

# Grace for Today

G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community Newsletter

June 2026

## **Coming Events**

**Saturday, June 20th, Gathering at Smith Chapel Mineola Tx,** Potluck lunch at noon, Service immediately after.

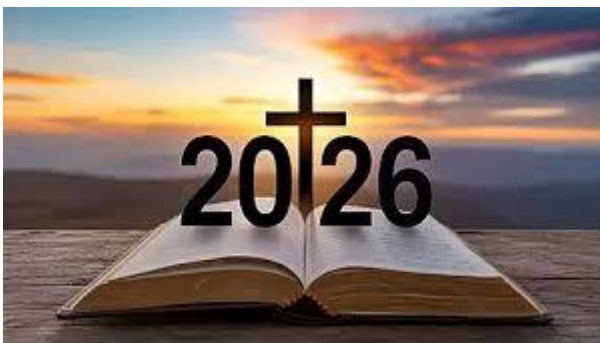
**Saturday, July 18th , Gathering at Winona Methodist Church.** Potluck at noon, service immediately after.

**Saturday, August 15th, Gathering at First Methodist Athens.** Potluck at noon, service immediately after.



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**Find More on the G.R.A.C.E. Website:**

[www.GRACEEmmaus.com](http://www.GRACEEmmaus.com)

**Pilgrim's application**

<https://www.graceemmaus.com/pages/applications/pilgrim-application>

**Team Application**

<https://www.graceemmaus.com/pages/applications/team-application>

## *Community Lay Director's Corner*

Dear Beautiful 4thDayers,

There were approximately 22 of us who went to Camp Gilmont for a workday and our community gathering, on Saturday, May 16. We arrived bright and early at 8:00 am at Mackey Hall. Gary Mount met us and sent us in every direction, we didn't waste any time getting started!

The arts and crafts room out in the woods had been recently updated, that building was built back in 2000 not long after we started using Camp Gilmont. Gary, and the maintenance crew recently added a bathroom and running water to that location. That paved the way for Sandra, Debbie W., Mary, Martha, Kathy, Charlene and I to clean and set up the room for campers this summer. We dusted, swept, cleaned, cleaned, cleaned some more, organized the room and set tables and chairs up, and threw away trash.

While we were cleaning the arts and crafts room, there were 13 men and women clearing the trails using weed eaters, physical labor, and lots of clean-up down the trails so that the children would be able to walk down to the lake and to the cabins, to the swimming pool and of course to the cafeteria to eat.

We stopped and cleaned up around 11:30 and took time to eat our sack lunches. Once we ate, we gathered for Music and Worship. What a great day it was, it always feels good to do things for others, and because of our assistance, the camp is always kind enough to give us a discount on our expenses for the fall Walks.

We can always use more help when we do this gathering each year. Put it on your calendar, it should be around the same time next year. There is a job for everyone, even if all you can do is tear sheets off the paper towel rolls, sort crayons, and or clean out the cobwebs. See you at the next Gathering, June 20, 2026 at Noon at Smith Chapel, Mineola.

Blessings, Grace, and Mercy to All,

Debbie Hays – Community Lay Director

## *Planting Seeds*



“So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow,” 1 Corinthians 3:7

In this verse Paul makes it clear that while we as Christians are called to share the good news of the gospel, only God can grow the seed of faith in unbelievers. We all have people in our lives who we desperately want to turn to God and believe in Him.

Sometimes it’s hard to share our faith with those who “don’t want to hear it”. We need to live a life that demonstrates to those around us what it means to live for God. If those in our lives see us turning to God in times of trouble, trusting God, finding hope and joy in God, this will encourage them to do the same. Joy is contagious and everyone longs for the hope and joy that comes from knowing Jesus, even if they aren’t all sure how to get it. Plant the seeds and God will do the rest.

This is one reason the work of Emmaus is so important. Those who attend the Walks are in different stages of their faith. Only God knows where they are, what they’re dealing with and what they need. Through the power of the Holy Spirit that is present on the Walks, God meets the pilgrims on their Walk and speaks to them in a way that only He can. When we invite and sponsor someone on a Walk, we plant the seed. God then, uses that opportunity to grow their faith. What a blessing it is to be part of that!

Sandra Grash- Exoficio Lay Director

## *Every Day is a 4th day*

April 20, 2026 by Sarah Mkhonza (Swaziland)

I am grateful for the opportunity to share my Fourth Day experience with the worldwide Emmaus Ministries community. I attended The Walk to Emmaus in 1997. There I learned about commitment to discipleship and decided to join the Lay Preacher Development program. I was not sure if that is what God wanted me to do, but I was ready to be a follower of Christ and to do something for Christ.

