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## TRWE - Spring 2022 Newsletter

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### Spring 2022

*We are pilgrims on a journey,  
We are trav'lers on the road;  
We are here to help each other  
Walk the mile and bear the load.*

The Board of Directors invites you to actively participate in the TRWE Community through reading the updates in this newsletter, praying for our community and joining us in fellowship at our next Gathering (details below).

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### From Our Community Lay Director...

Dear Emmaus Friends,

If you woke up this morning, God has great plans for you. Now let those words wash over you. This is a quote that I read the other day and it followed me the whole day.

What are you worried/concerned about today? How many times has the Bible encouraged us to turn our worries over to Jesus? Matthew 6:25-34 Tells us instead of worrying about day to day things, we

We have many things to be thankful for. I am especially grateful for our Emmaus Community. We had our first in-person Emmaus Gathering earlier this month at Salem United Methodist Church in Wexford. Pastor Stephanie Gottschalk and her church family were gracious hosts to our community. Pastor Stephanie's Fourth Day message was powerful and encouraging for us. I can't speak for everyone but when Ron Hujik and Katy Seltzer started the music, I knew we were back. Hallelujah!

That night we asked the question, in small groups, "At what moment this week did you feel closest to Christ?". The response was different for everyone, but it was encouraging to consider how Jesus Christ is working in our own lives and the lives of our families, children and friends.

From prison ministry to Easter Children's Programs at church, we were able to see Christ using and working through us.

As we begin our spring and summer planning, my prayer is that you will include Emmaus events, gatherings, and the celebration of 30 years of Three Rivers Walk to Emmaus this fall (more information to come). Look for the E-Blast in your emails. Also, please check out the TRWE.org webpage that has current Emmaus information and the link to submit a prayer request.

DeColores and God bless you,

Patty Johnson,  
TRWE #36, Table of Deborah  
Lay Director

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### **From Our Committee on Sponsorship & Board Secretary, Susan Keppen:**

We all need to take refresher courses sometimes, even if we have done things before. I've been taking CPR and First Aid every 2 years since the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade. Things have changed and there is always something new to learn.

Sponsorship is THE MOST IMPORTANT JOB in the Three Rivers

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be the best sponsor they can be...

Come to our next live training after Gathering on May 13, 2022 to find out WHY WE SPONSOR?

God may be prompting you to invite someone to our next walk. Come to training to find out WHO?

Sponsorship is modeled after discipleship. Participate (in Sponsorship training) to find out HOW?

*If you have been a sponsor in the past, come to share, we need your input and experience!*

*If you are new to being a sponsor, come. We want to support you in your Fourth Days.*

Don't worry, if you miss this training, we will be offering another live training in November.

If you can't join us for a live training, we will soon be posting a link for you to complete the training online. We will announce in the newsletter when it becomes available.

Join us in making a commitment to keeping TRWE community alive and well.

Come get ready (with God's help) to be the BEST sponsor you can be.

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## From our Facilities Coordinator...

*It Just So Happened...*

After our first in person Gathering in Greenville last year, the BOD thought it might be nice to find another space like it, casual, not a

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*It just so happened* I had recently talked to a friend who moved to Wexford and told me about a small Methodist church she attends there. She said for a small church they sure had a lot of ministries. Because of its location, the decision was made to check it out.

*It just so happened* that the pastor of the church had attended a Walk to Emmaus in another Community. *It just so happened* that the only evening open on their calendar was Friday night. *It just so happened* the pastor was willing to be the Fourth Day speaker and the Clergy for the evening.

So, our April Gathering was there. It was so good to be together again, singing, celebrating Communion, just the fellowship with Emmaus friends. And great hospitality from Pastor Stephanie!

*It just so happens* our May 13 Gathering will be there, too. Mark your calendars for May 13 at Salem UM Church 350 Manor Road Wexford. Fellowship at 6:30 (and afterwards), worship at 7. Isn't it amazing how God works in the things that "*just so happen*"!

DeColores  
Dave Griffith  
TRWE #27 Table of Paul

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## From Our Fellowship Coordinator...

*1 John 1:7 We have fellowship with one another...*

Let Your Light Shine...

Through Fellowship

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on. Please click the button or give me a call at 724-822-3721 and let your light shine via the Fellowship Committee.

Mary Pellett  
TRWE # 54, Table of Deborah

### **Fellowship**

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## **From Our Agape Coordinator:**

As I was searching the Internet to find something interesting to say about AGAPE, I came across a blog by Jeanette, who writes Jeanette's Healthy Living (<https://jeanetteshealthyliving.com/agape-love/>). I hope you find the following excerpt thought provoking and maybe even consider practicing some of the ideas in her writing.

