

Grace for Today

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

May 2024

Coming Events

Sat, May 11, Workday at Camp Gilmont

Arrive at 8:00 AM to work; lunch at noon, with Worship immediately following; bring your own lunch, this is NOT a Potluck; see the article below for more information.

Sat, Jun 15, Gathering, Carrol Springs

Methodist Potluck lunch at noon, with Worship immediately following.

Sat, Jul 20, Gathering, Winona Methodist

Potluck lunch at noon, with Worship immediately following.

Fall Walks at Camp Gilmont in Gilmer

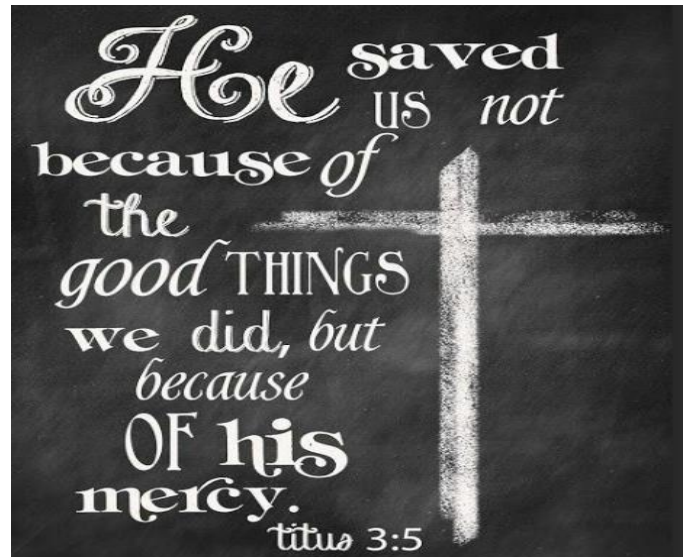
Men's Walk #106, September 26-29, 2024

Women's Walk #107, October 3-6, 2024



The more I study nature, the more I stand amazed at the work of the Creator.

Louis Pasteur, French chemist



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[Find More on the G.R.A.C.E. Website:](http://www.graceemmaus.com)

www.graceemmaus.com

Community Lay Director's Corner

Dear GRACE Emmaus Community,

I've heard it said that April showers bring May flowers...for all those who came to the April 20th Gathering at First Methodist Gladewater we got to experience non-stop torrential April showers. Despite the rain, we had a great turnout. Many thanks to the wonderful folks for hosting us and for their warm hospitality.

One of the things we have tried to do as the GRACE Emmaus Community is to keep our Walk fees as low as possible. For many years there has been no increase in Walk fees. I don't know about you, but it seems like every time I go buy anything, gas, groceries, utilities, insurance, etc., everything costs more. That said, due to increased camp fees, supply costs plus increased overhead costs (i.e., insurance, licensing fees, printing, Emmaus Upper Room fees, etc.) our Board of Directors voted to increase Walk fees effective immediately from \$195 to \$210, a \$15 increase.

As one of our Board members pointed out by handing me a receipt, the Walk fee increase is about the equivalent of a Whataburger meal for two. He did clarify that the meal did not include beverages (water only) and they shared one order of fries. The times we are living in, I guess.

As a community, we can each help cover these costs by getting involved in monthly contributions to the GRACE Emmaus Community. I invite you to give prayerful consideration to a monthly contribution through an automatic contribution via an ACH deduction from your bank account. Whatever amount you might be able to give monthly, whether it's \$5 or \$100, will go a long way in keeping our community strong and vibrant. On

the last page of this Newsletter, you will find the ACH information. Contributions are deducted on the 1st of the month and may be cancelled upon request. Thank you for your generosity to our community.

As preparations are underway for our Fall Walks, please prayerfully consider serving on one of the Teams. Get your applications in as the Team Selection Committee will be meeting soon. The link to complete a Team Application can be found on the website.

I hope to see each of you on Saturday, May 11th at our annual Camp Gilmont workday, Gathering, lunch and Worship. Here's the schedule: 8am - 12pm workday, 12pm - lunch and Worship to follow. This is not a potluck. Everyone brings their own lunch. The workday is something we do each year for Camp Gilmont and it is very much appreciated by the Management and Staff of the Camp. This workday has contributed significantly to our close, long standing relationship with Camp Gilmont.

I look forward to seeing you there!

DeColores! Let it shine!

John Webb, Community Lay Director



***Happiness comes from WHAT we do.
Fulfillment comes from WHY we do it.***

Serving

*“We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith,
your labor prompted by love,
and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”
1 Thessalonians 1:3*

While labor is a byproduct of our faith, Paul points to serving as coming from a place of love.

