Alabama Emmaus Community News

The Grapevine

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April 2026

Community Humble Servants

Lay Director
Ken Farr

Spiritual Director
David Socha

Asst. Lay Director
Jack Bailey

Asst. Spiritual Director
Jeff Fleming

Community Coordinator
Lane Berry

Treasurer
Kathy Mitchell

Board Members
Jack Bailey
Stephanie Kirby Minix
Mickey Phillips
Carlin Burrow
Lisa Socha
Laura Bracey
William T. Peeden (Pete)
Melissa Barnes
Brian Ledlow
Cathy Parker
Jill Sellers
Sheilah Wiginton
Melissa Lett
Sandra May
Celia Rudolph
Sarah Rickert

Literature
Emilie Sims

Supplies
Pam Kirsch

Community Agape
Judy Anderson

Name Buttons
Dan Bell

Newsletter
Stephen Milstead

From Sponsorship to Mentoring

By Ken Farr, Community Lay Director

Do you remember that teacher, coach, family member or older friend who took time to invest in our lives? They took time to answer our questions, guide us when we felt overwhelmed, listened to us when we needed to vent, reassured us when we felt alone and shared their wisdom with us. I will always cherish the memories of those special people in my life.

What is a mentor? Webster defines a Mentor as a teacher or counselor. To be a Mentor means to be an active participant in someone's life. Someone who is trusted, compassionate and truthful. Someone who will tell us what we need to hear, not what we want to hear. They are someone who will tell us when we make a bad decision and celebrate with us when we excel in our life. They give us wise counsel and give us a shoulder to cry on. They enrich our lives and we are blessed to have them!

Sponsoring a Pilgrim is not a means unto itself, it is only the beginning. After returning from the walk, the Mentoring begins! We have the opportunity to help our Pilgrims strengthen their family relationships, become stronger servants in their local church and become active members in our Emmaus community.

Encouraging them to join a reunion group is a good first step. We grow when we can share, study and pray with other Christians. We realize we are not the only ones who have and are facing challenges in life. We find friends who can encourage us and love us when we may not love ourselves. We find mentors who can help us understand scripture, deepen our study and share our burdens. Those mentors become lifelong friends. **(Please See Farr Page 3.)**

Holy Week: A Week of Submission and Surrender that Leads to Victory

By David Socha, Community Spiritual Director

The holiest week of the year is now upon us. Our Lenten journey comes to the culmination as we enter Holy Week. We can join ourselves with Jesus during His passion and death and then rejoice on Easter Sunday with the celebration of His resurrection.

As we prepare for Easter Sunday, we should remind ourselves that it was an act of surrender and submission that led to that day. In common usage of the words, the words submission and surrender imply weakness and defeat. It implies that we have given in to the opposing group and lost.

In the context of Holy Week, we have a different model of submission and surrender. The model is the complete surrender and submission of Jesus to God the Father on the Cross. In the Gospel of Luke, we read: "Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Father into your hands I commend my spirit;' and when He had said this, He breathed His last." Luke 23:46

During His suffering, which He freely embraced, Jesus turned and surrendered Himself to God the Father. He had His agony in the garden but came through that with a renewed determination to do the will of His Father and allows Himself to be fully received by God the Father. **(Please See Socha Page 2.)**

Coordinator's Corner

By Lane Berry, Community Coordinator

Please continue to actively and prayerfully seek whom God may want you to approach about attending the Emmaus Walk, because - **IT'S STILL ALL UP TO US!**

We still have availability for some of these Walks.

Walk 541 (W) – Apr 23-26	22 applications
Walk 542 (M) – May 14-17	18 applications
Walk 543 (M) – August 13-16	9 applications

Scheduling Tip – Since we are not in a 'waiting-list' situation right now, if you know which Walk your pilgrim is interested in, please include a note or simply notate on the application the Walk they prefer to attend. It will make scheduling much easier and save money in postage as well!

Thank you!
God Bless and DeColores!

Sponsorship Reminders

If you are sponsoring a pilgrim, here are some important reminders:

- Show up on Thursday between 6:30 and 7:00 PM.
- Do not leave until after praying over the crosses.
- Make your pilgrim's bed before you leave on Thursday.
- Candlelight worship starts at 7:45 PM on Saturday.
- Do not forget to collect agape letters.
- Closing starts at 4:45 PM Sunday.
- Do not let your pilgrim forget their agape bag in the conference room on Sunday!

