

# New Covenant Emmaus

An Emmaus Community



## NEW COVENANT NOTES

Fall, 2024

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#### **MONTHLY GATHERINGS:**

##### **LOCATION:**

**Friendship Church  
16479 Lucas Ferry Rd  
Athens, AL 35611**

##### **WHEN:**

**3rd Friday of Every Month**

##### **TIME:**

**6:30pm—Food/Fellowship**

**7:29pm—Worship**

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sonya Shook, Community Lay Director, 2024  
Carol Goforth, Community Spiritual Director, 2025  
Daryl Randolph, Clergy, 2024  
Becky Scott, Clergy, 2025  
Traci Loveman, Clergy, 2026  
Bob Druzynski, 2024  
Lorie Vital, 2024  
Kelly Watts, 2024  
Thomas Kingery, 2025  
Jamie Polk, 2025  
Carol Newsome, 2025  
Tony Kirk, 2026  
Krishna Gehrs, 2026  
Julie Melton, 2026  
Kathy Patrick, 2026

**ARE YOU RECEIVING  
OUR EMAILS??**

Our community would love to stay in touch with you! We send out emails reminding you of gathering, community events, etc. If you are a new member of our community or if you are a member who has NOT been receiving emails regarding gatherings and other NCEC news, please send your name and email address to:

**[webservant@newcovenantemmaus.com](mailto:webservant@newcovenantemmaus.com)**

**A MESSAGE FROM OUR  
COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR  
Sonya Shook**

WELCOME! We are thankful for our new NEW COVENANT EMMAUS COMMUNITY members, and those who have celebrated thirty years together!

As the New Covenant Emmaus Community has celebrated 30 years of being together this year, I have had the honor of hearing from many of you as you shared the memories of our past. Many have shared stories and experiences from your walk, the ways the Holy Spirit has moved, and the wonderful things He has done on walks, and in preparation for them, how the community has grown and how the world has changed, memories of making posters to illustrate the talks and the progress of technology through time, memories of Candlelight Ceremonies in the rain and the times the rain held off or stopped just in time for the community to gather for a beautiful Candlelight Ceremony. Memories are important! We are strengthened and empowered by the memory of things the Lord has done for us in the past, that we have stored in our minds and written (like scriptures) on our hearts. In Jeremiah, God had promised to write His law-a new covenant-on the hearts of the people. Paul says that the Corinthians are a letter of Christ, "written not with ink but with the spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts." 2Cor. 3:3

The primary purpose of Emmaus is to strengthen our local churches. We have a closer walk with Christ through worship, study, and active participation in church and by becoming active in service to the world.

As we close out this year (2024), celebrating 30 years of serving our Lord together, let us recognize the perseverance of the saints who began the pilgrimage to start this community. It was and is a journey. A journey of Christians, faithful followers of Jesus Christ walking together, living lives of grace through faith, supported by piety, study, and action. It has been my honor and privilege to serve you as Community Lay Director. I am thankful for you who persevered, walking this walk ahead of us sharing the love of Christ.

DeColores!

Sonya Shook

NCEC Community Lay Director

**A MESSAGE FROM OUR  
COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR  
Carol Goforth**

I am humbled and excited to serve as your Community Spiritual Director. I hope that I can somewhat fill the shoes of the three who have preceded me... Margaret Crawford, Sharon Keffer, and Daryl Randolph. They leave big shoes to step into.

I went on my Emmaus Walk in 2004 as part of the New Life Emmaus community. I joined NCEC in 2006. I served on New Life's Board of Directors for two terms, and I have served on NCEC's Board of Directors several terms. I have served on over 60 (I can't keep up anymore) walks, Encounters, and Chrysalis flights. I serve and worship at Chestnut Grove UMC in Gurley, AL. I have had the honor and privilege of serving as their pastor for 10 years.

