

The Walk Way

Eastern Shore Emmaus Newsletter



A Message From Our Community Lay Director

April

Dates to Remember

Eastern Shore Community Gathering

April 11, 2026
Camp Occohanock
9403 Camp Lane
Belle Haven, VA 23417
No Pot Luck
Gathering 7:15

ES Emmaus Board Meeting

April 27, 2026
7:00 pm
Craddockville UMC
3346 Boston Rd
Craddockville, VA 23341

All are welcome

Articles from Community Members
are welcome!! Please submit in
MSWord format before the 20th of
the month to:

Jean Baker
Jean.mbak@cox.net

Hello to our Emmaus Community! April surely got here in a hurry and there is a lot going on. As you receive this newsletter, we are right in the middle of Easter Week. Palm Sunday having passed, when Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, to good Friday when they marched Him up the hill, to Easter Sunday when He rose from the tomb. These events were never laid out and explained to me in a more deep and profound way than when I walked as a Pilgrim on ES104. The worst tragedy turned into the ultimate victory!

The Men's Walk starts just 4 days after Easter Sunday on April 9th. The team has prepared for the last 7 weeks and will be ready to answer the call. The Women's Walk is just 2 weeks behind and will commence on April 23rd. They too have been hard at work preparing to take their group of Pilgrims through the Walk. While these men and women of ES 130 and ES 131 are trusted servants who have sacrificed time, energy, talents and more for the Walks, they need our support as a Community. First and foremost, prayer, prayer and more prayer for the teams and Pilgrims. Also, attendance at the special events of the Weekends. Write Agape, attend Sponsor's Hour (even if you aren't sponsoring), Candle Lighting, Rise and Shine, as well as Closing. Sign up for kitchen help, cabin clean-up and luggage transport at the end of each Walk. Community involvement really makes it happen. It's the Christian way!!! Please remember that sponsors should attend all events, if possible.

The Team rosters and Pilgrim lists are available on our website, esvaemmaus.com. Please visit the site to see the list for writing Agape letters and check out the Walk logos.

Between Easter and the Spring Walks, April is our busiest month by far. Great joys and blessings come at the price of sacrifice for others. Let's remember the ultimate sacrifice that was made by Him who went to the Cross to save us from our sins.

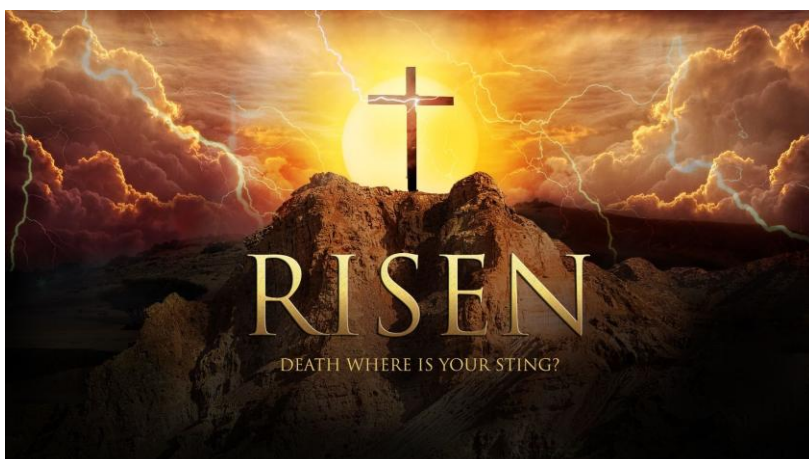
"Because He lives, I can face tomorrow

Because He lives, all fear is gone

Because I know, He holds the future

And life is worth the living just because He lives"

Frank Walter ES104 Community Lay Director



An Article From Our Spiritual Director



Emmaus April Spiritual Director Devotion

“And when He (God) had removed him (Saul), He raised up for them David as king, to whom He gave testimony and said, ‘I have found David, the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do My will.”
Acts 13:22 – 23

April is a special month, we celebrate Easter where Jesus goes to the cross to bear all our sins, as He died on the cross which at the time was a tragic event. But Jesus’ resurrection three days later paid the penalty of our sin. For those that have chosen to accept that gift of salvation, we have the promise of eternal life and a heavenly home awaiting us in the future. This deserves a Hallelujah!

