RAINBOW REPORTER

The Newsletter for the Blue Lake Emmaus Walk Community

October 2026

Emmaus Sisters and Brothers,

Blue Lake Emmaus Women's Walk #291 is about 3 weeks away. The Lay Director, Karla Seaborn, has chosen Isaiah 43:1 to praise God.

"*Do not fear for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine*."

Fear often tells us that we are alone, forgotten, or beyond rescue. God answers each of those lies with a personal promise: "You are mine."

The Lord does not speak to His family as strangers. He knows us by name - our struggles, our wounds, our hopes, and even the fears we cannot explain. To be called by name is to be fully known. To be redeemed is to be rescued at a cost. And to belong to God is to rest in a love that hardship cannot undo.

This verse does not promise that frightening circumstances will never come. Instead, it reminds us that fear does not have the final word. Whatever we face, we face as people whom God knows, has redeemed, and claims as His own. Our security rests not in our ability to control tomorrow, but in the character of the One who holds us today.

When fear rises, return to God's words: I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine. Let each phrase become an anchor. You are not abandoned. You are not invisible. You belong to God.

Lord Jesus, when fear overwhelms us, help us remember who You are and who we are in You. Thank You for knowing us by name, redeeming us, and calling us Your own. Quiet our anxious thoughts and teach us to trust Your presence and promises. Amen.

You will find 41 names on the Women's Pilgrim roster on page 3. Please be in faithful prayer each day for these ladies and please go to Ministry Manager to sign up for a prayer time slot on the prayer vigil. Also, please be in prayer for the Conference Room team and the Background Support team who have volunteered to serve on BLEW #291. Pray that our Lord Jesus would use each one of them as a special means of grace and Agape love for the ladies on this walk.

As a reminder, we would love to receive your wonderful gifts of Agape' and Agape letters for the ladies. Candlelight Service is on Saturday evening, October 24th starting promptly at 7:30 pm at the Blue Lake Gym.

Also, it's election time and everyone will be voting to fill the following positions on the Blue Lake Emmaus Governing Board: Vice Chair, Team Selection Chair, Blue Lake Liaison, and Emmaus Community Lay Director. You can find a sample ballot on page 7, and instructions to vote electronically if you are unable to vote in person at the Candlelight.

For the latest Emmaus and Chrysalis information, please go to our redesigned website: www.bluelake.us

DeColores!

Larry Bates
BLEW #201
Table of Paul

Walk W-291 Pilgrims

Do not fear for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.
Isaiah 43:1

October 22-25
Lay Director: Karla Saunders
Spiritual Dir: Rev. Nancy Hammond
As of : 10/13/2026

