



NEW COVENANT

EMMAUS COMMUNITY

Spring 2026 NEWSLETTER

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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 - Fellowship
7:29pm—Worship

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Bob Druzinski, Community Lay Director

Bill Alexander, Community Spiritual Director

Traci Loveman, 2026

Krishna Gehrs, 2026

Kathy Patrick, 2026

Jeff Reynolds, 2026

Joe Pittman, 2026

Dale Capron, 2027

Kelly Watts, 2027

Tammy Baswell, 2027

Christine Yergert, 2027

Becky Scott, 2028

Kevin Chandler, 2028

Chris Spain, 2028

Brant Harwell, 2028

Jon Weatherholt, 2028



Lots of good things are happening!



A Message from Our Community Lay Director

DeColores! The weather is warming up and trees are budding and leafing out after a long winter. You know what that means - New Covenant is having its Spring Walks! Teams have been formed, the training is commencing, talks are being previewed, and we are preparing to host the pilgrims! What we need now is PRAYER! Satan is already starting to prey on our teams, so we need to pray to combat him. Prayer for the pilgrims. Prayer for the team. Prayer for health. Prayer for our families. Prayer for our nation. Prayer! Prayer! Prayer! As Paul puts it in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, we should be praying without ceasing. When Satan puts up this much of a fight, you know God has great things in store for the pilgrims. We can't let Satan get the upper hand! Now is also the time to start thinking about the Fall Walks. Pray for who God puts on you to sponsor for a walk. Prayerfully consider whether you would like to work on a team so that when you get that call you can give a resounding YES! And last, but not least, prayerfully consider if you would be willing to serve as a member of the board. We will be taking nominations for new board members this summer, so keep in the back of your mind whether you would like to help shape New Covenant going forward!

DeColores and God Bless!

Bob Druzynski

Community Lay Director



Spiritual Director's Corner

Each of us on our Walk to Emmaus made some decisions about changes we wanted to make so we could do a better job of living the Christian life. We want the peace and contentment that comes out of a closer relationship with Christ. If I were asked to make one suggestion that could help that happen, here is what I would say. Reunion group! Why is it we hear so much about a reunion group? When I first heard about it, I thought it would just be a group meeting regularly to rehash what a wonderful time we had on the Walk to Emmaus. When a reunion group is done as it should be, it is an accountability group. I cannot count the number of times in the past I decided that I needed to lose weight and started changing my behavior. I would do fairly well for 2-3 weeks then I'd overeat a day or two. My next thought would be I'll get back to eating better tomorrow. Then it would be another tomorrow, and another. On the other hand the times that I actually did lose weight was when I told others my goals and they helped with encouragement and accountability. It works the same way with almost every behavior change or attitude change. Ecclesiastes 4:9 says "Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor." Then verse 12 says, "And if one can overpower him who alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart." Having friends you can trust, who hold you accountable to the goals you have set and who give you encouragement—that is what a reunion group is about. It goes much deeper than most Sunday School classes. A reunion group is a place where you can share your struggles with friends who will not only hold you accountable, but will also keep your confidences. It is a place where you can truly be honest with others and they can be with you as well. If there were only one thing I could recommend to help a person grow as a Christian it would be an accountability (reunion) group. What about Bible study, or prayer, or church attendance? The group should be encouraging you in all of that. If you don't have one, ask your sponsor or start one. It doesn't have to be people who have been on a walk, just people who will help you and let you help them as together you grow in the Christian life.

Thank You for the privilege of being your community spiritual director!

Bill Alexander

Community Spiritual Director



We now have a sign-up form in [Constant Contacts](#) for members to sign up to receive emails! [Check it out](#) and sign up to get notified about gatherings, walks, board elections, and other NCEC news.



