



G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Today

April Newsletter 2020

What's Inside

A Word from Community Lay Director
Devotional
Agape Needs
Sponsorship
From the Treasurer
Want to host a Gathering
Giving-Priority Of The Heart
Upper Room Connections
Walk Fees
Walk to Emmaus Movement
List of Pilgrims from walks #92 & #93
Words from G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community
2020 Board Members
Bank Draft

Fall Walks

Both at Camp
Gilmont, Gilmer, Tx
Women's Walk #94
October 1-4, 2020
Men's Walk #95
October 8-11, 2020

Gatherings

May Pending

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

www.graceemmaus.com

A Word From Community Lay Director

This year has brought many firsts to our community. A walk with no outside assistance, support, or participation in candlelight or closing. Board meetings being held virtually, as well as a gathering. But our community will not be defeated! As pastors went to the internet, so did our board! They are still working hard even though there are obstacles.

I am very thankful to Crossroads Canton and Pastor Mark Robinson for letting us have a gathering at their church in order to go live and spread the word of God to our community. To Lanny for spending hours on getting the final clip ready, to Greg for getting music on the screens, for the pastors, musicians, singers, many many thanks for your labor of love!!!! I am in hopes that you enjoyed watching the gathering as it is currently the only way that we can meet.

We continue to be sheltered in place, but I hope that you have been using your time wisely in prayer, and reading your bible, talking with friends in reunion groups, and family through zoom or facebook.

Walks 94 and 95 are just around the corner, and I have been lifting these walks up in my prayers. Not sure what these will look like going forward. But I know that God is still in control.

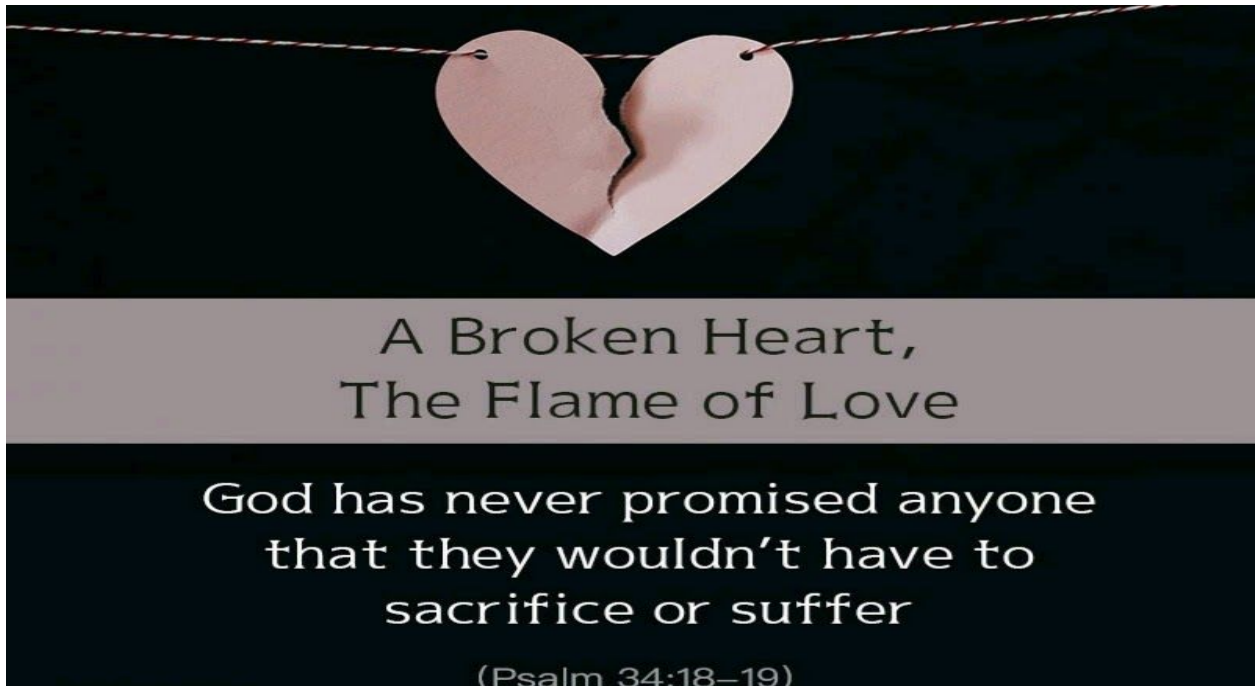
For new pilgrims, we look forward to the time that we can here the answers to the two questions that you answered during your walk. We hope that you will remain active in your churches as well as our community to work on the inside conference team, outside team, or chapel team.

