

Grace for Today

G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community Newsletter November 2023

Coming Events

Saturday, November 11, Gathering

Smith Chapel GMC, Mineola
Potluck noon, Worship immediately after

Saturday, December 9, Gathering

Emory Methodist Church, Emory
Potluck noon, Worship immediately after

Saturday, January 20, Gathering

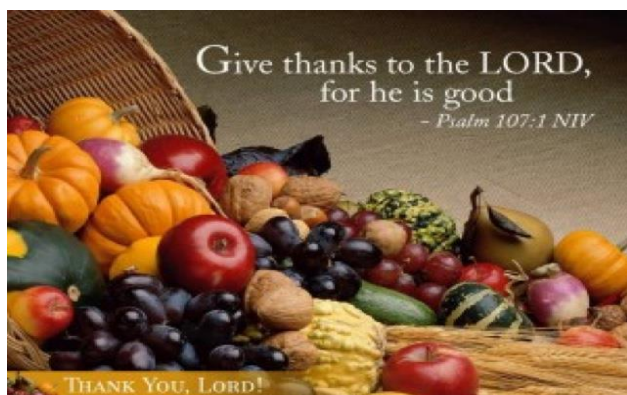
Grace Methodist, Palestine
Potluck noon, Worship immediately after

Spring Walks at Disciples Crossing in Athens

Men's Walk #104, March 7 – 10, 2024
Women's Walk #105, March 14 – 17, 2024

Help find PILGRIMS for these Spring Walks!

Do you know someone who is a good candidate? Prayfully consider being a sponsor! Helpful Information is on the website. See the Pilgrim Application tab.



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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

Greetings and DeColores.

Have you ever questioned your faith? It seems to be quite common amongst Christians these days to not only question their faith, but to question their own understanding of what faith is.

Hebrews 11:1 states *"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."*

That verse of scripture defines faith well. However, faith remains, for many, difficult to understand.

"What is faith? Faith is believing. What then is believing? Believing is having faith. So, what is faith again? Faith is trusting. So, what then is trusting? Trusting is to have faith." And the cycle just keeps spinning.

I believe we make it harder than it needs to be. I'm convinced that Faith in God is being convinced, convicted, and commissioned! Faith is being convinced that God is Who He has revealed Himself to be in the Scripture, and believing in what He has done for us by sending Jesus to bear His Wrath against sin, selfishness, and our rebellious spirits! Faith is being convicted that I was a rebel; therefore, I surrendered through repenting of my sin, selfishness and rebellion, and trusted Jesus alone! Faith is being commissioned by God to live on purpose for His Purpose! Yay God!

Let us all live today in Faith of God, being convinced, convicted, and commissioned to live for Him alone!

Thank you and God Bless.

Chad Bearden
Community Lay Director

**Faith is the most powerful of all forces operating in humanity,
and when you have it in depth nothing can get you down.
—Norman Vincent Peale**

Please Welcome Our Newest 4th Dayers!

Walk #102

Hugo Alvarez
Mark Boddie
Allen Breedlove
John Breedlove
Tommy Brown
Kenneth Burge
Blake Burton
David Cargill
Max Cobble
Charles Daniel
Wendell Dockray
Chris Easley
Mark Foster
Rob Gray
Chris Holloway
Roger Knapp
Billy Long
Vincent Luwizhi
Joe Mike
John Nadolski
Tommy Paine
Tyler Ray
R.V. Rivera
Rusty Smith
Kelly Stroud
Steve Suriano
John Thomas
Devin Williams
Tommy Williams

Walk #103

DeEsta Beets
Connie Bird
Stacy Boddie
Joyce Boggs
Kelly Breedlove
Alicia Bynum
Kelli Davidson
Jayde Deshotel
Lisa Dockray
Suzie Eiben
Ellen Emerson
Melody Foster
Crissy Gann
Christi George
Pam Gower
Linda Green
Angie Guest
Wendy Ivy
Joyce Jordan
BJ Knapp
Dee Littlejohn
Angela Long
Samantha Luwizhi
Evelyn McGee
Payton Nystrom
Arlene Pyland
Cam Ray
Janis Rooks
Gay Scallan
Kelly Suriano
Michelle Tannery
Crystal Taylor
Kelly Walker
Sara Wilcox
Tammy Williams



[How you can help prepare for Spring Walks #104 and #105](#)

- **[Spring Walks at Disciples Crossing in Athens](#)**

Men's Walk #104, March 7 – 10, 2024

Women's Walk #105, March 14 – 17, 2024

Schedule of events during each Walk -

Thursday: Pilgrims arrive at 7pm

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

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

- **[Prayfully consider serving on the Walks!](#)** Team Selection will be November 11th, 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.

