

Grace for Today

G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community Newsletter November 2025

Coming Events

Saturday, Nov 8, Gathering at Henry's Chapel, Troup, Potluck at noon and Worship after

Saturday, Dec 6, Gathering at Pleasant Retreat, Tyler, Potluck at noon and Worship after

Saturday, Jan 17, Gathering at Grace Methodist, Palestine, Potluck at noon and Worship after



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



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Community Lay Director's Corner

I read a devotion recently that talked about November being the month of the river.

Starting in November, we will see a greater flow of the presence of God in our lives. As we allow ourselves to be caught up into His river—the river of the Holy Spirit—we will receive more, see more, and experience more of all He longs to give us.

The author recommends we picture ourselves wading in that river. First ankle-deep, then knee-deep, then waist deep. And then so deep that we can no longer stand or swim on our own—so deep that He must carry us. It is in those moments, held in the strong and tender arms of our Heavenly Father, that we discover His peace and a deeper connection to Him.

As we enter the holiday season with all its busyness, let's be intentional about stepping into God's River. There, we can find joy, rest, and the refreshing presence of the One who carries us.



Refresh & Resource: Emmaus Ministries University

Did you know Emmaus Ministries offers Emmaus Ministries University, an online learning hub for clergy, lay leaders, and community members? Whether you're preparing to serve on your Board of Directors, joining an event team, or simply wanting to deepen your understanding of Emmaus, this training provides the tools you need.

With engaging video sessions, readings, and quizzes (about 10 hours total), you can start and stop when it is convenient for you and learn at your own pace—and connect directly with instructors for support. It's a great way to grow in knowledge and confidence as you serve your community.

Go to <https://www.upperroom.org/emmaus/university> for more information.

Welcome to GRACE Emmaus' New 4th Dayers

Walk #110

Matt Alford
Jonathan Almendarez
Brad Beekman
Paxton Cantrell
Marcus Clem
Luke Carvell
Micheal Dunn
Dan Fry
Carter Grasch
Casen Grasch
David Grasch
Jacob Joiner
Mike Jordan
John McHugh
Jim Miles
Mickey Mitchell
Jared Monk
Kurt Penner
Jason Peschke
Lorenzo Retes
Donald Rollins
Stephen Spradley
Paul Stark
Danny Stroud
John Viard



The Walk to Emmaus

*"did not our heart burn
within us, while he
talked with us by the
way, and while he
opened to us the
Scriptures?"
-- Luke 24:32*

Walk #111

Betsy Adams
Leslie Bautista
Jodie Beekman
Nan Brock
Chelsea Calvert
Joyce Dehart
Suzanne Doren
Heather Duncan
Christi Everett
JoAnn Fry
Jenn Grant
Nellie Guinn
Robin Harris
Kaci Hefner
Sandy Johnson
Kristan Kahler
Tēsha Marsh
Gina McDuck
Dianne Mitchell
Jessica Molina
Ann Monagan
Deanna Olson
Shawn Pixley
Ruth Price
Angela Respress
Alexia Ridgway
Traci Romero
Kim Short
Channing Stroud
Sheryl Tosh
Jennie Viard
Pam Walker
Lisa Weaver
Autumn Wilson
Carole Wonsiewicz

Memories of a New 4th Dayer

Words cannot explain the wonderful experience I had on my Walk to Emmaus. I have had friends and family attend and tell me how wonderful it was, but until you make your own Walk you can't possibly know just how special this experience is. For me it was a renewal of my discipleship, to reconnect with my Lord and Savior.

I made some lifelong friends that will help keep me centered and accountable. God's presence was in this place and time for me. The power of prayer is felt in everything we did; the love of God was all around us and felt in every song, talk, meal. I have never felt so loved as I did this weekend. This is an experience I will treasure every day of my life. I am so thankful that God led me to this time in my life to experience this Walk to him.

Pam Walker, Walk 111



Best Walks Ever

Two more **"Best Walks Ever"** have been completed... thank you Jesus! A huge THANK YOU to all who created, assembled and prayed over the many different agape gifts given to the Pilgrims on those Walks! As the Agape and Christ Dinner Coordinator, I am always amazed, not sure why though, to see y'all always come through! Amazed at the outpouring of love from our Community for those experiencing and working on the Walks. People you may not know but you love as Christ loves us.