Today we are waiting patiently to hear what the Upper Room has to say along with the Governor of Texas. I am looking forward to seeing everyone, and hoping it is very soon!

You all are in my prayers, and I ask God to bless you during these trying times.

DeColores!

Mike Johnston



A Broken Heart, The Flame of Love

God has never promised anyone
that they wouldn't have to
sacrifice or suffer

(Psalm 34:18-19)

God has never promised anyone that they wouldn't have to sacrifice or suffer. It is the human condition. Even if we go back to the story of Adam and Eve, they couldn't have everything, they had to avoid the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden or they would suffer the consequences. But it looked so good, why was God making them suffer? Well, we know the rest of the story! There will always be something we can't have, or can't do. There will always be times when we will suffer for our beliefs. We may do everything right, and still get sick, break an arm or a leg, lose a job, a home, a loved one. Is God punishing us? Of course not! No one escapes. We might look at those who are not righteous, and think that they seem to have it all. We might see wealth or power or fame, but do we really see it all? We don't see that they, too, get sick, lose people they love, etc. What God promises us is that He will be with us through the sufferings that we endure. Haven't you sometimes thought, or even said, "I don't know how people who don't have faith get through this!" I know I have. Whether it is the loss of a child or a spouse, or losing everything in a fire or a flood, or other type of disaster, I don't know how they do it. I try to be the best I can be because I am so grateful for the presence of God in my life. What about you?

Prayer: Loving God, You don't promise us a life without pain, but you do promise that you will walk with us through the afflictions that this life brings. Thank you. Amen.



The Fall Walks are getting close and your Reunion Groups hold a vital part in the role of Agape. Giving is the nature of God's love. Agape received during a Pilgrim's Walk to Emmaus experience has a ripple effect. As pilgrims reflect on being showered with nonstop agape in all its forms, many recognize the love of Christ in ways they have never imagined before. The hope is that they will return to their church and communities ready to share God's unconditional love with others. Thank you for making tangible signs of Agape through small gifts to be given to the Pilgrims throughout the weekend. Please bring them to the September Gathering or call Charlene Burton at 903-920-6677 to make arrangements to drop them off.



SPONSORSHIP

Hi GRACE EMMAUS Community

Please reflect on your walk. Regardless of when or where it was taken, I am sure you still remember the weekend. Many of you have kept your agape, your talk notes and those wonderful letters you received on Sunday. Many of you cried with joy, sadness and many more emotions as you read them with your new sisters and brothers in Christ.

I have to admit I know where all my letters are and when I need a little extra I read those letters. Before sponsoring a pilgrim I pray that he/she will be receptive and that the Holy Spirit will help me to reach potential pilgrims. I also take out my letters and read them. They remind me of all the love and kindness that my church family, my family, my friends and of course my sponsor poured out in those letters. They help inspire me.

Read your letters, look at your agape, read the notes from your walk. Reflect on what your walk meant to you. Then be in prayer and think about who really needs this walk. It will surprise you how many people pop into your head..

I have a challenge for you. Sponsor at least one pilgrim this year. Let's continue to have the best walks ever.

De Colores,
Laura Resler, Sponsorship

G.R.A.C.E.

Greater Rose Area Community Emmaus

The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. It is not for everyone. It is not for the first time Christians.

You may ask who will benefit from this walk. Quite simply it is your friends, your neighbors, fellow church members and the clergy. It is for Christians of every denomination. Every 4th dayer can be a sponsor.

Please be in prayerful consideration of what this walk meant to you and what it will mean to someone else in our community of faith.

When you are ready to sponsor your pilgrim. Remember to pray with them. Work with them to fill out the pilgrim application which requires 3 signatures; theirs, their pastor and the sponsor. The cost of the walk is \$165. A \$50 dollar deposit must be sent in with the application. All pilgrim applications should be sent to :

G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community
P.O. Box 132212
Tyler, TX 75713-2212

There's still plenty of time to submit applications for the Fall Walks which will be held at Camp Gilmont in Gilmer, Tx. The Men's Walk will be October 8-11 and the Women's Walk October 1-4. Please include the deposit fee with the application. If the cost is a problem you might try approaching a group within your church that could provide a "scholarship". Should you have any questions regarding your sponsorship duties, I would be glad to help you. Please call me at 617 953-4486.

De Colores,
Laura Resler Board Sponsorship Chair



From the G.R.A.C.E. treasurer

Thanks to the generosity of the G.R.A.C.E. community, donations continue to come in regularly each month by the ACH, personal checks, and at monthly gatherings. Every dollar received goes back into the community to continue to spread the life changing experiences that an Emmaus weekend can deliver. Donated funds can also be used for pilgrim and team member scholarships, updating equipment, and the general fund of our community. Thank you, for your continued support of our Emmaus community.

