



NEW COVENANT

EMMAUS COMMUNITY

Fall 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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Thank you to all who voted in last month's elections! We received votes from 163 individuals. Please join us in welcoming our new and returning members of the Board of Directors (class of 2029). Also, join in thanking the board members (class of 2026) who will be rolling off for their service to the community.

Bob Druzinski (2027), Community Lay Director

Bill Alexander (2027), Community Spiritual Director

Board members

Kathy Patrick, 2026

Joe Pittman, 2026

Krishna Gehrs, 2026

Jeff Reynolds, 2026

Kelly Watts, 2027

Christine Yergert, 2027

Dale Capron, 2027

Tammy Baswell, 2027

Kevin Chandler, 2028

Brant Harwell, 2028

Jon Weatherholt, 2028

Becky Scott, 2028

Chris Spain, 2028

Jennifer Dungan, 2029

Tony Kirk, 2029

Jonathan Towery, 2029

Colin White, 2029

Traci Loveman, 2029

A Message from Our Community Lay Director

DeColores! The air has a tinge of cold in it these days, reminding us of the coming Fall and Winter seasons. Soon it will be pumpkin spice this, and pumpkin spice that. Wood smoke will waft in the air and soon we will face the task of raking leaves. This is also the start of what Lori and I call our "Crazy Season".

What pray tell is crazy season? Crazy season is when life seems to suddenly dump everything on us at once. Starting in early September and going to the end of the year, we have Emmaus Walks, Kairos events, Gatherings, Board meetings, five birthdays, three major holidays, etc., etc., etc. Life seems to go from one event to another with little time to settle down and enjoy the peace that the season should hold. Life becomes a series of check boxes to mark off before the next event hits. Do you have Crazy Seasons?

It is during the crazy season that I have to remember Psalm 46:10 which says *"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."* In Hebrew, the word for "Be Still" is *raphah*, which means to let go, drop down, or stop striving rather than just doing nothing. It is in our Crazy Season that I have to remember to let go of things, stop adding new things. As the old quote says, "I have to let go and let God."

So as we approach the coming Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons, take time to reflect on your spiritual walks. How has God touched you this year? How has He directed your path? How have you sang His praises to the world? How will you serve Him in the coming year?

I thank God daily for each and every member of this community. We continue to grow God's servants in our local churches and communities, and each walk has new faces working the different teams.

May God bless each and every one of you through the holidays and in the coming year!

DeColores and God Bless!

Bob Druzynski

Community Lay Director

Spiritual Director's Corner



I have been on a Walk to Emmaus, now what?

Now that I have been on my walk I am SO much more Spiritual than people who have not been. FALSE

Now that I have been on a walk, I have arrived Spiritually. FALSE

Now that I have been on a walk my primary task is to recruit others to go so they will experience the same blessings that I did. FALSE

Well, then my primary task must be to attend every Gathering and volunteer to serve in Emmaus, Chrysalis, and Kairos. FALSE

So what am I supposed to do because of this experience? THE primary goal of the Walk to Emmaus is to help participants recognize their worth and calling in Christ and put that to work in their local church and by extension their lives. Two of the main emphases that come from the Walk are growing in our relationship with Christ, and becoming His servants. Do you remember the talks on Christian Action, Changing our World, and the Body of Christ? Each of these point us to humble service. The best place to start is to look at your local church. Almost every church has a small number of people trying to accomplish too many tasks. Look and see where help is needed. Or maybe you are the one to start a new ministry in your church because you see the needs that others do not. Try to take an honest self-inventory. Ask yourself, what would I enjoy doing? Also, what is something I would be absolutely terrible at? Ask others who know you where they think you are talented and where would do well. Their answers may well surprise you, but don't discount them. God has placed you in the church for a reason and with a purpose. There are pitfalls to watch for though. Don't think you have to do it alone, and don't let the need guilt you into an area of service where you are not gifted. We all have been given gifts, talents, and strengths. Trust that the Lord will not lead you into failure. The failure is not following what He is guiding you to do. Take some time to read Exodus chapters 3-4 and see the five excuses Moses had. It seems his biggest issue was fear of failure.

