

# The Walk Way

Eastern Shore Emmaus Newsletter



## January Dates to Remember

### Eastern Shore Community Gathering

January 10, 2026  
Craddockville UMC  
3346 Boston Rd  
Belle Haven, VA 3306

Pot luck 5:30  
Gathering 6:30

### ES Emmaus Board Meeting

January 26, 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 20<sup>th</sup> of the month to:  
Jean Baker  
Jean.mbakera@cox.net

### A Message From Our Community Lay Director

#### Happy New Year!!!

Wow, December just flew by! I hope that each of you enjoyed the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. December is such a busy month, with all of the activities and preparations that take place. It arrives and has passed before we know it.

January is here and it's a good time to look ahead and get our ducks in a row. (Remember Priorities!!!) Ephesians 2:10 states "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared us in advance to do". In my Christian Walk, I have never known what was around the corner. None of us have a crystal ball. If I trust in God, with the full awareness and knowledge that he has a plan and will not hand me anything that he has not prepared me for, I can look to the future with joy. Opportunities to serve the Lord by serving others will be coming. This is what we live for.

With the Spring Walks coming soon, consider being a sponsor and sharing the gift that was given to each of us when we walked as Pilgrims. Pray that God reveals that person who would be right for the Emmaus Walk experience and your paths will cross!!!

One of the joys I've experienced as a member of Eastern Shore Emmaus is attending our monthly gatherings. Our time spent with others on the Walks is brief and filled with activity. Our gatherings give the opportunity to fellowship in a more relaxed atmosphere and get to know each other better. We share a meal, sing praises, hear a Fourth Day Talk and share Communion, as well. I've made some very special friends who I didn't get to know during a Walk. Another one of our many blessings! Come and join us on January 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm at Craddockville UMC.

So my focus and priorities for the New Year will be opportunities to serve Eastern Shore Emmaus, my church and my community. There are always needs and always those who need to hear the good news. We strive to further God's Kingdom!!!

"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".  
De Colores  
Frank Walter Community Lay Director ES104



## An Article From Our Spiritual Director



### Emmaus January Spiritual Director Devotion

*“From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”*

*Matthew 4:17*

#### Happy New Year 2026!

The year 2025 has ended, and the year 2026 has begun. We have all now said to those we have spent New Year's Eve with to those that we have seen directly following the New Year coming into existence. We have all heard those that have said, "I sure hope 2026 is better than 2025." Those are the same people that we said, "Happy New Year," to last year this time. Do those words reflect the confidence that they would say if ask last year was a happy year? So, why do we say, "Happy New Year?" My guess is that we are just pointing out that this is a good point to put any past failures behind us and push forward with a reset. It is a new year and a chance for a new beginning to expand on the positive accomplishments of the past year and to correct the things we consider we failed at.

When Jesus started His ministry coming out of the desert, His message to the world was the time has come that you can experience a new beginning. Just think about it for a moment, when Jesus began His ministry, the people were weighted down by a Roman government that held a tight fist on citizens of that day. And then the religious leaders held the Jewish citizens with a tight fist through all the laws that they had created and consequences of not following them. Jesus was telling the world then and He continues to tell the world today that He offers a way to experience freedom even from those in control in the world now.

Just like the Jewish people of that day, we too, believe that our freedom can only come from elimination of those Government leaders and those legalistic spiritual leaders. But Jesus the Bible tells us, "Began to preach." He preached a large audience, but in preaching to the large audience, He always directed it to individuals. The success of the message did not depend on everyone in the large audience to "Repent!" Jesus wanted everyone to hear the solution, but the decision to accept and respond to the solution is an individual choice. Each person that is a Christian (follower of Jesus Christ) heard the message and responded by repenting. But do we have to continue to repent after we become a follower of Jesus Christ? The answer is yes! While I only had to repent once to become a follower of Jesus Christ, it is important for me to continue to repent when I sin to acknowledge that my actions fail to prove that I believe that the kingdom of heaven is present in my life. And if I repent with a sincere heart, it is a reset welcoming the kingdom of heaven to be at work in my life.

Now we could go into a deeper discussion on this but my intent this month is to remind us that shortly we will begin preparing for the spring walk. The Emmaus walk's purpose is to help followers of Christ to reset their lives in a meaningful way. When pilgrims leave that Sunday afternoon, the weekend has helped them to reset their lives with a closer walk with Jesus and experience the kingdom of heaven personally to share when they return to their family, church, and community. Now is the time to sign-up pilgrims for this walk. Then they will be able to say, "2026 was a good year."