Socha

(continued from Page 1)

Holy Week presents an opportunity for us – whatever pains we have, whatever challenges we're experiencing, whatever sufferings we might be enduring – to join ourselves with Jesus and to say, "Father, I turn myself completely over to you." Just as Jesus suffered on the Cross, we can join ourselves there with Him and truly receive that same love of the Father.

In moments of suffering, it can be hard to see God's plan, to find Him during our pain. And yet, Jesus on the Cross can join us now and we can join Him by placing ourselves fully into the hands of the Father. When we do that, then stand back and see God's plans for us unfold beyond what we could have imagined

Submitting and surrendering to God leads to victory with Jesus. God wants to impart to us His consolation and give us our own resurrection moments as we place our confidence in Him alone.

Let us all take advantage of these final days of Lent as we reflect on the submission and surrender of Jesus and then celebrate the victory that is ours as a result of the Resurrection. Have a blessed Holy Week and Resurrection Sunday.

DeColores

Join us on Facebook

Join the Alabama Emmaus Community Facebook group for online information about Emmaus events. Search for Alabama Emmaus Community.

Upcoming Walks

Walk	Date	Lay Director	Spiritual Director	Cluster	Board Rep
541	April 23-26	Lou Ann Hubbard	Jeff Ambrester	Franklin / Haleyville Marion	Carlin Burrow Mickey Phillips
542	**May 14-17**	**Randy Nelson**	**Ted Anderson**	**East Alabama / Cheaha**	**Stephanie Kirby Minix Cathy Parker**
543	Aug 13-16	Mitch Dobbins	Bradley Hipps	Athens / Shoals / Moulton	Pete Peeden Celia Rudolph
544	Sept 10-13	Sara Manney	Jeff Helton	Cullman / Blount	Mickey Phillips Jill Sellers

***Men's Walk** Reminder: Candlelight service begins at 7:45; Closing begins at 4:45.
Please remember that children are not to be present in Hutto or at meals during a walk!

2026 Walk Schedule

538	Feb 19-22	Women
539	**Mar 5-8**	**Men**
540	Mar 19-22	Women
541	Apr 23-26	Women
542	**May 14-17**	**Men**
543	**Aug 13-16**	**Men**
544	Sept 10-13	Women
545	Sept 24-27	Women
546	**Oct 15-18**	**Men**
547	Nov 5-8	Women

Alabama's Young Adult Chrysalis

Alabama's Young Adult Chrysalis is a three-day spiritual renewal retreat for ages 18-28. Like the Walk to Emmaus, the weekend is filled with talks, food, fellowship, and sharing the love of Christ. "Butterflies" hear talks similar to Walk to Emmaus talks, but with a focus on the needs of young adults in today's society.

Our Chrysalis community is seeking help in building a pool of caterpillars for future Chrysalis Journeys. Consider sponsoring a young adult, no matter where they are in their walk with Christ, for upcoming journeys. Attending a Chrysalis journey does not preclude someone from going on an Emmaus Walk in the future.

There is a participant application on the Alabama YAC website at:

https://www.alabamayac.com/applications

The Grapevine

Alabama Emmaus Office, PO Box 2531
Gadsden AL 35903
256-441-6140
Web: www.AlaEmmaus.org
email: Office@AlaEmmaus.org

Address changes should be sent to: David Hall, 849 County Road 3926, Arley, AL 35541, or emailed to DHall92727@aol.com

Farr

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At church, our new Pilgrims are mentored by devoted friends who recognize their potential as servant leaders of the church. These devoted mentors see future teachers, small group leaders, lay speakers and counsel members who are willing to serve the ministry needs of the church. As they grow in service to the local church, they become an example for their families to strengthen their daily walk with Christ and service to the church.

We welcome our new Pilgrims into the Cluster with applause, cheers, and love. We mentor them as they learn the workings of the Cluster, becoming active participants in worship and service to our Emmaus Community. We mentor them as they begin to serve as team members on an Emmaus walk, what functions the different committees perform, and how important prayer is to a walk.

