

Grace for Today

G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community Newsletter November - December 2024

Coming Events

Saturday, December 7, Gathering

Smith Chapel Methodist Church, Mineola
Potluck noon, Worship immediately after

Spring Walks:

Men's Walk #108, March 6 – 9

Women's Walk #109, March 13 - 16

Team selection is complete, and preparations have started for our Spring

Walks! Please prayerfully consider
sponsoring a Pilgrim! If you know someone
start asking them now!

Also, see page 4 with ways you can help
before and during the Walks.



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

www.graceemmaus.com



Community Lay Director's Corner

Dear GRACE Emmaus Community,

Please pray for our Country and Leaders.

Since this is a combined November, December Newsletter, there are a number of things I would like to share with you. For simplicity I have organized them by category.



Community Gatherings

What a blessing it was to see each of you who attended our Gathering at Mineola Methodist Church. Special thanks for the warm hospitality to the fine folks who hosted us. We had a large attendance of over 130 people. In addition, we had a very high percentage of Walk 106 and 107 new 4th Dayers who attended out Babe Chick and Sponsorship Training prior to our potluck dinner and Worship service. The individual testimonies given were heartwarming and Spirit filled. Praise God.

It was great to see each of you who made it to our November Gathering at Henry Chapel Methodist Church in Troup. We were blessed by their outstanding warm hospitality. I must say, that just may have been the best food of any Gathering I've attended. Outstanding and plentiful! This Gathering was very well attended, and we were blessed to hear a number of Spirit filled testimonials from our Walk 106 and 107 4th Dayers. Praise God!

I look forward to seeing each of you at our December 7th Gathering at Smith Chapel Methodist Church in Mineola at noon for a potluck luncheon and Worship.

Spring 2025 Walks 108 and 109

Team Selection has been completed and Walk Lay Directors Ken Duesterhoft and Kathy Pruitt are busy communicating with those who completed applications to serve on the Walk as well as making preparations for the Trainings and the Walks.

GRACE Emmaus Board of Directors

I want to thank each of our GRACE Emmaus Board of Directors for all of the time, energy, and hard work you have provided our Community this past year. I would like to give special recognition to the Board Members who are rolling off the Board in

December after completing 3-year terms. They are Chad Bearden, Dennis Gage, Bob Holloway, and Carolyn McCain. Thank you for your service and all you gave of yourselves to help make our Emmaus Community better.

I would also like to recognize those Board Members who will remain on the Board and continue to serve in 2025. They are Sandra Grasch, Pastor Jim Pickens, Betty Buchanan, Debbie Hays, Nancy Edwards, Douglas Denmark, Brian Jones, Brad Burton, Martha Walker, Ken Sides, Tim Thompson, and Kevin Abney. Thank you for your hard work and service.

We are excited about our new Board Members who will begin serving our Community in 2025. They are Pastor Richard Luna, Kim Brooks, Wynn Harle, Mike Payne, and Richard Smith. We look forward to their service.

2024 Walk Lay Directors/Teams

I want to recognize our 2024 Walk Lay Directors for their dedication and leadership: Eddie Liebold, Walk 104; Sandra Grasch, Walk 105; Rick Rundquist, Walk 106; and Liz Webb, Walk 107.

Thanksgiving/Christmas Wishes

Thank You, Lord
for Jesus,
for Your grace,
for Your mercy,
for Your forgiveness,
for Your protection,
for Your guidance,
for Your friendship,
for Your peace,
for Your everlasting love,
for being my Savior.



Thank you, GRACE Emmaus Community. Thank you for the opportunity and honor of serving as your Community Lay Leader for 2024. It has truly been a blessing to serve you and to meet, get to know, and work with so many of you this year. Best Year Ever! Thank you for your support!

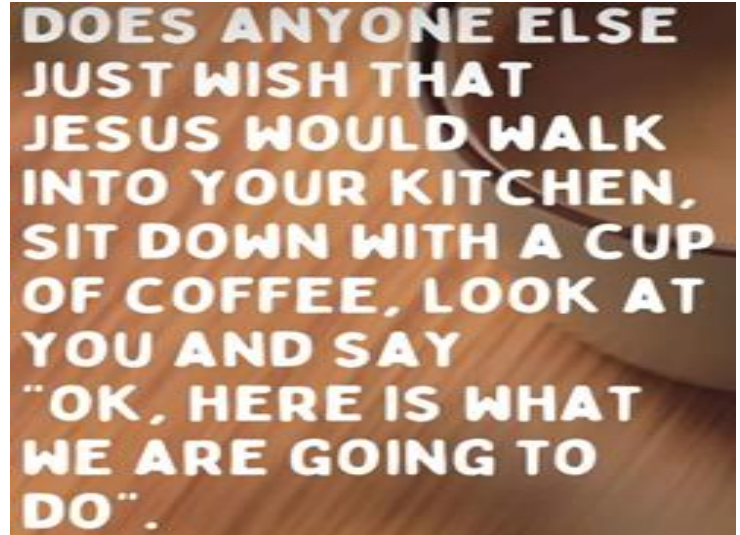
With love,
John Webb
GRACE Emmaus Community Lay Leader
"Let it shine"

