

# New Covenant Emmaus

An Emmaus Community



## NEW COVENANT NOTES

Fall 2025

### JOIN US FOR OUR 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

## Inside this Issue

NCEC Board of Directors	Page 2
Stay Connected	Page 3
Community Lay Director	Page 4-5
Community Spiritual Director	Page 6-7
Upcoming Events	Page 8
Chrysalis	Page 9
Kairos	Page 10-12
Men's Walk #114	Page 13-14
Women's Walk #115	Page 15-16
Face-to-Face	Page 17-18
Fourth Days/Reunion Groups	Page 19-20



Bob Druzynski, Community Lay Director, 2027

Bill Alexander, Community Spiritual Director, 2027

Brant Harwell, 2028, Jon Wetherholt, 2028, Becky Scott, 2028 (Clergy)

Kelly Watts, 2027, Tammy Baswell, 2027

Christine Yergert, 2027, Dale Capron, 2027 (Clergy)

Krishna Gehrs, 2026, Joe Pittman, 2026

Jeff Reynolds, 2026, Kathy Patrick, 2026

Traci Loveman, 2026 (Clergy)

Jamie Polk, 2025, Carol Newsome, 2025

## **WELCOME TO OUR NEW CLASS OF 2028 BOARD MEMBERS!**

Chris Spain, 2028, Kevin Chandler, 2028

## **THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING BOARD MEMBERS WHO WILL BE ROLLING OFF:**

Carol Newsome, 2025, Jamie Polk, 2025



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)**

Also, check out our website for all upcoming events including gatherings, walks, flights and encounters! You can also find volunteer and sponsorship forms, a list of our reunion groups, and other important information!  
**[www.newcovenantemmaus.com](http://www.newcovenantemmaus.com)**

We also have a Private FACEBOOK Page. Check it out!  
**<https://www.facebook.com/groups/164495715554/>**

Please make sure your information is correct or add your information in **MINISTRY MANAGER!** This is our community member data base! We will pull your contact information from Ministry Manager when we contact you to work a Walk, Flight or Encounter!  
It's important to keep your info up-to-date!

**<https://ministrymanager.upperroom.org/>**

**A MESSAGE FROM OUR  
COMMUNITY LAY  
DIRECTOR  
*BOB DRUZYNSKI***

DeColores, New Covenant Community!

It has been a pleasure to serve as your Community Lay Director this past year, and what a year it has been! This spring we held Walks 114 and 115, with 31 new members joining our community. This fall we will have our Men's Walk #116 on October 9-12, with 18 men signed up to attend, and Women's Walk #117 on October 16-19 with 25 women signed up at this time.

We held our community training event this year during our March Gathering and we were happy with the number of folks that attended and visited our different information booths. We were able to enroll many new team members in areas they have never served before.

Our community is active and it is growing! I thank everyone of you that has donated your time, talents, and resources to this community over the past year. To continue to grow the community, we need to consider where we fit into three areas.

The first area is Sponsorship. The community cannot grow if we do not sponsor new pilgrims to attend a walk. Sponsorship carries with it certain responsibilities, including vetting the potential pilgrim's readiness to attend a Walk, getting the pilgrims to and from camp, gathering love letters from the pilgrim's friends, relatives, and church members, and getting the pilgrim to the follow up Gathering so they can blend in with our Community.

One responsibility that many New Covenant members over the years has adopted has been paying the pilgrim's fees to attend the weekend. While a great form of Agape love, it is not required that a sponsor cover the cost of the weekend.

In some situations, it is not feasible for a sponsor to cover that cost. In these cases, there are other ways it can be handled. The pilgrim may elect to pay their own fees. A sponsor may ask their church to help defray costs. And as a final option, New Covenant has a scholarship fund to assist those that attending may be a financial hardship. A combination of each of these methods can be used to help a pilgrim attend a Walk.

The second area we as individuals need to consider is volunteering to work a Walk. As I am sure you have heard many a time, we work on a progressive servanthood model. You start by working the outside team to get a feel for what goes on behind the scenes. Once you have worked on the outside two times, you are eligible to work in the conference room, first as an table leader, then assistant table leader, and then as an Assistant Lay Director (ALD), and maybe eventually you will be asked to be a Lay Director for a Walk. What we need to consider as a volunteer is where we see our strengths and where others see your strengths. There is nothing wrong with wanting to only serve in a support role on a Walk. We have several folks that prefer to work behind the scenes. I humbly ask that if you feel this way, please work several different teams – Community Events, Refreshments, Meal Service, Logistics, Worship, Agape, Housing and Registration, and yes, even Clean-up and Childcare. If you are called to work a team, especially the Conference Room teams, please know that your name was thoughtfully considered and vetted so that the leadership feels you are ready to move to a new place in a Walk. Consider it a vote of confidence that we see strengths you may not realize you have!