Back then, I felt that my calling was to take a positive step and share God's word with others. I was filled with fear at the idea of speaking in my church because—by Swaziland standards—it is a large church. Nevertheless, with the help of my pastor, Rev. Moses Ngema, and his team, I began this new leg of my journey.

In 2003, I was blessed with a trip to the United States, where I worked—among other places—in South Bend, Indiana. There I met members of the local Emmaus Ministries Community who shared God's love with me in various ways. During my time in the US, I also had opportunities to serve God's people in Ithaca, New York and Palo Alto, California. These were wonderful opportunities.

I am now back in Eswatini (Swaziland) and settling into my calling. I am taking a Bible course and working under the guidance of our Emmaus Ministries leaders, who are leading by example and giving me opportunities to develop my speaking skills. Being a teacher—and someone who is used to proclaiming content—I thought this would be easy. However, I am learning of the importance of prayer and fasting for those who are called to be channels of God's grace.

I am growing slowly in the calling and learning that every day is a Fourth Day. I understand that we discover the Christ we serve through the work we do together and as we invite him to live in us. I also understand that this is how others are able to see Christ in us and be drawn to him through us.

This year, I will begin my Lay Preacher's studies through the Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. Among other things, I will study the history of the church. I look forward to this with much excitement.

I am not without fear as I move in this new direction. Fortunately, the book of Joshua brought me to realize that Joshua was also fearful, but God encouraged him with constant reminders of God's presence.

My Fourth Day experience is under God's guidance, and I hope to keep growing in the Lord. I am grateful for the guidance I have received from local church leaders and Emmaus leaders along the way, and I continue in prayer for my local church and for our ministries to the local community.

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Sarah Mkhonza is a member of St. Paul's Methodist Church, Manzini, Eswatini (Swaziland). She attended Saint Michaels Manzini, Walk #4, table of Hannah.



Article credit of the upper room

<https://www.upperroom.org/news/1047>

## GRACE Emmaus Community Board of Directors 2026

### **Lay Director**

Debbie Hays  
[dhays55@yahoo.com](mailto:dhays55@yahoo.com)  
903-452-5331

### **Assistant Lay Director**

Paul Breedlove  
[paul@breedlovelandscape.com](mailto:paul@breedlovelandscape.com)  
903-352-2840

### **Exoficio Lay Director**

Sandra Grasch  
[grasch319@gmail.com](mailto:grasch319@gmail.com)  
903-286-3331

### **Spiritual Director**

Kara Mitchell  
[rev.karamitchell@gmail.com](mailto:rev.karamitchell@gmail.com)  
903-399-4564

### **Assistant Spiritual Director**

Brian Walker  
[triyourself@gmail.com](mailto:triyourself@gmail.com)  
903-563-2131

### **Secretary**

Wynn Harle  
[cowboycentral@suddenlink.net](mailto:cowboycentral@suddenlink.net)  
903-245-2701

### **Treasurer**

Blake Burton  
[clogguy82@yahoo.com](mailto:clogguy82@yahoo.com)  
832-835-4692

## Committees

### **Agape (Banquet)**

Betty Buchanan  
[Jimbet85@gmail.com](mailto:Jimbet85@gmail.com)  
903-930-2678

### **Babe Chick Training**

Richard Smith  
[richsmith1144@yahoo.com](mailto:richsmith1144@yahoo.com)  
512-940-7553

### **Book Table**

Dawn Woods  
[joynpraise@gmail.com](mailto:joynpraise@gmail.com)  
903-440-0309

### **Community Trailer**

Douglas Denmark  
[denmark\\_douglas@yahoo.com](mailto:denmark_douglas@yahoo.com)  
903-917-3454

### **Gathering Coordinator**

Mary Rhoades  
[rhoadesm505@gmail.com](mailto:rhoadesm505@gmail.com)  
505-860-5169

### **Music Coordinator/Trailer**

Brian Jones  
[bjones171958@gmail.com](mailto:bjones171958@gmail.com)  
469-337-8654

### **Newsletter Editor**

CJ Cox  
[charlescox98@gmail.com](mailto:charlescox98@gmail.com)  
903-681-4668

### **Prayer Vigil/ Wall Agape**

Mike Payne  
[mpayne0000@gmail.com](mailto:mpayne0000@gmail.com)  
903-658-3637

### **Publications Coordinator**

Kim Brooks  
[brookskimberly@live.com](mailto:brookskimberly@live.com)  
903-926-2333

### **Reunion Groups**

Martha Walker  
[marthasgarden55@gmail.com](mailto:marthasgarden55@gmail.com)  
903-235-0158

### **Sponsorship Training**

Pam McAdams  
[sp1792@yahoo.com](mailto:sp1792@yahoo.com)  
469-383-4006

## NON-VOTING

### **Registrar**

Charlene Burton  
[cburtonlindale@gmail.com](mailto:cburtonlindale@gmail.com)  
903-920-6677