De Colores  
Pastor Joe

## A Message From A Community Member

### Why me Lord?

Have you ever asked yourself this question? Why me Lord? I was asked to write this article and again I said why me? Then I thought why not me? God never puts us in situations that we can't handle as long as we rely on him. When we moved to the Eastern Shore and started going to Bayside Community Church I heard about Emmaus. I was on board to go as soon as I heard about it. My family on the other hand was not. Unfortunately, it took until 2022 to get to camp. I was so on fire to be able to get to go to camp and learn more about Jesus and his walk to Emmaus. As my pastor and his wife picked me up I was still excited until they started driving down these long dark and curvy roads. I thought they may have misled me to drop me off at some cult ritual to have to fight my way home because I had no phone and no watch to navigate my way out of here. I didn't even tell my husband or child where I was going, just to Emmaus. Well I got there and I did not know a single person. That's ok because I can speak to the wall and make friends. Within no time I was connected with "my new best friend" who turned out to be the WLD! Then I connected with another Clemson fan who ended up being at my table! To say the least I had a blast those 72 hours and learned much more than what I thought I would. I even got the opportunity to get baptized again. That gave me a renewing spirit in my walk with Jesus. I went there not knowing a single person but there with a new found family. It wasn't a "cult" but a new, crazy rainbow loving, on fire for Jesus. chicken people group!

The entire weekend I heard you can tell people about coming to Emmaus but don't tell them anything about it because you don't want to "ruin" it for them. Well I didn't really understand what that meant when it came to my husband and son because they were home waiting for me to tell them all about it and I told them nothing. I came home in tons of flowers and colors like a rainbow had fallen on me. They asked me about the weekend and I said "well, you sleep some, pray and sing a lot, eat a lot, pray some more and sing some more." It took some years of talking about Emmaus and me being on the Team and Leadership Team for several more walks before my husband and son finally decided to go. My son decided in high school that he loved the Lord and he was going to do more. At his graduation party he told us he wanted to be a Chaplain in the military. He decided that before he went to college and join the military that he wanted to go to Emmaus. Well, he didn't turn 18 until September and he left for his cadet schooling in August. I had to talk with my pastor and his wife and find out what we could do about getting him to Emmaus. Well after a board meeting they decided to let him go! My son was so excited and my husband said, "Well if he goes, then I'll go!" WOW! This got the ball rolling to get them both signed up and ready to go. When the day came to take them to camp my mother-in-law was in a horrible accident. I just knew that my family was not going to Emmaus. There's that question: "why me Lord?" It took me all this time for them to go to Emmaus and then this accident happens. Like I have any control over it. Well, it isn't about me and it was about God. My husband came home from the hospital after seeing his mom in the ICU and both he and my son were going to Emmaus. I was shocked. He said "If not now then I'll never go." We got to the camp and I had a prayer chain going up for my mother in law, my husband and my son. It turned out to be a great weekend for them both. Prayer is a powerful thing! With God all things are possible. My husband and my son both enjoyed the weekend but my son did get baptized before he went off to college and is still pursuing his career to be a Chaplin in the military. My mother-in-law is doing much better from her accident but still has some complications from it.