[Begin Preparing for Our Spring Walks](#)

- **[Pray, Pray, Pray for our Spring Walks!](#)**

Disciples Crossing Camp, Athens
Men's Walk #108, March 6 – 9
Women's Walk #109, March 13 – 16

- **[Sponsor a Pilgrim!](#)** Do you know someone you would like to share this amazing experience with? Prayerfully 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 Nancy Edwards (ne52055@aol.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, Ken Dueterhoft (kwdues@gmail.com) or Kathy Pruitt (kathy.pruitt74@yahoo.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 Nancy Edwards (ne52055@aol.com) for more information.

Be Confident In Your Walk

Did you know you can be meek and humble, and still bestow confidence in your walk? It's true. However, many of us go through life with a misunderstanding of this truth. We all too often mistake meekness for weakness and confuse confidence with arrogance.

Hebrews 4:16 states, "Let us then with confidence draw near to The Throne of Grace, that we may receive Mercy and find Grace to help in time of need."

You see, "confidence" comes from having faith. Faith is being convinced of something, and it therefore produces confidence! When we have faith in Jesus we run to Him in confidence that He cares and wants what is best for us.

Many times, especially those times of struggle, we must focus on His promises to us. We must evaluate and ask ourselves, in our current life situation, are we running towards Jesus or away from Him? Our direction is often an indicator of where our faith really rests.

There is a King, and His Name is Jesus! He sits on the Throne, and He has All Authority in Heaven and on earth! Jesus is The Giver of Mercy and Grace!

Have confidence in these truths! Let us in faith run to our King today to find what we need most in our time of need!

As you think about your needs, remember our greatest need is Jesus! Yay God!

Chad Bearden

Community Ex-officio Lay Director

Six Important Guidelines in Life:

1. When you are Alone, Mind your Thoughts.
2. When you are with Friends, Mind your Tongue.
3. When you are Angry, Mind your Temper.
4. When you are with a Group, Mind your Behavior.
5. When you are in Trouble, Mind your Emotions.
6. When God starts Blessing you, Mind your Ego.

[Our Gatherings](#)

What amazing Gatherings we had in October and November! Each time the room was filled with Christ loving, faith filled, beautiful children of God! And best of all, we heard from the new 4th Dayers!

Every time we have a Gathering, it's like a family reunion. My prayer for every new pilgrim is that they stay connected to the Emmaus community. It is a very special group of people. Come to gatherings, sponsor new pilgrims, join the Emmaus Board, serve on a Walk, (even if it's just serving at Christ dinner), and come to candlelight and closings.

We each have gifts and talents that this community needs. There is nothing better than watching God use those gifts and talents to grow and strengthen His kingdom.

Christ is counting on you.

Sandra Grasch

Assistant Community Lay Director

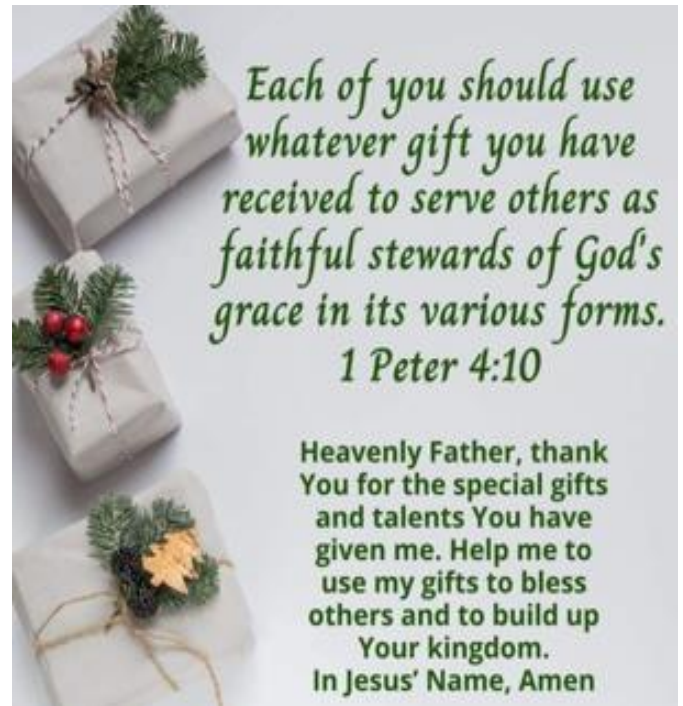


;but God

Dear GRACE Emmaus Family,

I'd like to thank the Board for the opportunity to serve as the GRACE Emmaus Lay Director for Walk 107. I owe so many for all they gave of themselves on this Walk. "Thank you" will never be enough. You all were truly amazing! I thoroughly enjoyed sharing this journey with you.