April also is a time when both men pilgrims and women pilgrims will take their spring walk to Emmaus. Men teamers and women teamers have been preparing for those weekends. The community has been busy volunteering for events taking place on those weekends. The community has also been preparing acts of agape too both the pilgrims and teamers. Everyone is getting excited for what God is going to do during those seventy-two hour weekends.

There are several ways to describe what takes place on Emmaus Walks but the one I want to talk about this month is men and women after God’s own heart.



Spiritual Director (continued)

I put the word **after** underlined when I shared the scripture today. The reason I chose to do this is because sometimes we read the scripture as if David had a heart like God. The result can be our asking God to give us a heart like His. It can also sometimes cause false expectations in our fellow teamers and the pilgrims that come on those weekends. So, what I am saying, “We are all flawed human beings chasing after God’s own heart.” And with the testimony that God gave David knowing the times that he got selfish and only wanted to please his own heart’s desire, God is pleased with men and women after His own heart. No one going on these walks if they be pilgrims or teamers to include myself as a Spiritual Director or without flaws, but all of us wanting to please God will be after God’s own heart. The result of all those that seek after God’s own heart is that we will do His will. Please pray for all these men and woman that seek after God’s own heart.

De Colores

Pastor Joe Barnes



Message from a Community Member



Reflection on my Emmaus Walk

My Walk was #87 “Lord, I give you my heart” in April 2013. My husband Dan was sponsored by the one and only OG Barbara Taunitis two weeks prior to my Walk and did not share anything with me before I went. I had been attending Exmore Baptist since 2011 and was saved so I was excited to go on this spiritual weekend to grow in my faith even more.

The night before the Walk I had a terrible dream. We were renovating our kitchen so my every waking thoughts were on construction, paint choices etc so this dream was me walking through my dining room towards the kitchen looking down at the floor at what looked like a giant “hell hole” literally beckoning me, trying to pull me down into it and I yelled at that hole ‘Who the Son set free is FREE INDEED’ and it closed up! I was so grateful for storing scripture in my heart those last 2 years to declare that in my sleep, little did I know that that was the beginning of the “spiritual warfare” I would experience for the entire Emmaus weekend.

Thursday night meet and greet got off to a normal start and soon we were going to bed, the next morning I had a terrible headache. I tried to ignore it all through Chapel (I was getting upset, I knew God had called me to this weekend and couldn’t understand why and I realized I had to go to someone and let them know I couldn’t go on). Susan Gibb, our beautiful Lay Director, assured me it was ok to go back to the cabin and try to sleep and she’d send someone to check on me. Crying at this point, not sure if it was the pain or having to leave I left. While I was sleeping I had a terrifying dream, was like a scene out of a Old Western movie: I was running down a path in front of some stores because a wild horse was chasing me and just when it reared up on 2 legs to come down on me I was able to shut a divided door, first the bottom then the top. Phew! Talk about more spiritual warfare! I woke up from that and knew God was working something out of me. True to her promise Susan sent me an angel, Teresa Gladden to see if I was ok. She brought me yogurt and encouraged me, told me she promised my husband 2 weeks before that she would take care of me (she was also the Assistant Table Leader at my table “Happy Hearts”). When I was finally able to go back to the Lynch Building pain free I was relieved to find out I only missed 2 talks AND that they had prayed for me, may have been the same time I had that dream and the whole Emmaus group may have been doing the “spiritual warfare” on my behalf, I certainly like to think so!!

I loved every activity and every talk, bonded with my table and felt the Holy Spirit so strongly that weekend. BUT there was a problem, every time we had communion I could not bring myself to take it. I remembered a scripture about if you have any unforgiveness in your heart (or something against your brother), that you need to lay down your gifts at the alter and go and first be reconciled (Matthew 5:23-24). I was so convinced that since I was there, did not have a phone or any way to say I am sorry to the person, that I did not feel worthy of the sacraments. It was such a huge struggle internally, I loved God so much and wanted to be reverent and felt everyone was looking at me (I know someone reading this now probably remembers me, I was the ONLY one who would not go up the entire weekend) BUT GOD ...so good in His mercifulness ... HE showed me after one of the big events that we experience as I was praying and it came down to the very last person to receive Holy Communion the Lord spoke to me and said "I trust you to make this right when you leave this place and I forgive you and know that you have forgiven as well, do not deny yourself my gift of my body and blood shed for you"!! And with tears in my eyes, I made my way up to the area and got to Pastor Dave Hackett (whom I had already spoken to about my hesitation) and he personally gave me the sacraments. I love that man!

