

Greetings from your Community Lay Director - Neal Leggo

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Team formation for both 2026 walks in well underway. Lay Directors Darren Gibbon and Janice Burdinat are progressing member selection with support from the Team Selection Committee. The CSD, Paul Mulroneu and Walk Support Coordinator, Carolyn Gibbon, are also working to secure team members. Join me in praying for the team members needed for both walks and for those who step into roles asked of them.

We encourage all members to speak to the Christians in your circles about undertaking a Walk – the Emmaus experience is more relevant than ever in these unsettled times.

Unfortunately, as previously communicated in the December newsletter, venue costs have risen rapidly over the past few years with insurance, catering and food costs also increasing. Commensurately, the fees to attend have had to be increased to cover these costs.

The Board has worked hard to revamp the Team Training process led by our Community Trainer (Caroline Mulroneu), with more flexible training schedules aimed at upskilling members while supporting team bonding. Further details will shortly be provided to the Teams.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at our upcoming gatherings – see below for dates and venues.

Upcoming Key Dates

We are holding some **Saturday afternoon gatherings** this year to provide greater opportunity for members to attend.

Community Gatherings

Gathering	When	Where
March	Sat, 21-Mar @ 7pm	South Perth Unity Church
April	Sat, 18-Apr @ 3pm	St Andrews, East Perth
May	Sat, 23-May @ 7pm	South Perth Unity Church
June	Sat, 20-Jun @ 7pm	South Perth Unity Church

PEC Community Walks

Walk #	When	Where
77 – Mens	27 – 30 August	Swan Valley Adventure Centre
78 – Ladies	24 – 27 September	St John's Retreat Centre

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of Dennis Burdinat, a long-serving and much-valued member of the Perth Emmaus Community. Dennis was a familiar and cherished presence in our community for many years, and his quiet faith, generosity and commitment touched the lives of many.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Janice and their loved ones at this difficult time. As a community, we hold them in our prayers.

Blessings

Neal Leggo – Community Lay Director

Message from our Community Spiritual Director - Paul Mulroney

In early February, Emmaus Ministries hosted a training session for Community Lay Directors (CLDs) and Community Spiritual Directors (CSDs), offering an overview and refresh of the Emmaus model.

Brittany, the new Director of Emmaus Ministries, led an orientation for community leaders, highlighting Emmaus' focus on Christian friendship and ecumenical collaboration. She outlined the ministry's structure within The United Methodist Church, clarified the roles of Spiritual Directors, Community Trainers, and other leaders, and reminded us of the importance of keeping our manuals current and participating in renewal opportunities.

There was practical discussion too — registration processes, post-COVID engagement, technology use during events — along with encouragement to stay connected with district communicators for support and updates.

But throughout the training, one truth rose above all the practical details:

“This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you.” — John 15:12

The heart of Emmaus is not structure.

It is not manuals.

It is not even events.

It is however, relationship.

Emmaus is a ministry of Christian friendship.

- We walk together.
- We listen together.
- We discover Christ together.

In the Emmaus story (Luke 24), the disciples do not immediately recognise Jesus. Recognition comes *after* companionship — after walking the road together, after honest conversation, after sharing a table.

That is our model.

Our Walks, Gatherings, Fourth Day groups and Reunion Groups are not programs for their own sake. They are spaces where Christian love is practised. Where strangers become friends. Where friends become encouragers. Where Christ becomes visible in the breaking of bread.

A Takeaway for All of Us

The training reminded us that Emmaus does not thrive because of a small group of leaders. It thrives when every pilgrim and every Fourth Day member chooses to live out intentional Christian friendship.

So here is something simple we can all take away:

- Who can I walk with this month?
- Who needs a listening ear?
- Who might I invite to share a meal, a prayer, or a Reunion Group?

When we practise love intentionally, Emmaus flourishes.

If you would like to go deeper, Emmaus Ministries University offers free online courses, including:

- **The Why** – the purpose of Emmaus Ministries
- **Community Training** – general training for community members
- **Spiritual Directors Training** – preparation for Spiritual Directors

You can find details at:

<https://emmausministriesuniversity.upperroom.org>

Emmaus is sustained not by activity, but by love lived out in friendship.

Let's keep walking together.

De Colores

Paul Mulroney CSD

Sponsorship

Please pray for guidance about who you are going to invite on Walk #77 and #78. Sponsorship forms are available on the website:

[PEC - Pilgrim Registration Form](#)

Perth Emmaus Community – March 2026 Newsletter

Due to rising costs of venues across Perth, the cost for the 2026 Walks is \$380.

Please pray about making a small **monthly or one-time** contribution towards walk costs to defray expenses for those experiencing financial difficulties.

Below are the bank details should you wish to make a contribution:

Bank Account Details:

Account Name: Perth Emmaus Community (WA)Inc.

BSB: 633-000

Account No: 187661053

Reference: Walk Donation

In order to ensure that we correctly allocate these contributions, please email the Perth Emmaus Community Treasurer – Cathy O’Dea at the following email address: treasurer@perth.emmaus.org.au

Walk support

If you’d like to assist with Walk Support – please reach out to Carolyn Gibbon (M: **0481 505 787** or E: carolyn-204@hotmail.com)

De Colores

Neal Leggo