We also have a Private Facebook Page. We use it to communicate about walks, gatherings, and other NCEC community events. [Come join us!](#)

Check out our website for all upcoming events, volunteer and sponsorship forms, reunion groups, and other important info!

www.newcovenantemmaus.com

If you have any questions, or if you aren't getting email updates, please let us know!

webservant@newcovenantemmaus.com



We have a safe and secure way to pay Pilgrim fees or make donations to the New Covenant Emmaus Community. The link is available on our website or by scanning the QR code on your mobile PayPal app, or simply go to PayPal and send money to

ncectreasurer@gmail.com



Scan. Pay. Go.

Have you seen our new T-shirts? We redesigned them 2 years ago and they have been well received! We have them available for purchase at walk-closing and follow-up gatherings.

T Shirts (Blue) - \$20.00: Circle the size you wish to purchase.

Small Medium Large XLarge 2X Large 3X Large

Sweatshirts (Blue) - \$25.00: Circle the size you wish to purchase.

Small Medium Large XLarge 2X Large 3X Large

FRONT:



BACK:





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Men's Walk #118

April 9 – 12, 2026

David Folkerts, Lay Director

Support Coordinator: Eva Bolden

Agape Lead: Stephanie Laster

Women's Walk #119

April 16 – 19, 2026

Renee Reynolds, Lay Director

Support Coordinator: Rachel Gargus

Agape Lead: Candice Schultz

Girl's Chrysalis Flight # 62

May 23-25, 2026

Jennifer Cole, Lay Leader

Peer Leader: LaShay Robbins

Agape chair: Will Randolph

Face-to-Face Encounter #11

August 10, 11, 13, & 14

Sonya Shook, Lay Director

Support Coach: Beverly Patalas

***ENCOUNTER LOCATION:
Randall's Chapel GMC, Scottsboro, AL***



Men's Walk #118 - Lay Director

Waiting on Patrick: More Than Breakfast

Every Friday morning at 6:30 a.m., before the day fully begins and while most of the world is still waking up, five men gather around a booth for something much deeper than breakfast. At a local Waffle House, Scott, Wayne, Bruce, Patrick, and I meet as part of what we call the “Waiting on Patrick Reunion Group.” The name brings a smile—and those who know us understand why—but what happens during that hour together is no joke. It’s a time grounded in faith, friendship, and accountability. Like many reunion groups, our purpose is simple but powerful: to stay connected. Life moves fast. Weeks fill up with responsibilities, challenges, and distractions. Without intention, it’s easy to drift—not just from one another, but from the things that matter most. This group helps anchor us. We talk about our week—the highs, the struggles, and everything in between. We listen. We laugh. We encourage each other. And most importantly, we pray together. That shared time in prayer has a way of putting everything into perspective and reminding us that we’re not walking through life alone. Reunion groups aren’t about perfection. They’re about presence. They create space for honesty, growth, and support. They remind us that faith is not meant to be lived in isolation, but in community. There’s strength in showing up consistently for one another, even in something as simple as a weekly breakfast. For us, this small commitment has made a big difference. It has strengthened our friendships, deepened our faith, and given us a steady place to return to each week—no matter what life brings. If you’ve ever considered joining or forming a reunion group, don’t overthink it. Start small. Pick a time. Gather a few people. Be consistent. What begins as a simple meeting can become something truly meaningful. Sometimes, the most important part of the week starts before sunrise... in a booth, with coffee, good friends, and a willingness to show up.

And yes—we’re still waiting on Patrick.

David Folkerts

Weekend Lay Director for NCEC Walk #118



Women's Walk #119 - Lay Director

When Bob Druzynski called to ask me if I would prayerfully consider being the Lay Director for Women's Walk 119, I immediately said yes! After I hung up, I asked my husband if I should have said I would pray about it and let him know. He reminded me to be ready both in season and out of season. My life verse is Jeremiah 29:11, and I use the HCSB translation, but verses 12 and 13 pull it all together as God's plan is always better than any plan we could imagine.

