

# Grace for Today

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

April 2025

## Coming Events

### Fall Walks at Camp Gilmont:

Men's Walk #110 Sept 25-28

Women's Walk #111 Oct 2-5

### Team Selection will be April 15

Turn in your application now!

### Saturday, April 26, Gathering –

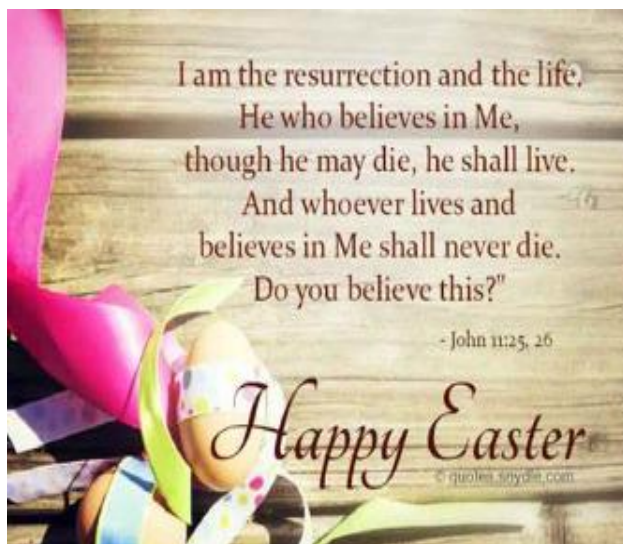
1<sup>st</sup> Methodist, Gladewater - Potluck at Noon, Worship immediately after.

### Saturday, May 10, Work Day at Camp

Gilmont – Arrive at 8:00 AM to work; lunch at noon, with Worship immediately after; bring your own lunch & drink, this is NOT a Potluck.

### Saturday, June 21, Gathering – Grace Bible

Church, Canton - Potluck at Noon, Worship immediately after.



## Inside this Issue

2: Community Lay Director's Corner

2: International Virtual Gathering

3: Welcome Our New 4th Dayers!

4: Thanks to the Servers!

4: From the Outside Looking In - The Outside Team

5: Are You Working on a Walk to Emmaus Weekend? Do You Want To?

5: Team Selection for Walks 110 & 111

6-7: Our Personal Road to Emmaus

8: To Follow Him

9: The Upper Room: Engage With Us

10: 2024 GRACE Emmaus Board of Directors

11: Support for GRACE Emmaus Community

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

<https://www.graceemmaus.com>

## **Community Lay Director's Corner**

Spring is here, and the Spring Walks have come and gone! No matter how many Walks I work, God never ceases to amaze me.

I want to thank everyone who gave of their time and talents to make the Walks happen. A special thank you to Ken Dueterhoft and Kathy Pruitt for leading the Walks. The amount of time, effort, and prayer that goes into each Walk is enormous, and each of you are truly a blessing from God. We have the most amazing community of servants, and I love being part of it!

Now it's time to sign up to work the Fall Walks!

Sandra Grasch  
Community Lay Director

## **International Virtual Gathering**

April 25th, 2025 at 7:00 pm Central time.

Emmaus Ministries will host our next international virtual gathering via Zoom on Friday, April 25, 2025 at 7:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada).

Please join us for this free Emmaus Ministries Gathering that will bring together music from all over the world. You will also hear from Fourth Day witnesses, enjoy a mini-group reunion experience from diverse cultures, learn about special announcements within the Emmaus Ministries communities, and participate in a Spiritual Communion/Love Feast.