The third area for you to consider is in a leadership position. Yes, that means working on the Board of Directors. Yes, it means making calls to fill team positions. But it also means that you have input on path forward for the community. If you are asked by someone if you are interested on serving on the Board, prayerfully consider it!

Once again, thank you for your service and your time!

DeColores!

Bob Druzynski

Community Lay Director

**A MESSAGE FROM OUR  
COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL  
DIRECTOR  
*BILL ALEXANDER***

**JUST BE PATIENT!**

How many times did you hear that growing up? I cannot begin to count the number of times as a child I was told to just be patient. It has been quite a while since either of our kids were two years old, but I well remember how quickly they became frustrated when things didn't go exactly as they wanted, or they couldn't have it right then. It seems that in the life of a two-year-old everything requires just a little more patience than they have. There is a reason why it's called the terrible twos.

As adults we've learned patience, right? For the most part, yes, but there are circumstances. Like sitting behind the person at the green light who hasn't caught that the light changed, or when you are running late getting somewhere and there is a backup on the interstate. It seems much of our impatience comes from external hinderances such as traffic, or other people, and even sometimes the people in your own house.

Recently I realized there are many times that I get impatient with God. No, I don't get angry with Him, I get frustrated that He doesn't move as quickly as I want Him to. There are people in my life that I know would greatly benefit from going on a Walk, but each time I mention it the answer I get is, "Not now." There are people in my life that I am praying for their salvation, others who have deep physical needs, and some with emotional needs. I fully believe God is working in each of these because He loves them far more than I do.



I often have to stop and remind myself that His timing is perfect and allow Him to give me patience as I wait for His perfect timing. If you are fresh off your Walk, or if it has been a few years there are probably people on your mind that you would love to see go on their own Walk. Present the opportunity, let them see your excitement, but don't be pushy. Allow God to work in His timing because if we make it happen too early then the results won't be what they could have been in God's timing. Keep in mind that God loves them far more than you do, and He really does want the best for them.

And, His timing is perfect.

Love in Christ,  
Bill Alexander, NCEC Community Spiritual Director



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# ***UPCOMING EVENTS!!***

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## **UPCOMING GATHERING DATES:** **Friendship Church, Athens, AL 6:30 PM**

**October 24, 2025 (Fall Walks Follow Up Gathering), November 21, 2025  
January 16, 2026, February 20, 2026, March 20, 2026**

## **UPCOMING FLIGHTS, ENCOUNTERS AND WALKS**

### **Men's Walk #116**

**October 9-12, 2025 – Michael Rush, Lay Director  
Crystal Springs Camp**

### **Women's Walk #117**

**October 16-19, 2025 – Jamie Polk, Lay Director  
Crystal Springs Camp**

### **Men's Walk #118**

**April 9-12, 2026 – David Folkerts, Lay Director  
Crystal Springs Camp**

### **Women's Walk #119**

**April 16-19, 2026 – Renee Reynolds, Lay Director  
Crystal Springs Camp**

### **Face to Face Encounter #10:**

**Summer, 2026 (dates TBD) - Sonya Shook, Lay Director  
Randall's Chapel, Scottsboro, AL**

### **Chrysalis Girls Flight #62**

**May 23-25, 2026  
Chrystal Springs Camp**



# Chrysalis



## **Flight #61 Lay Leader – Colin White**

What a wonderful experience it was to serve as lay leader for New Covenant Chrysalis Boys' Flight #61! We had 22 young men on this flight, and that speaks to the hunger of this generation to encounter Christ. To watch them minister to one another, being the body of Christ and even priests to one another, was a gift beyond my wildest expectations.

I am so thankful for the New Covenant Emmaus community and the ways you support Chrysalis. Your presence at community events, your willingness to give us space for follow-up gatherings, and your faithful prayers make it possible for these young men to share their stories and take their next steps in faith.

Serving in this role has shown me how much that Emmaus and Chrysalis work together toward one mission: to build the kingdom of God through the local church and through the hearts of His people. Thank you for entrusting me with the opportunity to serve as lay leader. It was a privilege I will always cherish. God bless.