Jeremiah 29:11-13 HCSB

[11] For I know the plans I have for you” — this is the Lord’s declaration — “plans for your welfare, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. [12] You will call to Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. [13] You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.

I believe in the Emmaus movement and how it builds strong leaders in the local church. Therefore, I am praying that you will consider leaders in your church to sponsor on the upcoming walks and praying that God moves in a mighty way!

De Colores!

Renée Reynolds

Lay Director Walk #119



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.



Like Emmaus, a Kairos weekend runs Thursday through Sunday and is held at the facility hosting the Kairos weekend.

The talks given on a weekend are tailored for those incarcerated (e.g. Choices, rather than Priorities), and due to the time constraints that a prison must have for safety, there are only eleven talks given, with an additional four talks given on a follow up weekend.

There are Kairos weekends for men, for women, and Kairos Outside caters to the women impacted by having their loved ones incarcerated. The north Alabama region has two Kairos Communities, North Alabama Work Release Center - aka Decatur Work Release - and Limestone. There is also a Kairos Outside community that serves the northern half of Alabama, as well as a Kairos community that serves the women's facility at Tutweiler.

If you are interested in knowing more about Kairos, we have several New Covenant Members that are active in Kairos that would be happy to share with you. Contact Bob Druzynski (droozer1218@gmail.com) or Steve McCurry (stevemccurry@outlook.com) if you are interested in serving on a Kairos team.



News from the Butterfly Front

Greetings Emmaus Community,

It is such a privilege and honor to serve as the Lay Leader for Chrysalis Flight 62. I hope you are considering serving on Flight 62 in some capacity. It can be anything from sponsoring a youth to attend the Flight, praying over the flight (now and/or during), coming to candlelight, making agape, and/or saying yes if you received a call to serve on the inside or outside team. You are much needed for this flight and the community. I covet your prayers and am so thankful to get the opportunity serve in this role. My continued prayer for this community is that no matter if you are new to the community or have been in it for years, you see that the Lord is always working something new. For the scales on our eyes to be removed and our hearts to be open to whatever the Lord has for us at the time He has for us. His timing is truly perfect.

God bless you,

Jennifer Cole

Lay Leader Girls' Flight #62



An Experience in the Emmaus Tradition

For 60 and Older

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 who have never been on a Walk to Emmaus. It was developed for this age 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 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.

The Walk to
Emmaus
*for the development
of Christian leaders*

SPONSORSHIP...

The Most Important Job of All

Sponsorship is the foundation of a healthy, effective Emmaus movement that is fulfilling its true purpose - the development of Christian leaders to strengthen our local churches.

A “sponsor” is one who takes responsibility for another. The suffix “ship” refers to the skill involved in the activity. Sponsorship is the skill of taking responsibility for another. First and foremost, it requires prayer. Sponsorship is a dynamic partnership between you and God. It will also require your time, energy and dedication.

The sponsorship process begins with prayer. Commit the process to God and rely upon Him to direct you to the individual or couple. You must be open and available to allow God to work through you.

It is important to remember that not everyone is an appropriate sponsor choice. A person with beliefs about God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit that differ from the traditional Christian belief of the Holy Trinity would not be a good sponsor choice. The walk is designed to bring together the body of Christ and controversy over doctrine can lead to divisiveness during the walk. Persons in the middle of an emotional crisis, such as a family breakup or severe grief, or that are psychologically unstable, also should not be considered. Pray for guidance when these circumstances appear to be present.

Those to consider for sponsorship include individuals and couples that are willing to grow and move forward in their journey of faith. They know that God can and has made a difference in their lives and they exhibit an excitement about being a Christian. Another example of those to consider for sponsorship are those that are already leaders in their church, including clergy - those that receive joy from serving God in the little ways and willingly do whatever is asked of them.

