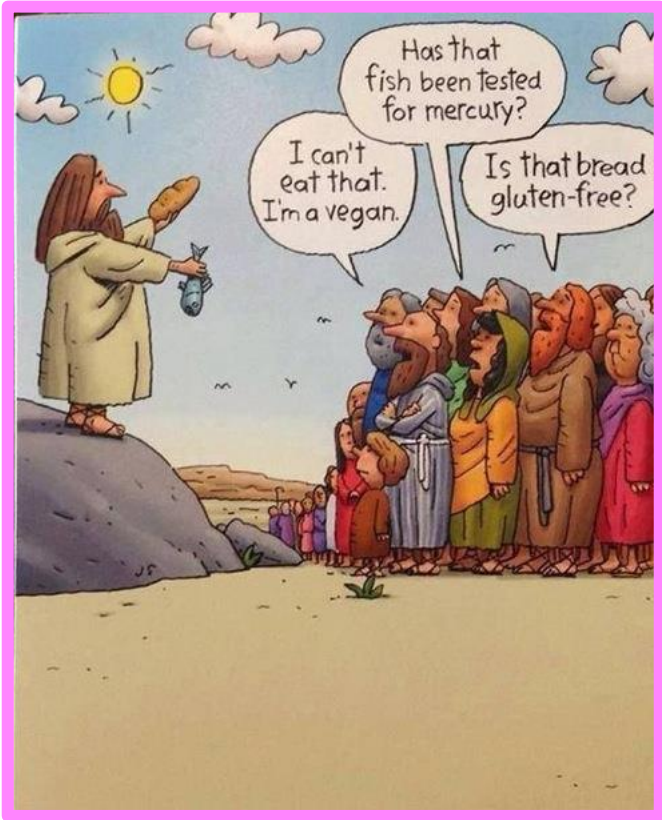




February 2023

## Mid-Michigan Emmaus Newsletter

Please share this newsletter with any of your Emmaus friends. We need help to get the word out since our database still has incorrect email addresses for many members. Any new or corrected email addresses can be sent to tkcamill@aol.com . Thank you for your help.



Find us on Facebook, Mid-Michigan Emmaus!

### Men's Spring Walk

April 13-16, 2023

### Women's Spring Walk

April 20-23, 2023

### Post Walk

May 6, 2023

4:00-6:00 pm.

**Location:**

Trinity UMC  
513 Washington St.  
Sebewaing, MI 48759

**Information:**

[midmichiganemmaus.com](http://midmichiganemmaus.com)  
[register4mmewalk@gmail.com](mailto:register4mmewalk@gmail.com)

### Chrysalis Events

[www.chrysalis.emsem.org](http://www.chrysalis.emsem.org)  
(Partnering with Southeast Michigan Emmaus)

## THANKFUL FOR YOU

**Need new** Dear Mid Michigan Emmaus Community,

I hope and pray that this newsletter finds you all doing well this Christmas season. As we begin the advent season and we look forward to the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ I am reminded of how busy this season can become. Please take time this holiday season to slow down a bit and remember the true reason for the season.

I am also reminded of how quickly our spring walks are approaching. Soon it will be time to begin, team trainings, ordering supplies, sponsoring pilgrims and processing paperwork for those pilgrims.

This spring's walks will be held at Trinity United Methodist church in Sebewaing. The date for the Men's Walk is April 13<sup>th</sup>, with Mark Camilleri as the Men's Lay Director.

The Women's walk will also be at Trinity and the date for them will be April 20<sup>th</sup>, with Wendy Orzel as the Women's Lay Director.

We are really looking forward to having this Men's Walk, as it has been canceled several times due to low numbers of registered pilgrims as well as concerns over COVID. It is important that we get those pilgrims sponsored early.

Whenever we have to cancel or postpone a walk it makes it more and more difficult to get team to commit to the weekends, trainings and post walk gathering. The board has decided that we need to have a minimum of 12 pilgrims signed up two months prior to the walk before we will begin trainings. The date to make the decision to move forward with the walks will be February 13<sup>th</sup>.

This is why I cannot stress to you enough how important it is to get your pilgrims sponsored early and make sure the paperwork is turned in. Paperwork will still be accepted after February 20<sup>th</sup>, but the important point is that we have a minimum of 12 signed up 2 months prior to the walks so try to get yours in early.