Register here: <https://www.upperroom.org/emmaus/events/virtual-gathering>

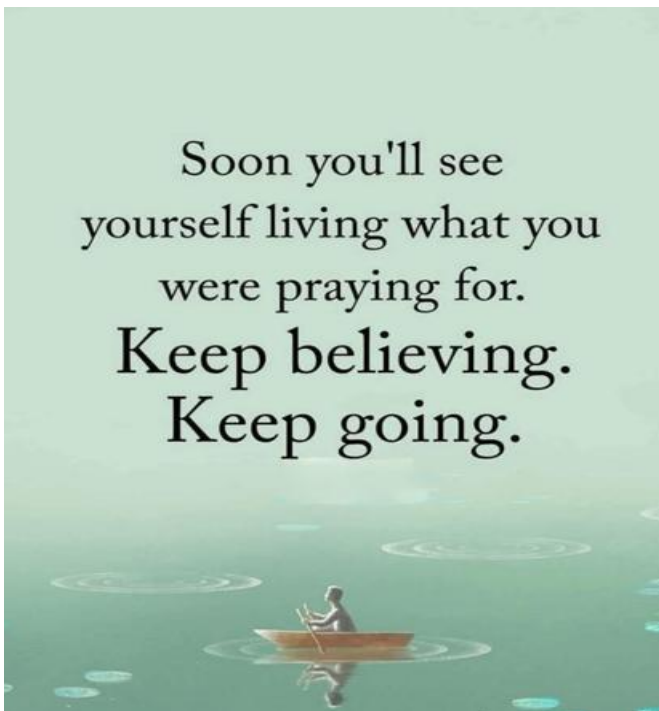
## **Welcome Our New 4<sup>th</sup> Dayers from Walks 108 and 109!**

### **Men's Walk 108**

Marvin Adams  
Jeremy Arnold  
Brady Corn  
Bruce Cowles  
Lynn Dehart  
Joshua Forrester  
Joel Hutson  
David May  
Jake Merritt  
Johnny Myers  
Trey Pettyjohn  
Howard Ramm  
John Redfearn  
Austin Roberson  
Jim Short  
Marc Walvoord

### **Women's Walk 109**

Lisa Adair  
Maria Becker  
Holly Blong  
Savannah Canady  
Mary Ann Carper  
Jaycie Casebeer  
Sheree Corn  
Laura Cowles  
Ann Crosse  
Debbie Dishman  
Dody Forrester  
Pam Hardman  
Carolyn Hutson  
Susan Jennings  
Kun A Kim  
Kellye Leverett  
Susan May  
Brenda McKenzie  
Janet Ragland  
Peggy Ramer  
Cece Roberts  
Sharon Torrans  
Brianna Tucker  
Laurie Williams  
Julie Wyatt



## **Thanks to the Servers!**

What a fantastic response from our Community on serving at the Christ Dinner for both the men's and women's spring Emmaus Walks!!

What a blessing to the Pilgrims, and I hope a blessing to you, too. Thank you for answering God's call to serve!

De Colores,  
Nancy Edwards  
Community Agape Chair



## **From the Outside Looking In - The Outside Team**

It's been on the calendar for months. The Thursday for reporting in draws near, and the energy begins to swell. As a first timer on the Outside Team, the desire is that the duties are carried out to the fullest. It has been advertised as a great way to observe the Walk to Emmaus because the dynamics can be seen from a broad perspective.

It is critical that nothing interferes with the movement of the Holy Spirit on the Pilgrims. The Holy Spirit will work in the lives of all who seek Him, that's a given. The question is just how He will work and what impact will it have on the rest of us.

As obstacles arise, the Outside Team stands ready to resolve problems before they interfere with the Pilgrims' journey. This battle "against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms" (Eph 6:10) can often be seen manifested as this team works to keep things running smoothly. With the "shield of faith, [we] can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one." (Eph 6:16). Besides, "...if God is for us, who can be against us?" (Ro 8:31)!

It is a great privilege to work on the Outside Team!

Paul Breedlove  
Community Gathering Coordinator



## ***Are You Working on a Walk to Emmaus Weekend? Do You Want To?***

The blessings that we all received on our Walk to Emmaus can be experienced again by being a member of one of the teams working the Walk. Anyone can serve on one of these teams: Conference Room, Chapel, and Outside. It would be helpful to complete a Team Application found on the G.R.A.C.E. website or by clicking the link below:

[Grace Emmaus - Team Application](#)

The cost of serving the three-day weekend is \$210, which covers nine meals and three nights lodging.