What does serving look like? It's selfless. We don't serve for the praise or accolades from others. Serving puts others before self. It's more than just our duty or doing the task assigned. It's a heart posture, a willingness to serve in a way that reflects God's nature.

May all we do glorify You, Lord.

Liz Webb
Walk Lay Director
Women's Walk #107



How to help with the Fall Walks

- **Fall Walks at Camp Gilmont in Gilmer**

Men's Walk #106, September 26-29, 2024

Women's Walk #107, October 3-6, 2024

Schedule of events during each Walk -

Thursday: Sponsors, please have Pilgrims arrive promptly at 7pm and stay for Sponsors' Hour after Sendoff.

Saturday: Servers for the Agape dinner arrive at 4pm.

Saturday: For Gathering, Worship and Candlelight arrive at 7pm.

Sunday: Sponsors pick up Pilgrim's belongings at 3:30, Closing begins at 4pm.

Mark your calendar to attend the Gathering and Candlelight for each Walk.

- **Pray, Pray, Pray for our Walks!**

- **Consider serving on the Walks!** **Team Selection will be on May 18, so it's important for you to get your applications in as soon as possible if you want to serve! Go to our website, www.graceemmaus.com -> Applications tab -> Team Application.**

- **Sponsor a Pilgrim!** Do you know someone you would like to share this amazing experience with? Prayfully consider asking them to attend a walk. Pilgrim information is found on our website www.graceemmaus.com -> Applications tab -> Pilgrim Application.

- **Start making agape gifts for men and women!** Recommended number of identical pieces of agape for each Walk (you can add the name of your Reunion Group and city to the Agape, but please do not put the name of your church):

- Agape for Everyone – 72
- Dining Room Agape – 64
- Bed Agape – 36

Feel free to make as many sets as you would like! It's not too early to start! We will also need lanyards for nametags and crosses, and decorated place mats. Contact Deb Miller (debikmiller54@gmail.com) for more information.

- **Do you have a Golf Cart or Mule we could borrow for one or both Walks?** Contact one of the Walk Lay Directors, Rick Rundquist (roundtwig01@gmail.com) or Liz Webb (lizw3bb@gmail.com), if you can help.

- **Consider being a server for the Agape Dinner on Saturday evening of each Walk.** Women will serve for the Men's Walk on Saturday evening. Men will serve for the Women's Walk on Saturday evening. All you need are black pants, a white shirt, and a willing heart! Contact Deb Miller (debikmiller54@gmail.com) for more information.

We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean.

But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.

-- Saint Teresa

MEN'S WALK # 106

*Each of you should use whatever gifts you have received to serve others,
as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.
If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God.
If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides,
so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.
To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen
1 Peter 4: 10-11 (NIV)*

We all have been granted mighty gifts from our Lord. And in return, out of our love for Christ Jesus, we willingly return these blessings to others for His glory.

Dear friends, would you prayerfully consider serving on one of the Teams for the upcoming Fall Men's Walk? Oh, the blessing you return and receive by being a part of any Team is humbling. Those who have served on any team will confirm this to you. No matter if you are a new 4th Dayer or it has been a while since you served, I invite you to come and help feed the Pilgrims, our spiritual sheep. Team applications are posted on the GRACE Emmaus website. God already has invited all who will serve, you just need to complete the application.

Yes, God has already selected not only the Teams, but also the Pilgrims. Have you been praying about someone you know will benefit from the Walk? Have you heard that still, soft voice urging you to speak to someone? God has plans to use YOU to help bring Pilgrims to the Walk and closer to him. Each of us brought something back from the Walk that enriched, changed, and daily effects our lives. Share this gift by sponsoring Pilgrims on the Fall Walk.

Our next Gathering will be at Camp Gilmont on May 11th. This is our annual workday at Camp Gilmont and is always filled with good fellowship and the satisfaction of helping prepare the Camp for the year. Details on time etc. are found on the first page in this newsletter. Come and join in this project!

Knowing God will bless you in all your endeavors to serve him.



DeColores!
Rick Rundquist
Walk 106 Lay Director

Love

We use the word “Love” every day to describe how we feel about certain things. Just yesterday, I exclaimed that I loved chicken fried steak. Really? Chicken Fried Steak? Although I do like me some chicken fried steak, I believe that I am misusing the word in a manner that may cheapen it. Of course, we all know what I meant when I made the statement. But shouldn’t Love be so much greater than just an exclaimed feeling in our everyday lives?

True “Love” is described in 1 John as God himself. “Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

An example of true love is given in John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

I would not give my own life, much less the life of my son for a chicken fried steak.

