

The Messenger



A monthly newsletter of the Emmaus of the Midlands Community

Emmaus of the Midlands
PO Box 85
Lexington, SC 29071

August 19, 2026

Upcoming Events:

Board Meeting

Monday, September 14, 2026
6:30 pm Lexington UMC

August Gathering

Friday, August 28, 2026
7:00 PM
Lexington UMC
309 E Main St
Lexington, SC 29072

Fall Walks

Men's Walk, Sept. 24-27
Women's Walk, Oct. 1-4
POSTPONED!!!

JODIE'S JOY! :)

Shuler Burton sent this to me. He received it after a previous walk, and I think it's a great message for us all:

Now, folks, if we're honest with ourselves, every church family, every Emmaus group, and every gathering of believers will have its rough patches from time to time. Whenever you get a bunch of people together, all raised differently, carrying different burdens, and seeing things from different angles, there are bound to be some bumps in the road. That's just human nature. But as Christians, we're called to something higher than our own feelings and preferences. The body of Christ isn't made up of people who agree on everything. It's made up of people who've been saved by the same Savior.

Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians that every part of the body is important. The eye can't look down on the hand, and the hand can't say it doesn't need the foot. In the same way, none of us can do this Christian walk alone. We need each other. The church works best when we're all pulling the wagon in the same direction instead of tugging on opposite

ends of the rope.

Too often, what can hurt a church isn't some big crisis from outside. It's little misunderstandings, hurt feelings, unspoken frustrations, and folks assuming the worst about one another. Before long, people start sitting on opposite sides of the room, conversations get shorter, and fellowship gets colder. The devil doesn't always try to destroy a church with a storm. Sometimes he just plants a few seeds of division and lets them grow. That's why forgiveness is so important. Every one of us has needed grace. Every one of us has fallen short. Every one of us has said things we wish we could take back and made mistakes we'd rather forget. So, when someone disappoints us, hurts our feelings, or rubs us the wrong way, we're called to remember how much mercy Christ has shown us. A country preacher once said, "Holding a grudge is like carrying a sack of rocks uphill. The longer you carry it, the heavier it gets." There's a lot of truth in that. Bitterness wears us out. Forgiveness sets us free. Forgiveness doesn't mean we pretend nothing happened. It doesn't mean we sweep problems under the rug. It means we choose not to let those problems keep us apart. It means we care more about restoring a relationship than proving we were right.

Paul gives Timothy some wisdom that's especially needed today. In **2 Timothy 2:23-24**, he writes:

"Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kindly to everyone, an apt teacher, patient."

In other words, not every disagreement is worth having. Not every hill is worth dying on. Sometimes we spend so much energy arguing over things that don't matter that we forget the mission God gave us in the first place. The church has too much work to do and too many souls to reach to be spending our days fussing and feuding among ourselves. Instead, Paul says God's people ought to be known for kindness, patience, and gentleness. Those qualities may not always get the headlines, but they're the very things that keep a church family together.

Understanding one another is just as important. Most folks are carrying burdens we know nothing about. The smile we see on Sunday morning may be covering a week of heartache. The person who seems distant may be wrestling with worry, loss, or disappointment. That's why we ought to be slow to judge and quick to listen.

My mama used to say, "Everybody's got a story; you just may not know it yet." There's wisdom in that saying. When we take the time to listen and understand, we begin to see one another through the eyes of Christ instead of through the lens of our assumptions.

The Emmaus Movement reminds us that faith is not meant to be lived out alone. Just like those disciples walking the road to Emmaus, we often discover Christ most clearly when we're walking alongside one another. We encourage one another, pray for one another, bear one another's burdens, and sometimes help carry one another when the road gets steep.

Paul also reminds Timothy in **2 Timothy 1:7**:

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." A spirit of love is exactly what a disjointed group needs. Love has a way of smoothing rough edges. Love helps us give one another the benefit of the doubt. Love reminds us that we are teammates in God's kingdom, not competitors. If we're going to be the body of Christ, we've got to learn to work together. That doesn't mean we'll always agree. It doesn't mean we'll never have difficult conversations. What it does mean is that we'll face those moments with humility, grace, and a genuine desire to honor Christ. When folks walk through our church doors, they shouldn't find a group of people keeping score against one another. They ought to find a family. A family that laughs together, cries together, prays together, and sometimes disagrees, but always finds its way back to the foot of the cross together. Because at the end of the day, the ground is level at Calvary. We're all sinners saved by grace. We're all travelers on the same road. And we're all stronger when we walk that road together, extending forgiveness where it's needed, offering understanding where it's lacking, and joining hands to do the work the Lord has called us to do. May God help us set aside pride, let go of old hurts, and remember that what unites us in Christ is far greater than anything that could ever divide us.