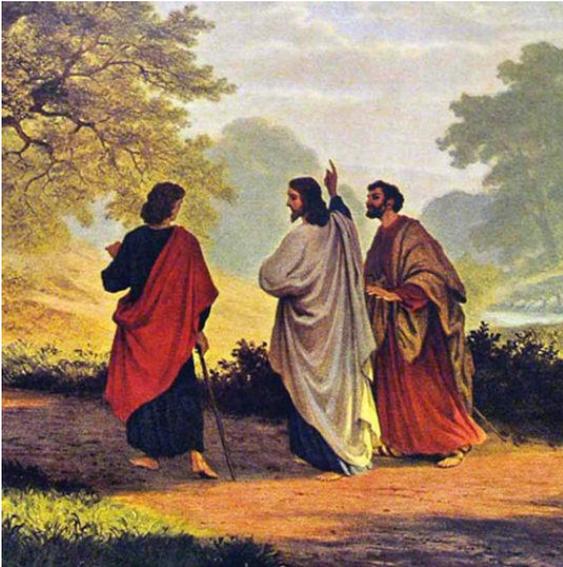
This is not a quick and easy process and should not be taken lightly. It may take a long time before you have a response from God about who you should sponsor. Don't be discouraged. God's timing is always perfect.

The aim of sponsorship is to bring spiritual revitalization to Christians who will bring new life and vision to the church, congregation, home, workplace, and community - to build up the body of Christ.

To sponsor someone for a walk, flight, or encounter, look under the

SPONSORSHIP tab on our community website.

www.newcovenantemmaus.com



News From the Alabama Emmaus Community

I'm pleased to serve New Covenant Emmaus as our liaison to the Alabama Emmaus Community. Alabama Emmaus has several walks coming up in the near future:

Walk 541 (W) – April 23-26

Walk 542 (M) – May 14-17

Walk 543 (M) – August 13-16

Please be in prayer for these weekends and the many pilgrims whose lives will be changed on these dates. If you know an interested potential pilgrim who is unable to attend a NCEC walk due to scheduling, why not check and see if they may be able to walk with Alabama Emmaus?

Community Lay Director Ken Farr has recently written an article about the power of investing in sponsorship. He sees sponsorship as the “lifeblood of the community”, and notes the growing number of Alabama Emmaus pilgrims as a sign that investing in sponsorship works. When we sponsor, we come alongside pilgrims as a mentor and friend, and introduce them to the Cluster and Cluster leadership. Sponsorship can mean helping new pilgrims learn about opportunities to serve or connect to Reunion Groups. In short, sponsorship changes lives!

Community Spiritual Director David Socha has reminded the Alabama Emmaus Community about the importance of availability - the declaration to God of, “Here I am Lord!” (Genesis 22:1), repeated by Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Samuel, Isaiah and Ananias. (Some of those names may be familiar to you!) Each one of you reading this article has declared your availability to God to work for His purposes. I praise God for each of you, the crucial role that you fill as part of New Covenant Emmaus and your home churches, and your tireless efforts to expand the growing kingdom of God!

There is plenty more great information about Alabama Emmaus at the following link, if you are interested in further reading: [Community Newsletter](#)

**De Colores,
Dale Capron**



WILLING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

If it has been a while since you've been invited to serve on a Walk, or if you have yet to be invited to serve, please be sure you have filled out and submitted a volunteer form.

Visit our website to fill out a form.

www.newcovenantemmaus.com

(Forms are located under the VOLUNTEER tab.)

If you have already done so, and still have not been invited to serve, please let the Registrar or any Board member know of your interest. We would love to have you join us in serving on an upcoming Walk.

Fortifying through Fourth Days

And your Journey Continues.....