	Pilgrim	City	Church	Sponsor
1.	Austin, Cindy	Midland City, AL	Harvest Church	Eanes, Cindy
2.	Boyce, Lisa	Panama City, FL	Lynn Haven Methodist	Holloran, Jenni
3.	Branch, Cricket	Kinston, AL	Ino Baptist Church	Jerry Barnes
4.	Burton, Heidi	Ft. Walton Beach, FL	The Church at Shalimar	McRae, Jennifer
5.	Bush, Tammy C.	Marianna, FL	Frink Baptist Church	Funkhouser, Debbie
6.	Bush, Tammy L.	Ariton, AL	Ozark First Assembly	Klootwyk, Janice
7.	Carruth, Norma	Milton, FL	Chumukla Comm. Church	Carruth, Mark
8.	Davison, Jessica	Foley, AL	Foley UMC	Polk, Barbie
9.	Disharoon, Karen	Santa Rosa Beach, FL	Seagrove Baptist Church	Levesque, Peggy
10.	Fischer, Casie	Pensacola, FL	Perdido Bay Methodist	Nuetzhorn, Debbie
11.	Friesen, Kathy	Niceville, FL	Crosspoint, Blue Water Bay	Rasbeck, Michelle
12.	Galloway, Rashelle	Dothan, AL	Harvest Church	Offet, Hope
13.	Golden, Antoinette	Panama City, FL	Lynn Haven Methodist	Stewart, Nancy
14.	Harris-Potter, Cynthia	New Brocton, AL		Renicker, Tammie
15.	Heller, Heidi	Orlando, FL	Trinity United Methodist	Heller, Linda Sue
16.	Kimpel, Charlene	Panama City, FL	First UMC, Panama City	Smothers, Edith
17.	Koelker, Stephanie	Holt, FL	Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church	Dewrell, Carol
18.	Lisenby, Linda	Headland, AL	Harvest Church	Eanes, Cindy
19.	McKnight, Wanda Sue	Niceville, FL	Crosspoint, Niceville	Stillwell, Gayle
20.	Miller, Melody	Pensacola, FL	Perdido Bay Methodist	Hohn, Elizabeth
21.	Newsom, Patricia	Niceville, FL	Immanuel Anglican Church	Schipper, Iris
22.	Nolan, Diana	Ft. Walton Beach, FL	Crosspoint, Niceville	Nightingale, Jennifer
23.	Oates, Penny	Pensacola, FL	Perdido Bay Methodist	Laedlein, Ashlan
24.	Roberts, Shelli	Santa Rosa Beach, FL	Good News Church	Roberts, Robbie
25.	Schmitt, Johnnie	Slocomb, AL	Harvest Church	Schmitt, Randy
26.	Shanholtzer, Jeanette	Santa Rosa Beach, FL	Seagrove Baptist Church	Levesque, Peggy
27.	Sitchler, Susana	Milton, FL	Christ Methodist Church	Worley, Rosa
28.	Stover, Katie	Crestview, FL	Hope City Comm. Church	Hust, Laura Jo
29.	Strickland, Michelle	Enterprise, AL	1st Methodist, Enterprise, AL	Ormsby, Heather
30.	Sykes, Wendy	Enterprise, AL	1st Methodist, Enterprise, AL	Zeller, Wendy
31.	Tabor, Gail	Milton, FL	Christ Methodist Church	Young, Judy
32.	Thompson, Ashley	Marianna, FL	First UMC, Marianna	Wise, Greg
33.	Tipton, Deborah	Crestview, FL	First Methodist, Crestview	Inman, Eleuteria
34.	Torres, Trina	Gulf Breeze, FL	Community Life Church	Garcia, Brooke
35.	Trammel. Bettina	Shalimar, FL	Hope City Comm.Church	Halbert, Ann
36.	Truitt, Jessica	Gulf Breeze, FL	Liberty Church	Schulz, Joy
37.	Willoughby, Traci	Crestview, FL	Hope City Comm.Church	Halbert, Ann
38.	Winters, Stacey	Panama City, FL	First UMC, Panama City	S. Norris & L. Mackinnon

Being a Witness

Before Jesus ascends into heaven, he gives us, his followers, our job assignment. Jesus says, ***"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth"*** (Acts 1:8).

Jesus assures us that we will receive power. The Holy Spirit equips us with the gifts and energy we need to do everything Jesus asks us to do. We will be Jesus' witnesses. A witness is someone who testifies about what he or she has experienced so that others will know what has happened and believe. We testify to the atoning death of Jesus that erases our sins, and we testify to his resurrection that conquers death. We witness that God gives new life, life that flourishes with love, joy, peace and hope.

The story that grounds our Walk to Emmaus is the story of two disciples who were walking in despair and perplexity, because they failed to understand the good news of what had transpired in Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Jesus came to them (in a way they did not at first recognize) and explained to them how his death and resurrection fulfilled the Old Testament Scriptures. Then, the two disciples experienced hope. Their hearts were warmed. As they broke bread together with this "stranger," they recognized that he was Jesus with them. You can say that Jesus was witnessing about himself! The two disciples were transformed by this experience.

The living Jesus still transforms people today. When you volunteer to serve on an Emmaus Walk, you are witnessing to the presence of the living Jesus with us. Jesus chooses to be present in and through you. Jesus chooses to be present in and through your acts of service, all your acts of agape love that you enact throughout the Emmaus weekend. The result is that pilgrims experience Jesus' living presence with them.

We don't have to use words to be witnesses during our Emmaus Walk. Both the conference room team and the support team equally convey the presence of Christ. The Holy Spirit empowers us all. The Holy Spirit uses all our various acts of service together to convey the presence of the living Jesus.

If you have not yet served on a walk, will you prayerfully consider doing so? We have 4 Emmaus Walks and 2 Chrysalis Flights scheduled for 2027. Serving on a

walk is one of the ways you can witness to the living presence of Jesus and live out his instructions in Acts 1:8.

In Christ,
Scott Hohn
Emmaus Community Spiritual Director

DeColores!

