



G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Today

July/August 2020

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Walk to Emmaus Movement

Word From G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community
2020 Board Members
Bank Draft

Fall Walks

Men's Walk #94

postponed

Women's Walk #95

postponed

Gatherings

Postponed -check G.R.A.C.E.
Emmaus website for updates

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

www.graceemmaus.com

A Word from Community Lay Director

What a year this has been! No gatherings for months with exception of Camp Gilmont and virtual gatherings. No babe chick training, or sponsorship training, and training for next upcoming walks ! What to do???? There are some in the community that are very nervous about this virus, and that is all that they can think about.

But what about your walk.....

What did God teach you during your walk???

Did you listen??????

It is time that we as a community unite in the body of Christ and pray!!!!

PRAY FOR THESE WALKS AND GOD'S
DIRECTION!!!!!!

It would be very easy to say let's just cancel the next up and coming walks, but that is not what we are supposed to do..... We as a community and Board are called to pray!!! I would like to set up a 72-hour prayer vigil for future walks now!!!!!! CALLING ALL PEOPLE OF EMMAUS TO PRAY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! PLEASE SIGN UP TO PRAY.

Asking for your support in prayer....asking God for direction in whether these walks are supposed to go on as planned, or to postpone them as we have.

Gilmont is ready to host the walks, when everything settles down with this virus. Maintaining social distance, wearing masks will be required when we get the okay. Disinfecting touch points frequently, and having activities outside when we can. Steve Morton and Laura Ressler have worked hard to prepare

for the next walks to come, whenever that may be. Let's pray training is just a few months away. Let's ban together and pray for God's vision for these walks as a community. We will be posting dates for the beginning sign-ups for the prayer vigil on the website and have got to give our board rep some time to set this up. Please be patient and please sign up.

De Colores, Mike Johnston

Be Doers of the Word

We come to listen to
God's word, to learn
how to better follow Jesus
in our daily lives

Do not be Troubled, God is in Control

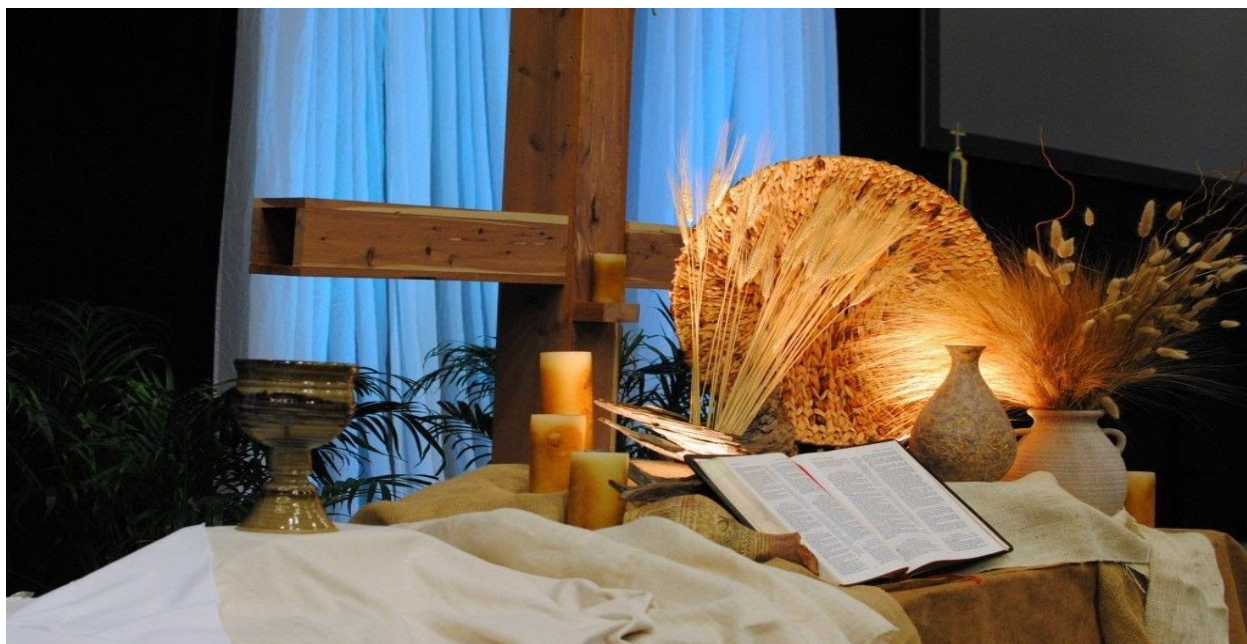
Over the last two thousand years, there have been many people who have claimed to know the date of the end of the world. In Paul's day, people expected Jesus to return soon, and even though Jesus had warned them that no one knew the day or the time, there were those who claimed to know, just as they do today. Paul is warning them not to believe in those who make false claims and to remain firm in their faith. What difference would it make in your life if you thought that the world would end in six months and Jesus would return? What changes would you make? Okay, stop here and think about this. Now, if you said that you would pray more, be a kinder, more forgiving person, let people know that you love them, then why don't you start now. After all, you don't know if you have six months to live or sixty years to live. No one knows the day or the hour when their life will end. There are people born who don't see their first birthday and those who are still alive at one hundred. There are no guarantees. What we do know is that we will die, and that one day Jesus will return. We don't know the order of these events. Personally, I would rather be ready when I die, than worry about the end of the world. I plan and look forward to the future because anticipation is half the fun. If I never make it, that's fine because the planning brought me joy. Why would anyone want to sit around worrying about the future? It will either happen or it won't, but we need to live in the now and if we don't feel ready to meet Jesus, then we need to figure out what needs to be done and do it. If we're unsure, we can pray and Jesus will let us know what we need to do and will help us do it.