Where two or more are gathered in my name, I am among them. *Matthew 8:20*

We would love to help you get connected to an Existing Reunion Group or help you form your own. The Emmaus Reunion Group is a small accountability group of 2-6 people that have participated in a 3 day walk to Emmaus weekend. These small follow up groups are crucial to allowing the love that God has shown us carry forth into the following days, weeks, and years. But most importantly, reunion groups create a unique bond to the community as well as fortifying what you have learned in becoming a disciple of Jesus through piety, study, and action. They allow you to have a regular reminder that you are loved as well as needed in the Emmaus community. Reunion groups give you a better resource for serving through agape for future walks as well. If you will travel back in time to your walk, you may remember the agape bags that were filled throughout the weekend, Reunion groups were the main contributors to those little acts of love. Reunion groups become a unique bond of participants that will last many years to come. It becomes that little extra thing to help you navigate the hard days, as well as helping others in the group do the same. You are loved and cherished by Jesus. That truth will never change. But now, you have found a community that loves and cherishes you just as much. Staying connected to us through reunion groups, as well as monthly gatherings keep that connection alive. As the weekend progressed and came to an end, there was something said to you. Emmaus is not here to replace your church. It is designed to make the church stronger. Reunion groups are designed to help those building blocks grow in your church. And guess who will be those building blocks? Yep you! Are you up for that challenge? Because.....



The truth is, the covid pandemic hurt the community, and we have been rebuilding it back to where we are through many trials and challenges. Reunion Groups have suffered because of Covid. We are coming back, but we need something specific. We need that one person to say... “Let me step in. Let me serve. I can start here.” We specifically need you to start a new group in your area. The [following list](#) will be reunion groups in your area. Reach out; get connected! Pray about where God will lead you. If you choose to start one on your own, please do not hesitate to ask for help. Please reach out to NCECReunionGroup@gmail.com or contact the point of contact on the [following list](#). You do not have to go on your journey alone. Allow the Emmaus community to walk with you!

Chris Spain, 4th Day Coordinator



72-Hour Prayer Tips

Often when passing around the 72-Hour Prayer Vigil for an Emmaus Walk or Chrysalis Flight we hear, “I can’t pray for a whole half-hour.” You’d be surprised how fast that half-hour can go!

Following are some tips to help you focus your prayers during your commitment time. Use this as a guide but don’t limit your prayer time to just these tips. Begin by scanning the list and marking those items that touch you the most. These are the prayer points that the Spirit has led you too. Don’t feel pressured to pray the whole list; trust that God will lead others to pray, and He will cover all the points on the list (and more). As you begin to pray for the items you marked, pause at each one and ask God what He would have you specifically pray about that point. When you can think of no more then move to the next item. If you should finish your list before your time is up, then go back and pray about the ones you did not mark. You may want to make these “bullet” prayers as you read down the list. You’ll be amazed at how long you can actually pray when you commit yourself to giving the time! At the end you’ll find that you were a blessing to others and received a great blessing yourself as well.

Pray for the Pilgrims/Caterpillars:

- Pray for them individually if you know their names or as a group.
- Pray that walls would come down and hearts would be opened to understand the depth, the height, the breadth, and width of God’s love for them.
- Pray that each participant would receive a personal touch from God during his or her journey.
- Pray for the participants to be able to leave the world behind and give themselves to the weekend.
- Pray for the families of the participants.
- Pray protection for the participants as they leave the weekend behind and face the world again.
- Pray that they will carry the weekend with them into their world.

Pray for the Team Members:

- Pray for them individually if you know their names or as a group: Meal Service, Logistics, Conference Room, Agape, Worship, Events, etc.
- Pray that each team member would serve with humility and grace.
- Pray that each team member would receive a renewed touch from God as they see the weekend through the eyes of those experiencing it for the first time.
- Pray for the specific duties of teams that you may have participated in working with before. No one knows how hard it is or what could go wrong better than those who have experienced it!
- Pray for protection and strength.
- Pray that grace would abound when hiccups occur...and they always occur.

