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SunCoast Emmaus Newsletter

Apr/May 2019



Covenant

Rev. Don Roser, Community Spiritual Director

Greetings to all,

As we begin our preparation for the fall walks (91 & 92), we will be using the current Upper Room Walk to Emmaus program manuals. The Education Committee will be working with Board members and the various team members using these materials. We do this in faithfulness and obedience to the covenant we sign with the Upper Room Ministries.

This covenant relationship is in keeping

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Sponsorship The Most Important Job of All

Margarete Roser, Education Committee Chair

Sponsorship is vital to the health of any Emmaus Community, and all members take responsibility for this area of ministry. It involves more than simply signing people up for a fun weekend. The aim of Emmaus is the bring spiritual revitalization to Christians who, in turn, will bring new life and vision to the work of the church in their congregations, homes, schools, workplaces and Communities. Sponsorship supports the church's efforts to help Christians to grow spiritually and build up the body of

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acceptance. Obedience is the evidence of our faith. We trust that when we bring each of our separate gifts to our preparation and service (including Sponsors Hour, Candlelight and Closing), God will use those gifts in the renewing and energizing of all involved. We pray especially for the Pilgrims that their hearts would be kindled with the fire of the Holy Spirit.

The following is an excerpt from the Emmaus Ministries Community Manual:

For Suncoast Emmaus, being faithful to the Upper Room program manuals is critical to the ongoing quality and effectiveness of the Walk to Emmaus weekend programs on which we serve. Here are the reasons listed:

- It prevents the redesign by each leader - Lay or Clergy.

Emmaus is not leader centered.

Emmaus depends on a team of committed Christians working together in the Spirit of Christ according to directions in objective manuals on a proven model.

- It assures consistent quality and common experience.

The manuals/model ensure that Emmaus, no matter where it is conducted, will be a common and trustworthy experience.

- It honors the integrity of the Sponsors.

Persons come to an Emmaus event trusting others' recommendations that Emmaus will be of value and

sponsor and what constitutes good sponsorship. The following is a list from the Emmaus Ministries Community Manual regarding good sponsorship.

Good sponsorship uses discernment in inviting or recruiting participants. Good sponsors do not set out simply to recruit anyone with a willingness to attend. (First step should always be to PRAY for God's leading toward the right person or persons).

Good sponsorship is the first act of agape before the Emmaus event ever begins; a participant's experience of his or her Emmaus event begins with how the Community handles sponsorship.

Good sponsorship undergirds the Emmaus Ministries event with sacrificial love on behalf of each participant. Sponsors embody the personal commitment of the Community to each participant and provide personal acts of agape during the event for the participant. These acts of agape include prayer, agape letters, supportive presence at Candlelight and Closing and follow-up.

Good sponsorship offers a strong link to the participants' Fourth Day experience after each event. Sponsors stand ready to answer participants' questions, be faithful friends, and provide perspective. Sponsors guide participants to reunion groups, encourage them to revitalize their involvement in their churches and church groups, and help them sponsor others to attend an Emmaus event.

Good sponsorship grounds a healthy, effective Emmaus movement that fulfills its true purpose: continued faith formation of the participants, the development of Christian leaders and the renewal of the church in ministry.

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leaders honor sponsors' faith that the event will offer the program's model with integrity.

- It preserves an organic model.

The Emmaus manuals set forth a model in which all parts are theologically and dynamically congruent. Every part of the models has its purpose in this regard.

- It serves as a shared and stabilizing discipline.

Commitment to the model/manuals is a shared discipline that serves a check on the inclination of team members (lay and clergy) to innovate and tinker with the design. In truth, most additions and changes are made for the team, not the participants.

- It channels creativity appropriately.

The manuals encourage leaders to focus their creativity on the given tasks within the Emmaus Ministry model. The place for creativity is in making the most of the given designs to prepare the way of the Lord for the participants.

- It prevents conflict over the event design.

The discipline of adhering to the manuals frees the Emmaus Board and teams to focus their energies in the proper direction - on preparing for Emmaus events and

God leads you to share the gift of your Emmaus Ministries experience. We have Walk #91 and Walk #92 scheduled in September. Good sponsorship does not occur at the last minute. These walks should be filled a month in advance.