Blue Lake Emmaus Community,

Voting for the **Blue Lake Emmaus Governing Board Class of 2029** is coming soon! Watch for an email for information for online voting, including a link to the ballot!

You will be voting for the positions of Vice Chairperson, Team Selection Chair, Blue Lake Liaison, and Emmaus Community Lay Director. The nominees are:

Vice Chairperson	Team Selection Chair	Blue Lake Liaison	Emmaus Lay Director
Tommy Tew	KarenElizabeth Carrel	Edith Smothers	Peggy Ratcliff
Ron Toole		Lowell Thomas	

Online voting will remain open through Friday, October 23, 2026.

We encourage you to take a few moments to learn more about each candidate before casting your ballot. Visit Blue Lake Emmaus webpage, bluelake.us, to read candidate bios.

For those who prefer a paper ballot, ballots will be available **Saturday, October 24, from 7:00–7:30 p.m., prior to Candlelight**. Please submit **only one ballot**, either online or by paper.

The election results will be announced during the **Candlelight Service on Saturday, October 24**.

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this important part of our Emmaus community.

De Colores!

Larry Batees

Blue Lake Emmaus Governing Board Member

Blue Lake Emmaus Community Ballot

Please select one nominee for each of the governing board positions listed below.

Vice Chairperson

☐ Tommy Tew

☐ Ron Toole

Secretary

☐ KarenElizabeth Carrel

Chrysalis Ministry Lay Director

☐ Edith Smothers

☐ Lowell Thomas

Emmaus Ministry Spiritual Director

☐ Peggy Ratcliff

Voter's Signature/Walk #_____

Scholarships Available: The Mike Ruthven Memorial Scholarship Fund is available to anyone with a financial hardship desiring to attend or work a Blue Lake or Bethlehem Walk. The fund will pay 1/2 of the fee. Please contact Susan Bozarth, 850-890-6597, Susan.bozarth@hotmail.com, or Nancy Ruthven, 850-276- 2891, mnruthven@yahoo.com). Deadline for the request is 3 weeks prior to the walk to be attended or worked. Donations to the fund are also graciously accepted.

2027 Emmaus Ministry Calendar

Walk #	Dates	Lay Director	Spiritual Director
Girls Chrysalis	Jan 15-18	Jennifer McCray	Rev Tony Antonelli
Boys Chrysalis	Feb 12-15	Zach Ledford	TBD
# 292	Mar 18-21	Greg Walker	Rev Bob Bailey
#293	May 13-16	Collette Martin	Rev Daniel Randall
#294	Sep 16-19	John Creswell	Rev Tony Antonelli
#295	Nov 11-14	Mary Bates	Rev Donna Coty

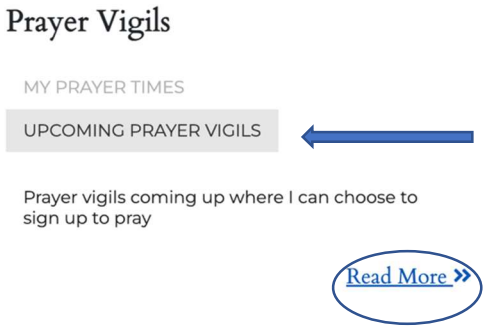
2026 Blue Lake Emmaus Governing Board		
Position	**Name**	**Contact Information**
Chairperson	Larry Bates	850.218.6586 Savedbygrace010509@gmail.com
Vice Chair	Wendy Ross	850-865-6669 dawross@aol.com
Past Chair	Randy Brooke	850.543.5337 randyrbrooke@gmail.com
Secretary	Peggy Lynes	850.582.3461 magmegpeg@yahoo.com
Team Selection	Cheri Perry	850.217.2348 ncheriperry@hotmail.com
Agape	Kristia Schmitt	850-292-3509 Kks2blessed@gmail.com
4th Day	Phil Coty	334-695-6060 Phillipcoty@gmail.com
Blue Lake Camp Liaison	John Bozarth	850.814.3394 bozarjl@gmail.com
Emmaus Community Lay Director	Iris Schipper	850.685.7010 iris@pbmgmt.com
Emmaus Community Spiritual Director	Rev. Scott Hohn	251.473.5080 scottchohn@gmail.com
Chrysalis Lay Director	Cissy Scott	251.510.7357 cissyscott91@gmail.com
Chrysalis Spiritual Director	Rev. Stacy Lee	334-652-2535 Leestacie.sl@gmail.com
Non-voting, Non-elected Positions		
Treasurer	Tom Risalvato	850.585.7927 trisalvato@gmail.com
Registrar	Vida Straley	850.206.1019 vidas@bellsouth.net
Community Support Coordinator	Denise Heath	850.865.5734 heathgator@cox.net
Data Manager	Dawn Hall	803.580.9487 Pinkgerbera71@gmail.com
Lay Director Trainer	Joquita McKibben	850.982.5959 joy4heart@bellsouth.net
Newsletter Editor	Larry Bates	850.218.6586 savedbygrace010509@gmail.com
Webmaster	Jim Reynolds	850.261.9044 jim.reynolds@myinbox.us
Agape Community Contact	Sherry Hall	803.580.9488 pinkrosebud66@gmail.com