Agape love is the love that God has for us and the love that he asks us to show Him and other people. Christian Agape love is about loving others because they are children of God like ourselves even if we don't like them. This means we love a person despite his or her flaws or shortcomings. Agape love is about giving to others, sacrificing our time, energy and resources for someone else without expecting anything in return... Agape love is about responding calmly when faced with difficulties, sacrificing without complaining, and waiting patiently.

DeColores!  
Jan Brooks  
TRWE #52, Table of Mary

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## **From Our Community Spiritual Director:**

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When I was a little girl just learning to read, my dad had a fascinating book on his shelf. It was called *The Cotton Patch Gospel*, by Clarence Jordan (1912-1969). Although it was a translation of the gospels, it was set as if Jesus lived in the southern United States. Clarence Jordan was one of my early influences.

Clarence Jordan said, “The proof that God raised Jesus from the dead is not the empty tomb, but the *full hearts of his transformed disciples*. The crowning evidence that he lives is not a vacant grave, but a *spirit-filled fellowship*. Not a rolled-away stone, but a *carried-away church*.

Clarence grew up and was educated in Georgia and Kentucky. He felt called to take Jesus’ demanding words in the Sermon on the Mount seriously. Clarence had a vision. He dreamed of a community he would call “Koinonia Farms,” named after the Greek word for “fellowship or communion.” At these farms, agriculture and scripture would unite, and he believed there they would demonstrate the kingdom of God.

In 1942, Clarence, his wife, and another couple purchased 440 acres of land near Americus, Georgia. They had trouble from the outside from the beginning. They allowed workers on the farm to eat together despite their race. The KKK frequently challenged Clarence and others on the farm. Clarence had a very challenging question for those who followed their southern heritage of racism. He said, “Your choice seems quite clear. It is whether you will follow your granddaddy or Jesus Christ.”

Koinonia Farms, over time, became Koinonia Partners, which eventually gave birth to Habitat for Humanity, International under the leadership of Millard Fuller. Clarence died in 1969 not too long after the first Koinonia Partners house was built.

Clarence Jordan’s quote suggests that we should worry *less* what people say they believe happened 2,000 years ago and *more* whether we are living as if resurrection still happens. The question is, “How are we partnering with God today in transforming despair into hope, apathy into compassion, hate into love, and death into new life?”

“Practice resurrection.” What would it mean, not to “believe in the Resurrection,” but to *practice resurrection*?

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he denies the resurrection of Christ. After a dramatic pause, he goes on to say, "I deny the resurrection of Christ every time I do not serve at the feet of the oppressed; each day that I turn my back on the poor; I deny the resurrection of Christ when I close my ears to the cries of the downtrodden and lend my support to an unjust and corrupt system. However, there are moments when I affirm that resurrection, few and far between as they are. I affirm it when I stand up for those who are forced to live on their knees, when I speak for those who have had their tongues torn out, when I cry for those who have no more tears left to shed."

This is a good word. Practicing Resurrection is what we are to do in our 4th Day in the Emmaus community. Perhaps we have gotten lackadaisical in our practice. Perhaps we have lost the passion and enthusiasm we had for passing on the faith, especially as we received it through what we experienced on our own walk. Perhaps we have stopped surrounding ourselves regularly with others who have walked to Emmaus; those we need to support and those we need to support us as we continue into our 4th Day.

In these post-Easter days, let us seek to practice resurrection. May you open your whole self – heart, soul, mind, and strength – to God's animating call to practice new life and renewed love. May you, in this 4th Day, feel God luring you, prompting you, encouraging you, each day and in each moment and with each person, to Practice Resurrection.

De Colores!

Pastor Cyndi Bloise



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## **Gathering**

7:00 PM Friday, May 13  
Come as early as 6:30 PM for fellowship

Salem UM Church  
350 Manor Road, Wexford PA

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**TRWE Website**

**Find a Reunion Group**



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## The Servant Song

*Will you let me be your servant,  
Let me be as Christ to you;  
Pray that I may have the grace to  
Let you be my servant, too.*

*We are pilgrims on a journey,  
We are trav'lers on the road;  
We are here to help each other  
Walk the mile and bear the load.*

*I will hold the Christ-light for you  
In the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
Speak the peace you long to hear.*

*I will weep when you are weeping;  
When you laugh I'll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
'Til we've seen this journey through.*

*When we sing to God in heaven  
We shall find such harmony,  
Born of all we've known together  
Of Christ's love and agony.*

**Richard Gillard**

**Men's Walk 107**  
Fall 2023  
October 12-15

Community Lay Director  
Patty Johnson  
CLD@trwe.org

**Women's Walk 108**  
Fall 2023  
October 19-22

Community Spiritual Director  
Cyndi Bloise  
CSD@trwe.org

Mt. Chestnut Nazarene Retreat Center  
177 North Rd

Registrar  
Sharon Gallagher

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May 7  
9:00AM  
Ingomar UMC

Communications

Martha Johnson  
[communications@trwe.org](mailto:communications@trwe.org)



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