



GRACE EMMAUS OF THE BLUEGRASS NEWSLETTER

July/August 2026



**“As they talked and discussed these things with each other
Jesus himself came up and walked along with them;”
Luke 24:15 NIV**

Grace Emmaus of the Bluegrass

AUGUST GATHERING

Bring a soup, side, salad, or dessert — main dish provided

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 2026 • 5:30 PM

HOSTED BY THE HILL CHURCH

First Baptist Church Faith Center
300 Hustonville Street, Liberty, KY

POTLUCK MEAL | FELLOWSHIP | WORSHIP | DEVOTION | COMMUNION

We can't wait to see you there!

Grace Emmaus of the Bluegrass 2026 Event Calendar

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| August 15 | Community Gathering at 5:30pm
Hosted by The Hill Church @ First Baptist Church Faith Center - 300 Hustonville St, Liberty, KY |
| September 19 | Community Gathering at 5:30pm
Bedford Acres Christian Church - 5414 Lexington Rd, Paris |
| October 1-4 | Men's Walk #33, Send Off 7pm
Bluegrass Christian Camp - 7463 Athens Boonesboro Road, Lexington |
| October 3 | Walk #33 Community Gathering
Meal at 7pm & Service at 8pm - Bluegrass Christian Camp |
| October 6 | Walk #33 Fourth Day "Beyond the Walk" Meeting at 6:30pm
Harmony Fellowship, 200 Rebel Rd, Nicholasville |
| October 8-11 | Women's Walk #34, Send Off 7pm
Bluegrass Christian Camp - 7463 Athens Boonesboro Road, Lexington |
| October 10 | Walk #34 Community Gathering
Meal at 7pm & Service at 8pm - Bluegrass Christian Camp |
| October 13 | Walk #34 Fourth Day "Beyond the Walk" Meeting at 6:30pm
Lexington First Church of God, 505 Kingston Rd, Lexington |
| November 14 | Thanksgiving Gathering at 5:30pm
Gardenside Christian Church - 940 Holly Springs Road, Lexington |



"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light." — Ephesians 5:8

Every day we have a choice: will we reflect the light of Christ or allow darkness to influence our hearts, attitudes, and words?

Scripture reminds us in 2 Timothy 2:15 to *"study to show yourself approved unto God."* As we grow in knowledge and faith, His light shines brighter through us. Our words also carry great power. Proverbs 18:21 tells us that *"death and life are in the power of the tongue."* We can use our words to encourage, restore, and bring life—or we can unintentionally bring hurt and division.

The Holy Spirit lovingly reveals areas where we need growth. Philippians 2:12 calls us to *"work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,"* reminding us that self-examination is part of our spiritual journey. We must be willing to recognize our own shortcomings before pointing out the struggles of others.

James 3:10 reminds us, *"Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so."* If Christ's light is truly shining through us, His agape love should be evident in the way we speak and treat others.

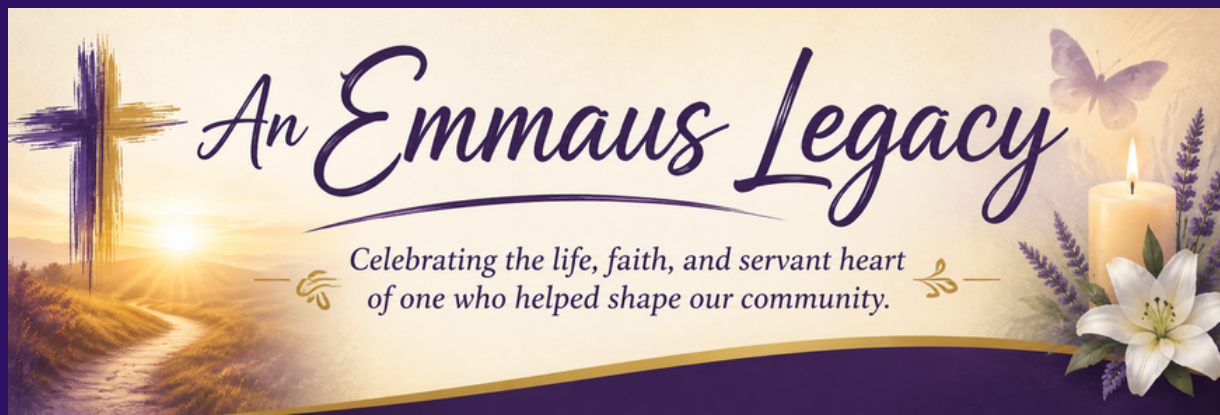
When someone stumbles, Galatians 6:1 encourages us to restore them *"in a spirit of gentleness."* Our role is not to condemn, but to lovingly point one another back to the restoring grace of Jesus. As Jesus taught in Matthew 7, we must first examine the *"two by four"* in our own eye before focusing on the speck in someone else's.

