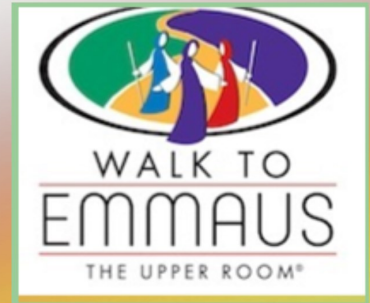


Limestone Ohio Valley Emmaus Community



Community Lay Director

During President's Day weekend, which also coincided with Valentine's Day, we went hiking at Mammoth Cave. Not everyone enjoys hiking, but I'm fortunate that my wife does. As we hiked, I reflected on the similarities between hiking and love. The weather that weekend was rainy and cold—definitely not ideal hiking conditions. However, the other hikers we encountered on the trail seemed to navigate it with ease. These individuals were excited to hike; they had prepared for the journey ahead, hiked often, and maintained the mindset necessary to complete their adventure.

It's important to note that the trails at Mammoth Cave are quite challenging, featuring steep inclines that go up and down from the Green River to the visitor center. Yet, those hikers understood that each step they took would ultimately lead them to the reward they were seeking.

To truly excel at hiking, one must venture out more than just on holiday weekends, just as love needs to extend far beyond Valentine's Day. I read that love is mentioned in the Bible nearly 350 times. For instance, John 3:16 highlights the greatest love of all. Much like hikers prepare for their journeys, Romans 15:5 encourages us to be ready to love. Additionally, 1 Peter 4:8 emphasizes the importance of love. During tough times, when we feel that the trail is too steep, I suggest looking up Matthew 5:43-48 for guidance. We must remember to keep taking those steps, one at a time, and never forget what Christ did for us with love, as noted in Hebrews 12:2.

LOVE Community, it's in our name. If you see me on the trails or elsewhere, let's remind each other how we should be known, as stated in John 13:35 and that "Hatred stirs up conflicts, but love covers all offenses." - Proverbs 10:12.

DeColores! Bill Hiler, Community Lay Director



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Upcoming Events

Mar. 24: Gathering @ 7:00

Apr. 28: Gathering @ 7:00

Apr. 30 - May 3: Men's Walk #39

May 26: Gathering @ 7:00, Men's Walk #39 Reunion @ 6:00

Limestone Ohio Valley Emmaus Community

Community Spiritual Director



The Best Valentine's Gift We Can Give to God: Obedience

February is known as the month of love. Stores fill with flowers and chocolates, cards are carefully chosen, and we look for meaningful ways to show love to those who matter most. Valentine's Day reminds us that love is not merely something we feel — it is something we express.

As believers, this season invites us to ask an important question: What is the best gift we could present to God?

It may not be flowers or words. It may not even be our good intentions. According to Scripture, the greatest gift we can offer the Lord is simple, yet deeply profound:

Obedience.

Jesus said clearly in John 14:15 (NLT): "If you love me, obey my commandments." Love and obedience are inseparable in the heart of God.

Our obedience is not about earning His love — we already have that through Christ. Rather, obedience is our loving response to the One who first loved us.

In fact, 1 John 5:3 (NLT) tells us: "Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome." Notice that obedience is not described as heavy or harsh. When we truly love God, obedience becomes a joy rather than a duty. It becomes our way of saying, "Lord, You matter more than my preferences, my comfort, or my plans."

Throughout Scripture, God has always valued obedience over outward displays. In 1 Samuel 15:22 (NLT), Samuel told King Saul: "What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams." God is not impressed by religious performance if our hearts are resistant. He desires surrendered hearts. He desires trust. He desires children who say, "Yes, Lord."

Obedience may look different in each of our lives. It may mean forgiving when it's hard. It may mean serving when no one notices. It may mean giving generously, speaking truth lovingly, or stepping forward in faith when we would rather stay comfortable.

Every act of obedience says, "I love You."

This Valentine's season, as we consider how we show love to others, let us also reflect on how we show love to God. The greatest gift we can lay at His feet is not wrapped in ribbon — it is wrapped in surrender.

