

# The Joyful Noise



Fall Walk Preview Issue ~ September 2025



## Let's Talk **Fall** Walks!

Each of us can bear witness to the remarkable impact the Walk to Emmaus makes on a man or woman who is ready for a fresh encounter with the Savior. When we experienced our original Walk – whether it was recently or many years ago – we were blessed by the faithfulness of other believers and their obedience to the leading of the Spirit. These brothers and sisters - from different local congregations and denominations - served us in unity behind the scenes, and God blessed their offerings. Then you - and all of us - became part of the joyful servants of Christ through active involvement with Emmaus. Our Community has

reinvested itself in this encounter with Christ again and again, hosting nearly 170 weekend Walks throughout the years, the effects of which may only be truly known through eternity's lens.

*Will we* continue to be part of the work God is doing in hearts, right here in our home of Northwest Ohio, *this season* of 2025? Nothing should be taken for granted. *We have right now.* Let's give Jesus our best! Thank you for your devotion to Jesus and his heart for people.



## You **Autumn** Know By Now:

As the Northwest Ohio Emmaus Community, **we are counting on Christ** as we've begun readying the tables – investing agape love and prayer on behalf of the pilgrims we will soon host. The teams are diligently coordinating details, gathering supplies, presenting and previewing the Talks, and making all preparations to serve with their whole hearts – so that GOD will be glorified, and so pilgrims will be moved closer to Christ.

**Community members, Christ is counting on you.** Act now to [send a pilgrim](#) on this Fall spiritual journey. Sponsorship forms are currently coming in and are due soon. Fall Walk schedule shown below.

[Visit the website](#) (nwoemmaus.com) for all things related to the walk, including the Prayer Vigil sign-up, registration/sponsorship forms, and who to contact with any questions you may have.

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### Men's Walk #77

### October 2-5

Wesley UMC - 903 Center Street, Bryan

Lay Director: George Roush, Spiritual Director: Steve Rath

We have a great start on the #77 men's pilgrim roster.

**There are only three weeks left to register so please invite the individuals  
God has laid upon your heart, and send their form in ASAP.**

*It is going to be a powerful weekend for these guys!*



# Women's Walk #93

## November 6-9

**Maumee UMC** - 405 Sackett Street, Maumee

Lay Director: Kelly Vetter, Spiritual Director: Barry Burns

***Get those Women's Walk #93 calendar dates on your pilgrim's schedule while they are still open!*** These ladies are going to have the best time on THE BEST walk ever. Be sure your pilgrim is there.

## Walk Reunions / Fall Gathering

### November 22

**Aldersgate UMC** - 4030 Douglas Road, Toledo

Walks #77 and #93 reunions will take place at 5:30 prior to our meal.

Potluck Dinner at 6 p.m. | Praise & Worship at 7 p.m. (childcare provided)

*All are welcome!*

The world changes, but our God remains the same. **How is God calling YOU to be involved in our fall Walks? Mark your calendars to serve and participate!** May we each respond to the call of the Lord as in Isaiah 6:8: "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. **Send me!"**



## Meet Our Fall Walk Lay Directors

*With the Fall 2025 Men's and Women's Walks fast approaching, let's hear a little bit from the hearts of the two individuals that have been asked to lead these next walks. This month, we will focus on the Men's Lay Director of Walk #77 and next month, we will focus on the Women's Lay Director of Walk #93.*

**Who is the Lay Director of Men's Walk #77?**

George Roush, NWOEMW #58, Table of John

George has been a fixture in our community for years, serving on numerous teams as well as the Board. He is also a longtime member of Maumee UMC.

**Give us a quick introduction!**

I am a retired Toledo Police Officer (33 years) and “Dad” to three outstanding young men. I had a near-death experience in 2016 which changed the focus of my life forever.

**When and where was your original Walk? Share about that experience.**

I was a Pilgrim in October, 2009 at Wesley UMC in Bryan, Ohio.

The whole walk was moving. Memorable moments for me include meeting my "new best friend" Jack Tibbets, all the hugs and seeing people I knew from church for Candlelight, and the Agape letters.

