

# ELEVATION



*A Newsletter of Emmaus Campus Ministry*



## A New Era

*“So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all...” -Galatians 6:10*

Dear Friend,

It's hard to believe we're approaching the final stretch of 2023! And, thanks to your support, it has been an incredible year of transition and opportunity at Emmaus Campus Ministry - one that we will be pointing to as the start of a new era.

As we begin this new era, however, it's always important to recognize where you have been. To that end, I could not be more grateful for my friend, mentor, and predecessor, John Lund. John's hard work at Emmaus for 18 years is evident everywhere, and his vision of transforming the ministry into a residency-based organization that now houses 15 university students and attracts many more from campus to join us for worship, lectures, and social justice work has been profound. We could not seize on the opportunities that lie before us without the faithful imagination of John and the many student alumni (such as many of you!) who came before. For all of that, I say: thank you, and praise God!

Having begun August 1st, I was captivated by the vibrant energy of new students, new routines, and new classes. We hit the ground running (literally) with our successful Autumn Retreat at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp on the

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shores of Flathead Lake. Our Emmaus community found its roots within discussions of faith and spirituality as well as sitting around the campfire and sharing music together.

This special grounding has continued in our weekly Wednesday Night shared meals, discussion, and worship. Students active on the Planning Team for these sessions have been bold in their honesty and intentionality in choosing topics and guest speakers that have challenged,

inspired, and nourished. We have delved deeper into the intersection of faith and yoga, engaged on the topic of good vs. evil with retired pastor and crime lab investigator, Julie Long, heard from Rabbi Mark Kula on the foundations of Judaism, learned about the history of the church and why there are so many different “denominations” and theological perspectives, as well as intentionally engaged in the important work of decolonization and anti-racism.

This work has also created the opportunity and energy for getting off-campus and doing work in the community. One clear example of this was an Emmaus Service Project in partnership with the Moon Randolph Homestead. Moon Randolph is owned by the city of Missoula and is a working farm that supplies needed produce to the Food Bank and Poverello Center as well as local schools while also giving youth needed exposure to animals and livestock. Emmaus students took the day to serve and help the farm caretakers prep the gardens and orchards for winter, feed the livestock, and engage in deep conversation on the role of spiritual grounding, landscape, and climate resilience.

Throughout all of the deeply nourishing and important activities of Emmaus Campus Ministry this 2023 Fall Semester, I have been reminded of the power of worship and ritual. Every other week, our community gathers not to attend another lecture or conversation, but to worship together. Through this ritual activity, we have explored the powerful language and expressions of God. From traditional Anglican Vespers liturgy to progressive non-binary prayers for peace and reconciliation, Emmaus students have found life in the simple acts of music, prayer, and sacrament. Two students within Emmaus have been so inspired by this worship that they are now seriously discerning seminary after their education at the University of Montana. Many more of our students desire to be leaders in faith communities across the country. This is, quite literally, the future of the church.



*(“A New Era” continued page 5)*



## SPRING BREAK SERVICE TRIP, MARCH 17 - 24, 2024

This year Emmaus Campus Ministry will be traveling to San Francisco, CA, for an immersion and service experience! We will be walking the streets with the San Francisco Night Ministry, worshipping at numerous churches in the Tenderloin District, serving food at a local homeless shelter, and enjoying the ocean, beaches, and natural beauty of the Bay Area. **We are seeking donations to fund scholarships for students! If you are interested in donating to help defer the cost of this life-changing experience, please contact Pastor Eric at (406) 813-1613 or at [eric@emmausmontana.org](mailto:eric@emmausmontana.org). Thank you in advance for your incredible generosity!**

**Meet the Residents!** *Each of the students involved in our community makes this such a vibrant ministry! We are pleased to introduce you some of our residents this fall!*



**Liliana Albertson** joined the Emmaus community in May 2023. She is majoring in Creative Writing with minors in Music, Theatre, and Non-Profit Administration. She enjoys writing (mostly fiction), playing piano, writing songs, listening to music, reading, community service, watching shows, playing card and board games, going on walks, and hanging out with friends. Liliana loves being part of the Emmaus community and getting to know everyone.



**John Bazant** joined us in 2022. He recently graduated with a dual degree in Anthropology and International Relations and is currently taking courses at Missoula College before leaving for the Peace Corps. John likes doing anything outside in his free time. What he enjoys most about the Wednesday Night Gatherings is the eclectic personalities and variety of worldviews.



**Faith Briars** joined Emmaus in August 2023. She is a graduate student in the Masters in Counseling program with undergraduate degrees in Psychology and Criminology. Faith enjoys writing and singing music, weight lifting, art, connecting with herself, and exploring and learning about controversial topics and conspiracy theories. She loves being able to dive into topics and conversations on Wednesdays. Faith hasn't been a part of a religious community before but enjoys sharing meals with others and learning more about their beliefs and worldviews.