Have you ever wondered about serving on a Kairos weekend? It's similar to an Emmaus Walk, but tailored to the prison community. In our area, we serve at the North Alabama Community Work Center for men in Decatur, and in Limestone Correctional Facility, also for men in Harvest. For women, we serve in Julia Tutwiler Prison in Wetumpka. Generally, there are 1-2 weekends per year at each. Teams meet over the few months before the weekend occurs.

I've served on the outside support team in Decatur many times. Laymen and clergy go inside the prison to minister to the men over the weekend, while the support team remains at a church making home cooked meals, packaging Kairos cookies, sending in agape, and praying over speakers and inmate prayer requests. The inside team (all men or women based on the type of prison) give talks and interact with the inmates/residents, and lead them in worship, group discussions, chapel and prayer times. The end goal in Kairos is to model a Prayer Group/Share Group, so that the residents can rely on each other for support and prayer, growing in their Christian faith. There are also monthly reunion meetings at the prison to develop relationships with residents to support and love on them!

One of the first things you will do at a Kairos training meeting is answer the question – Why Kairos? Why do you want to be involved? This scripture is the reason for many:

Matthew 25:36 “I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

Jesus relays that the King will say ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

Some people feel called to this work, and indeed it is amazing to see the Holy Spirit work before your eyes! Some do it, like myself, because they have a loved one incarcerated and God has placed it on their hearts. For me, I feel that if I can love someone here in an Alabama prison and help make a weekend possible for Christ to reach an individual, I am blessed that someone else at a Kairos many states away will do the same for my beloved family member when it’s their time to attend. It’s a joy to help in advancing the kingdom of God inside prison walls!

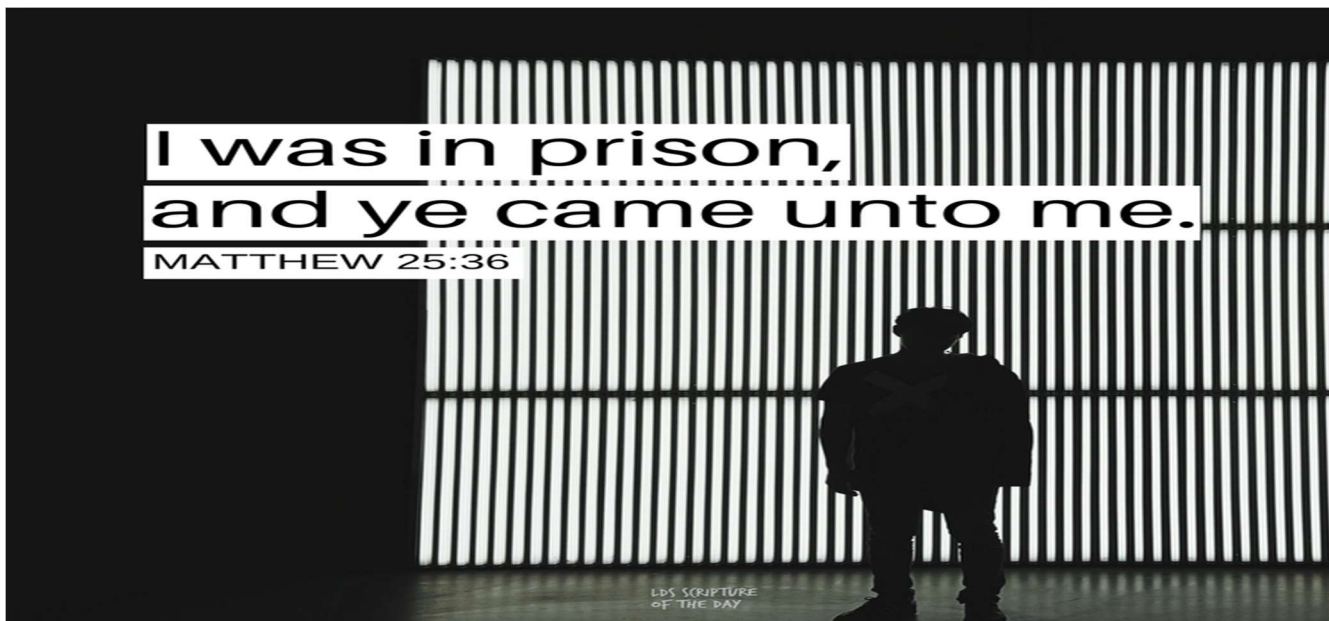
One thing I feel strongly about is that the residents in prison are all part of someone’s family – they are someone’s father or mother, brother or sister, child or grandchild, nephew or niece. They all matter to God, and while they are sent away and not living with their families, God can still reach them! In fact, having God in their lives strengthens them and helps them cope with all the darkness that exists in prison – loneliness, addiction, shame, unforgiveness, and hopelessness. Can you imagine serving years in prison and trying to do it all alone, with only yourself to rely on? The word Kairos refers to “God’s appointed time”. Each resident who experiences a Kairos weekend has reached a divine time where God meets with them. How can you not want to be a witness to that?!!