2026 Emmaus Committee Coordinators			
Ministry Committee	**Name**	**Email**	**Phone**
Agape Coordinator	Kristia Schmitt	Kks2blessed@gmail.com	850-292-3509
Audio Visual Coordinator	Ed Rose	Rerose333@gmail.com	850-503-4456
Banners Coordinator	David McMichael	Aharley2000@yahoo.com	850-319-0757
Housing Coordinator	Larry Bates	Savedbygrace010509@gmail.com	850-218-6586
Literature Coordinator	Wendy Ross	dawross@aol.com	850-865-6669
Meal Service Coordinator	Jody Thomas	Jody.bck@gmail.com	850-382-4061
Snack Agape Coordinator	Susan Glausier	Snuze1@mac.com	850-499-0717
Prayer Chapel Coordinator	Bert McCollum	bmccollum@bntinc.net	205-292-6056
Worship Coordinator	Peggy Ratcliff	peggyratcliff@gmail.com	251-975-8336

BLUE LAKE EMMAUS PRAYER VIGIL

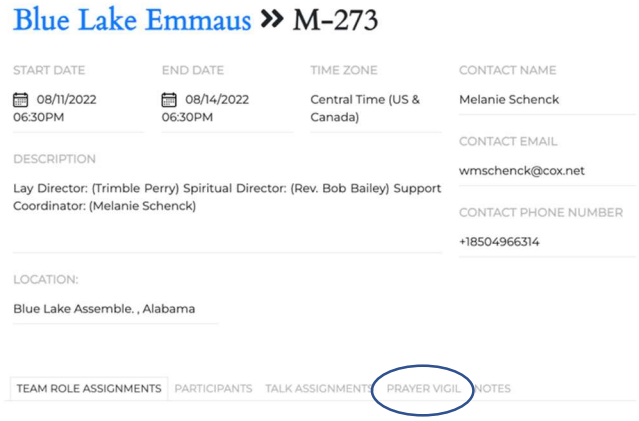
Follow steps below to locate and sign up for the Prayer Vigil for upcoming Emmaus Walks.

1. Login to Ministry Manager. https://ministrymanager.upperroom.org
2. Located on the bottom right from your home dashboard in Ministry Manager select *Upcoming Prayer Vigils* and *Read More*.

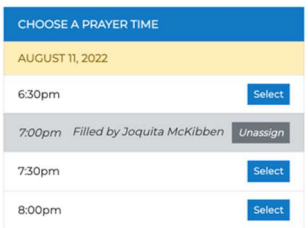


3. From the list of available Prayer Vigils select the Walk # you want to sign up for.

4. You now see the information for the walk. Select the tab under the general information that says Prayer Vigil.



5. Choose a time slot available indicated by the blue select button.



Key Links for the Blue Lake Community

Website: www.bluelake.us

Webmaster: web.master@bluelake.us

Registrar: registrar@bluelake.us

Rainbow Reporter editor: savedbygrace010509@gmail.com

Emmaus Application:

https://blew.box.com/BLEW-Emmaus-Application

Emmaus Walk Calendar: www.bluelake.us/events.html

Blue Lake Community Waiting List:

https://blew.app.box.com/v/Registrar-Wait-Lists

Chrysalis Web site:

www.bluelakechrysalis.us

Chrysalis Application:

www.bluelakechrysalis.us/images/documents/chrysalis_application.pdf

Chrysalis Calendar:

http://www.bluelakechrysalis.us/index.php/events

Ministry Manager Tips

De Colores brothers and sisters in Christ. Here are the instructions for updating your email addresses in the Upper Room Ministry Manager.