Please begin praying about who God may be leading you to sponsor. The Sponsor/Pilgrim forms can be found on the Mid Michigan Emmaus website at <https://www.midmichiganemmaus.com/forms.php> or you can contact me at 810-357-5617 or email me at [mccor1958@gmail.com](mailto:mccor1958@gmail.com) and I will send them to you.

I pray that God is filling your life with Happiness, Joy, and Peace this holiday season and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

Remember, God loves you and so do I!

Bob McCormick

Community Lay Director

Mid Michigan Emmaus

Emmaus Gatherings are always fun and it's always a blessing to hear from our MME friends. Join us for the next Gathering which will be by Zoom. We want to connect with you.

**Date: February 11, 2023**

**Time: 6:00 pm**

**Location: From your home...We will have a Zoom meeting. Please watch for the link so you can join us.**



## MUSICIANS AT THE CHRISTMAS GATHERING

Lisa Robbins, Teresa Camilleri, Dale Robbins, and Mark Camilleri

We thank these dedicated musicians who have served for us many times with joy in their hearts.

**Almost Persuaded or Completely Convinced**

Since my earliest years in church, I've heard more than one sermon based on Paul's testimony before King Agrippa (Acts 26) and of Agrippa's response in verse 28. The KJV says, "Then Agrippa said unto Paul, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." Many times I've sung the hymn "Almost Persuaded, now to believe; Almost Persuaded, Christ to receive..."

This message was often contrasted with Paul's statement in 2 Corinthians 6:2, .."now is the accepted time, behold, now is the day of salvation".

Deeper study into King Agrippa's response to Paul indicates that he was nowhere near being persuaded, but was actually giving a sarcastic sneer to Paul. Still, it seems to me that the idea of people being 'almost persuaded' versus completely convinced might be worth consideration.

Several years ago, I gave a speech in a Toastmaster's club titled, "I Am Convinced". I started with presenting evidences of God's existence and the truth of the Bible. Due to the time constraints of a Toastmaster's speech, I could only present a few; here are the highlights:

*Scientific facts that point to an Intelligent Designer of the universe*

1. The fine tuning of systems that support life on Earth
2. The irreducible complexity of our biological systems
3. The enormous amount of information in DNA

*Abundance of historical and manuscript evidence to accept the reliability of the Bible*

1. Eyewitness testimonies of the men who walked and talked with Jesus for more than three years
2. References by non-Biblical authors who wrote about Jesus' birth, life, death, burial, and resurrection; Josephus, Tacitus, and the Babylonian Talmud, to name a few

3. Over 300 Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah that were fulfilled by Jesus

These and other evidences have convinced me that Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah that "will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21)

BUT, it has taken me a little longer to be convinced that the Creator of the Universe takes a personal interest in ME or desires for ME to know how much He loves ME.

In June, 2008, my husband died and in September of that year, our only child left for college in Brooklyn, New York. Only God's grace and love of family (and church family) sustained me in those first few years of being a widow and an empty-nester. Also, I had more time on my hands and fewer distractions for personal Bible reading and prayer with the Lord, as well as attending Bible studies. My relationship to my Heavenly Father was growing, but still immature. (My faith walk from childhood would fill a book, so I won't elaborate here.)

One night, after time in the Word, my prayer consisted of a question to God, "What now?". I needed some direction as to God's purpose for my life in my altered circumstances. That came the next morning.

At some time during my morning routine, I was facing my chest of drawers and noticed something odd. I had long before placed a set of memory verse cards, which I hardly ever looked at, on top of the dresser, all leaning backwards against something. That morning, 'for some reason' a group of the cards had tilted forward, and the one that was facing me was Philippians 1:6, "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you, will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ". KJV. The ESV translation says, "And I am **sure** of this, that he who began a good work in you, will bring it to completion at the Day of Jesus Christ".

I knew immediately that this was an answer from God to my question of "What now?", letting me know that I was moving in the right direction and to leave the timing and the journey in God's hands. What a joyous time I had, tearfully thanking my Heavenly Father for personally responding to my prayer!

Some folks would write that off to coincidence and wishful thinking. I might have too, except for a series of events, not only that day, but throughout the coming months.

