

# Grace for Today

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

October 2024

## Coming Events

**Saturday, October 19, Grand Ultreya**

**Gathering to welcome the new 4th Day**

**Members**, Mineola Methodist Church, Babe Chick and Sponsorship training 4:00, Potluck 5:00 pm, Worship immediately after

**Saturday, November 9, Gathering**

Henry's Chapel Methodist Church, Troup Potluck noon, Worship immediately after

**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 for the Spring Walks will be soon!** Please pray about working. Team applications are on our website.



## GOALS FOR OCTOBER

1. Put God first
2. Pray more
3. Thank God every day in the name of Jesus
4. Forgive those who have hurt me
5. Focus on Jesus more than this world ♡
6. Ask God for help more often
7. Trust God always

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

[www.graceemmaus.com](http://www.graceemmaus.com)

## Community Lay Director's Corner

Dear GRACE Emmaus Community,

Please pray for our Country and Leaders.

WOW! The BEST Walks ever! I want to extend a warm welcome to each of the 56 new members of the GRACE Emmaus Community who experienced Walks #106 and #107 at Camp Gilmont. I pray your experience was one you will cherish and remember for the rest of your life. We are excited to have you as a part of our GRACE Community.

Our Community is one of wonderful, caring people who continue to seek Christ in everything we do. The intention for your Emmaus weekend is to send you back to your Church as a better member, leader, and example. No better and no worse than anyone else, but hopefully a much closer love and understanding of Christ in you will be evident to others. I encourage you to stay active in our Community and get plugged into serving as led by the Holy Spirit.

Thank you to the GRACE Emmaus Community. So many of you devoted yourselves to serve as Christ's hands and feet to support the Pilgrims. You were there for Sendoff and Sponsor's Hour. Your prayers filled the Chapel. You spent hours making agape gifts. You spent time praying around the clock and filled the Prayer Vigil. You travelled long distances for Candlelight on Saturday night. On Sunday you came back to participate in our Closing ceremonies.

As we begin preparation for our Spring Walks, please prayerfully consider serving on one of the Teams. Serving a Walk can fill you with blessings you cannot possibly imagine. If you feel called to serve on either of these Walks, please submit your applications as soon as possible via the link on our website as Team Selection will begin soon.

I look forward to seeing each of you at our Gathering on Saturday, October 19th at Mineola First Methodist Church on Newsom Street in Mineola. Remember Sponsor's, you committed to have the Pilgrims here at 4 pm for Babe Chick Training. We will follow this with a Potluck dinner and Worship service.

Please keep our Spring Walk Lay Directors, Ken Dueterhoft and Kathy Pruitt, in your prayers as they are busy planning and preparing for Walks #108 and #109.

DeColores!

John Webb  
Community Lay Director  
"Let it shine"



**Surround yourself  
with friends who  
will tear a hole in  
the roof, lift you up,  
and carry you down  
to the feet of Jesus.**

## Welcome Our New 4<sup>th</sup> Dayers!

### Walk #106

Bob Bailey  
Zach Barnhart  
Bruce Beekman  
Brandon Bell  
Ron Bowers  
Allen Bridges  
Chris Burton  
Gary Dievendorf  
Myron Griffing  
Dennis LaPlante  
Robert Lovell  
David Mason  
Will Morris  
Michael Morrison  
Ted Odom  
Robert Putnam  
Mark Reid  
Eric Rumbo  
Brad Thomas  
Paul Trillo  
Zachary Waller

### Walk #107

Christine Applegate  
Tori Beekman  
Janell Bosarge  
April Bowman-Hill  
Luanne Brotherton  
Caitlin Bynum  
Terresa Carrasco  
Casey Coffey  
Kimberly Cole  
Jamie Dyer  
Janice Ernest-Conlee  
Susanne Gabbard  
Laura Grigsby  
Gail Lane  
Alicemae LaPlante  
Amber Lausch  
Shawn Loper  
Danielle Marsh  
Tammy Martin  
Tammy Mason  
Leslie Murphree  
Jamie Perkins  
Julie Pharr  
Ruby Randall  
Nancy Retes  
Chasey Shepard  
Vangee Smith  
Chandra Sorrells  
Jessica Spradley  
Melody Tarno-Thompson  
Lori Thomas  
Holly Throckmorton  
Sharon Townsend  
Diana Underwood  
Jessica Warren



## *Dear new 4th Dayers...*

You are home from your walk and hopefully you and your sponsor will attend your first Gathering in Mineola on October 19th.