PRAYER

Almighty God and Father, You know the time for each of us as well as the time of Jesus' second coming. Help us to be ready whenever You come for us. Amen



The Next Walks are getting close and your Reunion Groups hold a vital part in the role of Agape. Giving is the nature of God's love. Agape received during a Pilgrim's Walk to Emmaus experience has a ripple effect. As pilgrims reflect on being showered with nonstop agape in all its forms, many recognize the love of Christ in ways they have never imagined before. The hope is that they will return to their church and communities ready to share God's unconditional love with others. Thank you for making tangible signs of Agape through small gifts to be given to the Pilgrims throughout the weekend. Please bring them to the next upcoming Gathering or call Charlene Burton at 903-920-6677 to make arrangements to drop them off.



From the G.R.A.C.E. treasurer

Thanks to the generosity of the G.R.A.C.E. community, donations continue to come in regularly each month by the ACH, personal checks, and at monthly gatherings. Every dollar received goes back into the community to continue to spread the life changing experiences that an Emmaus weekend can deliver. Donated funds can also be used for pilgrim and team member scholarships, updating equipment, and the general fund of our community. Thank you, for your continued support of our Emmaus community.

Treasurer, Boni Demaree

EMMAUS GATHERINGS

Community Church Members, planning to host a Walk to Emmaus Gathering? Here is your chance. We usually meet on the third Saturday. We are looking for Emmaus groups to volunteer to welcome the G. R. A. C. E. Community to their church for fellowship, worship, and food. Please consider hosting us at your church! If you are interested, please contact Debbie Hays 903-452-5331 or dhays55@yahoo.com

Thank you, Debbie Hays

Giving – Priority of the Heart

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Mathew 6:21

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For many of us, the Coronavirus Pandemic has interrupted our lives, compromised our incomes and rearranged our priorities! P-r-i-o-r-i-t-y, I recall that talk: especially, the three questions. What do you think about? How do you spend your time? How do you spend your money? Thought + Time + Money = Your Priority. I would imagine that our answers to all three of these questions have drastically changed in the past few weeks! As Christians, we have scripture to provide direction regarding money...number one, it is not ours, it belongs to God and is at His disposal. We are encouraged to tithe; give 10% of our first fruits in support of our churches and ministers with gratitude to God who provides all. We are also charged with the mission to provide for the needy, the widow, the orphan and to support the ministries of our ‘messengers to the world.’ Is it any wonder that money is mentioned in the Bible over 800 times and Jesus spoke to the subject in over half of His parables? Could it be that the subject of money required that much attention because it is a place where even Believers are challenged to trust God as our Provider and Ultimate Financial Planner?