**Why is Emmaus important to you:**

In my career, I had the opportunity to see the worst of society. Through the Walk to Emmaus, I have been able to see the best of society. Here, I have encountered the loving and caring Body of Christ. I have had the opportunity to serve and witness the power of the Holy Spirit at work.

**What is the Bible verse that you have chosen, and why?**

Ecclesiastes 3:1, “To everything there is a season - and a time to every purpose under heaven”. On the Monday following the most recent men's walk earlier this year, I was on my way work and the first song to randomly play was Turn, Turn, Turn by the Byrds. It struck me at that moment that a fall walk occurs in a season of change and the walk itself is a season of change in the pilgrims' lives.

**How is the Team formation going?**

The team formed very quickly and is midway through Team meetings. The members are “gelling” well, bonding and becoming one body. We have just finished some training to focus on the mission at hand and have previewed some truly outstanding Talks! The team is fantastic.

**Closing thoughts for our Community?**

Having served on the last two walks, I see a fire and passion in our Community that I have not seen in years. The time is now to step up and keep this Community moving forward to further God’s purpose for it. We need sponsors to be the Hands and Feet of Jesus. That means, for a few hours one weekend, we need our members to sponsor someone and change their lives - forever. So please, immediately after you read this, go call someone who has been laid on your heart and start the process. Time is running out.

*De Colores!*

*Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus, we lift up the team and pilgrims of Walks #77 and #93. Empower them, protect them, prepare them, and bring them to the weekend in peace to experience your grace - and bask in your presence. Move in our hearts, by your Holy and creative Spirit, and give us the strength to follow your leading. So be it! Amen.*



## Summer Gathering Recap

We had a wonderful time of food and fellowship with well over 40 people enjoying the evening together. We heard from Dave Gillette about the upcoming Kairos weekend. Special thanks to Alan and Vicki for hosting, Beth Figley for leading worship, Fourth Day speaker Steve DeNolf for sharing, and to Pastor Doug Widdowson for the inspirational message and administering the sacrament of Communion. Appreciation is expressed to Kathy DeNolf, Board Chair for a well-coordinated social/worship event. **See you at the next Gathering Nov. 22 at Aldersgate UMC, 4030 Douglas Road in Toledo.**

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### PRAYER SPOTLIGHT: *Kairos Fall Weekends*

Lift fervent prayer for the leadership, ministry teams, women and men who are preparing themselves to participate in upcoming **Ohio Kairos Prison Ministry weekends**. May the Spirit of God move mightily in all involved, and may each weekend plant seeds that will bring forth a fruitful harvest. "Lord, we need you! Hear our prayers."

**September 18-21** Kairos @ Dayton (Women); @ Lake Erie and @ North Central (Men)

**September 25-28** Kairos #40 @ Toledo (Men)

**Closing:** Sunday at 12:15pm

**Website:** [Mykairos.org](http://Mykairos.org)

**October 23-26** Kairos @ Marion (Men); @ Ohio Reformatory (Women)

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#### 2025 Board Members

Click on member name to email them directly or email us at [NWOEmmaus@gmail.com](mailto:NWOEmmaus@gmail.com)

Spiritual Director -

[Pastor Barry Burns](#)

Chairperson/LD -

Good Shepherd -

Vacant position

Kitchen -

Social-

[Kathy DeNolf](#)

Sponsorship-

[Scott Smith](#)

Leadership -

[Evan Brock](#)

Secretary/Treasurer -

[Lori Strohmaier](#)

Agape -

[Vicki Adam](#)

Communications -

[Lori Strohmaier](#)

[Kurt Plouck](#)

Logistics -

[Steve DeNolf](#)

Outreach -

[Evan Brock](#)

Registration-

[Marlin Frey](#)

[Dana Smith](#)

Supply -

[Mike Hoffman](#)

Team Selection -

[Bryan Borchardt](#)

Worship-

[Kathy DeNolf](#)

For the most up-to-date information please remember to visit the website: [NWOEmmaus.com](http://NWOEmmaus.com)

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*Please follow us on Facebook! The Emmaus Board wants to promote more interaction and communication between community members through social media. Check us out at Northwest Ohio Emmaus Community, and feel free to share any blessings or thoughts you may have!*



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Northwest Ohio Emmaus Community | 4525 S Detroit Ave | Toledo, OH 43614 US

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