I pray, just like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, that your hearts are still burning. Amazingly, the longing we feel following our walk and when reading about the Emmaus encounter is fulfilled in the Holy Spirit. Like those disciples, our hearts implore, "Stay with us!" and Christ answers, "Lo, I am with you always". He is always with us, and He continues to set our hearts ablaze by His abiding Spirit.

We are called to be people of the Word and to walk by the Spirit. We are empowered to go forth in His freedom and His light! We can see that God's redemptive hand has been at work for our good from the Old Testament through the New Testament, and even still today. We are rescued by His love and transformed by His redemption. The truth of the gospel is so clear for us in Scripture, and Christ is always with us!

My prayer for you is that you are inspired by the Holy Spirit to persevere... to set your priorities for a life in piety... to believe your priesthood, take Christian action and grow through study... to walk hand in hand with the body of Christ, seeking ways to change our world and make disciples of Jesus Christ on this 4th day and every day after.

Thanks be to God.

In Christ,

Charlene Burton

GRACE Emmaus Registrar



## [The Fight Within Us](#)

We would all like to think, when necessary, that we are the Rocky Balboas of fighting. But the truth is, in the physical sense, we are more created to be lovers than fighters.

But there is a fight within us, and a battle that we are continuously immersed in. The book of Ephesians teaches us that it is not the physical fight that we need to prepare for, because it is not flesh and blood that we battle against. We fight against the rulers, authorities, and the cosmic powers over this present darkness. We fight against the spiritual forces of evil.

But how do we prepare for, and fight, this battle? According to Ephesians 6:11, we start by putting on the whole armor of God, so that we may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. This leads us to the next obvious question. How do we put on "The Whole Armor of God"?

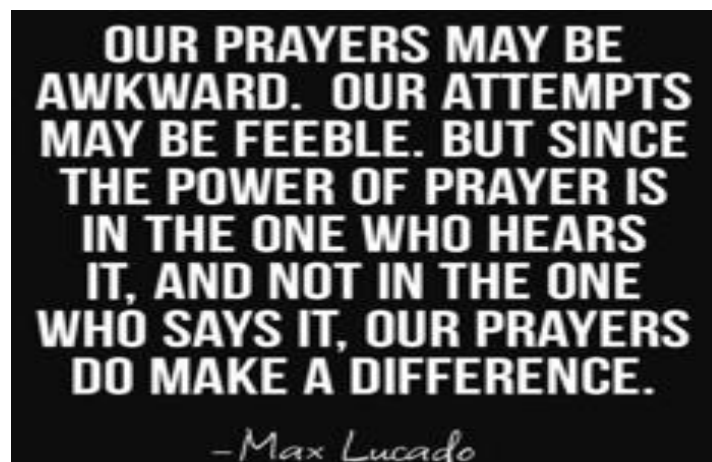
We Stand up in Christ, Gear up with Christ, and Fight in Prayer! James declares, "The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working (James 5:16)." Our prayers to Jesus are powerful because of Jesus! We are recreated "righteous" only within a relationship with Jesus! Yay God!

It is necessary to put on "The Whole Armor of God", because we cannot stand or withstand the spiritual war, we all face in our own power and resources. We need His Strength! We need His Truth! We need His Righteousness! We need His Faith! We need His Salvation! We need His Word! And we need His Gospel! And we need Him every second of every day!

Admitting our need for Jesus, and His Armor is the first step in preparing ourselves for battle in this spiritual war that we are in! Are you aware and alert to the truth that you are in a spiritual war today? If we are going to follow Jesus today it will mean that we must stand up for the right and against the wrong. We should also understand that our stand may be uncomfortable and may cost us. But always remember that God stands with us!