As we prepare our hearts during these Emmaus Walks, may we each ask: Am I reflecting the light of Christ? Are my words building others up? Is my life pointing people toward His love?

I am praying for those who recognize their struggles and are seeking God's help—and also for those who struggle with recognizing they have struggles. We all need the transforming light of Christ.

Let us ALL (myself included) intentionally choose the light over darkness each day. May we be vessels of light, carrying His love, grace, and truth into a world that desperately needs Him. It is an honor and privilege to serve alongside you. De Colores!

Joy Harris-Edwards, Grace Emmaus (Corbin) Walk #29 — Table of Ruth



Celebrating the Life of Louise Sorrel

Our Emmaus community mourns the loss of a beautiful servant of Christ, Louise Sorrel. We were blessed when Louise and her husband, David, joined us from the Great Banquet Community and became part of the Grace Emmaus of the Bluegrass family.

Louise's faith was evident in everything she did. She had a smile that could light up a room and hugs that made you feel truly loved and welcomed. She shared the love of Christ not only through her words, but through the way she lived her life.

We are grateful for the blessing of having Louise as part of our community and for the legacy of faith she leaves behind. We also celebrate the Emmaus connections within her family: Brother, Bill Floyd, neice Amy Painter (Walk #6), nephew-in-law Sam Painter (Walk #5), and great neice Elizabeth Painter (Walk #22), Josh (Walk #13) and Leslie (Walk #14) Daughterty. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

Arrangements: Visitation will be held at 2:00 PM on Saturday, August 8, with a Celebration of Life service following at 3:00 PM at Lexington First Church of God.

Louise's presence will be deeply missed, but her love, her joy, and her testimony of Christ will continue to live on in all who were blessed to know her.

The Heroes of Emmaus

Every Emmaus Walk is built on heroes—not those seeking recognition, but those faithfully serving Christ. As we reflect on the history of Grace Emmaus of the Bluegrass, we remember with gratitude of our founding members, Don Dever, Larry Bishop, and Carlos Cook. Their vision, leadership, and unwavering faith helped establish a community that has touched countless lives. Though they are now with the Lord, their legacy lives on in every Pilgrim who experiences God's grace through Emmaus.

Their example reminds us that the strength of Emmaus has always been found in servant hearts. We also honor the countless volunteers—many whose names will never appear in print—who have quietly given their time, talents, prayers, and financial support over the years. They prepare meals, write agape, sponsor Pilgrims, serve on teams, pray behind the scenes, set up, clean up, and fill whatever need arises. They ask for no applause, only the opportunity to serve.

Jesus said, "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant." (Mark 10:43)

With gratitude to Don Dever, Larry Bishop, and Carlos Cook for helping lay the foundation of this community. Thank you to every anonymous volunteer past and to those who continue to build upon it. Because of your faithfulness, lives have been changed, faith has been strengthened, and Christ has been glorified.

You are the heroes of Emmaus.



He wanted more. He wants more.