So many more stories but will save for another time! I am so grateful to Emmaus and all the dedicated Godly people who believe that this short 72 hour Walk truly changes lives and sets the captives free.

De Colores!!!

Karen Macca



INCREASE IN SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS!

The Eastern Shore Emmaus Board of Directors has increased the amount of scholarship money available to \$100 per pilgrim

Outreach

April 9 –April 12, 2026	April 9 – 12, 2026	April 16 – 19, 2026
Men's Walk #49 Ashland Area Emmaus Cornerstone Methodist Church Ashland, KY 41101	Men's Walk #138 Brazos Valley Emmaus Community Retreat Center Caldwell, TX 77836	Men's Walk # 129 Care Bexar Emmaus Community Alto Frio Baptist Camp Leakey, TX 78873
Women's Walk #276 Big Country Emmaus Big Country Baptist Encampment Lueders, TX	Women's Walk # 91 New Horizon Emmaus Amherst Christian Retreat Center Amherst, TX	Women's Walk # 157 Heart of Carolina Emmaus Short Journey Retreat Center Smithfield, NC
Men's Walk #66 Highlands Emmaus Community of Virginia Mountain Harvest Lebanon, VA 24266	Men's walk # 119 Cross Point Emmaus Cross Point Camp Kingston, OK 73439	Men's Walk # 123 Shenandoah Valley Emmaus Camp Overlook Keezletown, VA 22832
Men's Walk # 107 East Ohio Emmanuel Emmaus Beach City, OH	Men's Walk # 118 New Covenant Emmaus Crystal Springs Camp Kelso, TN	Women's Walk # 162 United Emmaus Appalachian Christian Camp Unicoi, TN37652
Men's Walk # 109 Houston Bay Area Emmaus The Lodge at Danbury Danbury, TX 77534	April 13 – 16, 2026	Women's Walk # 126 Coastal Carolina Emmaus Salt & Light Christian Center N Topsail Beach, NC 28460
Girls Flight 49 Chattanooga-Lafayette Chrysalis Camp Lookout, GA	Face to Face Encounter #7 Iowa Walk to Emmaus Wesley Global Methodist Church Sioux City, IA	Women's Walk # 107 East Ohio Emmanuel Emmaus Beach City, OH
Boy's Flight 49 Chattanooga- Lafayette Chrysalis Camp Lookout, GA	Face to Face Encounter # 22 North Georgia Face to Face Alpharetta Methodist Church Alpharetta, GA30004	Men's Walk # 191 Central Mississippi Emmaus 6 Mile Camp Crystal Springs, MS 39059
Men's Walk #133 Southeastern Indiana Emmaus Mahoning Valley Christian Service Camp Rushville, IN 46173		Walk # 51 Servant Heart Emmaus Camp Whispering Pines Citronelle, AL 36522

Outreach (continued)

