



January-March 2021

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

www.graceemmaus.com

Fall Walks

Men's Walk #94, Sept 23-26
Women's Walk #95, Sept 30 - Oct 3

Gatherings

Saturday, April 17th at First United Methodist Church Lindale – Potluck Lunch at noon and Worship at 1:00. If not comfortable with Potluck, feel free to bring sack lunch. Wear masks as comfortable.

Saturday, May 15th Workday at Camp Gilmont – 8:30 A.M. meet at the camp for projects, lunch at noon, and Worship after. Details will be shared later.



Why Did God Create You?

There are no relationships more intimate than that of a parent with their child. Everyone that sees you with your child will say things like, "Oh, he has your nose," and, "Look at her smile! Looks just like you." We are a combination of our two parents, the good and the bad. The same is true of us with God.

Why did God create you? "For my glory." He did it for Himself. He did it so that we could understand and rejoice in Him. He did it so that we would serve and love Him. He made us in His image, even sending His only son to earth to live as us, sinners, to be closer and better understand His divine plan.

What can we do with this responsibility? There is a lot of pressure on us to perform to God's standards if He created us for His glory. What if we fail? What if we let Him down? Our God is merciful. We cannot let Him down if we try. If we ask, He will listen. If we knock, He will open the door. He made us to please Himself, so with that in mind, how can we fail? We cannot!

Prayer

Why did God create you? So that we could perform everything in our lives with Him in mind. So that we can rejoice in His name and spread His word to all people. We are to live for Him for us. He is to be praised and adored, not humanity. Too many words have been spent on the lives of great men. All of our accomplishments, ALL of them, are for God's glory. All of our failures are too. I am certain that we have all felt a calling from God at one point or another. Focus on that love, the glory of God, to find your higher purpose. Trust in Him, and be proud in knowing that all that you do, the good and the bad, is for His glory.
AMEN.



The Next 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 next upcoming Gathering or call Charlene Burton at 903-920-6677 to make arrangements to drop them off.

SPONSORSHIP

Sponsoring a pilgrim probably is the last thing you have on your mind. We are bombarded by new cases of coronavirus, increased unemployment, and unrest in this country which is terrifying. The core values of this country are under attack. Christians and people of faith are under attack.

We all have so many questions about where we are going and when will this stop. I am sure some of you are wondering why this is happening?

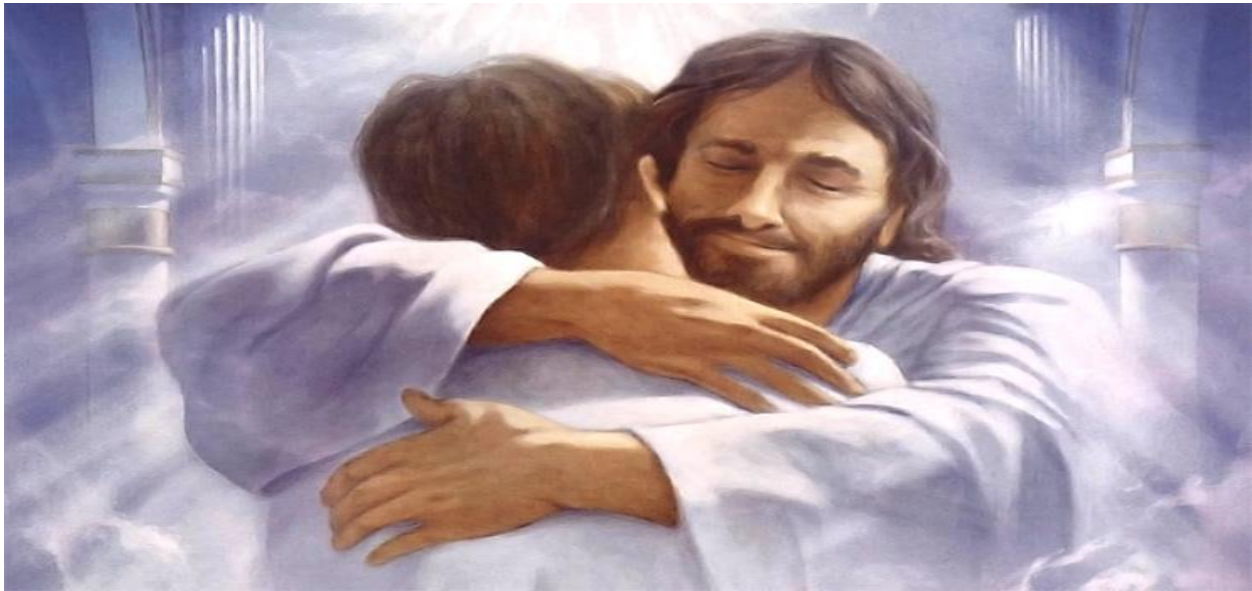
One answer is to make our voices heard and to hold on to our faith and each other. To say we have to keep our hearts and minds focused on God seems to be a simplistic solution; an easy fix. What does God want from us? He wants us to persevere against great odds.