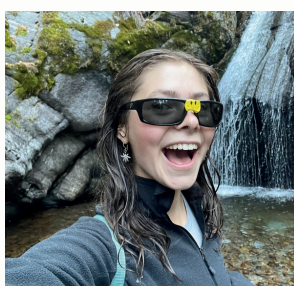


**AJ Campbell** joined our community in the fall of 2018. AJ is majoring in Marketing. In his free time you can find AJ playing disc golf, listening to music, and hiking. His favorite things about our Wednesday evenings is being all together.



**Kobe Hayward** joined Emmaus in August 2023. He is a graduate student in the Masters in Counseling program. Kobe likes to record music and hike in his free time. His favorite things about our Wednesday gatherings are that the community is so inclusive and accepting and that the gatherings bring him so much peace during difficult weeks.

**Gannon Lee** joined us in July 2023. He is majoring in Business Administration. He enjoys skiing, going to the gym, playing piano, reading, watching movies, and hiking. What he likes most about Wednesday Night Gatherings is coming together with happy people who he can talk to about God.



**Mallory Popp** joined Emmaus the Summer of 2023. She is majoring in Environmental Studies. Mallory likes to draw, journal, and to do crazy things outdoors. She most enjoys Pastor Eric's singing and piano playing at our gatherings on Wednesdays.

**Zach Szklarz** joined us in January 2022. He is majoring in Management Information Systems and Chinese. In his free time, Zach can be found skiing, playing the saxophone, trying new foods, and reading. He enjoys the discussions and interesting guest speakers on Wednesday evenings, particularly Pastor Julie Long who worked in the state's crime lab.



## Finding and Being Found

This fall Confluence has been engaging with the theme “Finding & Being Found” as a way to explore the ideas of self, home, transition, and belonging. We continue to meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays for regular Gatherings and have been blessed by the wisdom that is held by each member of the group and by the original writings and poetry that some of our members have shared. As a way to share those writings as well as thoughts and reflections on our seasonal theme and the world, Confluence has created a blog that can be found on our website ([www.confluencemissoula.org](http://www.confluencemissoula.org))! We hope that this blog can be a point of connection for folks who are not able to attend our gatherings in-person but still value the perspective of the group and who are inspired by God’s creative Spirit in their own lives.



Confluence has also been in the process of growing into our own, unique identity! We have created a Board of Directors, the “Anchor Team,” that will work alongside the Leadership Team to imagine and implement steps toward a sustainable and intentional future. The leadership transition at Emmaus gave us a helpful opportunity to discern our connection with Emmaus and with Pastor Eric’s help as a member of the Anchor Team, Confluence has decided to officially become our own organization and manage our own finances. It is with immense gratitude and joy that we reflect on the past seven years - which includes two previous iterations of Confluence - knowing that Emmaus has deeply shaped Confluence and nurtured this group with love for so long. While we are becoming separate entities, we look forward to the continued partnership with Emmaus and are

blessed by Pastor Eric’s position on the Anchor Team and the many opportunities that will continue to emerge for collaboration.

Thank you, Emmaus community, for your love and support of Confluence over the years. We just celebrated two years of the reimagined Confluence, and our history and connection with you has certainly brought us to this moment.

Peace be yours,

The Confluence Leadership Team

Rebekah Cochrane,  
Karin Craven, and  
Colter Murphy



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Every Wednesday during the Semester: Emmaus Wednesday Night Gathering, 6:30-8:00 pm** Delicious food and conversations around life, faith, values, relationships, justice, and dreams. We rotate between a session of ritual/worship and discussion/topic area. For students and young adults. Emmaus House, 532 University Ave, Missoula.

**November 26th: Thanksgiving Open House at Pastor Eric’s House, 3:00 - 6:00 pm** Have leftovers from Thanksgiving? Bring it over and join Emmaus students at Pastor Eric’s house alongside sharing in the joy of gratitude! For everyone! 1726 Sherwood St, Missoula.

**December 6th: Installation of Pastor Eric Huseh, 6:30 pm** Celebrating a new era at Emmaus! Join us for this short ceremony with Associate to the Bishop Brenda Frelsi, Emmaus students, and Board Members. Emmaus House, 532 University Ave, Missoula.

**December 8th: Last Day of Classes at UM** Pray for the students as final papers and exams come due!

**January 18th: Spring Semester Classes Begin!**

**Early February: Winter Retreat** Downhill and cross-country skiing, camaraderie, and fun! For students and young adults. Details TBA.

**Spring 2024: Faith & Climate Action Lecture Series & Discussions.** Details TBA.

**March 17th - March 24th: Spring Break Service Trip to San Francisco!** Witness the amazing amount of faithful ministry and service that happens within the city. This trip always anchors our community and provides a starting point for strong relationships to continue to grow. For students and young adults.