- **[Pray for Pilgrims!](#)** 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:

- 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.

- **[Do you have a Golf Cart or Mule we could borrow for both the Mens' and Womens' Walks?](#)**

- **[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!

- **[Mark your calendar to attend the Gathering and Candlelight for each Walk.](#)**



[Spring Women's Walk Applications](#)

I have been receiving Team applications for the upcoming Spring walk, and trying to figure out who will do what. I have been praying over this Walk and the individuals involved for months, but I have to admit, I was starting to feel stressed. I felt like things weren't falling into place. I met with a group of women who advised me, but I still had this feeling like something wasn't right.

As I was driving home after the meeting, listening to Christian music on the radio, I heard God speaking to me. He said, "I'm right here! I am in every detail, every meeting, every moment of this Walk. Why are you worrying?"

I love it when God shows me how silly I'm being. He is so good, and He is pulling this team together in a way I couldn't even imagine.

HE will make this the best walk ever! I couldn't be more excited!!!

Sandra Grasc
Women's Walk 105
March 14 – 17, 2024

**LISTEN TO MY VOICE IN
THE MORNING, LORD.
EACH MORNING I BRING
MY REQUESTS TO YOU
AND WAIT EXPECTANTLY.**

PSALM 5:3 NLT

[Spring Men's Walk Applications](#)

Greetings

What a blessing it is to represent GRACE Emmaus Community as the Lay Director of Men's Walk #104!

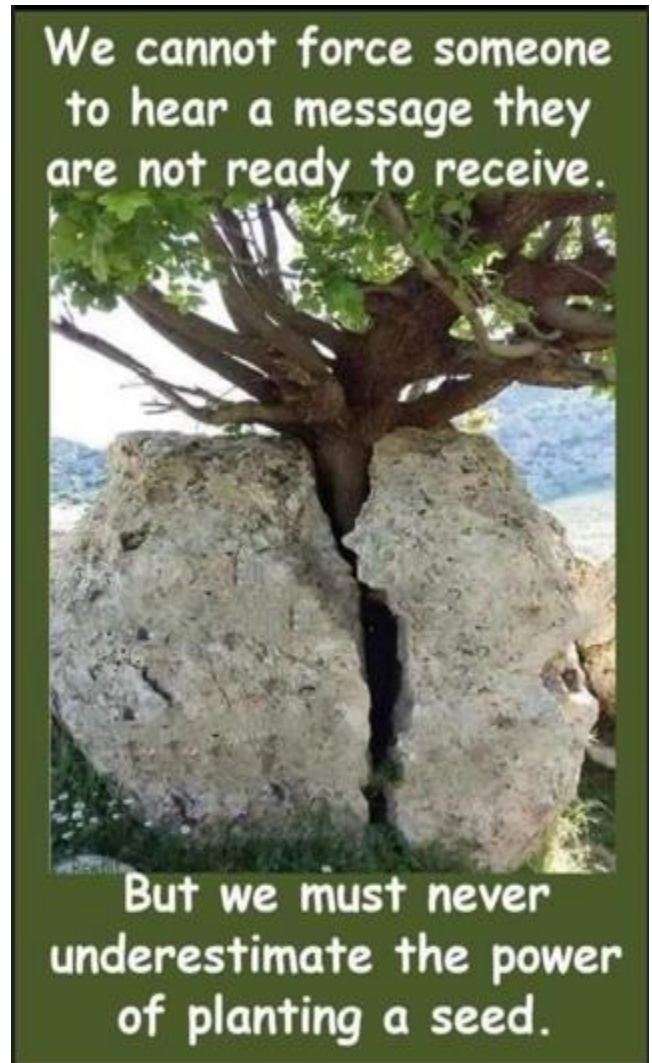
We are off to a great start with 20 Team applications submitted, and 12 requesting to work in the Conference Room. What a great example of a servant's heart!