So, enough about me. Let's talk about you. Where are you in your walk with the Lord? This is always something we need to be aware of daily. Do you awake in the morning and thank Him for the new day or just roll out of bed into the same old routine of preparing for the day. I think it is important that we take time in the morning to just thank Him for the up-coming day

and ask Him to direct our thoughts, words, and actions for the day. Each day is a new gift for us, the opportunity to live and love each other. The fellowship that we share as a community is a vital and alive relationship that we should cherish and grow. New Covenant friends are a vital resource in our lives. Who do you call on when you need a shoulder to cry on, an ear to listen, advice on issues that crop up in your daily lives?

My prayer for you all is for Jesus to be with you throughout each day. Even the bad days are better with our God in our lives.

Thank you for allowing me to serve God and you in this way.

De Colores!

Carol Goforth

NCEC Community Spiritual Director

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Men's Walk to Emmaus # 112**

**October 10-13, 2024**

**Women's Walk to Emmaus #113**

**October 17-20, 2024**

**F2F Encounter #9:**

**February 3-7, 2025 Randall's Chapel GMC, Scottsboro, AL**

**Men's Walk #114**

**April 24-27, 2025**

**Women's Walk #115**

**May 1-4, 2025**

**Girls Chrysalis Flight #60**

**May 24-26, 2025**

**NCEC Walks to Emmaus and Chrysalis Flights are held at  
Crystal Springs Camp in Kelso, TN.**

## KAIROS AND EMMAUS

Have you heard about Kairos? Have you ever wondered about the link between the Kairos and Emmaus communities?

Kairos has often been said to be an Emmaus Walk for prisoners. While that is a somewhat accurate comparison of the two communities, there are some significant differences.

The main difference is that Kairos is a more ecumenical community. Kairos pulls from the Emmaus, Crusillo, and Tres Dias communities. Due to some of the differences we talk about in the "Obstacles to Grace" talks on Emmaus, specifically with respect to Communion, there are no communion services during a Kairos. Kairos holds several meditation times during a weekend where Emmaus would hold a Communion service.

Kairos also is also restricted by the prison environment they are admitted to. Times for events (meals, closing, etc.) are regulated by what is most beneficial to the smooth running of the prison rather than a paper Kairos timeline. The team going into the prison is confined to times they can enter and when they can leave. Because of the strict timeline, a Kairos weekend has ten talks, versus fifteen that an Emmaus Walk has. The other five topics are covered in an Instructional Reunion, typically held the weekend after the Kairos.

The talks on a Kairos weekend are also adjusted to the audience they are addressing. For example, the first talk is not "Priorities", but "Choices". It may seem to be a small difference in word choice, but it is a big difference in where the weekend will be directed. Those of us on the outside have multiple choices that we act on that reflect our priorities, but the men and women that are incarcerated are there based on the choices they made. Emmaus weekends look at the internal things that separate us from God, so we have a Dying Moments service where we give up things that divide us from being the people we should be in our walk with Christ. Kairos has a Forgiveness series where they concentrate on the people they hold in unforgiveness, a huge obstacle to a close relationship with God.

All these differences boil down to the audience that the weekends are addressing. Emmaus is to build up the local Christian communities that the Pilgrims come from. Kairos is designed to get a Christian foothold in one of the most un-Christian environments out there.

Kairos is designed to build up small groups of Christians in the prison environment. It has been passed on, over and over, that when a Kairos weekend occurs the number of

problems in the prison drops significantly. The recidivism rate among those that have attended a Kairos weekend is the polar opposite of those that never attended Kairos. 80% of those that have never attended Kairos will re-offend. 80% of those that have attended Kairos will not commit another crime.

Interested in working a Kairos weekend? We have several Emmaus folks that work closely with both Kairos and Emmaus. Contact Bob Druzynski and he can direct you to them!