April 16 – 19, 2026	April 16 – 19, 2026	April 23 – 26, 2026
Women's Walk # 47 Northern Lights Emmaus Monroe OH 45050	Men's Walk # 71 Grace Emmaus of Silicon Valley San Ramon UMC Alamo, CA 94507	Men's Walk #103 Oceanside Emmaus South Florida 6500 SW 47 th St Davie, FL 33314
Men's Walk # 111 Sandhills Walk to Emmaus Pinehill Baptist Camp Bennettsville, SC 29512	Men's Walk # 289 Golden Spread Emmaus Ceta Canyon Retreat Center Wayside, TX	Men's Walk #115 Illinois Heartland Walk to Emmaus East Bay Camp Hudson, IL 61748
Men's Walk #161 Eastern Panhandle of WV Emmaus Marlu Ridge Conference Center Jefferson, MD 21755	Women's Walk # 134 Southeastern Indiana Emmaus Mahoning Christian Service Camp Rushville, IN 46173	Men's Walk # 135 Hoosier Hills Emmaus Orleans, IN
Men's Walk # 208 Nashville Upper Room Emmaus Good Shepherd UMC Hendersonville, TN 37075	Men's Walk # 77 High Desert Emmaus West Mountain Pointe Camp Frazier Park, CA	Caminata de Hombres Comunidad Emaus Latina Emanuel Pocono Plateau Camp and Retreat Cresco, PA 18326
Women's Walk #119 New Covenant Emmaus Crystal Springs Camp Kelso, TN	April 18- 20, 2026	Men's Walk # 141 Mesquite Country Christian Emmaus Camp Butman Merkel, TX
Women's Walk # 120 Cross Point Emmaus Cross Point Camp Kingston, OK 73439	Girl's Flight # 95 Columbus Indiana Chrysalis Community Hilltop Camp Columbus, IN 47203	Women's Walk # 146 Richmond Emmaus Chanco on the James Spring Grove, VA 23881
Men's Walk #267 North Indiana Emmaus Trinity on Jackson Church Elkhart, IN 46516	Boy' Flight # 94 Columbus Indiana Chrysalis Community Hilltop Camp Columbus, IN 47203	Men's Walk # 156 Lexington Emmaus Community Asbury Seminary, Wilmore, KY

April 23-26,2026	April 23 – 26, 2026	April 30 –May 3, 2026
Men's Walk #217 North Georgia Walk to Emmaus King's Retreat Dallas, GA	Women's Walk # 201 Noahs of Ark Emmaus Camp Tanako Hot Springs AR 71913	Women's Walk # 104 Oceanside Emmaus, South FL
Women's Walk #56 Ashland Area Walk to Emmaus Cornerstone Methodist Church Ashland, KY 41101	Men's Walk # 53 Springfield Area Emmaus High Street UMC Springfield, OH	Women's Walk # 136 Hoosier Hills Emmaus Orleans, IN
Women's Walk # 124 Shenandoah Valley Emmaus Camp Overlook Keezletown, VA 22832	Women's Walk # 139 Brazos Valley Emmaus Cross Roads Retreat Center Caldwell, TX 77836	Men's Walk # 69 Hill Country Emmaus Light on the Hill at Mount Wesley Kerrville, TX 78028
Men's Walk # 163 United Emmaus Appalachian Christian Camp Unicoi, TN 37652	Women's Walk #210 Nashville Upper Room Emmaus Good Shepherd UMC Hendersonville, TN 37075	Caminata de Mujeres ComunidadEmaus Latina Emaunuel Pocono Plateau Camp Cresco, PA 18326
Women's Walk # 181 Missouri East Emmaus High Hill Christian Camp High Hill, MO 63350	Women's Walk #268 North Indiana Emmaus Trinity on Jackson Church Elkhart IN 46516	Women's Walk # 251 North Georgia Walk to Emmaus King's Retreat Dallas, GA
Women's Walk # 192 Central Mississippi Emmaus 6 Mile Camp Crystal Springs, MI 39059	Women's Walk # 72 Grace Emmaus of Silicon Valley San Ramon Valley UMC Alamo, CA 94507	Women's Walk #53 West Michigan Emmaus Portage Lake Covenant Bible Camp Onokama, MI 49675
Women's Walk #65 Greater Scioto Valley Emmaus Koinonia Farms Camp Laurelville, OH 43135	Women's Walk #77 High Desert Emmaus West Mountain Pointe Camp Frazier Park, CA	Men's Walk #88 Florida Crown Emmaus Camp St. John St. Johns, FL 32259

Eastern Shore Emmaus Prayer Chain



To know God is to experience God. Just as we experience aspects of one another as we grow in friendship, we experience the wonders of God as we seek to simply know him. God is calling us to a life of seeking him with all we are. He is calling us to a deeper relationship with him, in hopes that we would love to know Him above all others

The single greatest privilege in life is to know God. The God who formed you, provides for you and sent his Son to die for you longs to have real relationship with you. He longs to be known by you. And through the powerful sacrifice of Jesus, we truly can know him like any other, and more deeply and fully in fact.

And from the place of knowing God, we are granted the ability to experience his incredible attributes and be blessed by a greater awareness of our union with him. When we seek to know God, the Bible is clear that we experience his love, hear his voice, and feel his peace. We can partner in his purposes, experience his freedom, and rest in his presence.