If someone serves only part of the weekend at the camp, you are asked to cover the costs of any meals and/or overnight stays while working. These costs can be provided by the Outside Team Leader at the Walk.

You only have one Walk as a pilgrim, but you can spend a lifetime as a servant of Christ, opening the eyes and hearts of others by showing His love. You won't regret it!

Betty Buchanan  
Community Treasurer



## ***Team Selection for Walks 110 and 111 is Soon!***

The Fall Walks at Camp Gilmont are approaching quickly, and preparation has already begun! Team Selection will be mid-April, so it's time to get your application submitted. Please pray about being part of the Team for one or both of the Walks and then fill out a Team Application on our website.

- Men's Walk #110 is September 25 thru 28 and C.J. Cox is the Lay Director.
- Women's Walk #111 is October 2 thru 5 and Pam McAdams is the Lay Director.

**These Walks will need Pilgrims!** God knows each one of them, but we must be His hands and feet to facilitate the process. It is time to start praying about someone you could sponsor.

## **Our Personal Road to Emmaus**

Three days after the death of Jesus, two of His disciples were walking along the road to the village of Emmaus, which is about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were absorbed in their own thoughts and worries, when they were joined by a stranger.

The stranger asked, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. The disciples spoke of the recent events “concerning Jesus of Nazareth.” They believed that Jesus had come to redeem Israel, but He had been unjustly condemned and crucified. They also said that those who knew Christ best were saying He had risen from the dead. The stranger told them they were “slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken.” He reviewed what the scriptures taught and how Christ had fulfilled prophecy. This filled the disciples with joy.

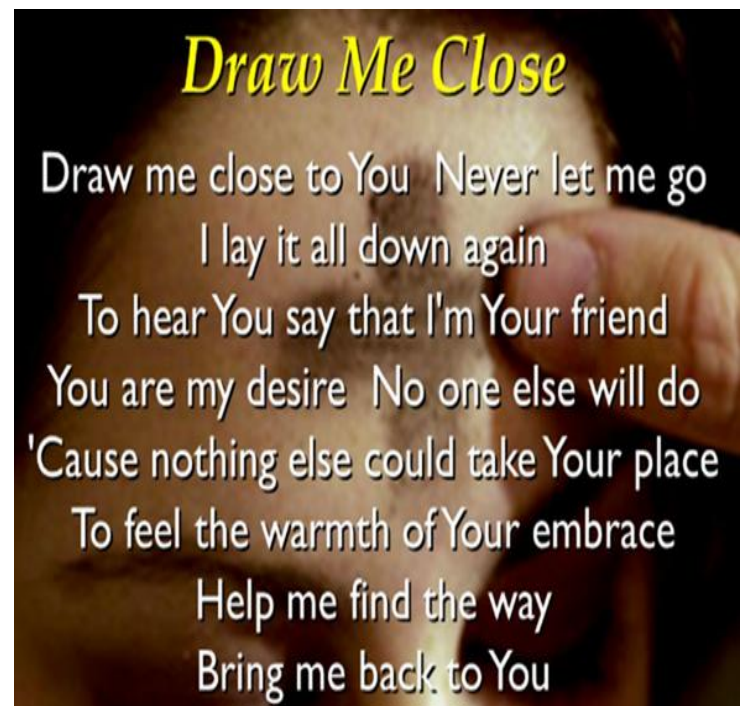
When they arrived at Emmaus, the disciples asked the stranger to “abide with them”. At dinner the stranger blessed bread and broke it. Suddenly, the disciples recognized that the stranger was no stranger at all but the risen Savior Himself!

We may wonder why the two disciples didn't know the Savior was walking with them. And yet how often do we fail to understand that He walks with us? Often, we are so focused on the challenges, and even the joys, in our daily lives that we do not see that Jesus is by our side. We may not see how He stays with us, strives with us, works with us, and cries with us. Even in

our saddest moments, if we take notice, we can feel Him with us and hear His words: “Be still and *know that I am God*”.