A listening heart.

A willing spirit.

A life that says, "Your will be done."

I pray this February has been a month where our love for God is not only spoken but lived — through faithful, joyful obedience.

That is a gift that delights the heart of our Father.

DeColores! Jonathan King, Community Spiritual Director

Limestone Ohio Valley Emmaus Community



Community Registrar and Sponsorship

Applications are being accepted for the 2026 walks. Please be in prayer about a pilgrim you could sponsor for this opportunity to strengthen their walk with Christ.

Spring Walks

Men's Walk #39: April 30 - May 3

Women's Walk #49: June 4 - 7

Fall Walks

Men's Walk #40: September 3 - 6

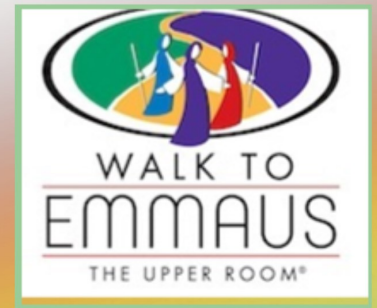
Women's Walk #50: October 1 - 4

Applications can be accessed on our community Facebook page, from any board member, or at lovemmaus.org. If you have any questions about sponsorship, please reach out to me! You can click on the picture below to watch a video about sponsorship.

DeColores! Cheri McClanahan, Registrars and Sponsorship



Limestone Ohio Valley Emmaus Community



Important Walk Reminders

The purpose of Emmaus is to develop Christian disciples and leaders by inspiring, challenging, and equipping active adult church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, workplaces, and communities. It's about the pilgrims!

Please attend Send Off, Candlelight, and Closing. The more community members that are there, the more support the pilgrims feel. Remember to enter the grounds quietly for Candlelight and Closing. Unless you are on the team, these are the only times that you should be on the campground.

In case you didn't know, share groups can help prepare and serve a meal. If your group would like to take care of a meal during the weekend, just let the kitchen coordinator know. You prepare the meal, serve the meal, can help clean up, and then leave. The team and pilgrims greatly appreciate seeing your smiling faces!

Remember only people who have been on an Emmaus Walk or Chrysalis Flight are allowed to attend walk events. No children are allowed out of respect for the pilgrims.

Join us for Gatherings at Washington Central
Church!

4th Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm fol-
lowed by a potluck meal

1917 US Highway 68
Maysville, KY 41056



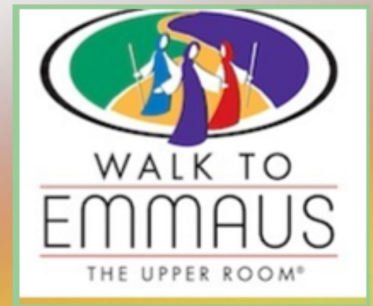
www.lovememmaus.org

[101 Agape Ideas](#)

[The Upper Room: Emmaus Website](#)

[Click here for an application!](#)

Limestone Ohio Valley Emmaus Community



2026 Community Board of Directors

Lay Director: [Bill Hiler](#)

Assistant Lay Director: [Randy Chandler](#)

Spiritual Directors: [Jonathan King](#) and [David Combs](#)

Secretary: [Jennifer Farber](#)

Treasurers: [Kim Myers](#)

LEAD Chairman: [Mike Burke](#)

Hospitality: [Lana Chandler](#) and Pat Grooms

Volunteer Coordinator: [Kim Maiberger](#)

Newsletter: [Amanda Jones](#)

Registrar/Sponsorship: [Cheri McClanahan](#)

Logistics Coordinator: [John Hendrix](#)

Worship: [David Benjamin](#)

Music: Rob Farber

Kitchen: [Nick and Jamee Rockwell](#)

Agape Chairperson: [Lana Chandler](#)

Ruggles Liaison: [Bill Henry](#)

Good Shepherd: [Kim Maiberger](#)

Chrysalis Representative: [Sydney Van Meter](#)

Webmaster: [Lauren Doyle](#)

Historian: [Mike Burke](#)