No battle is won without cost. The more valuable the prize the more costly the effort to achieve it. Romans 5:3-5 “Not only so, but we must also glory in our suffering, because we know that suffering produces perseverance, perseverance, character; and character hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who he has given us”.

We need each other more than ever. Think about what your Emmaus Walk meant to you. Did it help lift you up? Were you renewed and strengthened in your faith? Hold out your hand to a friend and offer them the opportunity to journey with Jesus on a walk to Emmaus.

Give someone hope and offer this journey to them.

**De Colores,
Laura Resler
Sponsorship**



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, Chad Bearden

EMMAUS GATHERINGS

Won't you consider hosting a WALK TO EMMAUS GATHERING at Your home church? We are asking for EMMAUS GROUPS to volunteer to welcome the G.R.A.C.E. Community to their home churches for Gatherings to include Fellowship, Worship, and the sharing of a Meal. Please give prayerful Consideration to hosting us at your church. We generally meet on the 3rd Saturday of the month, beginning at noon and ending by 2:30pm. If interested, please contact Rick Rundquist at 903 569-4421 or richardrundquist@cebridge.net.

DeColores, Richard Rundquist



<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: STARTING IN 2021

Pilgrim: \$195.00

All others: \$195.00

Deposit : \$75.00



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 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.



The Gift of the Song

In 1974, my husband and I were members of a Christian community at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Houston, Texas. Sometime earlier in that year I had begun to follow the lectionary of the church and to use the assigned New Testament lesson as a springboard for meditation each day. One Saturday in August, the given lesson was **Luke 8:40**. Now having grown up in the Presbyterian Church, I was a relatively new Episcopalian, unfamiliar with at least one particular Episcopalian convention: when the lectionary table listed one Bible verse rather than a range of verses, the reader was intended to begin at that verse and continue to the end of the chapter. In my ignorance I read only, **"Now when Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they were all waiting for him."**

I was mystified as to why the church had selected such a mundane statement to be the inspirational message for the day. Accepting the idea that surely there must have been a reason, I asked the Lord to speak to me and teach me. Later that morning my mind wandered back to that singularly unremarkable sentence over and over. Through the day I found myself imagining what it must have been like to have been a part of the crowd waiting for Jesus.

Eager anticipation . . . respite from burdensome daily chores . . . cool shady roadside . . . amiable chatter . . . dogs barking . . . steadily climbing sun . . . laughing neighbors . . . waiting . . . hunger . . . bread and wine shared with friends . . . idle talk . . . waiting . . . drowsiness . . . heat and dust . . . cross words, soothing words, gossipy news . . . aching legs, tired neck, sweaty jostling shoulders . . . children running and shouting . . . waiting . . . wondering what will he be like? what will he say? what will he do? will he have time for me? . . . waiting . . . until finally far up the road a shout goes up and we know he's coming! . . . straining on tiptoe to see, and at last . . . he is here.

This exercise of imagination led me to draw parallels between that long-ago crowd and our life together as a Christian community. I came in touch with renewed feelings of anticipation and reverence. As I prepared to go to our regular Saturday evening community gathering, I felt buoyed up and expectant, eager to meet the Lord in prayer and worship among his people. During the time set aside for communal prayer, I began to hear the song "Alleluia, He Is Coming". I listened to the lovely melody and words and then I felt the Lord was asking me to sing it aloud. With mouth clamped shut, I said, "Lord, you know me. I wouldn't venture to sing a song I knew well alone, much less one I've never heard before!"

That night at home I did gather enough courage to share what had happened with my husband. Because of his encouragement, I shared the song several days later with two of my closest friends. One of them went to the piano and asked me to sing it again. Soon the three of us were singing it together. My friends also encouraged me and promised to sing the song with me at the next community meeting. The following Saturday night, before we had reached the middle of the second chorus, the entire community was singing "Alleluia, He Is Coming."

Since then, the song has found a frequent place among the wealth of beautiful songs given and shared in the richness of the Lord's Spirit. The blessing it brought St. Matthew's community has spread through the wide-reaching lives and ministries of those who were gathered together on that summer Saturday night. People have written from all over this country as well as Canada, England, South Africa, Norway, New Zealand, and Australia to say that they have been enriched by the song. I can only say in quiet awe and wonder that in spite of my ignorance and timidity, the Lord gently used me as a vessel for his Spirit. He continues to teach me that his is the wisdom and power. All he requires of us is to listen and receive and then share his Spirit with each other. Alleluia, he is coming. Alleluia, he is here.

*Martha Butler,
November 17, 1987*

G.R.A.C.E. BOARD ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2021

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Ex Officio Lay Director

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COMMITTEES

(Board Member is chair of designated committee)

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jimbet85@gmail.com

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Dove Nametags

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Webmaster

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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 #: _____

MAIL INFORMATION TO:

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Tyler, TX 75713-2212