The Spiritual Team is in place and ready to serve the Pilgrims as they come to this Weekend Spiritual Retreat.

I pray and ask for your prayers that we have 36 eager Pilgrims who are ready and willing to come grow closer to the Lord.

Thank you again for this opportunity to have the Best Walk Ever!

De Colores
Eddie Leibold
Lay Director Walk 104



[Would you like to work on a Walk?](#)

[Are you wondering what you might want to do?](#)

For those new to the GRACE Community, I will tell you that we have ONE lay member team on each Walk, subdivided into four parts: Conference Room Team, Music Team (which is in the conference room), Chapel Team, and Outside Team. The Chapel and Outside parts of the team are also known as the Servant Team.

We also have a Spiritual Team, made up of a Spiritual Director and four Assistant Spiritual Directors, who are pastors in our community. They are also part of the Conference Room Team.

Though I have served on every lay member team except Music, I can tell you that the most fulfilling for me has been the “Servant Team”.

The Servant Team is especially good for someone who is new to working on the Walk, even if they have already worked on the Conference Room Team. Many of those working on either the Chapel Team or the Outside Team have much experience with the Walk to Emmaus. On most Walks, there will be a handful of past Lay Directors and others who have worked on many Servant Teams. They can help you learn a lot about the things that are done on a Walk, and why they are done that way. Also, both genders can work on the Outside Team for any Walk, Men’s or Women’s.

The first time you work on a Servant Team, you quickly learn that things don’t just magically happen during the course of the three days. The Chapel and Outside Teams are working continuously to ensure that everything is ready for the Pilgrims and the Conference Room Team at just the right time! Plus, you will have a lot of good, Christian fellowship while you are working in the background.

The Spring Walks will be sneaking up on us very quickly, and the Team Selection Committee will be meeting immediately before the Gathering on November 11 to determine who will be asked to fill each position.

So, regardless of your choice of opportunity to serve, I encourage you to go to our website, www.graceemmaus.com, and fill out a Team Application today. I promise that you will receive many special blessings for serving on the Walk!

[I used to ask God to help me. Then I asked if I might help Him. I ended up by asking God to do His work through me.](#)

Brett Walker
Walk 66

What is Your Why?

I've been asking myself this question a lot lately.

It's a simple question – a question we think we often know the answer to – but it goes much deeper. I encourage you to ask yourself this question and really think about it.

Why are you who you are?

Why are you doing that you're doing?

Why do you have this goal?

Why do you feel a certain way.

What is your why?

When I reflect on this question, many times I am led back to Jesus in some way or another.

Take a second to think about this today. Maybe it will inspire you. Maybe it will open your eyes to something.

Maybe it will lead you to Jesus.



*You can see God from anywhere if your mind is set to love and obey Him.
—A.W. Tozer, Christian pastor and author*