So many Fourth-Day-ers came to serve the men and the women at the Christ Dinners. Some seasoned servers who have done it many times and others who served for their first time. It was heart-warming to see the seasoned servers take the new ones and mentor them so well! Many thanks to all of them!

There is such joy in being a part of God's church... whether you are on the Inside Team, the Servant Team, the Chapel Team or the Community Team for an Emmaus Walk. God calls each of us to do our part. Thank you for answering God's call for Walks 110 and 111!

De Colores,
Nancy Edwards
Community Agape and Christ Dinner Coordinator

A Season to Remember and Rekindle

As the leaves turn gold and the air grows crisp, November invites us to slow down and remember. It's a month marked by gratitude, reflection, and gathering, a time to look back at how far we've come and how faithfully God has walked beside us on the journey.

The two travelers on the road to Emmaus were also reflecting as they walked. Their hearts were heavy, their hopes dimmed, their understanding clouded by disappointment. But as they talked and walked, Jesus Himself came near and walked with them—though they did not yet recognize Him (Luke 24:15-16).

Isn't that often how it feels in the season between mountaintops? When the excitement fades, when the light seems dimmer, and when we can't quite see what God is doing, we keep walking. But here's the good news: Christ still walks beside us. Even when we don't recognize Him, He is revealing Himself in quiet ways, in the warmth of community, the breaking of bread, and the gratitude of our hearts.

As Thanksgiving approaches, may we be like those travelers when "their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him" (Luke 24:31). Let's open our eyes this month to see Christ in the people around us... the neighbor who needs a meal, the friend who needs encouragement, the family member who needs forgiveness.

Let's also rekindle the flame that was lit on our own Walk to Emmaus. Reach out to your Reunion Group, write a note to someone from your Walk, or volunteer to serve on an upcoming Walk. Just as fall reminds us that the old must pass to make way for the new, God is always inviting us to fresh seasons of renewal.



May this November be more than just a time of thanks—may it be a time of recognition, renewal, and rejoicing in the One who still walks beside us.

De Colores,
Charlene Burton
GRACE Emmaus Registrar

Emergency First Aid and CPR Training



The G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community is dedicated to improving its ability to operate the Walk to Emmaus weekends in a safe and professional manner.

A key component is having improved emergency first aid and CPR presence at each Walk.

Christus Trinity Mother Francis Medical Center in Tyler has kindly offered to provide **emergency first aid training** at no charge for any GRACE Community Member who would like to qualify for certification.

Even though the emphasis is to prepare our Walk Team Members, this training is open to any interested Community Member.

The **training date** has been set for **Saturday, January 31, 2026, at 9:00am**. The location has yet to be determined, but it will be in the Tyler area. The **CPR** session takes four hours, the **First Aid** takes two hours, and **Stop the Bleed** (optional) session is one hour.

If you are interested, please contact me by email to register or with any questions:
paul@breedlovelandscape.com

Please register as soon as possible. Christus needs to plan for this by providing adequate training personnel.

Thank you for your interest. Our community is committed to having a qualified medical person available throughout all future Walks.

Paul Breedlove
Community Gathering Coordinator



Fireflies

Have you ever thought about the impact that fire and fire related items have had on our lives?

Fire has been a part of the creation of our world, will be a part of the ending of your world, and has had significant impact on so many events in our world. It can represent evil, comfort, danger, cleansing and so many other things. Fire can be a huge thing, or it can be represented by something very tiny like a single ash or even a firefly.

Living in the country and also having a desire to go camping regularly, I frequently enjoy seeing fireflies in action. Sitting without TV, radio, phone, or any other disturbances and just watching the small blinking of light gives me time to observe, reflect and maybe come up with some strange questions. As I watch in all the foliage around me, it's like someone got carried away and put too many little white lights on their Christmas tree. And as you watch, all these little creatures are doing some synchronized flashing. All together now. On. Off. On. Off. I once had one of these little flashers land next to me and I contained it with my water glass for some close-up study.

Several of the thoughts that crossed my mind:

- How much control does a firefly have over its stern light?
- Could you train one to do Morse Code?
- Does a firefly ever attract teeny-tiny moths?
- Is its light like the stars, always there but



not seen in the daylight?

- Does a firefly enjoy getting turned on or is it more like hiccups?
- Do they come in different wattages like light bulbs?
- Do firefly bulbs burn out leaving old fireflies to wander in the dark?
- What if humans had this same equipment? What kind of pants would we wear?