In these uncertain times it is a challenge to part with Tithes to our church let alone give more to our missions, but this is what we are called to do! Malachi 3:10 affirms, “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My House. Test Me in this.” Says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgate of Heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be enough room to store it.” Amen.

G.R.A.C.E. has been impacted by the Covid-19 Epidemic as well. Social Isolation has precipitated a short fall in donations and the opportunity to gather, fellowship and share our financial blessings. Many members choose to donate monthly, for which I am extremely grateful. Many prefer to give at Gatherings and Candlelight services as well. So please, as you reevaluate your priorities and plan ahead, remember your walk; your mission; your G.R.A.C.E. and ‘give what you have decided in your heart to give...’ 2 Corinthians 9:7a

May God continue to Bless and Prosper each and every one of you.

Your sister in Christ,
Boni Demaree, Board Treasurer

The Upper Room



<https://www.upperroom.org/newsletters>

Stay Connected

Sign up to receive newsletters and updates from The Upper Room.

Newsletters Upper Room Daily Reflections (Daily) - Words of wisdom and faith found in the pages of Upper Room Books. From the Center (Monthly, 1st Tuesday) - A monthly email newsletter from The Upper Room with resources for your soul care as a spiritual leader. Academy Bulletin (Monthly) - Updates, news, and special reflections exclusively for The Academy for Spiritual Formation participants, faculty, and leaders. Emmaus eNews (Every Other Month) - Get the latest news and tips for your fourth day journey. Especially for leaders and participants in Emmaus Ministries, including the Walk to Emmaus, Face to Face, and Chrysalis. Upper Room Recommends (Weekly, Thursday) - A weekly email for those seeking resources for spiritual formation and prayer. The email contains excerpts from Upper Room authors, plus book and online resource suggestions for small groups, congregational studies, and individual spiritual growth. My Quiet Spaces (Quarterly) - A quarterly newsletter for women seeking inspiration, tools, and support to deepen their walk with God. Rising Generations (Every Other Month) - Whether you're a church leader or parent, this bimonthly newsletter provides tips and tools for ministry with Children, Youth & Young Adults.



A REMINDER OF WALK FEES:

Pilgrim: \$195

All others: \$195

Boni Demaree, Treasurer



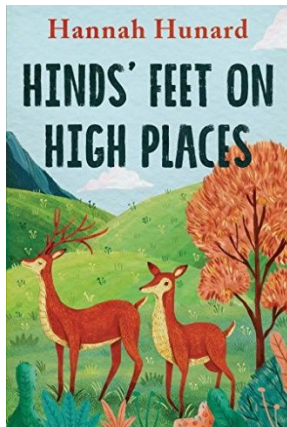
Walk to Emmaus[®]

THE UPPER ROOM[®]

The Upper Room, part of United Methodist Discipleship Ministries, began the three-day ecumenical spiritual-renewal retreats in 1978. The self-supporting ministry grew out of the Catholic Cursillo movement, and took the name Walk to Emmaus in 1981. The goal of Walk to Emmaus is to equip church members for Christian action. Following the three-day experience, participants are joined in small groups to support each other in their ongoing walk with Christ. The movement also includes the [Chrysalis](#) program for youth, the [Face to Face](#) program for adults 60 and older, and the [Journey to the Table](#) program for adults 18 to 35.

Virtual" Book Table (Betty Buchanan

Hannah Hurnard's beloved tale *Hinds' Feet on High Places* draws heavily upon three sources: the *Bible*, her personal life, and *John Bunyan's* classic *The Pilgrim's Progress from This World to That Which Is to Come* (part 1, 1678; part 2, 1694). The title, from the Bible, Habakkuk 3:19, reflects Hurnard's belief that God will lift up even the most damaged soul: *The Lord God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places.* Hurnard personally understood what it meant to be a damaged soul.