The goal for the Walk to Emmaus is not to have more and more people to work the walks, or attend Gatherings. Now, I am not discounting attending Gatherings nor working a Walk because each of those, along with a reunion group keep building on your spiritual foundation. Gatherings are a time of food, fellowship and worship. Working a Walk helps you see what goes on outside of the conference room and helps develop leadership skills. Reunion groups help hold each of us accountable and every one of us needs that. If anyone thinks they do not need an accountability partner, then they have a pride problem—and I am saying that out of my own personal pride problem.

De Colores! I wish you all the colors of God's Grace as you grow in Him and walk with Him.

Bill Alexander

Honored to be your Community Spiritual Director



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Men's Walk #120

October 8 – 11, 2026

Colin White, Lay Director

Support Coordinator: Mike Watts

Agape Lead: Joelle Jones

joellejones00@gmail.com

Women's Walk #121

October 15 – 18, 2026

Amy Harwell, Lay Director

Support Coordinator: Suzy Bates

Agape Lead: Candice Schultz

candice.schultz@ymail.com

Remaining 2026 Gatherings

October 23, 2026

November 20, 2026

6:30pm – Food and Fellowship

7:29pm - Worship

Friendship Church

16479 Lucas Ferry Road

Athens, AL 35611



From the Archives

Jack Lawrence

Have you ever wondered how an Emmaus Community comes into existence? More specifically, how a group of local Christians became the New Covenant Emmaus Community? Well, here's our story (as best an old man can recall).

In the early 1990's the Walk To Emmaus program was in demand in this area, but the only options were the Nashville and Alabama Communities, both of which had long waiting lists and involved long drives. Many of us were finding it difficult to be involved, to serve on a team, and most importantly, to sponsor our friends and fellow church members. We talked about it in small groups, prayed about it, and the Holy Spirit answered!

On Saturday morning, March 26, 1994, about fifty Christians, many of whom did not know each other, met in the auditorium at Martin Methodist College in Pulaski and made a commitment to start a new Emmaus Community. At the urging of Marv and Karen Barnett, who had recently moved to Tennessee from Huntsville where they had been very active in the Alabama Emmaus Community, the Nashville Emmaus Community agreed to hold two of their walks at Martin College that summer as an outreach to the start of the new community. Rev Cheri Jones, head of Emmaus International, came down from Nashville to chair the meeting. Attendees sang songs, prayed together, ate together (started that tradition right away!), listened to a general plan that Marv and Karen had put together, and then enjoyed a time of good fellowship and serious discussion of where and how the Holy Spirit was leading. There were several sign-up sheets, and most of the attendees signed up for one task or another. And from that point on, the Holy Spirit took off at a dead run and it was all everyone could do to keep up!

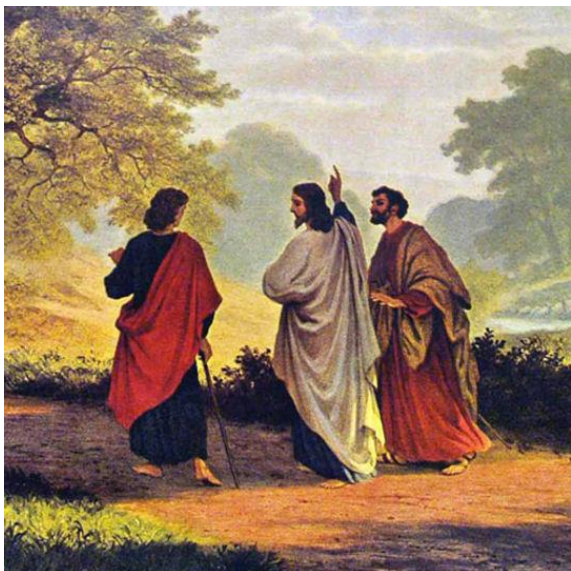
Kerry and I jointly chaired the steering committee, and Rev Russ Cain of St. Andrew Memorial UMC n Pulaski volunteered to be our first Spiritual Director. St. Andrew was designated our monthly gathering place. At that first Gathering, we had only fifteen attendees, but we persevered! (continued ➔)