I know some people who give off a lot of light because they have absorbed a lot of light themselves. They shine. This may not be the kind of light you can see with your eyes but there are lots of spectrums of light we cannot see. We experience the results of its existence.

It just takes a different kind of looking.

- To look this way is to see.
- To see is to have vision.
- To have vision is to understand.
- To understand is to know.
- To know is to become.
- To become is to live fully.
- To live fully is to matter.
- And to matter is to become light.
- And to become light is to be loved.
- And to be loved is to burn.
- And to burn is to exist.
- Off and on.

Maybe fireflies are onto something.

--Anonymous

Our Daily Walk

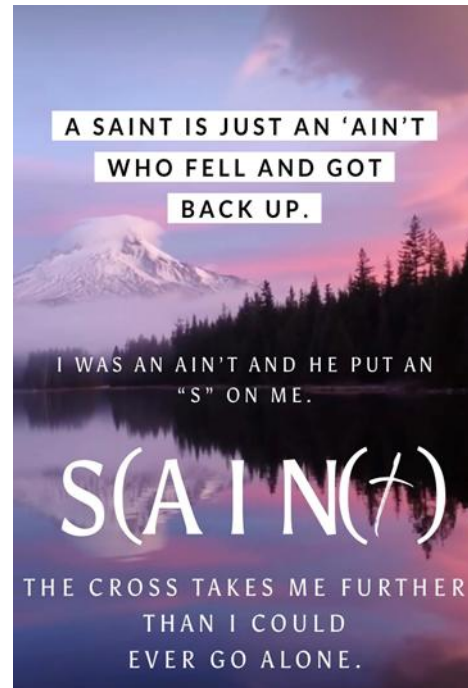
I believe our daily walk reflects how much we believe about who God says we are. Believing Christ gives us the boldness required to walk out His will for our life.

Do you more easily identify with being a sinner or a saint? Do you know who God says you are?

If you are born again, God calls you a saint! Not because of your exemplary behavior or abundant good works, but because you have put your faith in Jesus and the transaction He made available on the cross.

Our filthy record has been traded in for Jesus' spotless record and perfect righteousness. We have been made brand new. We have a fresh start and the creator of the entire universe is living inside us!

In most of his letters Paul addressed the church as 'saints'. This wasn't because they were doing great. The rest of the letter was usually calling them to account on all sorts of areas where they were falling short. But at the core, they were still undeniably saints, purely because they had turned from their sins and trusted in Jesus and what He had done on the cross. Thus, becoming God's 'holy ones' set apart for a special purpose in this world, made possible by the Holy Spirit dwelling inside them.



It has everything to do with what CHRIST HAS DONE rather than anything we have failed to do.

Walking in who Christ says we are changes our posture. It truly does not matter what others think or say about us when we believe Him! #speaktruth

Receive your identity in Christ today. Walk boldly in who God says you are. There is no better time than now to tell others about Jesus.

Liz Webb
GRACE Emmaus Walk 87

A Broken Teacup

If you searched the cupboard of a woman I once knew, you would find at least one broken teacup, standing unused in the far reaches behind all the unblemished. Once I drew out a bit of china examined how it had been carefully reassembled, the yellowed glue the only sign of its repair. "This cup is beautiful, why don't you use it?"

"It's broken," the only response. And I wondered why she had gone to the labor of putting it together, piece by piece.

In life every person faces blows, physical, emotional, spiritual. On occasions most of us find ourselves unable to withstand the force of the impact we must face. Things bend us, things at last, break us. For, though few would acknowledge, we are as delicate as bone china.

I am a broken teacup, shattered by trials and pains of life. My pieces have been scattered, laid out, but never lost. Mended over time, none can see the fractures, few know they exist.

But I do not find myself upon the shelf, not yet anyway. For my God places me among others, which seem pristine, upon the table. Through my tears I say, "I am broken and ugly."

And God responds, "I have gathered all your pieces, the small as well as the large. I have bound them together and have made you whole again. Broken time and time again but mended by My hand. There is yet much you can do."

Through my breaking and repairs and in my truthful examination of each chip and crack, my compassion for others grows. I have been mended...and yes, there is much I can do, for my task remains incomplete. So I say, "Fill me Lord."

You see...I am a broken teacup...perhaps you are as well.