Ephesians 3:20-21 says, "To Him who is able to do far more than we ask, think, or imagine, to Him be all glory, honor, and praise." My prayer and my goal for Walk 107 was that God be glorified in and through the preparations for, and the weekend of, this Walk.



The Emmaus Manual has a quote in it that says, "Pray as if everything depended on Christ; work as if everything depended on you." I had a wonderful year of planning "all the things" for Walk 107. God orchestrated a beautiful Walk as preparations were made for a theme of "renewal" from our frayed, burdened, and broken lives into the new heart and Spirit the Lord promises us in His Word.

The Lord brought a full house of 36 Pilgrims and over 50 team members to Walk 107. There were 36 pilgrims from 27 churches, ranging in age from 21 to 84.

Team Commissioning opened our weekend together. I asked our Spiritual Director to focus on Exodus 3:5 and he brought a heartfelt message of the Scripture of God speaking to Moses saying, "Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." This moment was a profound commitment of naming and declaring God's Word over the venue, the Team, and the Pilgrims.

The Scripture the Lord placed on my heart for Walk 107 is so perfect now, knowing the outcome of the Walk. Life lived forward but understood backwards. . .Genesis 50:20, "You intended to harm me; but God planned it for good to bring about what is now being done - the saving of many lives."

God is still working in the lives of these Pilgrims. I have stayed in touch with them and the stories they have shared about how God has broken addictions, healed long standing wounds, changed lives, and mended broken hearts and relationships, is beyond words.

God did a thing! And He gets ALL the glory.

1 Corinthians 3:6 says, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth."

God certainly didn't NEED any of us to pull off what happened during Walk 107. He allowed us to witness His grace and mercy, and His work. If you served on this Walk, then you are one of the fortunate ones. We got a front row seat to see God's hand in the middle of it all and it was a glorious thing. He wasn't just changing hearts, changing lives, planting seeds. He was SAVING lives!

In addition to having a full Walk, 28 of these women showed up for the Gathering following their Walk. Three more attended the November Gathering. One of the greatest blessings of all is that eight of these ladies have joined my Reunion Group and attend faithfully. We meet weekly and share our journey through life, prayer requests, and much laughter as well as a few tears. We have a profound respect and admiration for one another and our hearts overflow with love. We have culminated a great support group.

Glory to God!!!

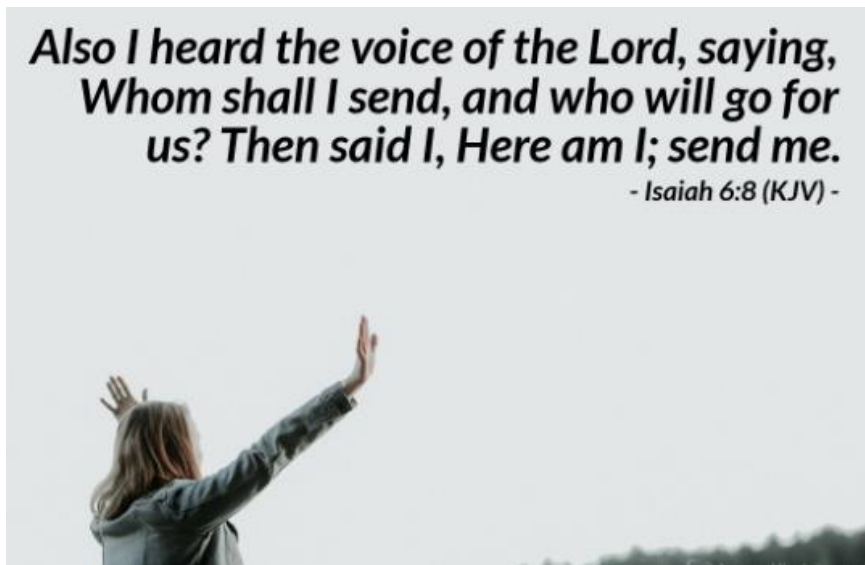
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Liz Webb

Walk 107 Lay Director

***Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying,
Whom shall I send, and who will go for
us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.***