- As I continued to get ready for work, a favorite song of mine, (Stronger, by Mandisa) was on the radio. Philippians 1:6 is referenced in the song. "'Cause if He started His work in your life, He will be faithful to complete it.."
- At work, that morning, a devotional email written by a co-worker closed by quoting Philippians 1:6.
- At a ladies Bible Study a few weeks later, Phil.1:6 was quoted by the teacher
- A couple of Sundays later, my pastor referenced it in his sermon. (I got so excited, that I began stomping my feet in joy. My niece sitting beside me thought I was having a fit.)
- An email exchange with a woman who was helping me sort out how I could pay the balance on my daughter's tuition for her internship, led to

phone conversations where we realized we were sisters in the faith. I shared with her some of my concerns over my daughter's spiritual condition. In her final email to me, she shared some encouraging thoughts from the Bible and ended by quoting Philippians 1:5-7. (Tears of gratitude now come to my eyes as I share these memories.)

These events took place from March 10, 2011 until May 20, 2011. Somewhere, during those months, God drove home to me the truth of his personal Love for ME! I won't claim to having occasional doubts pop up, but now I have a Scripture to throw in the enemy's face when he attacks.

Are you ready for the "rest of the story"? At least 2 years after those months, I had made the decision (at the encouragement of a godly friend) to take the training course for Stephen Ministry, a ministry to come alongside someone who is going through a hard time in their life. We learn how to be an effective listener, to point people back to Jesus as the answer for their difficulties, and to direct them to community resources for some of their issues.

When I opened the training manual, can you guess what verse was staring at me at the top of the first page? Philippians 1:6! And it's just as true for you, fellow-believer, as it is for me.

**GLYASDI!**

Dannelle Briske, Emmaus Walk #88, Table of Miriam, Fall 2022



Need new

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## BOOKSHELF

Tricia Wiegerink, Literature Chairperson

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God Blesses us with Winter, by Evana Vincent

As winter approaches, it gives us the opportunity to be amazed at how God uses nature to display how awesome He is. My book recommendation offers many ways to praise God in the midst of the cold, wintry days.

Open up the book God Blesses us with Winter, and you will find that a winter wonderland awaits you. Read and pray in the snow banks, building snowmen, sledding and ice skating in the fir tree covered hills with blue jays and other critters. This watercolor illustrated Winter storybook encourages not only reading but PRAYING! Prayers throughout highlighting the blessings surrounding winter time. Activity art included for decorating three Christmas trees. Evana Vincent is the bestselling author of the beloved Read and Pray Children's Book series.

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Introducing  
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We want to welcome Kris Middaugh, our newest board member. She has been married to Tim for 32 years. They have 2 adult sons with families of their own that they enjoy spending time with. She has 5 grandsons with another grandbaby on the way this month. Kris and Tim live in Decker and are active at Hope Community Church where they lead small group studies for married couples. Kris' main hobby is being a Grammie. She and Tim love antiquing and going for 'adventures' together.

Kris has a great heart of caring for others. She says, "I love the Emmaus ministry and have served in various areas since 2018. I believe in this ministry and am happy to serve on the board."

The board welcomes Kris and looks forward to serving with her.



## WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON!?

In this world that we live in, it seems this statement is used more often than we would like to hear. It's a question that I have said more times than I would like. But, what is going on in the world? We hear every day on the news about a bombing, a disgruntled employee or student walking into a building or school and taking the lives of another. Even Church's aren't safe from this kind of carnage. We see people storming our capital, our rights politically, personally, and spiritually being tested and tried.

**WHAT IS GOING ON IN THIS WORLD?** One word! **PRAYER!!** When was the last time that you had a true, honest, and open conversation with God? It's funny how we sit back when things don't go in our favor, when our world drops out from underneath us and we wonder WHY? In those moments did you call on your Saviour? When we are faced with hardships of this world, hardships in our families, in our marriages, in a job, with our children, and our own personal demons that we fight, what do we do? When was the last time you prayed for your country, or your President, regardless of your views? Have you ever prayed for the town you live in or your neighbors, your boss, the school and teachers that teach your children, traveling mercies when you or someone you love is on the road. When was the last time you prayed for your family by name, yes, even the ones where disagreements separate you? Do you daily pray for your spouse by name, or the Lord to give you peace as a single person?

