The Messenger

A monthly newsletter of the Emmaus of the Midlands Community

Emmaus of the Midlands
PO Box 85
Lexington, SC 29071

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Renewing Christian Disciples

Strengthening Local Churches

Secular Advent and Spiritual Advent?

I, probably like many of you, have complained in the past about rushing the seasons, especially when Christmas decorations fill the stores in September and are hard to find by December. I have adopted the view that the time from Halloween to the fourth Sunday before Christmas is secular advent, a time of preparing homes and communities for the Christmas season. I like that many people begin decorating for Christmas right after Halloween and have finished decorating by Thanksgiving. I think that Christians can then use the religious Advent season (the fourth Sunday before Christmas until Christmas eve) to prepare spiritually for the coming of the Christ child. (I know I probably the only person who thinks this way and even I don't "practice what I preach." Still, I think such practices would be a good approach to the Christmas season.).

At Christmas, we celebrate the kingdom that is and that is not yet. Even a brief exposure to world news shows us that God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven has not yet been realized. This year, during the secular advent season, we have the opportunity to stand up for our Christian principles and values, not only in the way we personally act, but by using our votes to support those who share our principles and values. Each of us can pray, be informed about the candidates and issues, and vote. We can all pray for guidance and discernment for ourselves and for all who are voting. We can pray for safety and civility before election day, on election day, and after the results are known. We can pray that, when necessary, everyone practices "disagreeing agreeably."

One more reminder, between Halloween and Advent another holiday and celebration occurs, Thanksgiving. The fourth Thursday is not primarily a day to overeat, watch parades and lots of football, and strategize Black Friday shopping. It is a day to remember the many blessings God has given us and to express our gratitude. Studies have shown that gratitude is important to our well-being and mental health. Family gatherings all through the year would likely be much more pleasant if conversations focused on gratitude for each person present rather than focusing on criticism and past wrongs. Friends, family, mutually supportive relationships, and the opportunity to share agape love with those we encounter, not power, money, and material goods, are what give our lives meaning and the measure of true wealth. Perhaps that is why *It's a Wonderful Life* has become a Christmas season classic.

Please continue to pray for the Emmaus of the Midlands community and your board of directors, The board must make some hard decisions and find creative and innovative approaches as it plans for the future. On October 12, the board had one of the year's most productive meetings. Your board loves this ministry and this community. It wants what is best for this community and, more importantly, it wants God's will to be done through all the planning and decisions of the board.

Mary Frances Thompson, Spiritual Director

EOM Board meeting: Mon, Nov 9, 2026 6:30pm at Lexington UMC.

THRIFT/BAKE/CRAFT SALE A HUGE SUCCESS!!!!



There are no words to express my appreciation to all who came out and supported the sale on October 3 held at Lexington United Methodist Church. We had many workers on Friday, October 2, who came at noon and stayed until 7 pm to set up for the sale. Midlands Emmaus Community, you rock!! We had thousands of items to put out for sale—thrift items, bake sale, and craft items. We had customers lined up the next morning at 6:30 am waiting to get in. We had customers all day until 2 pm who were stuffing their bags with their treasures. The final total is not in yet, but so far we have close to $5100 to deposit. This will go a long way toward paying for our past Women's Walk, with money left over to pay our bills for the end of the year. Please know that if you contributed items that did not sell on Saturday, those items were packed up and distributed to His House, Mission Lexington, Good Will, needy families, and churches in Gilbert and Aiken. We were also able to sell some of the books left over to a second-hand store. We even made the news on WLTX on Saturday evening after one of the cameramen came and interviewed Melissa Sansolo about our sale, and the fact that the profits were going toward funding the Walk to Emmaus! It is impossible to name everyone who helped, but please know that you were a part of this great adventure and that you were a blessing! To God be the glory – we give God all the thanks for allowing us to be a part of this ministry, The Walk to Emmaus!

Carolyn McLean, Board of Directors (Ex-Officio)

Website:

We are in the process of making changes in the hosting of the website so if you notice issues it is probably relates to the move.

October Gathering

We look forward to seeing everyone when we resume for our **October Gathering**!
Mark your calendars and join us for fellowship and community as we reconnect this fall.
Memorial Service for our Saints.

- **Date:** Friday, October 23, 2026 (Fourth Friday)
- **Time:** 7:00 PM
- **Location:** Edgefield Methodist Church -- Rev. Mike Evans
- **Address:** 309 Norris Street, Edgefield, SC 29824
- **Contact Phone:** (803) 637-6163

December Gathering

Mark your calendars! We invite everyone to join us for our **December Gathering** in Prosperity for fellowship and community.

- **Date:** Friday, December 4, 2026 (First Friday)
- **Time:** 7:00 PM
- **Location:** Wightman Methodist Church
- **Address:** 302 N Church Street, Prosperity, SC 29127

ERT Team Deploys

Thanks to Community and Board Member Mike Evans and his ERT Team for recently deploying to Alabama to assist in the cleanup and recovery from Hurricane Isaias. Thanks to all who have helped after these storms.

Members Database Update

We Need to Update our community information. If you have moved or changed Email addresses we need to updated your information in the Database, if you know of someone who has passed away then also please email so we can update that information. The board wil be calling to update the rolls in the coming weeks. Thank You, De Colores.

Upcoming Walks: Please start praying about and looking for sponsorship opportunities.

This is just an idea and the board has formed a committee to look into the feasibility of it. Having 2 separate walks 1 walk weekend – Camp and Food costs would be cut, and we could have a walk with a minimum of 20 pilgrims for both walks. If you have thoughts email or let a board member know about your thoughts..

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De Colores!