By John W. Vander Velden
Submitted by Betty Buchanan
Community Treasurer



*"God can put the pieces
back together"*

Jeremiah 17:14

Don't Be a Turkey on the Road to Emmaus!

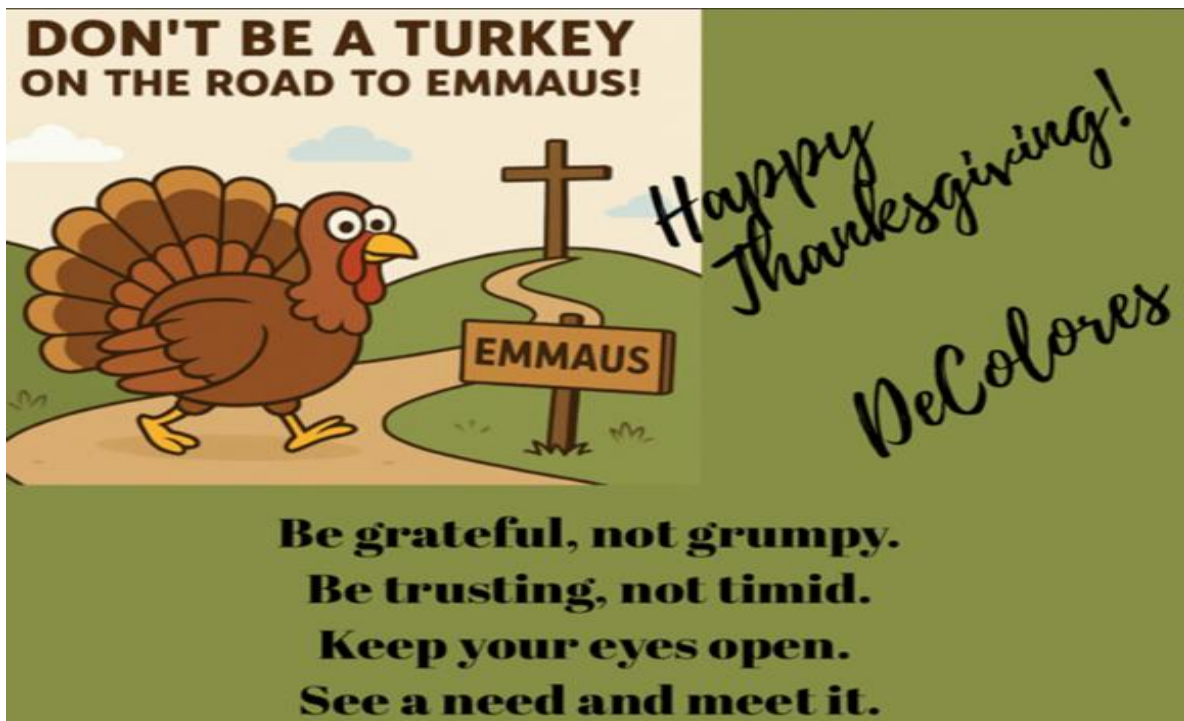
This Thanksgiving let's remember: God didn't call us to be turkeys; He called us to be Pilgrims!

Turkeys panic when things get loud, follow the crowd without thinking, and can't see far ahead... sound familiar? Sometimes we do the same! But just like the travelers on the road to Emmaus, we're invited to keep walking, keep trusting, and look for Jesus right beside us, even when life gets a little gobble-gobble crazy.

So, this November, let's trade our turkey tendencies for Emmaus energy:

- ♥ Be grateful, not grumpy.
- ♡ Be trusting, not timid.
- ♥ And keep your eyes open. You might just spot Jesus in the middle of your mashed potatoes and laughter.