As Christians, we are to love God supremely and love one another unselfishly. Paul declares in 2 Corinthians 5:14-15,

*For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this:
That One died for all, therefore all have died;
And He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves
but for Him Who for their sakes died and was raised.*

Yay God!

According to 1 John 5,

*Everyone who believes that Jesus is The Christ has been born of God,
and everyone who loves The Father loves whoever has been born of Him.
By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey His
Commandments.*

*For this is the love of God, that we keep His Commandments.
And His Commandments are not burdensome (1 John 5:1-3).*

Yay God!

I believe that 1 Corinthians 16:14 may say it best. “Let all that you do be done in love.”

Practice loving God supremely and others unselfishly today!

Chad Bearden
Community Ex-officio Lay Director



From the Treasurer... Where Funds Come From and Where Funds Go

In case you're not aware of or you're a new member of the G.R.A.C.E community, here is a breakdown of where we receive funds and where the funds go.

FUNDS COME FROM:

- Pilgrim Fees
- Team Fees
- Donations at Monthly Gathering
- Monthly Community Donations by ACH (a direct deposit to our checking account)
- Monthly Community Donations by personal check (the giver's personal account)
- Memorials
- Donations for Books at the Walks

FUNDS GO TO (FOR WALKS AND NON-WALK EXPENSES):

- Camp Fees
- Walk Supplies (for the Chapel and Outside Servant Teams)
- Pilgrim Candles
- "Jesus Is Counting on You" Crosses
- Upper Room Publications (Worship Books, Manuals for Team, Lay Director, Spiritual Director, Board of Director Manuals, "Sustaining the Spirit", "4th Day Forward" and "Coming Down From the Mountain" Books, Group Reunion Cards, Upper Room Magazines for Pilgrims)
- Thermal Tumblers for Pilgrims
- PO Box Rental & Postage
- Insurance, maintenance, registration, and licensing fees for our two equipment trailers
- General Liability and Equipment/Musical Instruments Insurance
- Group M7 (for our internet services)
- Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI for worship music)

To help offset various expenses, please consider a monthly donation. It is very easy and safe. For direct payments from a financial institution, a form may be completed with the necessary information to start or change a monthly donation (provided on the last page of this newsletter and available at Gatherings). The amount donated will show on your bank statement as "Tyler Emmaus Community." If you are unable to attend Gatherings, please consider this alternative, which is a way to stay connected and help each of us with consistent giving to our community.

In our efforts to keep our community strong and continue our commitment, we humbly ask that you prayerfully consider where your involvement is needed. The costs are high and the financial need great, but the reward is simply priceless.

Betty Buchanan, Community Treasurer



Consider Serving on the GRACE Emmaus Board of Directors

Do you love being part of a community of believers with a servant heart?

Do you want to be more involved in the Emmaus community?

Do you want to know why we do things the way we do, or have more input in how we do things?

Do you want to get to know more members of this community?

If you answered yes to any, or all, of these questions ... you should join the Emmaus Board of Directors. Our board members serve for 3 years, and we bring in 5 new members every year. If you would like more information about what we do, or about running for a position on the board, feel free to reach out to me or any other board member.

Being part of the Emmaus Board is a great way to serve! I hope you will join us!

***Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others,
as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.***

1 Peter 4:10

Sandra Grasch
Assistant Community Lay Director

Lost and Found

After our Gathering on Saturday, April 20, at Gladewater First Methodist Church, several crockpot lids were mistakenly swapped. If you are looking for a Pampered Chef crockpot lid, please contact Nancy Edwards at 903-987-3110.



Camp Gilmont Workday – Y'all Come

On Saturday, May 11, we will have our annual Camp Gilmont Workday! Arrive at 8am at the Dining Hall. We will spend the morning doing projects around the camp, then a sack lunch at noon with Worship immediately following. Bring your own food and drink since this is NOT a Potluck.

This year we have some significant projects so please come and help:

- The path between the Crane Center and the Dining Hall needs cleanup and trim. Please bring your yard tools if you are interested in helping here.
- New doors have been installed in the Dogwood, Hickory, Pine and Oak Cabins, and the trim still needs to be cut and installed. Anyone with carpentry skills would be appreciated here! Please bring a finish nailer if you have one, and the Camp will supply the other tools.
- The Camp has finished significant upgrades to Mackey Hall, and help is needed to complete the project: doors need sanding and painting (bring tools to remove doors, sanders and paint rollers), the kitchen and bathroom needs cleaning (bring your cleaning supplies), and the furniture needs to be put back in place.

Please try to come! It is a great time of fun, companionship, and worship while we help Camp Gilmont with much needed improvements before the summer camping season begins.

If you have any questions, email Garry Mount at gmountcmount@hotmail.com



Learn More About the Emmaus Ministries!