De Colores, and may the Lord bless our fellowship, strengthen our unity, and keep us walking together in faith, hope, and love. Amen.



DE COLORES!!

TREASURER'S REPORT JULY 2026

Operating Budget Beginning Balance	July 1, 2026	\$3,900.42
Disbursements	Liability Insurance	(\$272.43)
Total Disbursements		(\$272.43)
Deposits	Gatherings	\$580.00
Total Deposits		\$580.00
Operating Account Ending Balance	July 31, 2026	\$4,207.99
Scholarship Account Beginning Balance	July 1, 2026	\$1,225.00
Disbursements	None	\$0.00
Total Disbursements		\$0.00
Deposits	None	\$0.00
Total Deposits		\$0.00
Scholarship Account Ending Balance	July 31, 2026	\$1,225.00
Certificate of Deposit (Matures 7/18/26)	July 1, 2026	\$4,174.35
Disbursements	None	\$0.00
Total Disbursements		\$0.00
Deposits	None	\$0.00
Total Deposits		\$0.00
Interest Accrued		\$63.57
Ending Balance	July 31, 2026	\$4,237.92

We owe Camp Agape \$3,500.00 for the Women's Walk held in March 2026.

WE'RE SELLING STUFF!!

THRIFT SALE

+

BAKED GOODS

+

CRAFT ITEMS

Sponsored by the Emmaus of the Midlands Community

PO Box 85, LEXINGTON, SC 29071

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

7:00AM TO 2:00PM

LEXINGTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

GYM/FELLOWSHIP HALL

309 E MAIN STREET, LEXINGTON, SC 29072

EVERYONE INVITED, BRING A FRIEND, RAIN OR SHINE!!

BRING YOUR ITEMS TO SELL!!! CONTACT CAROLYN MCLEAN FOR MORE INFORMATION!



IT'S TIME TO VOTE FOR BOARD MEMBERS

If you have prayerfully considered serving on the Emmaus of the Midlands Board of Directors and feel God calling you to enter your name into the nominations, please see these instructions and qualifications:

- Nominations shall be solicited and/or accepted between July 1 and August 31. The Nominations Committee consists of Christen McConnaughhey, Paul McKeever, Levy Rogers, and Kim Corrigan.
- Each nominee must sign a Statement of Commitment/Conflict of Interest form verifying his/her willingness to serve as an elected Board Member. **Please see form below.**
- In order to be eligible to serve as a Board Member, nominees must be:
 - ✓ an active Member of the Community.
 - ✓ have served in progressive leadership roles in the conference room.
 - ✓ should not have additional affiliations that would create a conflict of interest in their service to the Community or the corporation.
 - ✓ Spouses may not be nominated together. If elected, a Board Member may offer their spouse to be their Co-Chair, having only one vote between them.

The ballot shall consist of at least five (5) Members who have signed the Statement of Commitment form. Ballots, inclusive of a brief biography and picture of the nominees, shall be published the first business day in September and disseminated to the community. Completed ballots shall be accepted through October 1st according to instructions printed on the ballot.

The names of the elected Directors shall be announced during the remainder of October to reach as many community Members as possible.

Newly elected members shall be invited to attend board meetings beginning November 1. They will officially take office on January 1 and serve for three years, ending their term on December 31 of the third year. Unelected members who run shall be offered a Co-Chair position with the purview of the Board.

PLEASE PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER SERVING ON THE BOARD!!!

**Emmaus of the Midlands
Board of Directors
Statement of Commitment**

I agree to have my name placed on the ballot for election to the Emmaus of the Midlands Board of Directors. Below is a list of obligations I must adhere to as a member of the Board of Directors:

If elected to the Board of Directors, I understand my obligation will include the following:

- I will serve a term of three (3) years unless otherwise specified.
- I will attend Board Meetings on the second Monday of each month, and Board training. Time and location will be announced.
- I will attend monthly Gatherings if at all possible.
- I will receive an Emmaus Ministries Community Manual, which I agree to read and to use as a guide during my term as a Board Member. This Manual provides the overall guidance and model for the Walk to Emmaus.
- I will fulfill all duties of my area of service for all Walk to Emmaus weekends. Also, I will attend Send-Off, Candlelight, and Closing if at all possible.
- I understand that I may need to serve as a Board Representative on a Walk to Emmaus weekend.
- I will regularly pray for the Emmaus of the Midlands community and the Emmaus of the Midlands Board of Directors.
- I will participate in a Fourth Day Reunion Group, or in a similar accountability group.
- I will complete the appropriate portion of Emmaus University (found on the Upper Room website) within the first year of my term.
- I will not participate in any entity that would be in conflict with the Walk to Emmaus.