Happy Thanksgiving, 4th Day friends! De Colores!
Anonymously submitted



Bible Characters

I	L	E	M	Z	V	U	S	E	B	L	E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	X	K	S	I
K	G	A	E	L	I	J	A	H	G	I	W	D	N	K	W	D	M	V	O	L	P	M	L
K	R	Z	P	W	E	N	P	I	G	H	J	S	D	Y	A	Q	D	O	D	R	O	J	N
Y	E	W	A	Z	X	A	D	M	R	A	B	C	Z	V	Y	P	T	A	S	A	N	O	Z
T	K	P	U	C	U	E	L	T	H	N	X	U	I	W	H	E	H	M	N	E	Z	H	H
P	U	E	L	L	O	A	F	A	U	N	A	D	K	O	V	A	P	L	S	I	S	N	P
S	L	T	M	N	J	Y	I	G	B	A	Y	N	T	E	V	Q	Q	A	S	U	E	Q	E
H	H	E	L	B	O	D	H	P	C	H	L	Q	N	O	Z	N	N	S	N	G	S	L	S
H	D	R	U	E	A	R	Z	A	M	I	E	L	H	O	Y	W	B	E	Y	X	S	E	O
E	T	A	X	B	I	L	T	S	I	H	O	E	S	H	S	A	M	M	J	M	A	B	J
L	Z	I	O	F	S	K	J	B	O	K	J	S	A	L	R	M	H	A	R	O	B	E	D
D	X	D	M	F	C	O	E	L	M	L	E	I	G	T	N	M	A	J	M	H	A	Q	J
P	S	F	C	O	B	F	M	Z	Y	A	S	Z	H	O	S	L	O	S	V	A	N	X	H
Y	B	M	T	B	T	L	D	A	E	O	L	O	E	R	M	M	A	C	V	I	R	O	J
W	R	Q	U	J	H	H	E	Z	J	R	L	A	P	H	J	N	A	R	Q	M	A	Q	K
E	G	I	Q	H	M	M	Y	O	K	O	J	N	C	C	C	L	R	I	H	E	B	M	N
H	M	A	D	A	A	Y	Y	O	M	A	B	E	L	H	E	P	O	K	N	R	W	H	M
T	P	F	D	I	Y	N	S	E	Q	H	X	D	J	C	I	J	N	Z	A	E	H	S	Y
T	M	H	V	C	H	F	W	B	T	O	P	U	R	H	O	Q	J	H	A	J	A	O	Z
A	B	K	U	K	K	A	B	A	H	S	W	W	M	B	A	W	S	Y	I	U	I	L	B
M	G	U	K	K	Z	J	N	M	X	E	F	A	U	V	A	I	I	D	Q	D	A	O	M
X	H	T	U	R	R	R	U	O	D	A	R	Y	I	A	L	K	N	U	L	A	S	M	B
S	A	M	U	E	L	Y	O	D	J	K	L	I	S	E	F	O	S	E	W	H	I	O	U
F	I	H	E	A	R	A	Z	Z	E	N	D	A	H	C	U	B	E	N	M	N	V	N	Q

PAUL
BARTHOLOMEW
NAHUM
ELISHA
DANIEL
MARK
HOSEA
NEBUCHADNEZZAR
MARY
NAOMI

HEZEKIAH
PETER
OBADIAH
ELIJAH
DAVID
MATTHEW
JUDAH
DEBORAH
ABEL
RUTH

JOSIAH
JAMES
JEREMIAH
GIDEON
JOB
LUKE
JOSEPH
SAMSON
JEHOVAH
BARNABAS

EVE
JUDE
ISAIAH
AARON
HABAKKUK
JOHN
ELIZABETH
SAMUEL
JESUS
TIMOTHY

ADAM
JOEL
EZEKIEL
MOSES
MALACHI
AMOS
SOLOMON
HANNAH
JONAH
PAUL

Betty Buchanan
Community Treasurer

PRAYER FOR OUR WORLDWIDE EMMAUS COMMUNITY

God of all times, as we celebrated World Communion Sunday at many of our churches this month, we pray for the unity of Christians around the world. Open our minds so that we can understand that, in your love, you unite us as one body.

Help us open the doors of the Emaus Ministries communities so that we can continue fulfilling the mission you have entrusted us to “Renew Christian Disciples and Strengthen Local Churches.”

We intercede for every Emmaus ministry around the world and for our local churches; for all the people who are suffering and in need of your comfort; for families who suffer from food and housing insecurity; for the unemployed and for those who have financial problems; for those who mourn the loss of a loved one; for persons who are discriminated against and marginalized; for human beings who suffer injustices and calamities; for those who are sick and in need of your healing power; for the people who experience violence and war every day.

May your Holy Spirit guide us every step of the way. Remind us to follow Jesus’ example to serve, love, and accept other people as they are. Give us the strength to fight for a more just and dignified world for all your creation.

In the name of Christ Jesus, we pray. Amen.

The Upper Room Emmaus Ministries



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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 #: _____

MAIL INFORMATION TO:

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P.O. Box 132212

Tyler, TX 75713-2212