The love of Christ flows from the team into the prison and Holy Spirit does all the work – it's the most beautiful, amazing thing to witness.

The finale of the Kairos weekend is the closing ceremony. All team members are invited inside the prison to hear from the residents themselves. You'll see how they were touched by God, as they cry and share from their heart, something you will not forget!

So – aren't you ready to come serve on a Kairos weekend now?! All are welcome and I bet once you do, you will keep coming back! Feel free to reach out to me.

DeColores!  
Mary Ann Daniels



## **Men's Walk to Emmaus #116**

### **Michael Rush, Lay Director**

Once upon a time, before the world went crazy, Pete Lawrence came to First Presbyterian in Pulaski and presented Chrysalis to our youth group. While he didn't manage to entice any of them, he totally grabbed my attention and I remember saying, "I wonder if they have anything for adults?" That's how my Emmaus career was born!

My highest priority is God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. My second priority is actually made up of five things, all equal: Emmaus, Family, God's Storehouse, United Church in Lawrenceburg, and Royal Rangers. My New Covenant Emmaus Walk #80 was the starting point of the realization that God is more important than me.

Since that defining moment, God has removed at least nine dead branches, allowing new growth and new possibility. Very soon, He will remove another dead branch during dying moments on Walk #116; another opportunity for His plan for me to unfold.

My walk with Christ is stronger than ever. I can see the light in the tunnel called "Praying Without Ceasing"; I feel the peace that passes understanding regularly and His Joy really is my strength. People think I don't care when bad things happen and I don't react like they expect but everything pales in comparison to Jesus's death for us on the Cross and His Resurrection!

As Lay director for Walk 116, something that still feels otherworldly to me, my attention has been consumed with the fact that it's not about me; it's the Trinity and the pilgrims that matter. What a wonderful gift from The New Covenant Emmaus Community! I can stay in Joy and Peace all day long, regardless of my situation.

Isn't that our purpose? To lift up, inspire, encourage, refresh and empower leaders to go back to their churches, their homes, their workplaces and set fires of love and joy, reminding everyone that they are God's most precious gift and to share that gift with others? May we never cease to remember our purpose and always strive to sponsor as many people as we are physically able to do.

Because it's not about us.

DeColoros!

Grace and Peace,

Michael Rush



# **Women's Walk to Emmaus#117**

## **Jamie Polk, Lay Director**

The preparation for Walk #118 and Walk #119 are under way. Teams will be formed, and we are praying for your “yes” when contacted to serve. I can promise you two things: it will be inconvenient, and it will be a blessing. The act of obedience to the Holy Spirit means you are giving up your time and your desires for His purpose and His peace. Try it - you'll love it!

I have the privilege of being on our Board of Directors as well as having been the Lay Director for Walk #117. It is a unique perspective to watch our Board work to ensure our upcoming Walks have everything and everyone they need. There are more moving parts than you might guess. It takes around 70 people to work a Walk, about half are in the conference room directly ministering and managing the pilgrims as well as keeping everyone on schedule. The other half are somewhat unseen ministering and managing the food, music, agape, camp, worship settings, preparing refreshments, meal service and tablescapes, candlelight set up and take down, packing and unpacking our stored walk items, registering workers as well as pilgrims and praying then praying some more. The camp is bathed in prayer for the 72 hours of the Walk. We pray about all aspects of the weekend but especially the speakers and pilgrims. The connection the pilgrims make with the stories of challenge and change direct them to the grace of God and His love for us.

I humbly come before you to petition you for two things: prayer and more prayer.

Ephesians 6:12 makes it clear that we aren't struggling with our family, friends, neighbors or traffic ;-) ... it is spiritual. The enemy is actively trying to keep us from recognizing our strength to do battle through the strength of the Holy Spirit. We underestimate the power of focusing our thoughts and heart on our precious Savior and asking for His will and then listening for direction. Our community's prayers are the key to opening hearts and changing lives.