1. Log in to Ministry Manager at https://ministrymanager.upperroom.org/.
If you do not already have an account, you will have to create one.

2. Near the upper-right corner of your web browser window, click on “My Account.”

3. Ensure the “Profile” tab under your name is selected.

4. Review your account information, to include your email address. Update any information to bring your record current.

5. At the bottom of the window, click “Save.” Please do not click “Change Account Info.” Feel free to explore the other tabs next to the Profile tab and add your Church and anyone you have Sponsored.

Rainbow Reporter: You get a copy of the Rainbow Reporter by clicking on the link at the bluelake.us website.

Emmaus Community Member Checklist

1. Check your information on the Upper Room Ministry Manager website and submit any changes. Go to https://ministrymanager.upperroom.org/

2. Within your Ministry Manager profile opt-in the Mass Messaging feature.

3. Meet with a reunion group. See your Emmaus Cluster contact list to get connected with a group.

4. Serve in your home church. The Emmaus Ministry goal is to grow Christian leadership within the local community church. Ask your pastor where you can serve.

5. Look and pray for candidates to sponsor for an upcoming Emmaus Walk or Chrysalis Flight/Journey.

6. Seek the Lord God first in all things and maintain a heart to answer God's call. Be prepared to serve the Lord with self-surrender and charity for all.

Blue Lake Emmaus Clusters

Find one near you and get involved today

Community	Contact	Phone	email
Blue Angel (Pensacola)	Jim Hammond	850-748-3531	jhammond@uwf.edu
Camden	Dan Burford	334-399-4614	danburford@mchsi.com
Cantonment (Gonzalez Grace)	Teresa Lott	850-501-5182	lott01@bellsouth.net
Crestview	Pam Hight	850-758-8201	pjhight51@gmail.com
Dalraida GMC	Doris Persons	334-271-2533	dorisdpersons@gmail.com
Destin Methodist Church	Wendy Ross	850-865-6669	dawross@aol.com
Dothan	Cheri Bowman	334-237-2102	shalomcsx2@gmail.com
Enterprise	Wendy Zeller	334-477-5092	Wendy47@roadrunner.com
Foley	Peggy Ratcliff	251-975-8336	peggyratcliff@gmail.com
Ft. Walton (Beachside Emmaus)	Jane Pratt	850-598-6433	jpratt1687@embarqmail.com
Good News UMC	Judy Brook	850-543-5336	judyabrooke@gmail.com
Gulf Breeze (Angels of the Son)	Gerri Thomas	989-370-4597	gerri.thomas@gmail.com
Hartford	Vicki Baxter	334-389-6212	jojodbax1@gmail.com
Jackson	Tommy Gaillard	334-246-4744	wtgaillard@bellsouth.net
Luverne	Alethea Gammage	334-303-2727	Ajgammage815@gmail.com
Marianna Cluster	KarenElizabeth Carrel	850-209-4690	kecarrel@embarqmail.com
Mary Esther	Sharon Shepherd	850-830-6665	sss11sss@aol.com
Milton/Pace (Scratch Ankle)	Rusty Grimes	803-449-1095	bluelakescratchanklecluster@gmail.com
Navarre	Glenda Cody	850-380-8896	glendacody@aol.com
Niceville (Bayou Blessings)	Larry Bates	850-218-6586	savedbygrace010509@gmail.com
Opp	Jerry Barnes	334-764-3705	jblb1968@yahoo.com
Panama City/Bay County	Nancy Ruthven	850-769-1951	mnruthven@yahoo.com
Perdido Bay Methodist Church	April Stokes	850-390-0246	april@perdidobay.church
Point Washington	Danny Powell	850-278-6588	danny@dplamail.com
Santa Rosa Beach (Emerald Coast Emmaus)	Tess Cox	850-258-4796	tesscox@mchsi.com
Shalimar	Melanie Schenck	850-496-6314	melanieschenck1@gmail.com
St. Luke UMC	Vicky Barnett	850-791-6925	vsbrdh@aol.com
Trinity UMC Ft. Walton Beach	Tempy Black	970-759-8500	tempyblack@yahoo.com
Troy	Cindy Boswell	334-556-0494	cebos1818@gmail.com

Cluster Leaders:
If your cluster contact information is not correct or has changed, please email the correct information to

Larry Bates at savedbygrace010509@gmail.com