

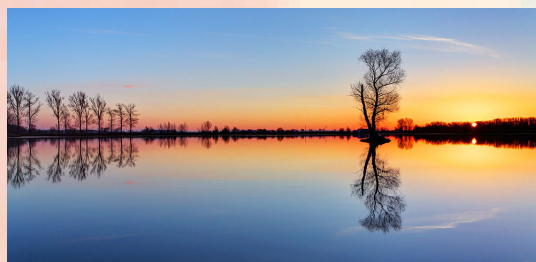


## *"Reflections of a Spiritual Director"*

Serving on an Emmaus Team or participating in the Walk to Emmaus can be a challenging experience due to the responsibilities we leave behind. As lay people, we often wonder who will take care of our families, handle daily tasks, and manage our work responsibilities. Similarly, as clergy, we may worry about who will lead, preach, and teach in our absence, and who will support the congregation during times of hardship.

As someone who recently served as the Spiritual Director for Walk 204, I understand these concerns firsthand. However, I was reminded that our churches are filled with dedicated and capable lay leaders who are more than capable of stepping up to the challenge. During my absence, the lay leaders of my two churches did an outstanding job, allowing me to serve without hesitation.

So, while it can be challenging to leave our daily responsibilities behind, it's important to remember that we are surrounded by a supportive and capable community of leaders who will step in to fill the gaps. With their support, we can fully engage in the Emmaus experience and allow God to show up and show off in wonderful ways.



I'm thrilled to announce that the lay leaders who stepped up in my absence will also be attending the upcoming walk as participants. This is an incredible opportunity for them to deepen their faith, connect with others in the community, and gain new insights into their leadership roles within the church. And let's not forget about clergy members! Attending the walk can provide a deeper understanding of the Emmaus experience and how it can support our congregations. It's crucial for us to stay connected to God's transformative power and love as leaders in the church, and the walk to Emmaus gives us a unique opportunity to do just that.

Who in your congregation has God placed on your heart to ask to experience the agape love of Emmaus? Are you praying for lay and clergy leaders in your congregation to participate? What's stopping you from asking them to attend? As sponsors, we play a critical role in strengthening and empowering our lay leadership. By inviting others to attend the walk, we help them experience the transformative power of God's love and grace. The walk to Emmaus is a three-day spiritual retreat designed to deepen our faith and commitment to Christ. Through small group discussions, worship services, and other activities, we can grow personally and spiritually.

My friends, the walk to Emmaus and sponsorship are critical components of our church's lay leadership development. By supporting and empowering our lay leaders, we create a dynamic and thriving community that is committed to serving Christ and spreading His message of love and grace. So, let's not be afraid to take that step forward and embrace the Emmaus experience with open hearts and minds. As Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." I pray God places a person or persons on your heart to sponsor.

DeColores,  
Jesse Fleck

### Important Announcement!

#### Men's Walk #203 Leaders

Lay Director - Mark Poe

Spiritual Director - Jim Melrose



## *Community Lay Director*

# **CASTING A VISION FOR OUR COMMUNITY**

*"the light at the end of the tunnel"*

Grace and Peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ!

Just a few short weeks ago the Nashville Emmaus Community came together for Women's Walk #204 where we saw the amazing way God was working in the lives of the Pilgrims, the Team, and the entire Emmaus Community. Working behind the scenes, I was reminded how much we have missed and NEED to be in fellowship with each other for our own renewal.

We are Easter people and just as Easter is a new beginning, we are also at a new beginning for our Nashville Emmaus Community. I can feel and see the enthusiasm and excitement of the Board and Community. I strongly believe that next year we can do great things:

- Immerse the Emmaus Community in prayer
- The Fall walks full with a waiting list
- We will have the Lay Directors and Spiritual Directors announced and in place for walks a year in advance
- Prayer Charts are full a week before each Walk with more than one name for many of the time slots
- Kitchen Help Charts are posted in advance
- More anonymous servanthood behind the scenes (setup, takedown, greeters, agape, kitchen, prayer chapel and more)
- A Candlelight Service filled with supporting Emmaus Community members
- Face to Face scheduled with Spiritual and Lay Directors Selected
- More participation in the Chrysalis Flights from the Emmaus Community
- Community Members using Ministry Manager and updating their information

We can do this, but it is going to take all of us praying and working together.

Remember how your Walk impacted you? Now more than ever our World needs the Emmaus Community to help build Church and Community leaders being an example of the love of Jesus Christ in all we do.

DeColores!!!!  
Jane Melrose

## *Koinonia - A Christian Community*

Please allow the phrase, NASHVILLE COMMUNITY to sink in for a few moments. You've likely heard that Walk # 204 was a beautiful blessing for the pilgrims and members of the community who participated in some way. The latter number of folks who participated was small and the board of directors asks for your help to change this for future walks. In fact, the word "restore" comes to mind for me. We are in prayer and taking action to restore this wonderful community to develop mature disciples for Christ. Like me, I'm sure you remember all the love you experienced while attending your walk as a pilgrim and you will likely recall learning that it takes quite a village for this amazing weekend to occur.

The board of directors is taking steps to provide walk dates as early as possible and to produce sign up sheets for support in the kitchen, providing agape, set-up help, etc. several weeks in advance of a given walk. Sponsorship is another constant need and the board has now made it easier to sponsor pilgrims. Please also help our churches develop leaders needed for this community in order that the community may be fully restored and thrive. You will know who would make wonderful leaders so please ask them to get involved.