Praying your hearts are on fire with the love of Christ!

De Colores!

Margarete Roser

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Reunion Groups

Peter Patrick, Reunion Group Committee Chair & Community Activities Chair

On May 8th EUMC held a pot luck EUMC Emmaus event. The purpose of the event was to peak the interest of our inactive Emmaus Family—those folks who have taken the Walk but really never engaged by joining a reunion group, attending Suncoast potluck monthly events, or a Walk send off, candlelight, or closing. We want those folks to begin thinking of SPONSORING again and encourage them to be active.

We had about 45 attendees. Since our event was so successful, we have formed a EUMC Twice Annual Emmaus Pot Luck committee whose task is to coordinate the events.

We are sharing our success hoping that other Suncoast Emmaus church families would consider holding an event like this at your church.

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- It enables Emmaus Communities to participate more fully in the larger Emmaus movement.

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The Upper Room Emmaus Ministries Office seeks Emmaus leaders and Communities that know and practice the Emmaus Ministries models and want to help spread Emmaus in a trustworthy and dependable manner.

- It honors the covenant with the Upper Room Ministries.

The manuals warrant adherence because an Emmaus Community exists through a covenant with the Upper Room Emmaus Ministries Office.

De Colores,
Don Roser

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Team Selection

Leo Masucci
Team Selection Chair

Team selection for the Fall Walks is in progress. If you want to serve on a future walk, please fill in a servant application on the [community website](#).

Leo Masucci

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Agape For



Gatherings

*Gary Doss, Gatherings Committee &
Housing Committee Chair*

Upcoming Gatherings:

June 15th 2019 5pm

Englewood United Methodist Church
700 E Dearborn St
Englewood FL 34223

Fund Raising Dinner with Lasagna as the main course is being tentatively planned. Money raised will go back to the community for Scholarships for Pilgrims and Servants. Make a day of it and enjoy God's creation at Englewood Beach or Stump Pass State Park beach. Both are just a few miles from the church.

July 20th 2019 5pm

Christmas in July

Ellenton United Methodist Church
3607 US 301
Ellenton FL 34222

Christmas in July party. If interested in helping with the event and decorations email gdoss@egracechurch.com. This would be a great time to be elves and make some Agape for the Fall walks.

First UMC Palmeto
330- 11ave West
Palmetto Fl

IT'S TIME TO MAKE AGAPE:

As we look forward to the coming fall walks, it's the perfect time to begin making Agape for the pilgrim's and team. Please keep in mind we will need a minimum of 50 pieces for the tables. Here are some ideas for your consideration.

1. Mending Kits: "God fixes everything,"
2. Soap bubbles: "Let God's love bubble over in you!"
3. Little notebooks or note pads. "Write this down: Jesus Loves You!"
4. Seed packages. "Grow in Christ."
5. Life Savers. "Jesus is the real life saver!"
6. Small bars of soap. "God can make all things clean."
7. Emergency rain ponchos: "When life gives you rain, God gives you rainbows!"
8. Penny hot glued to a card. "Jesus just makes 'cents'."
9. Small rulers. "Measure your life in Christ." or "Jesus Rules"
10. Emory board or small piece of sand paper on a card:
"Jesus can smooth away all our rough edges!"

The greatest gift of all is to sponsor a pilgrim. IT'S TIME TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

A beautiful location near the Manatee river.

Just a reminder that Gatherings are a good opportunity to bring potential candidates for future walks to meet the community and to experience our love for Jesus and each other. Guests are welcome and we ask at the beginning of each gathering if we have any. This allows the community to make them feel welcome and more comfortable about going on the walk. Just remember not to give away the ending of the book.

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I look forward to receiving your Agape gifts for fall.

Blessings,
Susan Bensen Klinger

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A Note From Communications

*Rich Sidley,
Communications Chair*

First Newsletter under the banner of the new Communications team. If you are interested in serving on the team, please contact me. CREATIVE people, especially those who can SPELL and WRITE GOOD (err, Well) are really needed!

De Colores!
Rich
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