Pray for Defining Moments:

- Think back to your walk/flight and those events that meant the most to you...your *defining moment*. Allow God to take you back to that time.
- Pray for each participant out of the heart of this memory.
- Pray for the little moments that no one thinks gets noticed but might mean the world to someone else.
- Pray for the weekend.
- Pray that God is glorified by His will and ways being done.
- Pray for protection over the weekend, the grounds, and the people.
- Pray for the community as they gather to support special events.
- Pray that God's Spirit and Truth would abound.

 *Pray the Lord's Prayer and think about how you could specifically apply moments of the weekend to it. Example: "...daily bread" Pray that the Bread of Life be broken and received with each talk.*

 *Pray about the moments of Communion /Lord's Supper. Pray for mealtimes and snack times. Pray that when it is over everyone involved will be able to say, "I came looking for Jesus and found Him here."*

Online Resources

Bible Gateway - <https://biblegateway.com> - Many translations, plus daily reading plans and other resources

First 5 - <http://first5.org> - Apps and other resources for personal and group Bible study. Geared toward women, but all can benefit.

Turning Point with David Jeremiah - <http://www.davidjeremiah.org> - Daily devotional and other resources

Desiring God - John Piper - <http://www.desiringgod.org> - Articles, sermons, free e-books and more

Upper Room Devotional - <http://devotional.upperroom.org> - Daily devotional from the organization that sponsors Walk to Emmaus

Insight for Living Devotional - Chuck Swindoll - <https://www.insight.org> - Daily devotional and many other resources

Our Daily Bread - <https://odb.org> - Daily devotional and other resources

Christian Classics Ethereal Library - <https://www.ccel.org> - "The mission of the Christian Classics Ethereal Library (CCEL) is to build up the church by making classic Christian literature widely available and promoting its use for edification and study by interested Christians, seekers and scholars."

The Bible Project - <http://thebibleproject.com> - An excellent source for short animated videos on every book of the Bible, themes and word studies

Bible Broadcasting Network - <http://www.bbnradio.org> - Many resources, including a free "Bible Institute" with many courses available. Somewhat antiquated website, but worth looking into for the content.

A Word with You - Ron Hutchcraft - <https://hutchcraft.com> - Daily inspirational messages and other resources

All Worship - Free Christian Music - <http://www.allworship.com> - Christian music online and apps, devotions and other resources



Walk in the Word with James MacDonald - <http://jamesmacdonald.com> - Daily devotions, various resources

Seedbed - Daily Devotional - www.seedbed.com - Daily devotional and many other resources

Bible.com - <https://www.bible.com> - Bible online, apps, reading plans and other resources

Days of Praise - <http://www.icr.org> - Daily devotional and many other resources

Christian History Magazine - <https://www.christianhistoryinstitute.org> - Excellent resource for learning about the history of Christianity, various denominations and important historical figures in the life of the Church. Back issues available online.

Christianity Today (monthly magazine) - <http://www.christianitytoday.org> - "Since 1956, Christianity Today has challenged the church with real-world content that is timely, compelling, insightful, balanced - and biblical."

World (biweekly news magazine) - <https://world.wng.org> - News presented from a conservative, evangelical perspective. Insightful commentary in each issue.

*****Please note that while the websites listed above were suggested by members of the New Covenant community, their inclusion here does not imply endorsement by the New Covenant Emmaus Board of Directors or the Upper Room Ministries.***



From the Archives

Jack Lawrence

New Covenant has been an active Emmaus community now for 30 years, but did you know that we have not always held our monthly Gatherings in Athens? Thank you, Friendship Methodist Church, for hosting us for ten years now! The original Gatherings were in Pulaski, but as New Covenant grew larger and faster south of the state line, it was eventually decided to move the Gatherings to Toney Methodist Church, where we stayed for many years. In 2015, we sadly left our home in Toney, but for a very good and welcome reason – we outgrew it! Check out this photo that we took to send to our sister Emmaus Community in Russia. Maybe there will come a day when we will outgrow Friendship as well. Gotta be careful what you pray for, huh?

