywoodscampdirector@umcamping.org

- Year-round retreat facilities for family reunions, adult/youth groups, scouts, holiday parties, and special events.
- Summer camps for elementary through high school focused on outdoor activities and growing closer to God through worship, engaging programs and living in community with new friends.
- Amenities include hiking trails, sand volleyball, soccer/basketball/baseball areas, climbing walls, gaga ball, playground, swimming/ canoeing/kayaking, fire rings, and game room. On request: paintball, disc golf, go-carts, and mountain boarding.
- NEW for 2018: team-building initiatives, human foosball, outdoor education lessons, geocaching, and facility upgrades.



Lake Michigan Camp & Retreat Center

- Pavilion and family cabins available.
- 5807 Ridge Rd., Pentwater, MI 49449, 231-869-5317
lakemichigancampdirector@umcamping.org
- Escape to the lake (and dunes). Be surrounded by God's glory!
 - Summer camps for elementary through high school.
 - RV/tent/cabin campground for individuals and groups.
 - Book your own year-round retreats.
 - Amenities include half-mile of private Lake Michigan beach, kayaks, pavilion, sports field, playground, bikes, gaga ball, nine-square-in-the-air, platform tents, and cabins.

Visit WWW.UMCAMPING.ORG.
Learn more about all the amazing
opportunities that await you through
Michigan Area United Methodist Camping!
Contact a camp to volunteer, schedule a tour,
invite a speaker, or make reservations.

DIRECTIONS

A little boy was waiting for his mother to come out of the grocery store. As he waited, he was approached by a man who asked, "Son, can you tell me where the post office is?" The little boy replied, "Sure. Just go straight down the street a couple of blocks and turn to your right." The man thanked the boy kindly and said, "I'm the new pastor in town and I'd like for you to come to church on Sunday. I'd show you how to get to heaven." The little boy replied with a chuckle, "Aww, come on, you don't even know the way to the post office!"



If you are looking for a 4th day group or gathering location to be involved with, please feel free to email me at dorisshaw@gmail.com for information.

Doris Shaw
Outreach Chair and Newsletter Editor





The Bulletin Board

Print this page for a reminder of upcoming events

New Life Men's Fellowship

Second Saturday of the month
Contact Bill Besemer for further details

Men's Bible Study

Every Wednesday at 8:00 AM
New Life United Methodist Church

Prayer Team & Care Team

Every Thursday at 10:00 AM & 11:00 AM
New Life United Methodist Church

New Life Emmaus 4th Day

1st Tuesday of the Month at 6:00 PM
New Life United Methodist Church
Bring a dish to pass for the potluck

Greenville Gathering

1st Saturday of them month at 4:30 PM
Greenville First United Methodist Church
204 W Cass St.

LAEC Gathering

2nd Friday of the month at 6:00 PM
St. Johns at the former Salem UMC

Amble Emmaus 4th Day

1st Tuesday of the month at 6:00 PM
Amble United Methodist Church
Bring a dish to pass for the potluck

Listen to Andy Hollander

Sunday at 6:30 AM on 106.3 WGOM in
Greenville
Rebroadcast Sunday at 10:00 AM on 1380AM

2018 RUSH Dates

March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9,
September 8, and October 13
5:00-7:00 PM at Zion UMC
423 W. Washington Ionia, MI

Young Women's Flight 2018

July 13-15, 2018
Clare UMC, Clare MI
Contact Roxanne Denson

Young Men's Flight 2018

July 27-29, 2018
Clare UMC, Clare, MI
Contact Joe Denson

Spring Men's Emmaus Walk #99

March 1-4, 2018
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Minimum Deadline: Feb 1
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March 15-18, 2018
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116 S Franklin St
St Louis, MI 48880

Minimum Deadline: Feb 15
Application Deadline: March 1

Lansing Area Emmaus Community 2018 Board

Board Position	Name	Phone	E-Mail
Community Lay Director	Ray Francis	989-330-9135	drrayfrancis@yahoo.com
Assistant Community Lay Director			
Secretary/ Kitchen Chair/ Prayer Chair	Kathy Wilson	989-862-5693	kw543210@yahoo.com
Treasurer/ Gathering Chair/ Music Chair	Jack Nartker	989-560-6096	jnartker@yahoo.com
Community Spiritual Director	Ted Orwig	989-307-3104	orwigted@yahoo.com
Assistant Community Spiritual Director	Andy Hollander	231-580-7145	andyhollander122@yahoo.com
Agape Chair/ Facilities Chair/ Site Selection Chair	Jim Platt	989-289-9072	jimeplatt@gmail.com
Team Selection Chair	Julie Anderson	517-663-4264	janderson624@gmail.com
Supply Trailer Chair/ Closing-Sponsor's Hour-Candlelight Chair	Bruce Davenport	517-482-4020	bruceldavenport@gmail.com
Chrysalis Representative/ Chrysalis Board Liaison	Peggy Pirhonen	989-307-5816	pjtravel@hotmail.com
Data Chair/ Registrar	Cindy Iversen	517-348-3095	civersen517@gmail.com
Facility Chair/ Site Selection Chair	Jim Platt	989-289-9072	jimeplatt@gmail.com
Leadership Development Chair/ Outreach Chair/ Newsletter Chair	Doris Shaw	989-506-9400	dorishshaw@gmail.com