Chad Bearden

Community Ex-officio Lay Director



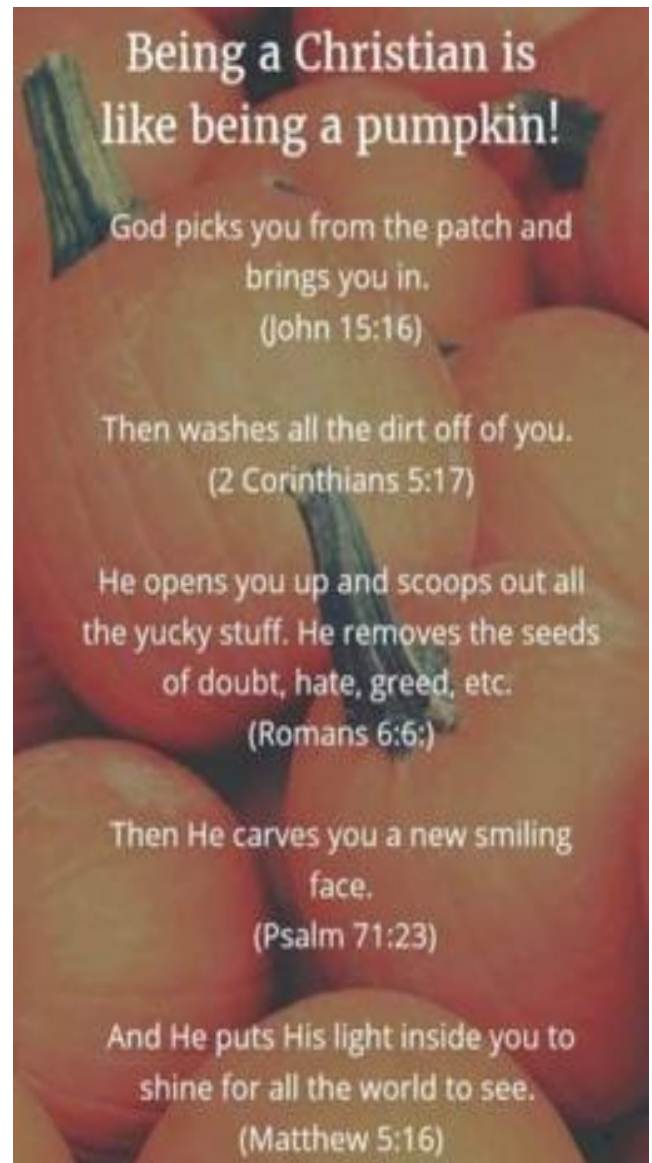
## **Christians and Pumpkins**

As Halloween approaches, I wanted to share this devotion with you. I know some Christians don't believe in celebrating Halloween, but I know God's light can shine anywhere.

Being a Christian is a lot like being a pumpkin. Perhaps you are visualizing this orange, round vegetable and wondering how you could ever be compared to one of these squashes! Simply put, like a child chooses a pumpkin to carve and mold an image upon, so God carves and molds His own unique design in you.

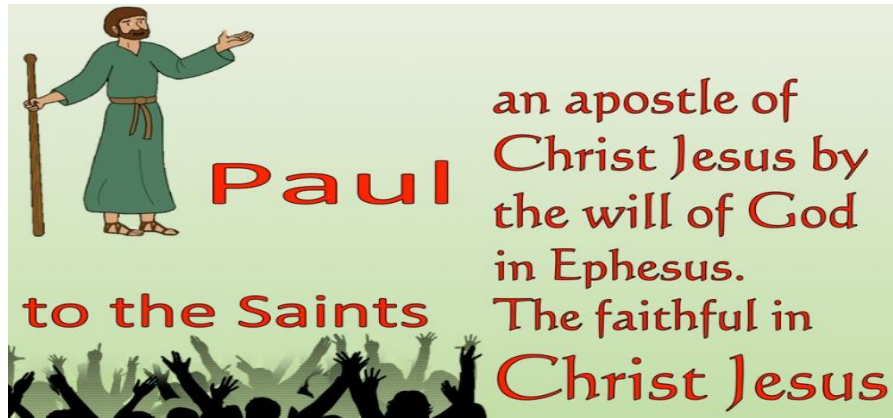
The Scriptures tell us that the Lord chooses us. He lifts us up and washes the dirt from our skin. Then he opens us, connecting deep inside to scoop out all the slimy, yucky stuff, including seeds of doubt, spite, lies, and fear. Then He carves a new creation, and makes our faces shine by putting His light inside for all to see.

What starts as an everyday squash turns into a lantern of light. What starts as an everyday person turns into a beacon of hope for all to see. Through our union with Christ, we are given the light and wisdom of the Holy Spirit who enters and dwells in our lives. It is He who picked you out and carved you just the way He wants you. So, make sure you keep your lantern lit for all to see.



Sandra Grasch  
Assistant Community Lay Director  
Reprinted from Crosswalk.com

## An Important Purpose



Ephesians1:1

In many of the Apostle Paul's greeting to the early churches, he stated that he was an Apostle of Christ by the will of God. While Paul recognized his life's purpose, often, as believers, we feel less assured of our purpose and wonder if God can use us in our present circumstances.

Sure, God called great theologians like Paul to serve God. But we who work in factories, drive trucks, fight fires, care for children, do clerical work, teach, farm, police officer, and live in all kinds of circumstances, can also be used by God.