Treasurer, Boni Demaree

EMMAUS GATHERINGS

Community Church Members, Planning to host a Walk to Emmaus Gathering? Here is your chance. We usually meet on the third Saturday. We are looking for Emmaus groups to volunteer to welcome the G. R. A. C. E. Community to their church for fellowship, worship, and food. Please consider hosting us at your church! If you are interested, please contact Debbie Hays 903-452-5331 or dhays55@yahoo.com

Thank you, Debbie Hays

Giving – Priority of the Heart

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Mathew 6:21

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For many of us, the CoronaVirus Pandemic has interrupted our lives, compromised our incomes and rearranged our priorities! P-r-i-o-r-i-t-y, I recall that talk: especially, the three questions. What do you think about? How do you spend your time? How do you spend your money? Thought + Time + Money = Your Priority. I would imagine that our answers to all three of these questions have drastically changed in the past few weeks! As Christians, we have scripture to provide direction regarding money...number one, it is not ours, it belongs to God and is at His disposal. We are encouraged to tithe; give 10% of our first fruits in support of our churches and ministers with gratitude to God who provides all. We are also charged with the mission to provide for the needy, the widow, the orphan and to support the ministries of our ‘messengers to the world.’ Is it any wonder that money is mentioned in the Bible over 800 times and Jesus spoke to the subject in over half of His parables? Could it be that the subject of money required that much attention because it is a place where even Believers are challenged to trust God as our Provider and Ultimate Financial Planner?

In these uncertain times it is a challenge to part with Tithes to our church let alone give more to our missions, but this is what we are called to do! Malachi 3:10 affirms, “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My House. Test Me in this.” Says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgate of Heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be enough room to store it.” Amen.

G.R.A.C.E. has been impacted by the Covid-19 Epidemic as well. Social Isolation has precipitated a short fall in donations and the opportunity to gather, fellowship and share our financial blessings. Many members choose to donate monthly, for which I am extremely grateful. Many prefer to give at Gatherings and Candlelight services as well. So please, as you reevaluate your priorities and plan ahead, remember your walk; your mission; your G.R.A.C.E. and ‘give what you have decided in your heart to give...’ 2

Corinthians 9:7a

May God continue to Bless and Prosper each and every one of you.

Your sister in Christ,

Boni Demaree, Board Treasurer

The Upper Room



<https://www.upperroom.org/newsletters>

Stay Connected

Sign up to receive newsletters and updates from The Upper Room.

Newsletters Upper Room Daily Reflections (Daily) - Words of wisdom and faith found in the pages of Upper Room Books.From the Center (Monthly, 1st Tuesday) - A monthly email newsletter from The Upper Room with resources for your soul care as a spiritual leader. Academy Bulletin (Monthly) - Updates, news, and special reflections exclusively for The Academy for Spiritual Formation participants, faculty, and leaders. Emmaus eNews (Every Other Month) - Get the latest news and tips for your fourth day journey. Especially for leaders and participants in Emmaus Ministries, including the Walk to Emmaus, Face to Face, and Chrysalis.Upper Room Recommends (Weekly, Thursday) - A weekly email for those seeking resources for spiritual formation and prayer. The email contains excerpts from Upper Room authors, plus book and online resource suggestions for small groups, congregational studies, and individual spiritual growth.My Quiet Spaces (Quarterly) - A quarterly newsletter for women seeking inspiration, tools, and support to deepen their walk with God.Rising Generations (Every Other Month) - Whether you're a church leader or parent, this bimonthly newsletter provides tips and tools for ministry with Children, Youth & Young Adults.



A REMINDER OF WALK FEES:

Pilgrim: \$165 (although the community expense is \$175)

Clergy Pilgrim: \$75

Inside/Conference Room Team: \$165

Outside Servant Team (full weekend): \$165

Outside Servant Team (partial weekend): \$8 per meal, \$27 per night (lodging)

Boni Demaree, Treasurer

The Walk To Emmaus Movement



Walk to Emmaus THE UPPER ROOM.®

The Upper Room, part of United Methodist Discipleship Ministries, began the three-day ecumenical spiritual-renewal retreats in 1978. The self-supporting ministry grew out of the the Catholic Cursillo movement, and took the name Walk to Emmaus in 1981. The goal of Walk to Emmaus is to equip church members for Christian action. Following the three-day experience, participants are joined in small groups to support each other in their ongoing walk with Christ. The movement also includes the [Chrysalis](#) program for youth, the [Face to Face](#) program for adults 60 and older, and the [Journey to the Table](#) program for adults 18 to 35.