Would you like to learn more about the Walk to Emmaus movement and all the Emmaus Ministries?

Please visit <https://emmausministriesuniversity.upperroom.org/> for free eCourses.

You will first be prompted to create an account with a password, but after that you can watch and listen to insightful information about our purpose and training sessions that explain how you can participate in the Emmaus Ministries.

These eCourses are highly recommended for anyone Community Member who wishes to work on a Walk Team and/or serve on our Board of Directors.

The screenshot displays the website header for 'THE UPPER ROOM Emmaus Ministries'. The navigation menu includes 'Home', 'My Courses', 'Emmaus Website', 'Donate Today', 'Login', and 'Sign Up'. Below the header, the section 'Featured eCourse Classrooms' highlights three courses:

- The Why**: The Purpose of Emmaus Ministries. Instructors: Stéphane G. Brook... (FREE)
- Community Training**: General Training for All Emmaus Ministries Community Members. Instructors: Stéphane G. Brook... (FREE)
- Spiritual Directors Training**: Preparation for Emmaus Ministries Spiritual Directors. Instructors: Stéphane G. Brook... (FREE)

Martha Walker
Community Newsletter Editor

God's Mysteries

*God said to Job, "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation?
Tell me if you understand." Job 38:4*

I have a basic understanding of how a microwave works but cannot pretend to fully understand the complex science behind it. However, this lack of knowledge does not prevent me from using my microwave. I'm just happy it heats my food so quickly!

Similarly, I do not understand the mysteries of God, but that does not prevent me from trusting Him. Like Job, I don't understand how God created our world. I don't understand exactly how my belief in Jesus gives me a personal relationship with an unseen God, but I know I have it. I don't understand how the Holy Spirit intervenes in my life, offering abiding peace through scripture and prayer, but I know it He does.

As the apostle Paul said,

We see things dimly now,
like a cloudy reflection in a mirror,
but someday we will understand (1 Cor. 13:12).

I do not have to understand something to know that it is so. There are countless instances of mystery that nudge me toward the awesomeness of God. I thank God for guiding me to Him through the mystery and wonder of the world around me.

Dennis Gage
Community Book Table



Welcome The Newest Member of the 'Walk To Emmaus' Family

No, it's not the last Pilgrim to answer the two questions at the last G.R.A.C.E. Women's Walk - it's **Village Encounter!**

Village Encounter is the on-line 'cousin' of Walk to Emmaus and was created in recognition that some whose lives would be changed (like yours was on your Walk) will never have the opportunity to do a Walk. Obvious groups this applies to are people

- Who have serious medical issues which don't allow them to be away from medical support long enough to do a Walk.
- Who are caregivers for such people.
- Who are geographically remote from Walk To Emmaus Communities.
- Who cannot afford the cost of attending a Walk.
- Whose work schedules do not allow them to attend a Walk.
- Who live in countries where there are no Walk To Emmaus communities to hold a Walk.

The theological underpinnings of a Village Encounter are the same as a Walk and are tied to the moment when the two original Emmaus Road disciples recognized Jesus as He broke bread for the meal in Emmaus.

A Village Encounter has an orientation session (including basic Zoom training, if needed) and then sessions on Friday night and Saturday morning for three consecutive weekends, with each session being about 3 hours long.

The basic format of a Village Encounter is the same as a Walk. The same Talks are used - except they must be only 15 minutes and still have to cover the same points **and** include personal experiences! The talks are given by

male and female clergy and table leaders to a mixed-gender audience, but Tables are single-sex.

Table discussions are conducted in Zoom breakout rooms from the main Zoom Conference Room session. There are no posters or skits, but each Table group does have a rotating secretary / recorder who creates a summary of the Talk discussion for the Table.

Music is usually recorded, either by Community members - or in some cases where usage rights can be obtained, recorded videos are used. There are Talk Songs, and the Prayer to the Holy Spirit opens each Talk.

A link for more information, including dates and a link for registration is:

<https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/index.php?eventid=781017>

I participated as a Table Leader in Village Encounter #1 - we had Pilgrims from the U.S., England, Kenya, Australia, and Guam. The Kenyan Pilgrims had to get up at 3:00 am to make some of the sessions! The registration link in the above site also has a checkbox to indicate that you'd like to be on the Village Encounter Team. The Team does meet for training and Talk previews via 3 hour Zoom meetings in the month or so before the Village Encounter.

I'm working to get clarification on any requirements to be on a Village Encounter Team. An update will be included in a future G.R.A.C.E. newsletter.

De Colores
James Cox
Community Member

GRACE Emmaus Community Board of Directors 2024

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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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