When I went on my walk in the Spring of 2023, I would've said I was a Christian. I was the one that didn't need to be there, needed it the least, or so I thought. I was serving in my church, I was doing all the things, checking all the boxes... or so I thought.

The LORD spoke to me during my walk, and in the days, weeks, and months following. His voice was so loud and unmistakable in my ears. I couldn't deny it was the Father trying to get my attention. I was already a "Christian", but I was a box checker. I was the definition of lukewarm. He wanted more. He wanted more than just my time and efforts in church. He wanted more of me, more access to me, more obedience, not just more of my time, but more quality time, The Father wanted more of my heart.

Serving out of obligation turned into true Christian servanthood. My sensitivity to the Holy Spirit was magnified. God began speaking to me about things He wanted me to address in my life, areas that needed refining. And, I began to listen! I had to. The Holy Spirit's voice in my head and heart was so loud and insistent. That refining process can be difficult. And painful. But it is so necessary for our development and growth. (grrrrroooooowwwwth, IYKYK). I'm thankful that the Potter hasn't thrown the clay away. He's still working on me and saw fit to get my attention on my Emmaus. Walk at just the right time.

There were people in my life that loved on me, and believed that there was more Kingdom purpose in me than I could see. My sponsor and his wife saw more in me. The sweet servants on my walk saw more in me and our Father saw more. He wanted more. He wants more.

I know I'm still in the Refiner's Fire, and I'm so thankful for those flames. I welcome the process now. Being a Christian is so much more than being a box checker. It's about following. It's about surrendering our lives and will to the Father's. It's about giving him more. He wanted more of me, he WANTS more of me, and I can promise you He wants more of you too.

De Colores!

Karen Barnes, Walk 20 Table of Esther



Have you ever wondered why Emmaus does the things we do? Such as: Why do we ask people to share their Fourth Day testimonies?

Of course, the first and most obvious answer is to share with others what God has done/is doing in our lives and to encourage them to see His hand on/in their own life. But could there be more?

Have you noticed that each time you share your story with others, each time you tell someone about your walk with God, that it becomes just a bit easier, a bit more comfortable? And for me, each time in the telling and retelling, my story becomes a little more detailed and a bit more alive, albeit sometimes longer

God, and Emmaus, know that these personal experiences are what touch others, inspire and ignite their interest, and even help the listener to see and recognize the presence and influence of God in their own stories, their own daily lives.

Now let's shift the paradigm: is it possible God has another use & purpose for our stories? Is it not in the influencing and inspiring others through our stories that we encourage others to desire to experience "Jesus with skin" as we have? When are we called to share with someone the intimate, personal experience of the Walk to Emmaus, and relive that life-changing, Closest to Christ experience(s) through the retelling? Not merely at Gatherings and in reunion group meetings, but also when talking with prospective pilgrims, explaining the Walk as we offer to sponsor them/him/her on their own Walk to Emmaus.

When considering sponsorship, and the suggested steps to sponsorship, Emmaus tells us the first step is to pray for discernment, direction of who to invite & sponsor. A following step is to sit down with the individual(s) and talk to him/her about the Walk. This step is where many say they struggle: how to explain the Walk in a way that truly explains the unexplainable.

I suggest we really can't fully explain the Walk to someone who has not experienced it; but we can practice, prepare, and hone our stories through sharing our Fourth Day testimonials – I'm not suggesting memorizing and rehearsing, but becoming more comfortable with the message and vibrance in the re-telling. Wouldn't you say the personal testimony of each speaker is what heightens the impact and meaningfulness of each of the 15 talks? The personal testimony, passion, and real-life experience.

Think about sharing your story in detail, vibrant living color during your next call to sponsorship.

DeColores!



Reunion Groups – 2026



Reunion groups are small accountability groups that meet regularly, usually weekly, to support one another in their spiritual journeys. These groups, typically consisting of four to six people, provide a space for sharing experiences, reflecting on spiritual growth, and encouraging each other in discipleship.