If I am not elected to the Board of Directors, I agree to serve in an At-Large position which may be appointed by the Board of Directors Chairperson.

Please sign and date this Statement of Commitment and return to the Board of Directors Chairperson of the Emmaus of the Midlands Community no later than September 30 when voting begins.

Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____

FROM MARY FRANCES:

One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism

When Board members gathered for our monthly meeting on August 10, four members traveled in a RAM truck, two members traveled in a Honda, two in a Toyota, two in a Chevy, and the rest of the Board members traveled in either a KIA, a Ford, a Buick, or a Hyundai. Since members live in various parts of the Midlands, several different routes were traveled. In the end, we all gathered at the same church in Lexington. Those same members, and members of the Emmaus community, worship at various churches that are part of a variety of denominations. Each of us has traveled a unique faith journey. We have come together, at least for this part of our journeys, to worship and serve God through Emmaus. Emmaus does not debate our differences; Emmaus celebrates those aspects of faith that we share—one Lord, one faith, one baptism. (Ephesians 4:5) Many of us have experienced church and/or denominational splits. Some of those splits may have been because of minor disagreements such as the color of the carpet in the sanctuary; other splits have occurred because of major theological differences. None of us have all the answers; none of us fully understand God—if we did, God would not be God. As Christians, we all proclaim, “Jesus is Lord.”

Jesus commands us to love one another. When we see everyone whom we meet as someone whom God is especially fond of, whom God loves, and Christ died for, we are more likely to disagree agreeably. Do I have to agree with you to love you? Does God always agree with us, but God still loves us. Parents don’t want their children to argue and develop hatred for one another. God does not want God’s children to argue and hate one another. Division is the work of the Enemy. When righteous people spend their time arguing among themselves or avoiding one another, they are not fighting evil, therefore evil can flourish.

Romans 8:28 tells us God can bring good out of any situation when God’s children focus on God’s purpose and not our own. The divisions in our churches, our country, and our families can destroy us or they can provide an opportunity for respectful, thoughtful dialogue. I may not change my mind and you may not change yours, but we can learn from one another, look at issues from a different perspective, and solidify what each of us believes and why we believe what we do.

Divisions and loss, whether in church, family, or country, cause pain and grief. Anger is part of the grief process. A large number of the members of the Emmaus community are grieving due to loss of loved ones, loss of community, loss of the stability provided by a strong church support system, and so many other losses. A lot of us are angry and hurt. Do our friendships and desire to serve God together as God leads have to be casualties of our grief, pain, and anger? Can we give each other comfort and grace? A pastor once challenged each member of our church to choose a “life verse,” a verse that guides our daily walk with God. My verse is Micah 6:8,

He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God? (NRSVUE)
or as The Message paraphrases it,

We sometimes sing “They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love.” Will they?

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2026 Board of Directors

Board Chair/Newsletter	Jodie Harper	Jodieharper55@gmail.com
Previous Community Lay Director	Carolyn McLean	chmclean55@yahoo.com
Board Chair/Ex-Officio		
Vice-Chair/Team Selection	Tina Lipscomb	snugglesmama@gmail.com
Secretary	Matt Goudelock	goudelocksc@gmail.com
Send-Off/Sponsor's Hour/Closing		
Treasurer/Literature/Materials	Levy Rogers	levyrogers@hotmail.com
Community Spiritual Director	Mary Frances Thompson	mftthompson625@gmail.com
Assistant Spiritual Director	Mike Evans	
Gatherings/Reunion Groups	TBD	
Housing/Camp Manager	Greg Bowers	bowersmaintenance@gmail.com
Kitchen Chair	Christen McConnaughay	christenmcconnaughay@gmail.com
Mail Room/Table Agape	Delores Fish	deafish@yahoo.com
Music/Entertainment	Paul McKeever	pmckeever2944@gmail.com
Prayer Vigil/Seed Agape	Wendy McLean	wendyjojo12@gmail.com
Publicity/Community Trainer	Ed Burch	Ed.burch@gmail.com
Registrar	Kim Corrigan	<u>kacorrigan1@gmail.com</u>
Snack Agape	Melissa Sansolo	masansolo06@gmail.com
Transportation	Becky Goudelock	Goudelock.Rebecca@gmail.com
Website	Dave Cavazos	webmaster@dcanddc.com

Newsletter submitted by Jodie Harper at Jodieharper55@gmail.com 225-205-4534