## **WHAT IS CHRYSALIS?**

Chrysalis is designed for youth in grades 8 thru 12. At this age, young people are making major decisions about religion, lifestyle, vocation, and lifelong relationships. Chrysalis challenges them to grow not only in mind and body but also in spirit and faith. The Chrysalis weekend events, referred to as Flights, are offered separately for girls and boys to allow youth freedom to explore their relationship with God without worrying about how they may appear to the other gender. It provides an opportunity outside their local congregations or youth groups to grow in their faith alongside their peers. The New Covenant Community has been blessed to include the Chrysalis experience for youth in our area for over 25 years.

If you would like to sponsor a youth, or serve on a team, please contact the Chrysalis Registrar: [Chrysalis@hiwaay.net](mailto:Chrysalis@hiwaay.net)

## **WANNA VOLUNTEER?**

**If you would like to volunteer for any of our upcoming Walks, Flights, Encounters or Kairos events, please visit our website and fill out a volunteer form. We would love to have you serve alongside us!**  
**[www.newcovenantemmaus.com](http://www.newcovenantemmaus.com)**

**MEN'S WALK #112**  
**Pete Lawrence, LD**

We are so excited that New Covenant Emmaus Walk #112 is just around the corner. For months God has been putting this team together. Lives have been, are being, and will be changed. To the world this is just another weekend. But to the men attending this Walk, it can be life changing.

The preparation of this Walk has taught me personal things. Trust is a big one. It seems like as soon as I think I have things "figured out", He says, "Are you sure, Pete? Trust me. Have faith." Trust seems so simple. But it can also be so difficult. Especially when we have been hurt by people in the past. But God isn't people. He promises that He will always love us and never forsake us. And so, we must have faith.

God WILL put the men on the Walk that need it the most, and the ones who think they need it the least.

So, I ask you to pray. Pray for these men attending the Walk and the team that will be serving. Please support the Walk by attending Candlelight!

De Colores!  
Pete Lawrence, Walk #112

**From Luke 24:**

**Then the two from Emmaus told their story of how Jesus had appeared to them as they were walking along the road, and how they had recognized Him as He was breaking the bread...**



**WOMEN'S WALK #113**  
**Susy Bates, LD**

Isaiah 43:1 But now, O Jacob, listen to the Lord who created you, O Israel, the one who formed you says, "Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine.

Seventeen years ago, I said yes to attending Emmaus Walk 51. My personal Fourth Days have been filled with drawing near to God's still voice and listening for Him to call my name. I have enjoyed serving on multiple walks and seeing God move in lives as well as my own. One year ago, I received the call to serve as the Lay Director for Walk 113. I remain humbled and honored to be serving on this walk. A year of planning as brought me closer to God and His people. The Emmaus community has shown me support and guidance during this process. I am grateful for the many acts of kindness and patience that has been shown to me during this journey.

Please be in prayer for the pilgrims and everyone who has answered the call to work Walk 113. We are excited to serve these ladies on October 17-20, 2024. I ask for prayers of health, guidance, and provision of God's instruction as we complete preparation to serve. If you feel you can help as a Day Angel, Candlelight, or Closing, please know help will be appreciated by all. I hope to see your smiles at Candlelight!

In His Love Always,  
Susy Bates

**FACE TO FACE  
ENCOUNTER  
Sonya Shook**

An Experience in the Emmaus Tradition, Face-to-Face is designed and developed by the Upper Room. It is designed to challenge and equip Pilgrims for Christian Action. This short course in Christianity will help Pilgrims to become more effective disciples of Jesus Christ and actively engage in God's mission in the world.

This program is for persons 60 and older, or those who are physically unable to attend a walk in the camp setting. It was developed for this group because their health risks and energy levels require a longer schedule with shorter sessions. It is tailored to meet senior men and women on their terms. Men and women will be together in the conference room. The four or eight sessions will offer 15 talks about God's love and grace. The sessions will offer exciting and hospitable opportunities for Christian learning. There will be tasty refreshments, lots of laughs, surprising personal encounters, and spiritual experiences. There will be worship, communion, singing, joking with one another, and simply experiencing an avalanche of God's grace and love.