All of us have the ability to become Sponsors and all of us have the opportunity and the responsibility to become Mentors. We can follow the example Jesus gave us. He mentored his disciples for a specific purpose, to share the Good News. He taught them to love one another, support one another, to serve one another and to be mentors. Let's be Mentors for Christ.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another". Proverbs 27:17

DeColores!

Praying For You

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to members of the Emmaus Community and their families in the loss of loved ones.

The family of **Evelyn Walker (83)**

The family of **Martha Stevens (LW 29)**

The family of **Charlotte Meredith (91)**

John W (194) and **Jill (195) Strickland**, and **Mary (50) Strickland Veal** in the loss of their father, **John R. Strickland (38)**

Stephanie (294) and **Steve (306) Sloan Wright** in the loss of her mother, **Sandra Sloan (271)**

Joyce Wilson (417) in the loss of her husband, **Ken Wilson (241)**

Beth Morris (366) in the loss her mother, **Katharine Gillis (375)**

The family of **Barbara Muzenmay (156)**.

Jane (32), **Ted (31) Hagler** and **Cory Berry (513)** in the death of Jane's Mom, **Eleanor Berry (Emmaus Face to Face 1)**

Alabama Emmaus Walk 541
April 23-26, 2026

Lay Director Lou Ann Hubbard (Perseverance)

Assistant Lay Directors
Nancy Bowling (Priority)
Debbie Dearen
Judy Burcham
Gina Frazier
Stephanie West
Laurie Bolt (Fourth Day)

Spiritual Director Jeff Armbrester (Means of Grace)

Assistant Spiritual Directors
Nicholas George (Prevenient Grace)
Shane Stidham (Justifying Grace)
Jeremy Prestage (Obstacles to Grace)
Shan Odom (Sanctifying Grace)

Music Chairperson Sheilah Wiginton

Assistant Table Leaders
Dianna Cantrell (Priesthood)
Pam Putman (Life of Piety)
Sarah Emerson (Growth Through Study)
Shay Pounds (Christian Action)
JJ Headrick (Discipleship)
Rebekah Wiginton (Changing Our World)
Gloria McKee (Body of Christ)

Table Leaders
Ana Colburn
Kitty Frederick
Lisa Halcomb
Dana Hammitte
Vickie Johnson
Melissa Shotts
Ann West

Board Reps Carlin Burrow
Mickey Phillips

Committees

Agape	Ricky Hall	256-810-8968
Meal Service	Paul Hanson	205-495-8457
Refreshment	Richard Cantrell	205-412-3609
Prayer Vigil	Jan Page	256-356-9946
Housing	Jennifer Swinney	256-627-0731
Candlelight	Mark Dearen	205-468-7607
Clean-up	David McNutt	205-486-5073
Closing	David McNutt	205-486-5073
Entertainment	Deanna Shotts	205-412-2771
Follow-up	Jolene Stockton	256-332-0748
Prayer Chapel	Mike Shotts	205-466-7181
Sponsors' Hour	Buddy Perdue	256-627-4580
Worship	Paula Wood	205-468-0668
Photographer	Holly Colburn	205-528-1242
Humble Servant	Holly Colburn	205-528-1242
	Connie George	205-570-1464

Pilgrims

Name	Location	Sponsor
Kandiss Goodwin	Cullman	Dudley Brock & Rita Speegle
Raven Cryar	Guntersville	Marsha Cryar
Lisa Stidham	Hackelburg	Renate`Lyle & Dasha Honeycutt
Christi Kelly	Hackleburg	Sheila Cochran & Myra McCarley Bray
Pamela Bland	Haleyville	Donna Blue Kraklow & Stephanie West
Brooke McNeal	Haleyville	Bobby Masdon & Stephanie West
Martha Poston	Haleyville	Hayden Kelly
Mary Bullard	Hamilton	Derek Emerson & Heather Emerson
Maci Bynon	Hamilton	Layton Wisecarver & Amanda Emerson
Tiwana Dumpson	Hamilton	Theresa Dumpson & Mary Ham Wilson
Cassidy Norton	Hamilton	Amanda & Martin Emerson
Chesney Raburn	Hamilton	Rhonda Gann
Carmen Riggins	Hamilton	Kimbo Stidham & Lawanda Cagle
Tammy Simmons	Hamilton	Lawanda Cagle & Kaylee Saarinen
Stephanie Robertson	Hueytown	Tammy & Bruce Carpenter
Toni Johnson	Madison	Genie Riddle
Stephanie Fulmer	Mulga	Tammy & Bruce Carpenter
Nicole Tegner	Northport	Reginald Eppes & Danielle Eppes
Ashley Parrott	Sulligent	Randall Parrott & Dana Gilliam
Carolyn Burnett	Talladega	Andrea Herbster & Stephanie Stephens
Skyla Williams	Tuscaloosa	Reginald Eppes & Danielle Eppes
Margaret Bridges	Vestavia Hills	Suzanne Scott Trammell