We have an amazing opportunity to share in the work of the Holy Spirit by choosing to prioritize prayers for our upcoming Walks, our Board of Directors, the Emmaus Community and the Pilgrims. Please pray for the teams as well. Those who serve become a focus of the enemy to distract and discourage us from being at peace with His process. I urge you to pray for protection from attack and encouragement that when we face challenges, we remember that obedience to the Holy Spirit is a threat to the enemy, so we must stay calm and carry on.

Who should you sponsor: Christians that are: friends, family, co-workers, church family and those the Lord leads you to sponsor. Remember the Walk schedule can be difficult for those struggling with unmanaged emotional issues, pray for wisdom. Think about age: over 60? Face to Face might be a better choice. Under 20? Chrysalis is tailored to the energy and interests of the younger age group. All share a very similar, if not the same message and have the same special moments found in Emmaus.

When we are faithful and obedient Emmaus Walks can change many lives. Your support of our Walks is crucial. Maybe you will sponsor a pilgrim, work the Walk, come to serve a few hours as a “day angel”, attend candlelight and closing as well as devoting yourself in prayer; you are all a necessary and required component of the success of future Walks.

Ask yourself “Have I been helping carry the responsibilities of our Community?” Are you serving, praying and attending Emmaus events (candlelight, closing, follow up Gatherings)? If you aren’t participating - you are missing the blessings of inconvenient service. Yes, the Holy Spirit will call you to give up your routine and comfort for the certain blessings of inconvenient service. Get up! Exercise your faith! Serve! Pray! Sponsor!!!!

I’m hoping to see you soon,  
Jamie Polk  
LD Walk 117

# **Face To Face Encounter #11**

## **Sonya Shook, Lay Director**

I AM A WILLING AND EXCITED SERVANT AS WE PREPARE FOR 2026 FACE-TO-FACE #11 AT RANDALL'S CHAPEL GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH IN SCOTTSBORO, AL. I COVET YOUR PRAYERS AS THE TEAM FOR THIS ENCOUNTER IS FORMED AND TRAINED.

MANY OF YOU MIGHT NOT BE FAMILIAR WITH FACE TO FACE, AND WHAT IT OFFERS, I ENCOURAGE YOU TO BECOME ACTIVE, AND BE CHALLENGED TO REALIZE THAT GOD HAS A PURPOSE FOR YOU! FACE-TO-FACE WAS DESIGNED AND DEVELOPED BY THE UPPER ROOM 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 DUE TO DISABILITY. 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, OFFERING EXCITING 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.

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 HAVE 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.

DECOLORES!  
SONYA SHOOK





## FOURTH DAY COORDINATOR Becky Scott

On Walk #117 I gave the Sanctifying Grace talk. This is the talk that introduces Group Reunions and shares how they are the primary means of support after a person has completed their Walk to Emmaus weekend.

I reminded the women of #117 that salvation is a life lived in grace and is not meant to be a solo venture. We are meant to be in community with others who are on the journey so that we can receive accountability, support and encouragement for ourselves as well as give the same to others. This is what made the early church in Acts so powerful.

I heard a word on a clip of a podcast a couple of weeks ago that describes not only the community of the early church but also could be applied to our local congregations and to Group Reunions. That word is **Oneanothering**.

The idea of Oneanothering is exactly what we receive and give in Group Reunions. Caring for one another in a small group that meets regularly. Group Reunions are not simply another “duty” or “program” or “box” to check off as you fulfill your post-Emmaus Walk expectations. They are a means of Grace and Oneanothering where you can experience God, receive help to maintain your discipleship to Christ, and receive and give care to brothers and/or sisters who are on the journey with you.

If you are in a Group Reunion, I hope you are experiencing Oneanothering with your group and with Jesus. If you are not currently in a group or haven’t made it to one yet, please pray about either seeking one out to join or starting a group yourself.

You have all the tools you need to get started, but if you need help and support reach out to either your sponsor or me. If you start a new Group Reunion, please let me know so that I can add it to our list of active Group Reunions.

De Colores!

Becky Scott 4th Day coordinator

[beckyscottsd@gmail.com](mailto:beckyscottsd@gmail.com)



**CLICK LINK BELOW FOR A FULL LIST OF  
OUR REUNION GROUPS**

<https://newcovenantemmaus.com/reunion-groups/>