In July of 1994, Nashville Walks #83 and #84 were held at Martin College. About half of the team members were from Alabama and half from Tennessee, and the pilgrims were from the immediate area. A notable exception was a group of eight ladies from Russia who were visiting the United States (and that began another wonderful New Covenant story!). If the names of the pilgrims on those walks were listed here, you would recognize many of them. Not counting the Russian ladies, there were a total of 51 pilgrims on those walks. Of those, many went on to be Lay Directors of an Emmaus Walk or Kairos or Chrysalis and at least four entered the ministry.

One of my all-time “Closest Moments to Christ” occurred at the Closing for Walk # 84. Susan Gardner, the Spiritual Director for that walk, combined the contents of two pitchers in one bowl symbolizing the creation of a new community being born. At that point we officially became the New Covenant Emmaus Community!



**Martin Methodist College – Pulaski, Tennessee
Birthplace of the New Covenant Emmaus Community**



News From the Alabama Emmaus Community

I'm blessed to serve our New Covenant Community Emmaus board as the liaison to the Alabama Emmaus Community. Our sister community has been enjoying a great year so far. Lay Director Ken Farr has shared about electing a new Community Spiritual Director, Jeff Flemming, and thanked David Socha for his time in that role. Ken calls sponsorship the "lifeblood of our Emmaus community"! Surely

he's right. If it's been a while since you sponsored someone, consider reaching out to a future Pilgrim today. The Alabama Emmaus Community welcomed 111 new Pilgrims this year.

Jeff Flemming, as the new Community Spiritual Director, has written about the phrase "honored to serve" being a contradiction in terms. Jesus demonstrates to His disciples that it is HUMBLING to serve (Mark 10:45). See if you resonate with this thought from Jeff: "all these years of each Emmaus walk being the best walk ever"! Do you have such a positive attitude on each walk that you have served? Do we see God's unique blessing on each walk, as it becomes exactly what God intends for it to be?

The Alabama Emmaus Community also held a Memorial and Training weekend on July 31 to August 1. On Friday night, 125 attended the memorial service, which remembered 78 members of the community, spanning from Walk 2 to 482. 65 attended the Saturday training event, which included training for all committees as well as sponsorship and marketing training. Many stayed overnight to attend both events, which helped result in the largest Candlelight since COVID!

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

As Jeff has reminded us, it is HUMBLING to serve as a member of the NCEC board with every one of you!

**In Christ,
Rev. Dale Capron**



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

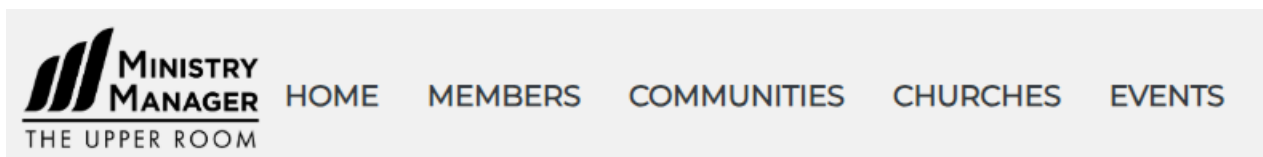


We have a safe and secure way to pay Pilgrim fees or make donations to the New Covenant Emmaus Community. The link is available on our website or by scanning the QR code on your mobile PayPal app, or simply go to PayPal and send money to

ncectreasurer@gmail.com



Scan. Pay. Go.



Did you know we have a community database called Ministry Manager? Take a minute to login and upload a photo.
<https://ministrymanager.upperroom.org/dashboard>
This database is used to track progressive servanthood for the community and the Upper Room.



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.



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.



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



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.



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."*