- Isaiah 6:8 (KJV) -



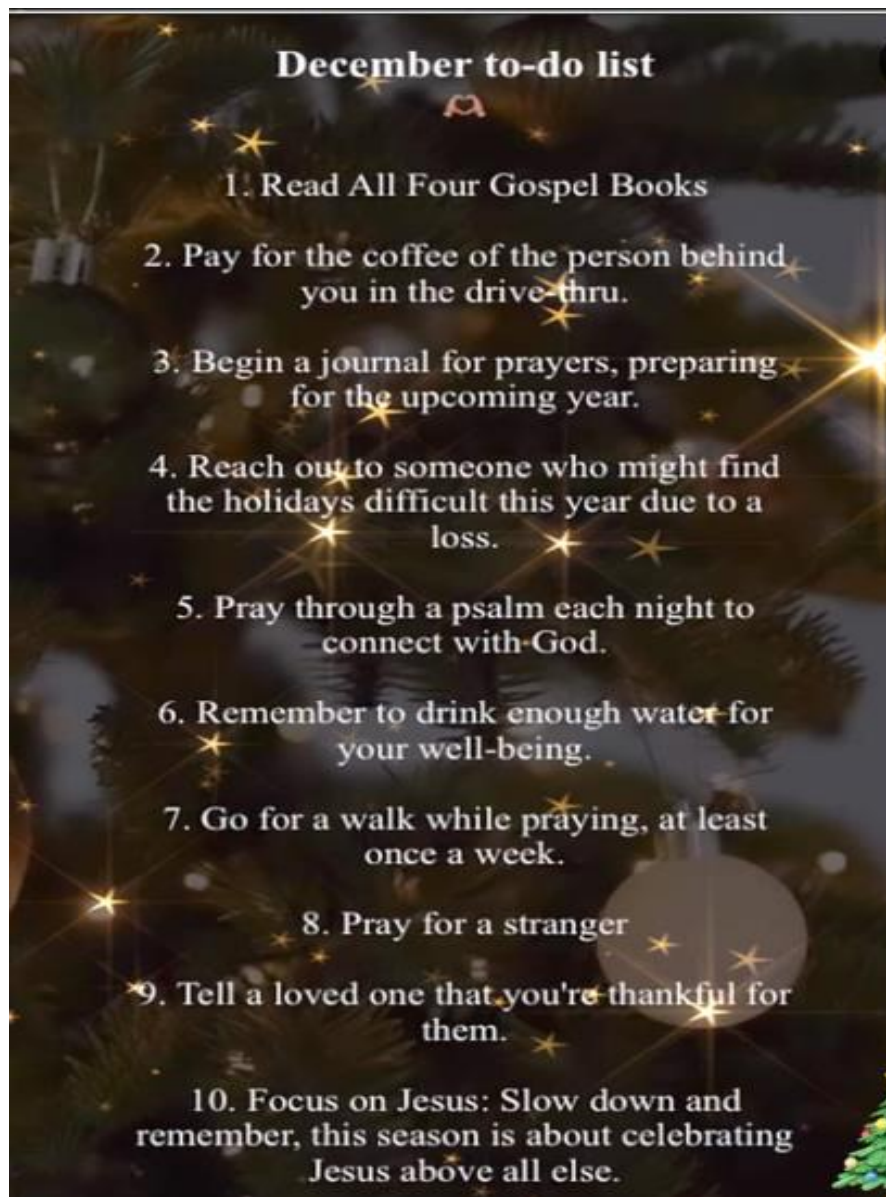
[Ready for Some Humor?](#)

Groaner Alert. From Pastor Wayne Flowers...

In a monastery in England, instead of fasting, the monks vowed to forego the use of forks, spoons, and knives at their meals. But they still had to observe proper dining etiquette. As you might imagine, this severely limited their menu options. The monks soon became emaciated. One of their more ingenious brothers created a utensil that still allowed them to keep their vow of no forks, spoons, or knives. The monks soon began to gain weight.

This validates the adage that "It only takes a spork to get a friar growing!"

Charlene Burton
Community Registrar



God Sees Us

In Mark 5, Jesus exorcised a demon, healed a woman of her hemorrhage, and raised a little girl from the dead. I would have guessed that after all that, Jesus would have rubbed his hands together and called it a day. Or maybe he would have sat back among the crowd to recount all that he had done. That is what I would have done. But that was not Jesus' way. Jesus was more concerned about the risen girl's needs. She was not a project to him; she was not a means to make himself look better. Jesus saw the young girl as a person with needs and fears. While everyone else was ecstatic and shocked, Jesus saw that the girl was hungry and told her mother and father to give her some food.

Why did Jesus call the woman 'daughter' in Mark 5:34? She was afraid. He spoke to her in a very soft, kind, and tender manner, and called her 'daughter' which was an expression of affection and civility.

In God's eyes we are not means to an end. We are not just one of many pieces in the puzzle. To God, each one of us is a person with our own needs and fears. God is interested in even the tiniest details of our lives. In every moment, remember that there is nothing too trivial to bring to God. God knows our needs and will care for us.

May we always remember that God is aware of our struggles every moment of our lives and thank Him for always caring about us.



Reprinted from
The Upper Room Daily Devotional
Submitted by
Dennis Gage
Community Book Table

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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.

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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: _____

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