Hello to all in the G.R.A.C.E. Community. I know that everyone is probably getting tired of being quarantined. Wanted to give everyone a list of the new pilgrims from walk 92 and 93 and welcome all them into our community.

DeColores, Rhonda Gorrell Prayer Vigil Board Member

Walk #92 Pilgrims

**Keith Blasco
Paul Breedlove
Donny Edwards
Michael Green
Calvin Howell
Mike Kellogg
Jerry Kralka
Corey McCurry
Daniel McRee
Randy Morris
Weldon Nutt
Donnie Payne
Jimmy Strickland
Ryan Tamura
Zach Zajac**

Walk #93 Pilgrims

Stephanie Abney	Lisa Lewis
Donna Armendariz	Sherry May
Cindy Barber	Alyssa Miller
Tammy Broomfield	Alexis Odom
Pam Burton	Kaylee Rush
Tammie Cagle	Sherry Scallions
Alice Clover	Amber Simon
Jordan Dotson	Norma Spier
Carol Florey	April Zajac
Selbie Fountain	
Cindy Gladney	
Patty Grado-Carson	
Kim Hart	
Judy Haywood	
Cindy Huffman	

“Rooted and Grounded in Love” – Walk #92 & Walk #93

**“It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes, and bags.”
Dr. Seuss, How the Grinch Stole Christmas!**

In March 2019, almost a year before Walk #93 began, Susan Smith and I met to talk about, and to pray about, what we believed Walk #93 should look like. In the months that followed, Susan and I prayed and worked together to assemble the Servant Team (outside and inside) and the Spiritual Directors that served on Walk #93. I know what a Walk to Emmaus is supposed to look like. I’ve been blessed to serve in a variety of positions, with a variety of experienced walk servants. When I arrived at Disciples’ Crossing Thursday morning, I was excited to see how my vision of the Walk was going to play out. The first change to my mental picture came just after lunch Thursday, when camp employees rounded us all up to be screened for COVID-19; twenty-four pilgrims and their sponsors were also screened as they arrived later on Thursday. Friday afternoon the Servant Team was informed that the camp was locked down because of the virus. That is when God began to show us HIS vision for Walk #93. So many obstacles were encountered; each one was dealt with quickly and gracefully by the outside team. Community members outside the camp became the hands and feet of Christ in delivering everything the pilgrims needed that was suddenly on the wrong side of the gate. The Servant Team created a space for a Candlelight experience that was sacred beyond words. Sunday afternoon, after the Closing Communion service, Susan spoke to the newest 4th Dayers about what was happening outside the camp; they went back to a world even more different than what most new 4th Dayers encounter. I know that Walk #93 differed – in some ways that we hold dear – from what other Walks have looked like. I love being part of the community that shows up to serve at the Christ Banquet, at Candlelight, and at Closing; I missed seeing you all there. But the Holy Spirit swept through those sacred moments and they were filled with a “mighty cloud of witnesses”. Walk #93 was the best walk ever!

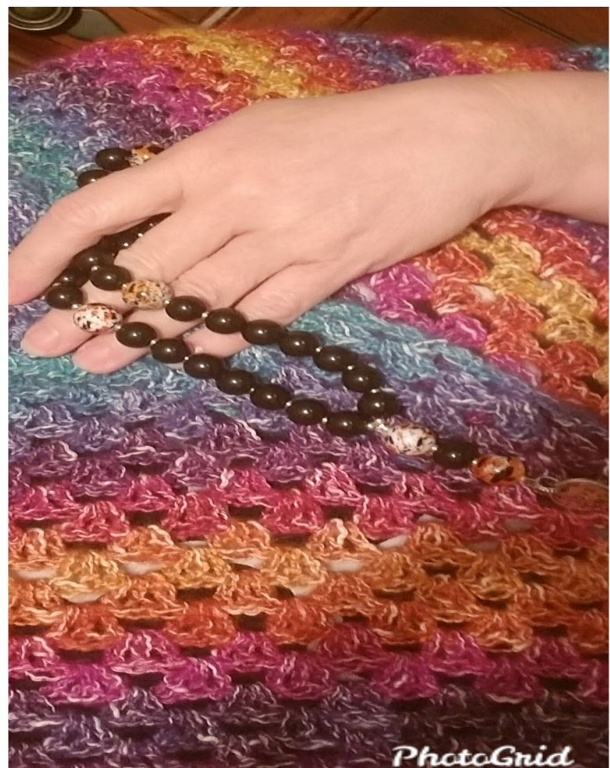
De Colores!