Brothers and Sisters, we have been given such a great tool, we have each been given a direct line to the One true God, Emmanuel, the God who loves us! He wants us to talk to Him. He wants us to be in relationship with Him. He wants us to cry out in our darkest moments when we are in the valleys. And He wants to dance with us on the mountain tops, but the only way this can happen is if we start talking to Him. You see, we don't need a cell phone, a land line, Facebook, or Instagram. We only need our heart to speak out of our mouth and shout to our Creator or whisper in a still voice. God hears.

We have in our Emmaus community over 3000 participants. Wouldn't it be amazing if all 3000 of us prayed every day for each other? WOO! That gives me goose pimples! Emmaus is a weekend where prayer is at the center of each walk. A team is chosen after prayer is lifted. The crosses are prayed over, lifting up every pilgrim's name. On Saturday night EVERY team member and pilgrim is prayed for again, by NAME! Before every talk the speakers kneel at the altar as the prayer team prays for them then, and during their entire talk, and then prays for them again after the talk. And, finally when the cross is placed over the head of each pilgrim, a prayer is lifted. Lives are changed on those weekends, and I believe that the Kingdom of heaven grows a little larger because we as a community are doing His work.

In 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-17 it says, "Rejoice always, PRAY WITHOUT CEASING, give thanks in ALL circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus" My prayer and challenge for each of us today as I write this, is to pray for the Emmaus Board, pray for the upcoming Lay Directors, pray for those who have been prayfully chosen to serve on the walks. And, finally pray and ask God, who can YOU send to experience this glorious experience. Who in your life needs a face-to-face encounter with Jesus?



So, in other  
and more importantly  
PRAY – PRAY – and  
I assure you, you will  
with His results!

# Time to Eat!

words, what I am saying  
what God is saying is  
the PRAY SOME MORE!  
never be disappointed

GLYASDI  
Wendy Orzel  
(What are you waiting for – GO PRAY!)

Submitted and used on a walk by Linda Mason

## One Pot Italian Sausage Pasta

**Prep Time** 5 mins

**Cook Time** 25 mins

**Total Time** 30 mins

**Servings** 8 servings

**Calories** 450

**Author** Ashlyn Edwards | Belle of the Kitchen

### Ingredients

- 1 Tablespoon olive oil
- 1 pound Italian-style sausage, sliced (I use chicken or turkey sausage)
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 1 (14.5 oz) can Italian style diced tomatoes
- 8 ounces dry pasta (I used spaghetti)
- 1 1/2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese

### Instructions

1. Heat the olive oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium high heat, then add the sausage to the pan. Cook until sausage is browned, then add the chopped onions and garlic. Cook for 5 more minutes until onions are softened and garlic is fragrant.

2. Add the chicken broth, heavy cream, diced tomatoes, and dry pasta to the pan. Season with salt and pepper and stir everything well. Turn the heat to medium low and cover the pan with a lid. Cook undisturbed for 15 minutes or until pasta is cooked through.
3. Stir in 3/4 cup of the cheese. Top with the remaining cheese, then place the lid back on the pan and cook for another 3-4 minutes until cheese is melted. Garnish with grated parmesan cheese and chopped fresh parsley if desired. Enjoy!

## My 4<sup>th</sup> Day Group

This is the story of our 4<sup>th</sup> Day group, or better the transformation of our 4<sup>th</sup> Day group, which has grown to be a big part of my life and the lives of our members. We all learn on our Walk that the 4<sup>th</sup> Day is the start of a journey that will last the rest of our lives and we're told of the support that belonging to and regularly attending a 4<sup>th</sup> Day group will give us, but I never imagined what it would mean to me.

Our group started out as many 4<sup>th</sup> Day groups do I suppose, meeting and discussing the subjects on the card, talking about things going on in our lives, the problems we had and helping each other cope with the world around us. I joined it in 2009, after my walk in Tawas. In our group at that time were men like John Dwyer, Leonard Klinert, and Cliff Kedzierski. It was such a special time, with special men. While doing this, we started to include subjects going on in our Church, book studies, bible studies, and we would take part of our time to discuss these. Soon, others that had not been on a walk were invited to come, including them and hoping to interest them in taking their own Walk. Many of those did take a walk of their own, and others just liked the gathering of a bunch of men openly discussing Jesus and the Bible, and how He fits in our lives. As our group grew, it was discussed of breaking it up into smaller circles, like we are taught. Yet, each of us loved the direction things were going so much, that we stuck together and continued to grow and learn from each other.