We each have a destination to reach in this life. At times on our journey, we may face illness, or we may struggle with our own weakness. We may have money problems or the challenges that come from success, wealth, and pride.

As we travel our personal road to Emmaus, we need never walk alone. We can ask the Savior to be with us.



*(continued below)*

Here are simple activities that will help us draw near to Him.

1. **Draw Near to God By Doing More Than Skimming Your Bible.** Imagine you are the blind beggar along the road, the paralytic by the pool, the bleeding woman, or an onlooker in some Bible passage. Imagine the scene. Take it a step further and do some research on what sights, sounds, and smells might have been present in the moment. Allow yourself to actually walk through the story as you read.
2. **Enter into Prayer as a two-way conversation.** It's easy to run through your lists of prayer requests without stilling yourself to listen to what God wants to put on your heart. Sit in silence as much as you talk when you pray. Remain attentive to scripture that God puts on your heart.
3. **Begin your prayer time with open arms.** Be in a posture of surrender to the Lord. Give thanks with raised hands, confess with open palms, release cares with outspread arms, and receive with open hands.
4. **Pursue silence and solitude.** This one is hard in today's busy world. Like sitting with a trusted friend at the lake or by the ocean, simply quieting ourselves for a few minutes, all while meditating on God's love for us, is a refreshing way to encounter him.

MAY I NEVER  
FORGET ON  
MY BEST DAY,  
THAT I STILL  
NEED GOD AS  
DESPERATELY  
AS I DID ON  
MY WORST.

On our own road to Emmaus, the Savior lovingly invites us to come unto Him and rejoice in Him. As we pray each day, feast on the scriptures, and invite Him to abide with us, He will be near us. We will then come to know, as the disciples on the road to Emmaus came to know, that Jesus Christ is risen and that He truly lives and loves us. He is eager to be with us and to guide us safely on our way.

Happy 4th day to everyone. See you at the gatherings! Save me a hug!

De Colores!

Charlene Burton  
Community Registrar

## To Follow Him...

If Jesus walked the earth today would we be followers? Jesus's teaching is hard. Count the cost (Luke 14:28). To follow Him is to pick up your cross (Matthew 16:24). To follow Him is to love your enemy and pray for them (Matthew 5:44). To follow Him is to do His will despite our own plans (Matthew 6:10). You will be hated because of Him (Matthew 24:9). Jesus doesn't hesitate to remind us of the truth.

I'd like to think I would be a follower. But then I see Jesus digging in my closet and pulling out the things I've buried. All the things no one knows about me but Him. All the things I have worked hard to bury. All the things I'd prefer to keep hidden. All the things... Tough, not dealt with, deeply buried things. Things He doesn't intend for me to carry because secrets keep us sick. But to deal with them is hard. He's sifting. He's stirring the pot. He's pruning, and I feel uncomfortable.

If I say I have unwavering faith and I will not be shaken (Psalm 16:8) but I turn away when it gets hard, do I really have unwavering faith? So many followed Jesus. So many deserted Him.

Jesus pointed out these things in love. He calls us to be like Him. That means we must discard our flesh and put on Christ. But could you stay when you must come face to face with the worst of the worst of you?

Narrow is the gate and difficult is the road that leads to life, and few find it (Matthew 7:14).



To follow Him...fight the good fight (2 Timothy 4:7).

"From that moment many of His disciples turned back and no longer accompanied Him.

Therefore, Jesus said to the Twelve, "You don't want to go away too, do you?" Simon Peter answered, "Lord, who will we go to? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that You are the Holy One of God!" John 6:66-69

I do believe. Help my unbelief (Mark 9:24). Growth can be uncomfortable.

To follow Him...to stay in His presence and live an authentic life...

"Then I acknowledged my sin to You and did not conceal my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and You took away the guilt of my sin." Psalm 32:5

Thank You, Lord.

Liz Webb  
GRACE Emmaus Walk 87



# 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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

# GRACE Emmaus Community Board of Directors 2025

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## **SUPPORT FOR THE GRACE EMMAUS 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 #: \_\_\_\_\_

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