God has a purpose for each of us just as God had a purpose for the young servant girl we read about in 2 Kings 5. She served the wife of Naaman, army commander for the king of Aram. Her faith changed the course of Naaman's life and helped alter his hostile view of Israel.

Many of us can't fathom how God could use us, but God is continually working in and through our lives. We don't have to be great theologians to be used mightily by God. We just need to trust that we have been called to follow God, whatever our circumstances. We can trust that God has purpose for our lives.

Prayer: Faithful God, thank you for the ways you work in and through our lives. Help us to trust that God has an important purpose for us and to focus on how you might use us this very day.

Dennis Gage, Community Book Table  
Reprinted from The Upper Room Devotional

## Words for Reflection

We are living in critical times where tolerance and peace are scarce. People all over the world are experiencing turbulent situations due to elections, war, denominational decisions, and countless other factors.

As members of the Emmaus Ministries, we are called to focus on our aim to renew Christian disciples and strengthen local churches. This is achieved by inspiring, challenging, and equipping local church members for Christian action — in our homes, churches, workplaces, and communities.

So, how can we accomplish our mission during difficult times? Ephesians 4:1-6, 25-32; 5:1-2 offer us good advice. These Bible verses offer a series of practical exhortations emphasizing how a believer should behave daily.

As we experience challenges, let us remember to be humble, gentle, patient, bearing with one another in love; make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace, speak truthfully, do not sin if we are angry, do not steal, share with those in need. Stop all dirty talk and being bitter, angry, and mad at others. Do not yell, curse, or be rude. Instead, be kind and merciful and forgive others.

Let's do as God does and let love be our guide.



¡De Colores!

Lilia Ramirez  
The Upper Room Emmaus Ministries Staff



## [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

**Christ said we could move mountains if we had faith. But he didn't say we wouldn't need a shovel.**

- **[Team selection for the Spring Walks will be soon!](#)** Please pray about working. Team applications are on our website [www.GRACEEmmaus.com](http://www.GRACEEmmaus.com) -> Applications tab -> Team Application.
- **[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](http://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 – 36Feel 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](mailto: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](mailto:kwdues@gmail.com)) or Kathy Pruitt ([patsypyland@gmail.com](mailto:patsypyland@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 Nancy Edwards ([ne52055@aol.com](mailto:ne52055@aol.com)) for more information.



## 10 Easy Prayer Reminders

Chances are you have a fairly set morning routine like brushing your teeth or taking medicine. You don't have to remember it (though if you're anything like me, you occasionally walk out of the house without your glasses. . . or shoes).

It's almost automatic because you've done them in roughly the same order so many times.

In the same way, it is possible to turn some of your habits into prayer reminders or "triggers," as I call them. Here are 10 easy prayer triggers to turn routine tasks into prayer prompts:

- 1) **While pouring a morning cup of coffee**, pray, "God, thank you that your love has been poured out into my heart through the Holy Spirit" (see Romans 5:5).
- 2) **Before turning on the car radio**, "Lord, tune my heart to sing Thy grace" (from "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing").
- 3) **While getting dressed**, pray, "God, clothe me today with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience" (see Colossians 3:12).
- 4) **Before turning on the stove or oven**, "Save me, God, from being lukewarm in my love for you" (see Revelation 3:15-16).
- 5) **When using the ATM**, take a moment to pray for the poor around the world. You might also choose an ATM password that reminds you to pray.
- 6) **While waiting at a stoplight**, pray, "Lord, let righteousness go before me and prepare the way ahead" (see Psalm 85:13).

**There is no wrong way to pray. Do it in church. Do it at home. Do it kneeling. Or standing. Do it out loud. Or In silence. Do it alone. Do it with others. Do it however you want. Just do it.**

- 7) **When picking up a pen or pencil**, pray, "Father, write your words on the tablet of my heart" (see Proverbs 3:3).
- 8) **As you see your reflection in a mirror or store window**, pray, "Father, let my life reflect, more and more, the image of Your Son" (see Romans 8:29).
- 9) **When saying goodbye to a friend**, "God, be with him or her until we meet again."
- 10) **When turning a light on or off**, "Jesus, let me walk in the light, as You are in the light" (see 1 John 1:7).

You probably won't use all of the above, of course. But incorporating just a few of these (or others that occur to you) into your daily routine can make a huge difference, injecting moments of prayer throughout your day.

Bob Hostetler  
Reprinted from  
Guideposts Power of Prayer

# 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 #: \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL INFORMATION TO:**

**Tyler Emmaus GRACE Community**

**P.O. Box 132212**

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