I am willing and excited as we prepare for Face-to-Face #9 at Randall's Chapel Global Methodist Church in Scottsboro, AL. I covet your prayers as the team is formed and trained. Face to Face allows participants the opportunity to rediscover Christ's presence in their life, gain fresh understanding of God's transforming grace, and to form friendships that foster faith and support spiritual maturity. Many have been blessed who would never had the opportunity to attend a walk otherwise due to age or physical impairments.

Do you know of someone who needs to experience a measure of the love and grace of God? If you desire a deeper, more meaningful walk with the risen Christ; if you would like that relationship to be reflected in every other relationship in your life; if you wish to make a deeper impact on the world around you by living a life centered on Jesus Christ; please join us as we encounter the risen Christ ... Face to Face.

Sonya Shook

F2F #9, LD

**NEW COVENANT  
EMMAUS AND  
RUSSIA!  
Jack Lawrence**

Did you know that New Covenant has a sister Emmaus Community on the other side of the world? Fifteen years ago, during the summer of 2008, five New Covenant folks traveled to Satka, a little town in the southern end of the Ural mountains, to serve as team members for Russia Emmaus Walks #1 and #2. But this story actually began fifteen years before that!

When the New Covenant Emmaus Community was getting organized in 1994 and planning for our first walks, the Nashville Emmaus Community helped by holding two “pilot” walks at Martin Methodist College in Pulaski. The women’s walk (Nashville #84) had eight special ladies who arrived from Russia a few days before the walk, and returned immediately following the walk, with the purpose of getting Emmaus started in their own country. In 2007 we heard from two of these ladies that they were serving on teams in a new Emmaus community in Lithuania, and that they were trying to sponsor pilgrims from Russia. But they needed our help! New Covenant responded in a big way with donations, agape letters, and prayer vigils. We held a special prayer time for the teams, the pilgrims, and especially for two Russian pilgrims that New Covenant was sponsoring – Vladimir and Lyudmila Korobkov from the town of Satka.

When the first two Russia Walks asked for team members from America and Lithuania, we knew that this was a special calling for New Covenant. The planning, preparations, travel, and support activities for the five team members who would represent New Covenant is another complicated and wonderful story

that is too long to share here (but you might here about that at a Gathering soon!). And it's impossible to describe the walks themselves, except to say that they were truly acts of God, as you know all Walks to Emmaus are. Many wonderful things happened that are too personal to tell. It's just enough to say that New Covenant was tremendously blessed to have played a small part in bringing Emmaus to Russia.

Many times over the past years we have supported prayer vigils and sent agape to Russia, and they have returned the favor. In August the Russia Emmaus Community will hold Walks #30 and #31. The pilgrims we sponsored so long ago are actively involved – Vladimir will serve as an ALD on the men's walk and Lyudmila is serving as the Community Lay Director! And one of those original eight ladies from New Covenant is a Walk Spiritual Director!

Make sure you keep them and the teams and pilgrims in your prayers.

De Colores!

Jack Lawrence



**A MESSAGE FROM  
TEAM TRAINER  
Kelly Watts**

I had opportunity to attend the first team meeting recently for the men's walk. As team training coordinator for the community, I like to watch the training and see how teams respond.

Beth White grew up in Emmaus and Chrysalis. She was our trainer for the upcoming men's housing and registration team. Most of her experience in HR has been in Chrysalis but she was willing as a humble servant to fill the need and walk through the materials with the HR team. What I saw happen was that Beth joined in as if she were one of the team and walked through the materials and process with the group. Together they asked questions that needed answers and gathered information and materials needed. I have no doubt that the team will feel comfortable reaching out to Beth during the walk process and that she will be on hand for them.

This is exactly what I want to see happen at training! Those who have experience come alongside the team in training and become part of the unit serving the walk. This is how Christ works in and through us, in unity and sharing the tasks at hand, "live (ing) in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."  
(Romans 15:5-6)

De Colores!  
Kelly Watts

**SPONSORSHIP**

Sponsorship is the first act of Agape for the pilgrims. Have you considered sponsoring a pilgrim for any of the upcoming walks, flights or encounters?