For members of the community who participated in Walk # 204, the board of directors says thank you. Whether you sponsored pilgrims, prayed for this group, or served in another way you were a blessing. The purpose of this letter is to ask our entire community to be in prayer about how you can personally support Emmaus and help our community experience Koinonia (the greek word describing the intimate fellowship of a participating community). In order for Emmaus to produce the fruits intended, we need you.

De Colores,  
Jerry Lemons

**Koinonia** \koy-nohn-ee-ah\

Δ GREEK WORD MEANING TO BE DRAWN TOGETHER BY INTIMATE PARTICIPATION.

IT IS OFTEN USED TO DESCRIBE THE IDEALIZED STATE OF FELLOWSHIP, PRAYER, AND SERVICE.

# **Community Gathering, June 3, 2023, 5:00 PM**

**Good Shepherd UMC, 525 New Shackle Island Road, Hendersonville, TN**

Music with Jodi McBryant  
4th Day Testimony from Jeanetta Hitt, Walk #204  
Potluck Dinner - Bring a dish to share  
Food, Fellowship, and Worship

*1 We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;  
He chastens and hastens his will to make known;  
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.  
Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.*

*2 Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,  
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;  
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;  
Thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glory be Thine!*

*3 We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,  
And pray that thou still our defender wilt be.  
Let thy congregation escape tribulation;  
Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!*

"We Gather Together" was originally a Dutch patriotic song, but is now sung as a Thanksgiving hymn around the world.  
Its lyrics celebrate the fellowship of gathering together in praising the Lord and asking for His blessings.  
This Christian hymn rejoices in the deliverance from evil and suffering in God's grace, giving thanks to God Almighty!



## **Chrysalis**

**Boys and Girls Flight  
24-26 June, 2023**

**Fellowship UMC  
2511 New Salem Hwy, Murfreesboro, TN 37128**

**Send-off, 8 AM, June 24th  
Candlelight, 8 PM, June 25th  
Closing, 4 PM, June 26th**

**Let's support the youth in our community!**



## Men's Walk W-203

Men's Walk #203 will be held on October 5-8, 2023 at Good Shepherd United Methodist Church in Hendersonville.

Send-off/Sponsor's Hour-7 PM, Oct 5

Candlelight: 8:15 PM, Oct 7

Closing-4 PM, Oct 8

### Prayer Chart

<https://www.prayervigils.net/vigil.php?pvld=1211>

### Setup Signup

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0545A8AB2BA2FD0-setup>

## Women's Walk W-205

Women's Walk #205 will be held on October 19-22, 2023 at Good Shepherd United Methodist Church in Hendersonville.

Send-off/Sponsor's Hour-7 PM, Oct 19

Candlelight:8:15 PM, Oct 21

Closing-4 PM, Oct 22

### Prayer Chart

<https://www.prayervigils.net/vigil.php?pvld=1212>

### Hospitality Signup

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0545A8AB2BA2FD0-sendoff>

Email: [nashvilleemmaus@gmail.com](mailto:nashvilleemmaus@gmail.com)

Website: [www.nashvilleemmaus.org](http://www.nashvilleemmaus.org)

Facebook: Nashville Emmaus Community

Ministry Manager: [ministrymanager.upperroom.org](http://ministrymanager.upperroom.org)

USPS: PO Box 292643 Nashville, TN 37229-2643

## Contact Us



*"From the Pulpit"*  
*Assistant Spiritual Director*  
*Rev Rick Vance*

As I sat in the closing service for the women of Nashville Walk to Emmaus -----, I began to think again about the of the Emmaus Road encounter in Luke 24.

The story of the Walk to Emmaus is a powerful reminder of the importance of community and fellowship in the Christian faith. Disciples who were walking to Emmaus were filled with grief and disappointment after the death of Jesus. But as they walked and talked with Jesus, their hearts were opened to the truth of his resurrection. They were filled with joy and hope, and they were empowered to go and share the good news with others.

Our Nashville community has had a period of challenges. We have grieved over the loss of friends, our inability to gather over the last several years, yet as we gathered at Good Shepherd UMC for our weekend events, we too experienced the presence of the living Christ with us. As I looked at the joy of the women who had just completed their three-day experience, I could not help but look at the faces of all the community that had joined to celebrate. Their lives had been transformed as well.

As we move toward the celebration of Pentecost, I am reminded that in some ways the essence of the Emmaus Road story is a seed planted in the Book of Acts. It is a reminder that God is always with us, even in the challenging moments. Jesus is always willing to meet us where we are to open the truth of his love. When we share our faith with others, we are not only sharing the good news, but we are also planting seeds that may one day bear fruit.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful and kindle in us the fire of Your love. Send forth Your Spirit and we shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

As resurrection people, empowered by the Holy Spirit, may we plant seed in our community that will bear fruit. May we, like the church of Acts continue to grow and transform the lives of our communities.

DeColores,  
 Rick Vance

## Engaging our Community

Nashville Upper Room Emmaus Community has fully embraced Ministry Manager to assist the Board of Directors in managing our walks, gatherings, reunion groups, and members. Now we ask the community to join in to participate. All functional areas of the Emmaus community are provided a place and process area in Ministry Manager which is reason that this can help move us forward and outward in the ministry. Each community member has an account. Please log in to your account and keep your information up to date. If you aren't aware of how to use Ministry Manager, click the buttons below to access an instruction sheet and log in. After you log in to your account, view tutorials to learn how to navigate the site and view community information that was previously unavailable to members. You can also contact our community Ministry Manager rep, Steve Zuercher, slzurk@gmail.com, or call 931-436-7479. This is no cost, low hassle assistance that contributes to the greater good. Let's be part of the solution to better communication and engagement!



“Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your spirit and we shall be created, and you will renew the face of the earth. Oh God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise, and ever enjoy your consolations. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.”