### **Walk Crosses**

Elizabeth Minor  
[nmm-design@msn.com](mailto:nmm-design@msn.com)

### **Dove Name Tags**

Jay Edwards  
[je7255@aol.com](mailto:je7255@aol.com)

### **Communications**

Brad Burton  
[brad.d.burton@gmail.com](mailto:brad.d.burton@gmail.com)  
903-920-6662

### **Community Trainer**

Wynn Harle  
[cowboycentral@suddenlink.net](mailto:cowboycentral@suddenlink.net)  
903-245-2701

### **Webmaster**

Brian Walker  
[triyourself@gmail.com](mailto:triyourself@gmail.com)  
903-563-2131

### **Ministry Manager Data Admin**

Martha Walker  
[marthasgarden55@gmail.com](mailto:marthasgarden55@gmail.com)  
903-235-0158

# Every Walk Tells a Story — Help Us Keep Writing Them

*A look at where we stand financially on our Spring Walks, and an invitation to give.*

The Walk to Emmaus exists because people give — not only their time and prayers, but of their resources. Every meal a pilgrim shares around a table, every night spent at camp, every book placed in a pilgrim’s hands has a cost. And for years, our G.R.A.C.E. Community has made it a priority to keep those costs as low as possible, because we never want finances to be the reason someone cannot attend a walk.

That commitment is made possible by **you** — through your faithful giving at our monthly gatherings and beyond. As we reflect on our Spring Walks (#112 and #113), we want to be transparent with our community about where things stand.

*“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

— 2 Corinthians 9:7

Running two walk weekends is not inexpensive. Between camp fees, meals, overnights, lodging, consumables, publications, and ministry costs, our Spring Walks carried a combined price tag of **\$35,948**. Pilgrim and team registration fees — the amount participants actually pay — covered **\$23,410** of that, or roughly 65 cents of every dollar spent.

The remaining 35% — **nearly \$13,000** — was always intended to come from community giving. That is the model we believe in: the body of Christ supporting one another so that no door is closed to a pilgrim God is calling.

## SPRING WALKS 2026 — FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT (THROUGH APRIL 30)

Total Spring Walk Costs (Walks 112 & 113 + G&A)	<b>\$35,948</b>
Covered by Registration Fees	<b>\$23,410</b>
Covered by Community Donations (so far)	<b>\$6,056</b>
Total Funded	<b>\$29,466</b>
<b>Remaining Gap</b>	<b>\$6,482</b>

## SPRING WALKS FUNDING PROGRESS — 82% FUNDED

Funded: \$29,466

Gap: \$6,482

We are 82% of the way there — and that is genuinely encouraging. Our community has been faithful. But there is still **\$6,482 remaining** to fully cover what our spring walks cost to run. We believe God will provide the rest, and we believe He often does so through the willing hearts of people just like you.

Whether you attended a walk years ago and want to pay it forward, or you simply feel moved to invest in a ministry that is quietly changing lives across East Texas — this is your opportunity. No gift is too

small. The cumulative generosity of our community is what makes these walks possible season after season.

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## Give Today

Giving is easy and secure through our online portal, powered by Tithely. You can make a one-time gift or set up a recurring contribution — whichever the Lord puts on your heart.

[graceemmaus.com/pages/donate](https://graceemmaus.com/pages/donate)

*Checks are also welcome — please make payable to **Greater Rose Area Community of Emmaus** or **GRACE Emmaus** and mail to: **P.O. Box 132212, Tyler, TX 75713-2212**. You may also bring a check to any monthly gathering.*

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*Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ to pilgrims who don't yet know what awaits them. De Colores.*

*Blake Burton, Treasurer*

# SUPPORT THE **G.R.A.C.E.** EMMAUS COMMUNITY!

The **G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community** wishes to continue to spread the life-changing experience that an Emmaus weekend can bring. Won't you help us by donating funds for scholarships for both Pilgrims and team members, or to the general fund of our community? We will happily accept donations of any amount and apply them to helping more Pilgrims strengthen their relationship with Christ!

There are multiple ways you can give:

1. You can give online via **our website** by visiting <https://www.graceemmaus.com/pages/donate> and using the giving form there:



2. You can give via direct ACH out of your bank account or mail us a check. To send in a check, or to begin a monthly ACH, either send the check or the information below to:

**G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community, PO Box 132212, Tyler TX 75713** -----

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ Email

address: \_\_\_\_\_

Bank Name: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ Account #:

\_\_\_\_\_ Routing #:

\_\_\_\_\_ -----

For any questions, feel free to reach out to Blake Burton, Treasurer:  
[clogguy82@yahoo.com](mailto:clogguy82@yahoo.com) or 832-835-4692