ALABAMA EMMAUS COMMUNITY

Alabama Emmaus Walk 542
May 14-17, 2026

Lay Director Randy Nelson - Perseverance

Assistant Lay Directors
Bob Townley - Priority
Dennis Murphy - Fourth Day
Stirling Rait
Gene Ingram
Zack Dollar
Bill Rush

Spiritual Director Ted Anderson - Means of Grace

Assistant Spiritual Directors
Paul Vick - Obstacles to Grace
David Sherrell - Sanctifying Grace
Todd Henderson - Prevenient Grace
Jerry Stewart - Justifying Grace

Music Chairperson Bob Bentley

Assistant Table Leaders
Keith Minix - Body of Christ
Alan Walker - Discipleship
David Moorer - Life of Piety
Lee Bailey - Changing our World
Don Barnhill - Priesthood
Aaron Murchison - Christian Action
Randy Nelson Jr - Growth Through Study

Table Leaders
Scott Mitchell
Jamie Anderson
Michael Burger
Jim Dargan
Michael Hicks
T Ray Mauldin
John Fillebaum

Board Reps Stephanie Kirby Minix
Cathy Parker

Committees

Agape	Debra Fennell	(256) 252-2796
Meal Service	Mike Parker	(256) 749-8124
Refreshments	Denise Burford	(256) 238-3159
Tech Support	Chrystal Whitehead	(256) 516-1272
Prayer Vigil	Dian Long	(256) 839-6827
Housing	Judy Vaughn	(205) 500-1800
Candlelight	John Ray Hardy	(256) 770-6918
Clean-up	James Homady	(334) 758-4511
Closing	Chuck Cohron	(205) 739-9606
Entertainment	Don Shelton	(256) 214-2454
Follow-up	Stephen Milstead	(205) 229-5907
Prayer Chapel	Sylvia Cashen	(256) 525-9742
Sponsors' Hour	Kay Beasley	(256) 698-8462
Worship	Kay Davis	(256) 627-8438
Photographer	Tammy Martinez	
Humble Servant	Woni Nelson	(256) 404-4923

Pilgrims

Name	Location	Sponsor
Jay Langford	Birmingham	Ron Babin & Mike Bingham
Zach Robinson	Chelsea	Julie Robinson
James Hall	Detroit	Jeremy Prestage & Rob Crook
Jordan Gray	Fayette	Priscilla Gray & Sam Junkin
Corey Hunnicutt	Fayette	Melinda Wheat & Mark Wheat
Floyd Rogers, Jr.	Fayette	Priscilla Gray & Destyn Stowe
Shaun Fuller	Florence	Skip Hopson & Chris Weldon
William Hernandez	Florence	Clay Jackson
John Garner	Glencoe	JR Voyles & Tamara Voyles
Cody Fowler	Guntersville	Sherry Lusk & Joe Lusk
Scott Thomson	Guntersville	Nate Beasley
Patrick Sutton	Hamilton	Sheilah Wiginton & Sheila Riley
Curt Guenther	Hoover	Steve Smith
Wes Faiella	Huntsville	Jerry Faiella & Nessa Faiella
Brady Isbell	Leeds	Stephen Robinson
Adam Mccollum	Phil Campbell	Shawn Gober & Cheri Gober
Jim Nunez	Springville	Fred Falbo
Craig Box	Sulligent	Jeremy Prestage & Rob Crook

ALABAMA EMMAUS COMMUNITY