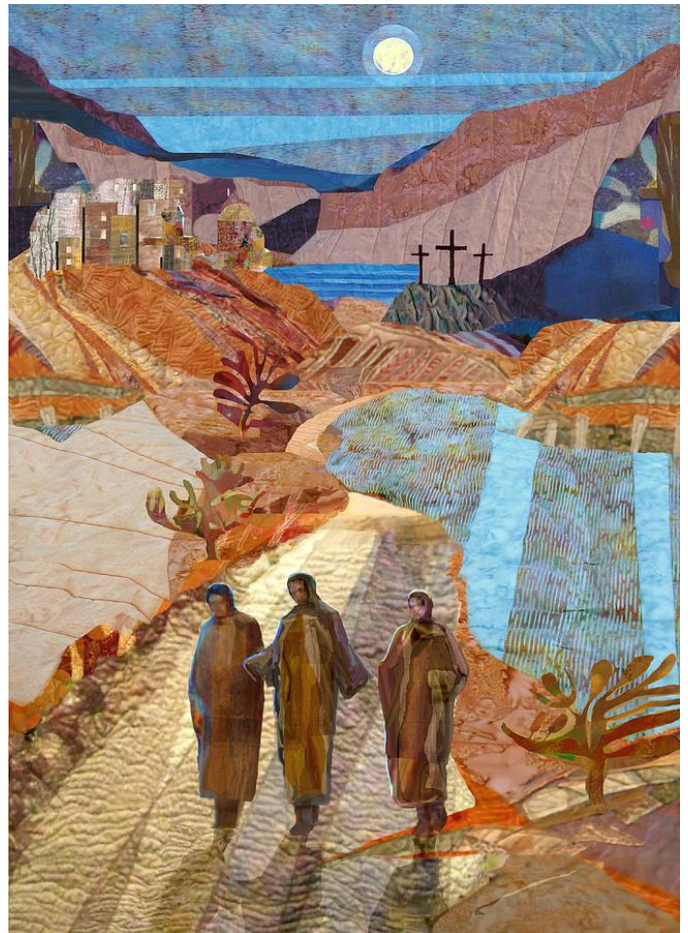
Community Member

Road to Emmaus

Artist Michael Torevell states that his desire in *Road to Emmaus* was to paint a setting that leaves the viewer with a sense of surprise and wonder – a setting where the viewer can enter the story and catch a glimpse of the divine nature of God. His use of a stylized landscape that incorporates many details but little specificity invites us into the narrative. Buildings that resemble modern-day structures also recall ancient villages. Three crosses on a hill capture our attention and anchor us to the Crucifixion story.

As we know, the Emmaus Road story is based on Luke 24:15-27, and the three on the road are Jesus, Cleopas and another traveler. As Torevell depicts it, the road could be anywhere, and the blurred faces of the travelers could be anyone.

An Emmaus experience can occur along any “road” that we travel in life – during times of grief, the Lenten journey, or even in ordinary times. Like Cleopas, we might encounter the risen Christ where and when we least expect it. Will we recognize Jesus? Perhaps others traveling the road will see Christ within us as we share the joyful news of our risen Savior.

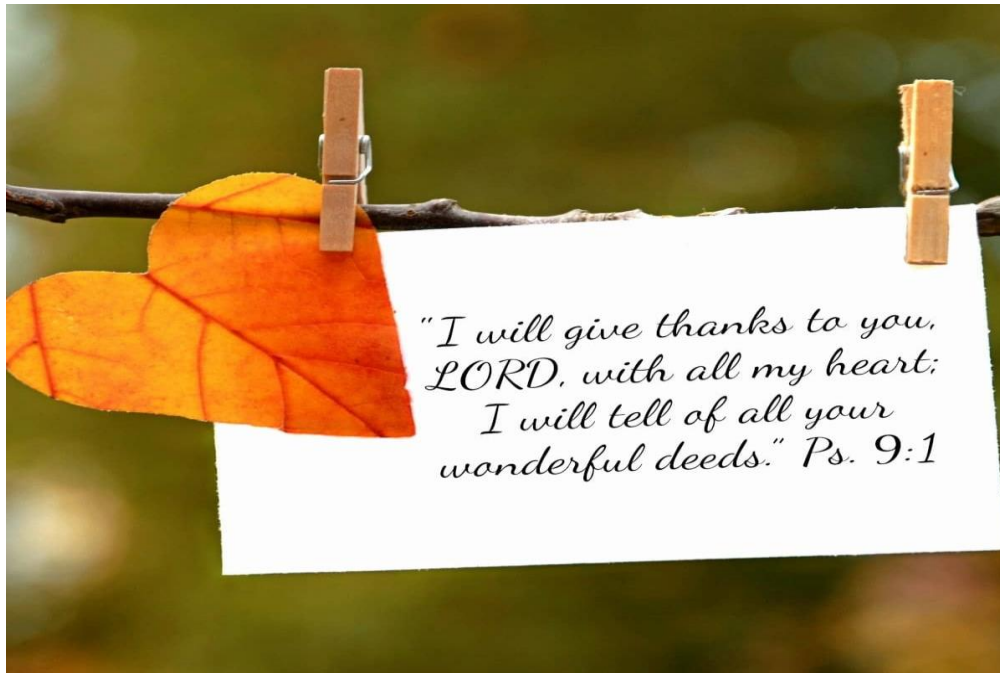


“Road to Emmaus” Artist: Michael Torevell

--Adapted from *Road to Emmaus*, (2020 March-April 2020 edition). Interpreter: Kathryn A. Kimball, Curator, The Upper Room Chapel/Christian Art Museum. *The Upper Room*/Volume 86/Issue Number 1

-- Betty Buchanan

Every Day is Thanksgiving



What if you awoke tomorrow morning with only the things you thanked God for today?