According to the dictionary, a sponsor is one who takes responsibility for another. Sponsorship requires extensive prayer, diligent thought, and careful planning and follow through. Wise, intentional sponsorship is the foundation for building renewal in the church. Who has God placed on your heart to sponsor? Christ is counting on you!! Please visit our website for sponsorship forms. [www.newcovenantemmaus.com](http://www.newcovenantemmaus.com)

# REUNION GROUPS

Name	POC	Location
AHA Sisterhood (Women)	Robbie Walls, 256-656-4949, Robbielynn153@yahoo.com	South Huntsville
CandleGlow (Women)	Sheri Richardson 256-777-5872, sheridr10@gmail.com	Harvest
Cracked Pots	Jamie Polk 256-651-0685	Athens
D By J	Sharon Keffer, 256-656-4522 pastorsharonkeffer@gmail.com	Virtual
Espresso Yourself (Women)	Debra Snyder	Scottsboro
Fourth Day Way (Mixed)	Mary Patterson 256-558-7278 patt4us@yahoo.com Doug Kirk 256-541-7470 dougkirk10@mail.com	Grant
Full Circle (Men)	Bruce Parris (256) 325-6082, bruce.gameon@yahoo.com	Virtual
G Girls (Women)	Connie Watkins, 256-679-6727 connieraewatkins@gmail.com	Cullman
Holland Creek (Mixed)	Brenna Bonner/Conrad Bonner Brenna.bonner75@gmail.com	Ardmore
Journey with Jesus (Women)	Beverly Heddens or Kim Lankford	Harvest/Madison
JOY (Women)	Annette Strickland 256-233-3601	Athens
Lunch In The Park (Mixed)	Jack Lawrence (256) 830-6830, jkplmlawrence@bellsouth.net	Huntsville
Morning Glories (Women)	Tina Cook, 256-998-2043, transformed2011@outlook.com	Athens
Ragamuffins (Mixed)	Kay Dotson (931) 242-1957, kdkdotson@gmail.com	Loretto TN
Redeemed (Women)	Robbi Montgomery 256-682-1478 rmontgomery331@gmail.com	Hazel Green

Renaissance (Mixed)	Keith Lewis (256) 762-9050, keithdlewis2384@yahoo.com	Florence
Resurrection Rejoicing (Women)	Teresa Martin (256) 498-3162	Somerville
Running The Show	Steve Williams, 256-206-5416	Athens
Sassy Sisters (Women)	Debbie Reese, 256-599-8887 rareese2000@yahoo.com	Langston AL
See You At The Crossroads (Men)	Cody Gilliam revcbgilliam85@gmail.com	Owens Crossroads
Son Shine	JoAnn Clem, 256-682-2446 joannfclem@att.net	Huntsville
SOS: Sisters of Serenity (Women)	Vicki McCurry, 256-603-4001, vickimccurry@gmail.com	Huntsville
Southern Girls 4 Him (Women)	Beverly Patalas 256-609-5401	Scottsboro
The Shining Lights	Karen Stenson	Meridianville, AL
Thursday Morning Men's Group	Harry Richardson	Harvest/Madison
Tuesday Morning Men's Group	John Beatty (256) 729-1311, johnbeatty55@gmail.com	Athens
Kingdom Brothers	Chuck Cashon j.cashongmail.com	Elkmont, AL
We Are Family (Women)	Cindy Glover (931) 363-3233, cindyglover@gmail.com	Pulaski TN
Women of Grace	Jeana Kowderuck	Huntsville
You Get A Line, I'll Get A Pole (Mixed Group)	Kelly Watts (256) 652-6734, kellyduffie@aol.com	Ardmore, AL
Zero Dark Thirty	Gary Liederbach 256-302-3785	Huntsville