*("A New Era" continued from page 2)*

I cannot overstate the role of our partner congregations and individuals who have generously walked with us in this new era of transition and opportunity. We wouldn't be here without the selfless volunteers, outspoken supporters and generous donors like you, Friend. **Your generosity has made possible new paradigms for ministry and outreach to young adults and the Missoula Community, but we are not done yet.**



This new era is happening in real time, which means the need for funding and support continues to grow. As this year of transition comes to a close, and as we mark the change of season with Thanksgiving and hope in the coming birth of a Savior, **I hope you will consider making a gift of any size to Emmaus Campus Ministry. With your continued support and partnership, I am confident that we can meet the moment and opportunity can become reality.**

**We are rooted in the opportunity to serve others and form leaders in faith because of you. Please join us today in this new era and praise God for the future that is to come!**

With gratitude,

Pastor Eric Huseth



## Solar Array Updates

This summer marked the first full year of having our very own solar arrays! In 2022 we installed two arrays with a combined 12.3 kW capacity which reduces our utility usage by 13,830 kWh annually - a whopping 88% of our electric bills! This not only reduces our carbon footprint but also minimizes our exposure to rising energy costs while serving as a visual reminder of our commitment to care for creation. Thank you to everyone who donated to this special project!

## WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

This ministry could not run smoothly without a team effort. We are very excited to welcome and introduce our new Property Manager, Caleb Koebble! He is a 2022 UM graduate who holds an M.A. in Environmental Philosophy and is the Executive Director of Montana Interfaith Power & Light. Caleb has been with Emmaus for several years, serving as the intern for Faith & Climate Action Montana in 2021 and in which he continues to be involved as a core team leader. He is excited to serve the Emmaus community by helping address general day-to-day maintenance and resident needs, coordinate larger capital improvement projects, and help strategize for the properties' future needs and sustainability.



## Faith and Climate Action Updates

Faith and Climate Action Montana is a program of Emmaus that began in 2015 whose mission is to create a community that engages faith voices and spiritual wisdom to raise awareness, advocate, and organize in the public sphere.

We are currently a volunteer-driven group of people of various faiths, spiritual, and non-faith identities from across Montana. What unites us is the belief a climate crisis is upon us, and we are called to respond through various forms of education and spiritual and advocacy opportunities. Foundational to our community is listening with intentional awareness – listening to ourselves, to one



another, and to creation. This deep listening shaped our past year of programming and paves the way for this coming year.

We are present to one another and to the land and its waters. Each of us has diverse experiences of belonging to certain landscapes from which a felt sense of longing and care for this particular land emerges. We wonder about our current circumstances to belong to the land and what it means to be longing for the land.

*("Faith and Climate Action Updates" continued on page 7)*

## Oktoberfest: That's A Wrap!

Our Annual Oktoberfest Fundraiser was another great success! Bringing in \$15,655, this event is pivotal in helping us provide ministry support for students and the community. With a live jazz band, local bratwursts and ale, a silent and live auction, as well as a lively program filled with students talking about the

importance of community and faith, it was a night to remember! Thank you to all of the students, donors, volunteers, attendees, Board Members, and generous sponsors who make this event and Emmaus Campus Ministry what it is!



(Continued from "Faith and Climate Action Updates" on page 6)

Last year through grant funding from Humanities MT and support from various community groups, we engaged aspects of this longing through a speaker series. We hosted a variety of voices and perspectives including Dr. Beth Schenk, the Executive Director of Environmental Stewardship for Providence Health, who spoke on health and her experience at COP27; Dr. Christopher Preston, Professor of Environmental Philosophy from the University of Montana, who spoke about wildlife recoveries and how to share the planet with our animal neighbors; Bob Quinn, author and founder of Montana Flour and Grains, Inc., who spoke on regenerative farming and healing the land; and CSKT Tribal Chairman, Tom McDonald, who spoke about cultivating our natural resources and the CSKT vision of land, wildlife, water, and forests for the future.

For yet another summer we continued to create, plan, and offer reflective ecological excursions in distinctive landscapes. Walking in the Rattlesnake and hiking fire-ravaged mountainsides are examples of making conscious connections between interior landscapes of ourselves and external landscapes for the sake of justice-love as earth creatures.

This kind of creative effort grounds our transitional year of deepening our connections with one another and within ourselves. We began the autumn season with potluck conversation around a bonfire with reflective conversation. We hope to do more such informal gatherings in a variety of formats, grounded in the ebb and flow of the seasons as the year continues. Stay tuned for more details on upcoming events!

Karin Craven & Caleb Koeble,  
Faith and Climate Action MT Coordinators



## MOMENTS IN TIME

Photos from our Fall Semester activities!



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**Thank you for helping minimize this expense!**

### HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THIS IMPORTANT WORK:

**Giving Tuesday is November 28th! You can make a gift in the following ways:**

**Check:** Emmaus Campus Ministry, 538 University Ave, Missoula, MT 59801

**Credit Card:** Go to [ecmum.org/support-us](http://ecmum.org/support-us) OR scan this QR code with your smartphone!



**#GIVING**  
**TUESDAY™**

## STAFF & PROGRAM LEADERS

**Rev. Eric Huseth**  
Campus Pastor  
& Executive Director

**Rev. Rebekah Cochran**  
Confluence Director

**Caleb Koeble**  
Property Manager  
& Faith & Climate Action  
Coordinator

**Rev. Karin Craven**  
Confluence Organizer  
& Faith & Climate Action  
Coordinator

**Bethany Youngblood**  
Finance Manager  
& Interim Office Support

**Steve McArthur**  
Faith & Climate Action  
Coordinator

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