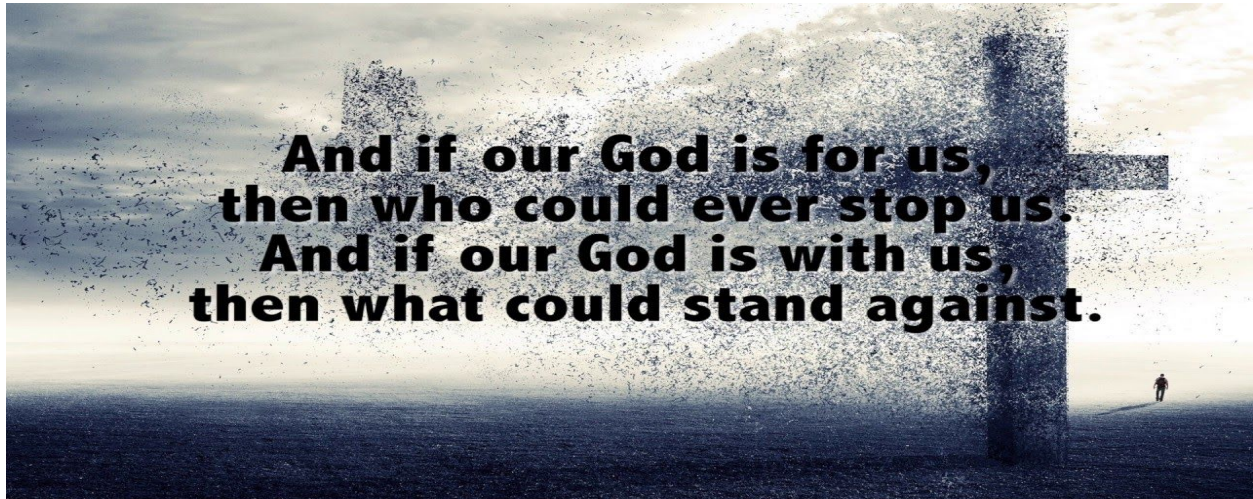


Hinds' Feet on High Places remains Hannah Hurnard's best known and most beloved book: a timeless allegory dramatizing the yearning of God's children to be led to new heights of love, joy, and victory. In this moving tale, follow Much-Afraid on her spiritual journey as she overcomes many dangers and mounts at last to the High Places. There she gains a new name and is transformed by her union with the loving Shepherd.

On the recommendation from one of my reunion sisters, I recently read this book. And so, I recommend it to anyone else. It's an easy read and will push your imagination to picture what Much-Afraid experiences on her spiritual journey. Currently, on Amazon, the Kindle version is 99¢. Also available is an illustrated version in hardcover and paperback. Another option is: *Hinds' Feet on High Places: The Original and Complete Allegory with a Devotional for Women*, available in hardcover and paperback.

DeColores,

Betty Buchanan



God is bigger than this virus

We've heard it and we've said it, I'm not scared of CoVid-19, God is bigger, and He will protect me. Which is absolutely true. God can cure our country of this virus at any time. God is in control and He gives life and He takes life according to His will. That is just the truth. When we, as a board, made the decision to postpone our Fall Walks, it was not done lightly. We spent a lot of time praying for direction and felt this is what God was leading us to do. Sometimes God's plan is fulfilled by us taking a different direction or moving down a different path, which doesn't mean we don't have faith that God provides or that God doesn't protect us. God didn't need Noah to build an Ark to protect him, his family, and the animals. God could have created a safe zone for Noah, but he asked Noah to step out on faith and build a huge boat in the middle of nowhere. God didn't need Moses to lead the Hebrews out of Egypt. God could have destroyed the Egyptians and allowed the Hebrew nation to leave, but He knew they needed leadership and He called Moses to be that leader. Moses wasn't popular at times, but God used Moses's faith and obedience to build a nation. For some, the decision of the G.R.A.C.E Community Board may not seem like the most popular decision, but God will use this decision for His glory. Think about this, 17 board members were praying individually and came to the same conclusion. We prayed then shared what we thought God was leading us to do, and every board member that was present felt the same, God was asking us to postpone the Fall Walks. That's a clear direction from God. As part of this Emmaus Community I hope you know we will continue to follow God's direction as we continue to lead. Thank you and please continue to pray for our future walks and pilgrims as we pushforward through these uncertain times.

Paula West ,G.R.A.C.E. Community Secretary

FAITH

Dear People Wondering About the Church,

I know you have some questions during this odd and trying time for us Christians.