Anita Duesterhoff, Lay Director Walk #93

Thank you to our wonderful Emmaus family for the prayers, flowers, food, cards, phone calls, messages during the month of March. Not only for the loss of our mother, but for those who stood in the gap though Charlene's breast cancer surgery and through the healing that has followed. When we say yes to Jesus, we become family and we are all loved by our creator who wants nothing less than to have a relationship with every single one of us and for us to have a relationship with each other... no matter what. Although we have been quarantined for these last few weeks, we have never felt more covered by love and prayer. For that, we are truly grateful and blessed. This beautiful prayer shawl and palm cross let our hands feel what our hearts already knew... that God was with us and that we were loved. Thank you all so much.

In Christ,

Charlene and Brad Burton



G.R.A.C.E. BOARD ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2020

Lay Director: Mike Johnston

Cell: 903-521-0860 Email: mike.johnston.unionchapelumc@gmail.com

Assistant Lay Director: John Crow

Cell: 903-288-1881 Email: jwcrow56@gmail.com

Ex Officio Lay Director: Wynn Harle

Cell: 903-245-2701 Email: cowboycentral@suddenlink.net

Spiritual Director: Rev. Joe Hall

Cell: 903-742-5828 Email: joehall@mhd.com

Assistant Spiritual Director: Dan Vickers

Cell: 214-673-6233 Email: dvickerspmp@gmail.com

Secretary: Paula West

Cell: 903-918-9067 Email: pjwest57@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Boni Demaree

Cell: 903-352-2857 Email: boni@sysresourcegroup.com

Music Coordinator: Scott Snyder

Cell: 903-539-1754 Email: scott_snyder@att.net

COMMITTEES

(Board Member is chair of designated committee)

Agape (Banquet, Afterglow, handmade items): Charlene Burton

Cell: 903-920-6677 Email: cburtonlindale@gmail.com

Babe Chick Training: Ken Duesterhoft

Cell: 903-520-0294 Email: kwdues@gmail.com

Book Table : Betty Buchanan

Cell: 903-930-2678 Email: jimbet85@gmail.com

Community Trailer: Wayne Brunt

Cell: 903-522-0833 Email: waynebrunt@ymail.com

Gathering Coordinator: Debbie Hays

Cell: 903-452-5331 Email: dhays55@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor: Ernest Rodriguez

Cell: 903-810-0633 Email: erod7707@gmail.com

Prayer Vigil: Rhonda Gorrell

Cell: 575-749-1221 Email: fire322dfd@yahoo.com

Publication Coordinator: John Epps

Cell: 830-444-1400 Email: j.epps1400@gmail.com

Sponsorship Training: Laura Resler

Cell: 617-953-4486 Email: ltfnp2@gmail.com

Reunion Groups: Scott Catchot

Cell: 903-373-5415 Email: scottcatchot@yahoo.com

Non-Board (non-voting) Positions

Registrar: Jim and Betty Buchanan

Cell Betty: 903-930-2678 Cell Jim: 903-930-2360 email: jimbet85@gmail.com

Walk Crosses: Elizabeth Minor

Home: 903-657-8112 Email: mnm-design@msn.com

Cell: 903-720-1740

Doves: Jay Edwards, je7255@aol.com

Webmaster: Martha and Brett Walker

Cell Martha: 903-235-0158 Cell Brett: 903-987-3090

email Martha: marthasgarden55@gmail.com email Brett: brettfcall@gmail.com

GRACE EMMANUS COMMUNITY

The G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community wishes to continue to spread the life changing experience that an Emmaus weekend can deliver. Won't you help us by donating funds for scholarships for both Pilgrims and team members, or the general fund of our community? We are asking you to consider donating \$5, \$10, \$25 monthly or whatever amount you would like to set the donation to. This monthly donation will be debited automatically from your bank account on or about the 15th of the month. Thank you for your continued support of our Emmaus community.

De Colores

PLEASE COMPLETE THE INFORMATION BELOW:

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

BANK INFORMATION

I (We) hereby authorize GRACE Emmaus to initiate debit entries to my (our) checking in account indicated below. The amount will be charged monthly. This authority is to remain in full force and effect until GRACE Emmaus receives written notification of its termination.

Monthly gift amount \$ _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Fill out information below or attach voided check

Depository Name: _____ City: _____

State: ____ Zip: _____

Account #: _____

Transit/ABA #: _____

MAIL INFORMATION TO:

Tyler Emmaus GRACE Community

P.O. Box 132212

Tyler, TX 75713-22122