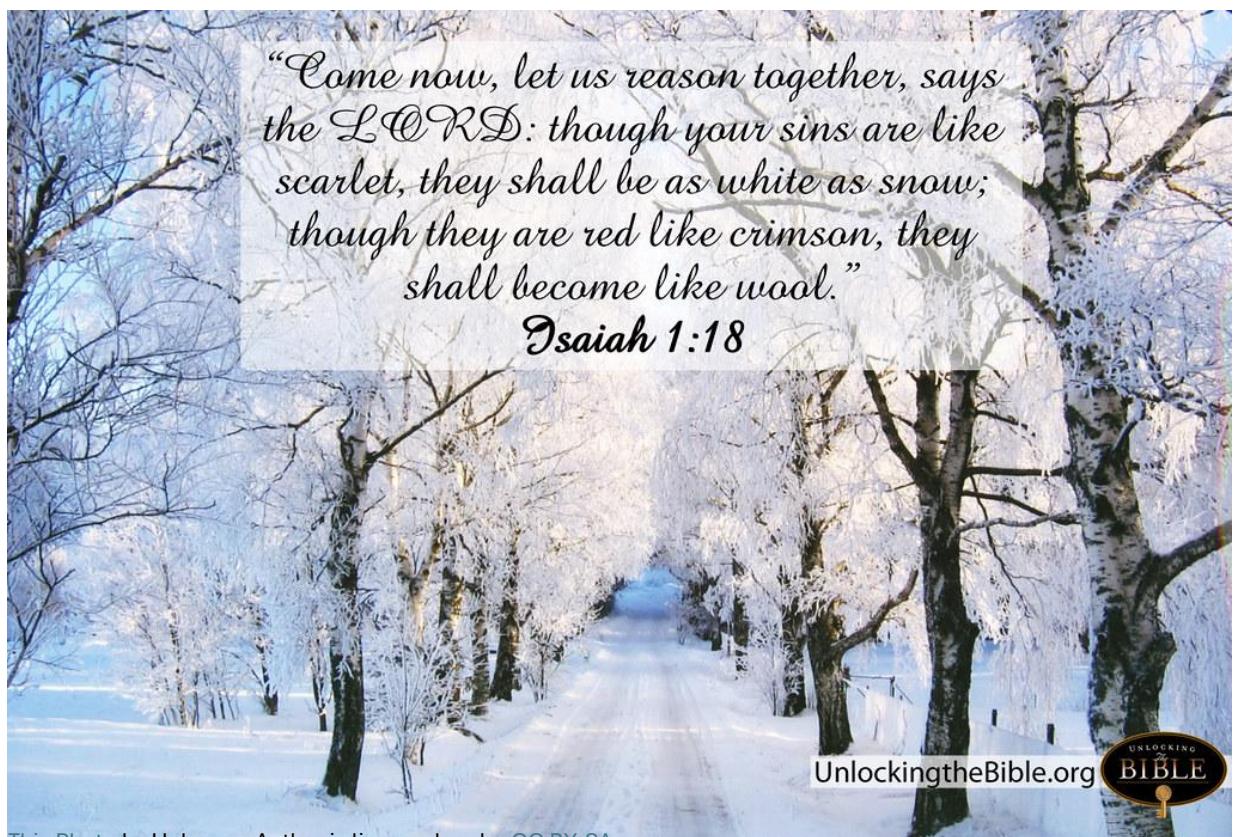
## A Message From A Community Member (continued)

Whenever things start to go sideways in my life, my first thought is why me Lord? But after going to Emmaus and learning that I have a God and a family that loves me and will support me through anything that I am going through, then that question is not hard to answer. Why not me?

I look at obstacles differently now and know that I have to pray, sing, maybe eat, but pray some more and most definitely ask for help whenever an obstacle seems too hard for me to handle alone. Going to Emmaus and to camp was truly an eye opening experience for me and I just can't wait to see what God has in store for me and those pilgrims/teamers in years to come.

De Colores

Shana Shay



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## The Eastern Shore Emmaus and Chrysalis Facebook Page



All Community Members are invited to join, but because it is a closed group, you must answer the questions:

Have you walked (where)? lk Number  
What is your walk number?

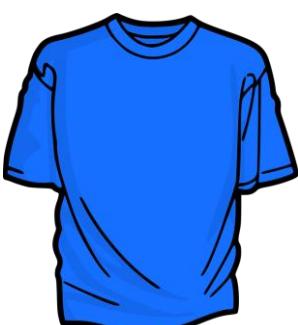
## Outreach

Jan 3 – Jan 6 2026	Jan 17 – Jan 19 2026	Jan 22 – Jan 25 2026
Girls Chrysalis #10 Brazos Valley Emmaus Community HUS Encampment Caldwell, TX 77836	Girl's Chrysalis Flight #46 West Tennessee Chrysalis Trinity Christian Academy Jackson, TN 38305	Men's Walk #92 Crossroads Emmaus Community Cathedral Oaks Worship & Retreat Center Weimer, TX 78962
<b>Jan 16 – Jan 19 2026</b>	Chrysalis Boy's flight #37 Son Coast Chrysalis Salt & Light Christian Center North Topsail Beach, NC 28460	Women's Walk #163 Rushing Wind Emmaus Waka Christian Center Waka, TX 79093
Boy's Chrysalis #114 North Georgia Chrysalis The King's Retreat Dallas, Georgia 30132	Chrysalis Boy's flight #11 Brazos Valley Emmaus Community HUS Encampment Caldwell, TX 77836	Men's Walk # 48 High Plains Emmaus The ARK Amherst, TX
<b>Jan 17 – Jan 19, 2026</b>	<b>Jan 22 – Jan 25 2026</b>	<b>Jan 29 – Feb 1 2026</b>
Chrysalis Boy's Flight #51 Purchase Area Chrysalis Broadway UMC Paducah, Kentucky 42001	Girl's flight #32 Atlanta South Chrysalis Pine Eden Christian Retreat Hamilton, GA 30205	Boy's flight #31 Atlanta South Chrysalis Pine Eden Christian Retreat Center Hamilton, GA 31811
Chrysalis Girl's flight #51 Purchase Area Chrysalis Broadway UMC Paducah, KY 42001	Men's Walk #92 Crossroads Emmaus Community Cathedral Oaks Worship & Retreat Center Weimer, TX 78962	
Boy's Chrysalis flight #46 West Tennessee Chrysalis Alamo First Christian Church Alamo, TN 38001	Women's Walk #163 Rushing Wind Emmaus Waka Christian Center Waka, TX 79093	