One of the most crucial ways to know God and experience his presence completely, is through prayer. Communication through heart-felt and earnest prayer can give us a clearer awareness of God's will for lives and love He has for us as his children.

With those words in mind, I'd live to invite you to join the Emmaus Prayer Team. If you have a prayer request or would live to receive e-mails, the address to remember is EmmausPrayerTeam@gmail.com.

Steve Johnson





T-shirts, Sweatshirts, Ball Cap, Visors and Pens with various ES Emmaus logos are available for purchase. If you are interested in buying any of these items, please contact, Curt Dennis, Jr. and he will make arrangements to get them to you. He will take orders from you and will deliver them to you at the following gathering.

Curt Dennis
443-783-1892



Where did the Easter Bunny Come From?

As Christians probably already know, the Bible makes no mention of a mythical hare who delivered eggs to children on Resurrection Sunday. So why has a rabbit become a prominent part of our culture's most important celebration of rebirth and renewal? Theories point to an ancient pagan tradition on which many of our Easter traditions are based, the festival of Eostre, which honored the goddess of fertility and spring. The goddess's animal symbol was a rabbit, which has traditionally stood for fertility due to their high reproduction rates. (Early Christians were smart enough to initially tie important Christian dates with pagan festivals with the intent that the paganism would be replaced by the Christian intent)

The character of the Easter Bunny in the US originated in the 1700's with German immigrants in Pennsylvania who reportedly brought over the tradition of an egg laying hare named "Osterhase" from the Old Country. The legend has it that the rabbit would lay colorful eggs as gifts to children who were good. Eventually the fabled bunny's delivery spread throughout America and expanded to delivery of other treats such as chocolate and toys

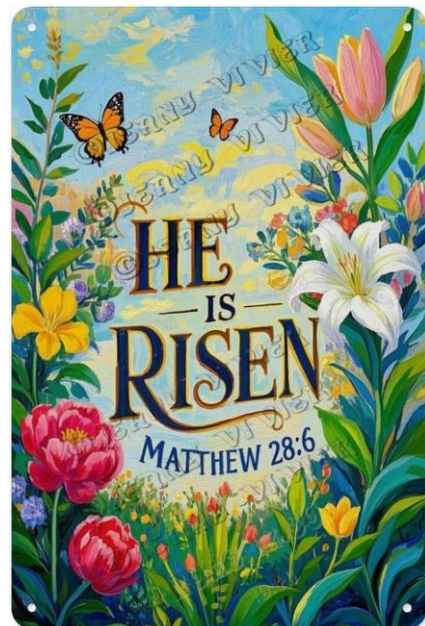
Sponsorship Corner

Happy Easter!!

What great news that the scholarship funding has increased! I hope this will make community more open to sponsoring more pilgrims! Although the men's deadline has passed, there is still time to add pilgrims for the women's walk this spring. And it's never too early to recruit pilgrims for the fall walks.

Sponsors don't forget to stay for Sponsor's Hour as well as our Gathering on Saturday evening and the other special activities that we do.

De Colores
Jean Baker



Directory, Website,
Newsletter

Greetings to everyone! The Emmaus directory and website are being maintained by Steve Johnson. Please remember that if you notice errors in the current directory please contact Steve by completing a contact information form on the website (esvaemmaus.com). Please send **any** information you may have such as addresses, marriages, deaths and email addresses on file. Steve has posted a link to the directory on the Eastern Shore Emmaus and Chrysalis facebook page.

Community members may request access to the **Eastern Shore Emmaus and Chrysalis Facebook** page. You will be requested to provide your walk location and date to be allowed in. It is for Community Members Only!

The Walk Way Newsletter will be sent via email as close to the first of the month as possible (provided all requested articles are received). You may submit articles for the newsletter; they will be included (after review) if received before the 20th of the month. The newsletter editor is Jean Baker 757-650-2303 Jean.mbaker@cox.net Please contact me if you wish to be removed from the newsletter distribution list, you are not receiving or cannot open the newsletter.

Don't forget this month's gathering!
Saturday April 11
9403 Camp Lane
Belle Haven, VA 23417
No Pot Luck
Worship and Service 7:15