Would that change how you prayed today?

I think most of us would agree that life is busier than it's ever been. With all the rushing and doing, it's easy to grumble and complain. It can become the new norm if we're not continually seeking to live with a grateful heart.

For the next 30 days, let's purposefully set aside time to thank God for all He has done and will do in our lives.

Let's make an appointment with God every day to improve our gratitude attitude!

Let's not wait for Thanksgiving to show thankfulness to the One who makes our day possible.

Let's start today!

Charlene Burton
Community Registrar

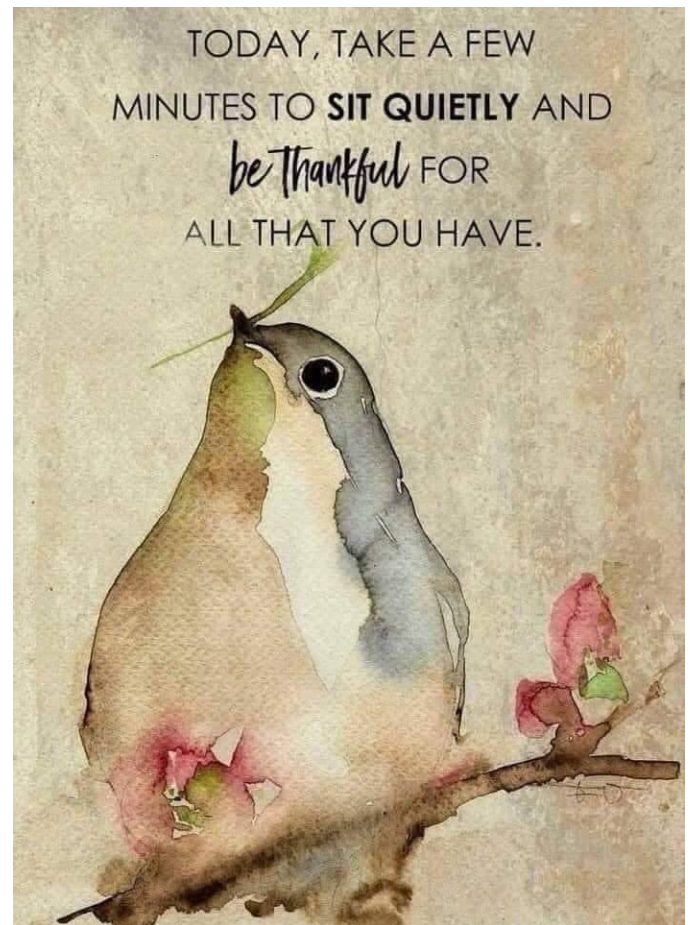
Feeding on God's Faithfulness

Psalm 37:3 "Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness."

The Thanksgiving Season serves as a great opportunity to reflect and focus on our God who is faithful! If we are to take this Scripture in Psalm 37 to heart and feed on the faithfulness of the Lord, what are some of the ways we could do this? Most of feeding on His faithfulness involves *remembering* what He has done in the past. Knowing the human tendency toward forgetfulness, God takes quite a bit of time in the Scriptures instructing us to "remember." And He has taken great measures to ensure that His children would indeed do so. Think about some of these:

- God established the *Sabbath* as a remembrance of His created work.
- He commanded the placing of *memorial stones* when Joshua led Israel across the Jordan into the Promised Land
- He instituted *Feast Days* as memory aids of His past faithfulness to Israel.
- *Circumcision* was a sign by which to remember God's covenant with Abraham.
- *Baptism* serves as a remembrance of God's New Covenant
- *The Lord's Supper* was inaugurated by Jesus as He commanded, "Do this in remembrance of Me."
- *Nature* witnesses to the faithfulness of God in every sunrise and sunset and changing of the seasons.

- *The Bible* is our greatest memorial stone to the faithfulness of God, recording His steadfast love and faithfulness to all generations.
- *Our lives – the lives of the redeemed* stand as a living testimony to our Lord's faithfulness to His children.



During this season of Thanksgiving, let's slow down and take time to "feed on His faithfulness" in enjoying His creation, keeping the Sabbath, partaking in the Lord's Supper, remembering our baptism, reading our Bibles, while taking every opportunity to testify to the Lord's faithful keeping of His promises in our lives!

Deb Miller

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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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