## T-shirts, Ball Caps, Visors and Pens

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



## Eastern Shore Emmaus Prayer Chain



Brothers And Sisters In Christ,

As we think about all of the things that this season brings, we should undoubtedly find great joy in celebrating the birth of our Savior. However, sometimes as believers we've known Jesus to be our Savior for so long that we don't grasp or stop to think about all it means for us and we miss out on all the wonderful fruit salvation is meant to bear in our lives.

Jesus came and died not just to make a way into heaven for us that we could not make for ourselves, but also that we might find salvation from the things of this life that don't flow from the heart and hands of the Father. God's will is that we would walk in fullness of life all the days of our lives. He has peace for us instead of anxiety. He has an eternal purpose for us.

So as we move into the year ahead, the challenge for all of us is to pray about anything that may be holding us back from experiencing all of the amazing things that God has in store for us now. We serve a King who was not only born in Bethlehem to be a Savior on Calvary, but comes to us each day offering us salvation from the things of the world.

With those thoughts in mind to offer up in prayer, I'd like to invite each of you to join the Emmaus Prayer Team. To receive e-mail updates or make prayer requests, the address to remember is

[EmmausPrayerTeam@gmail.com](mailto:EmmausPrayerTeam@gmail.com).

Steve Johnson

Emmaus Prayer Team Coordinator

Steve Johnson not only coordinates our prayer chain but also maintains our Community Directory and our Website. It is important to keep our Directory correct and Steve has been struggling to do so. If your contact information has changed please complete the contact information form on the website ([esvaemmaus.com](http://esvaemmaus.com)) or send a note via USPS to the eastern Shore mailbox at P.O. Box 91, Franktown, VA 23354.

Steve has posted the link to the directory on the Eastern Shore Emmaus and Chrysalis Facebook page.



## 2026 Eastern Shore Emmaus Board of Directors

Name	Board Position
Frank Walter	Community Lay Director
Debbie Colburn	Treasurer Assistant Community Lay Director
Meagan Lewis	Secretary
Jean Baker	Records and Manuals Newsletter
Bob Talbot	Community Spiritual Director
Joe Banes	Spiritual Director
Cody Lewis	Pre-Weekend Chairperson
Bethany Busic	Post-Weekend Chairperson Weekend Luggage Help Coordinator
Andy Glenn	Team Selection Chairperson Pilgrim Selection Chairperson
C L Brown	Nominations
Curt Dennis	Logo/T-shirt Sales
Christi Medice	Outreach/Agape
Robbie Dahm	Gathering Coordinator



The monthly ES Emmaus Board Meeting is held the fourth Monday of the month at 7:00 pm Craddockville UMC  
33464 Boston Rd, Craddockville, VA 23341  
All community are welcome to attend

## Sponsorship Corner

### Understanding the Gift of Sponsorship in the Emmaus Community

#### Sponsorship as a Gift

Sponsorship in Emmaus is more than just an invitation; it is a heartfelt gift. When you sponsor someone, you are giving them a unique opportunity for spiritual renewal and personal growth. This act is a selfless offering—sharing the love, encouragement, and support that you once received. It is the gift of time, prayer, and presence, all wrapped in the hope that the sponsored individual will encounter God in a meaningful way.

#### Meaning Behind the Gift

The gift of sponsorship is rooted in care and discernment. Sponsors prayerfully consider whom to invite, seeking those who may benefit most from the Emmaus experience. They walk alongside their candidate, preparing them beforehand, supporting them throughout the retreat, and encouraging them after the event. This ongoing relationship reflects the true spirit of Emmaus—companionship, faith, and transformation.

#### Who do you know that you can bestow the gift of sponsorship upon?

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](http://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](mailto: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 January 10  
Craddockville UMC  
33464 Boston Rd  
Craddockville, VA23341  
Potluck and fellowship 5:30  
Worship and Service 6:30