Today, we have Lee, 88yrs old (he acts like he is 68) that leads us in Bible study and discussions. Lee has a beautiful Christian background, growing up in a large family on a farm with a widowed Mother who taught the bible every day of her life. He works on each week's lessons for hours, preparing for our gathering. We have Lynn, a retired pastor, which puts his prospective on all our discussions. Les, a lay leader at our Church and proud veteran; Gary, who loves his jail ministry; Thane, Bill, Tim, Dave M, Dave B, Bob, Rich, Donn, and myself. Yep, 13 members, too big, right ?? But what we have together is special. We all look forward to every Tuesday, 6:00 am, at our local Family Diner, for our one-hour of bible study and discussion, while helping each other solve the world's problems (grin) or just maybe realizing that we all have the same ones. We love and support each other, listen to each other, and pray together for each other and our families. Many of us say we would miss Church before we missed our 4<sup>th</sup> Day. Again, I know this is not what the walk recommends, this large a group, but what we have together is so special, the comradery, the support, the love, it can't be wrong.

Bottom line, enjoy your 4<sup>th</sup> Day group. Pray together, lean on each other, confide in each other, and listen to each other. If you're not part of a group now, try to find one or try to start one. They are so important, keeping us on our walk with Jesus, and connected with others, through the rest of our lives.

Dick Simmons  
Walk #51, Tawas  
Table of Phillip

# MME Board

## Contact Us

Position	Name	Phone	Email
<b>Community Lay Director</b>	Bob McCormick	810-357-5617	mccor1958@gmail.com
<b>Community Spiritual Director</b>	Pastor Ray Francis	989-330-9135	drrayfrancis@yahoo.com
<b>Agape Chair</b>	Pati Weingartz	989-835-6594	weingartz4jesus@gmail.com
<b>Board Secretary</b>	Pati Weingartz	989-835-6594	weingartz4jesus@gmail.com
<b>Board Support</b>	Lisa McCormick	810-531-1258	
<b>Board Treasurer</b>	Matt Pollard	989-254-2057	reclubmap@yahoo.com
<b>Candlelight/Sponsor's Hour Chair</b>	Wendy Orzel	989-450-4450	worzel64@yahoo.com
<b>Communications</b>	Jane Francis	989-330-9136	jnfrancis14@gmail.com
<b>Database Chair</b>	Teresa Camilleri	989-859-4799	tkcamill@aol.com
<b>Facilities Chair</b>	<i>vacant</i>		
<b>Gatherings Chair</b>	Jill Pollard	989-751-1137	Jlp610@gmail.com
<b>Group Reunion Chair</b>	Jill Pollard	989-751-1137	Jlp610@gmail.com
<b>Kitchen Chair</b>	Ed Orzel	989-450-4450	ed_orzel@yahoo.com
<b>Literature Chair</b>	Trisha Wiegierink	989-312-0686	junebugslug@hotmail.com
<b>Music/Entertainment Chair</b>	<i>vacant</i>	---	---
<b>Newsletter Chair</b>	Mary Wheeler	989-274-6722	mwheelie@gmail.com
<b>Prayer Vigil</b>	Kris Middaugh	810-404-9653	tkmiddaugh@yahoo.com
<b>Registrar</b>	Sue Montei	989-550-2986	Register4MMEWalk@gmail.com
<b>Team Selection Chair</b>	Bob McCormick	810-357-5617	mccor1958@gmail.com
<b>Trailer/Supplies Chair</b>	Board shared	---	---
<b>Website</b>	Teresa Camilleri	989-859-4799	tkcamill@aol.com

Do you have any ideas for change that you would like the board to consider? Please email or call any of the board members and let us know. We welcome your input. Together, we are the hands and feet of God.

*God Loves You and So Do We,  
the Mid-Michigan Emmaus Community Board*