Below is the listing of existing groups and their contact person(s):



MEN

Group	Contact Person	Phone #	Meeting Information
Lexington Prodigals	Andy Milburn	859-948-2828	Tuesdays @ 8am, Sayre Christian Village
Harmony Fellowship	John Ritchie	859 333-6177	Thursday mornings @ 6am, hybrid
Near & Far	Brian Whalen	859-298-5127	Friday evenings, @6:30, virtual



WOMEN

Group	Contact Person	Phone #	Meeting Information
Two or More Ladies	Phyllis Milburn/Mary Dever	423-871-5235/ 859-457-7112	TBD
Lincoln Ladies	Joan Hackley	859-338-8254	Wednesdays @ 1pm, in person & phone mixed
SASL-Sisters Across State Lines	Ellen Williams	859-333-6431	Thursday evenings @ 6:30pm EST, virtual
Church Chicas	Marisol Martin	859-221-6826	first & third Thursdays
Ya-ya's crossing divides	Ellen Williams	859-333-6431	monthly, dates, times, & locations vary
Table of Lydia (32)	Cheryl Bogarty/ Ellen Williams	859-553-3376/ 859-333-6431	Mondays @ 7pm via Zoom
A Walk with YHWH	Amanda Maier	270-405-3023	Thursdays @5pm, Lebanon Library



Don't see one that works for you? *Consider starting your own* by following the steps outlined on the back



For Assistance/Support, Facilitation, Guidance in starting a new group,
feel free to reach out to



Men: Brian Whalen | 859-298-5127 | bwhalenky@gmail.com



Women: Ellen Williams | 859-333-6431 | p413ewill@gmail.com





EMMAUS APPLICATION

Emmaus Application
Online Option

PRAYER CHART SIGN-UP

Men's Walk #33
Prayer Vigil Sign-Up

Your Emmaus Resource Center

Did you know that almost everything you need for
Grace Emmaus of the Bluegrass is available in one place?

Our website is the hub for staying connected with our community. Whether you're applying for a Walk, serving on a team, or simply wanting to know what's happening next, the information is just a few clicks away. You'll find:

- Walk/Chrysalis Applications
- Flocknote sign-up for prayer requests and community updates
- Prayer Charts sign-ups for upcoming Walks
- Community Calendar
- Community Bylaws
- Forms and documents
- Links to our Facebook Community
- Current Newsletter

Bookmark this page today: gebinfo.org

Then click Helpful Links from the top menu to access the resources you need.

Staying informed helps us stay connected. Whether you're serving, sponsoring, praying, or simply participating in our Fourth Day, our website is your one-stop resource for everything Grace Emmaus of the Bluegrass.

Connected people build a stronger community!

Investing in the Emmaus Experience

Before the Fall Walks begin, we want to share an important update with our Emmaus community. We are thankful for the many ways God continues to bless this ministry and the lives that are changed through each Walk.

After thoughtful discussion and prayer, the Board has approved an adjustment to the Walk fees beginning this Fall. The fee for both **Pilgrims and Volunteers/Team members will be \$150**. If assistance is requested, please reach out to Ellen Williams, Registrar 859-333-6431 or Carolyn Rouse-Horn, Treasurer 859-743-6519.

This update reflects the rising costs of hosting each Walk and will help ensure we can continue providing meaningful Emmaus experiences while responsibly planning for the future of our community.

Thank you for your faithful support, generous spirit, and commitment to the Emmaus ministry. We are excited to see all that God has in store as we prepare for another season of lives being transformed through the Walk to Emmaus.

Together in Faith. Living the Fourth Day.

WALK TO
EMMAUS
THE UPPER ROOM®

To Pay
TEAM OR PILGRIM FEES

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
Grace Emmaus of the Bluegrass

Venmo →
@GraceEmmausofthe-Bluegrass

Last 4 digits of the phone: 2828

venmo

Mailing Address
820 Lusby Mill
Corinth, KY 41010

Thank you for your generosity and support
as we continue this journey together!