You may view us as weak and faithless or you may have been depending on us in ways you'd never admit. But either way, I hope to carefully and lovingly address a few things. Why are we not having church?

As Christians, we believe the church is more than the building. We believe we (the people who have accepted Christ as their personal Savior) are the church. So during this time of quarantine and constant cancellation of gatherings, I want to encourage you that the church is still very much present. We may not be meeting in our regular places, but to us, that is just a building (Yes, a reverent one, but a building nonetheless). I also want to share with you that I feel God is currently breaking down some barriers and making His Word reach further today than yesterday.

Let me explain...

In the New Testament, we learn about the life of Christ. We can read of His birth from a virgin, His perfect and sinless life, His wonderful teaching, His ultimate sacrifice in death, and His resurrection. But you see, before Jesus, only the High Priest was allowed in the Holy of Holies to speak with God. God was not accessible to everyone. We needed Jesus to provide a way, an ultimate sacrifice, for everyone to have a personal relationship with God. At the moment of His death, the veil of the temple was torn. The tearing of this physical barrier to the Holy of Holies was symbolic of Jesus providing a way for everyone to seek and find God. Jesus gave his life, so that we could have a relationship with God and life everlasting. For just a little while, the barrier of the four walls within which we believers worship God is being taken away. We are no longer meeting in one building in the comfort and privacy of family and friends to worship God. We are now meeting together on endless social media platforms which allow the world to see, hear, and join in worship with us. What about our faith, you ask? If we have full faith in God, why are we not meeting anyway? We are not meeting physically because we have faith. We have faith that God is working all things together for our good. We have faith that He is in control and has a plan. We have faith that His Word will still go out (maybe even more than normal). We have faith that the Holy Spirit will lead, guide, and direct our paths during this time. We know we are created human and are therefore flawed with numbered days, but we have faith that God will sustain us spiritually during this time when we are unable to enter that building. We have faith in His Holy Word and prayer as a means of continuing to grow closer to Him everyday (not just on church day). What about the verse that says forsake not the assembly? Some pastors are choosing to have church in the parking lot and others are still opening the doors of the church for regularly scheduled meetings... And you may be seeing them quote this verse, so let me share it with you as well. I am going to quote from the beginning of the sentence all the way to the end of the sentence which includes verses 23-25 of Hebrews 10. 23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) 24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. These verses encourage us as Christians to hold tight to our faith, to think of one another and work for the Lord through love and good deeds, to join together and comfort one another.... And to do these things even more so as trying times come. This statement means so much more than to just meet together physically. If we met together physically without meeting the other conditions, the meeting would be useless... However, even without our buildings, we the church are joining together in prayer, in worship, in love and encouragement, and in good deeds. We are joining together in an effort to continually spread the good news of Christ and to offer peace and comfort to our neighbor. We are praying that you see the love of Christ through the church during this time. We are praying that your social media platform becomes inundated with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are praying that during this time of trial you are overwhelmed with peace and comfort. We are praying for you. And we love you!!

DEColores, Ernest Rodriguez (newsletter editor)

G.R.A.C.E. BOARD ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2020

Lay Director: Mike Johnston

Cell: 903-521-0860 Email: revmike.johnston@gmail.com

Assistant Lay Director: John Crow

Cell: 903-288-1881 Email: jwcrow56@gmail.com

Ex Officio Lay Director: Wynn Harle

Cell: 903-245-2701 Email: cowboycentral@suddenlink.net

Spiritual Director: Rev. Joe Hall

Cell: 903-742-5828 Email: joehall@mhd.com

Assistant Spiritual Director: Dan Vickers

Cell: 214-673-6233 Email: dvickerspmp@gmail.com

Secretary: Paula West

Cell: 903-918-9067 Email: pjwest57@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Boni Demaree

Cell: 903-352-2857 Email: boni@sysresourcegroup.com

Music Coordinator: Scott Snyder

Cell: 903-539-1754 Email: scott_snyder@att.net

COMMITTEES

(Board Member is chair of designated committee)

Agape (Banquet, Afterglow, handmade items): Charlene Burton

Cell: 903-920-6677 Email: cburtonlindale@gmail.com

Babe Chick Training: Ken Duesterhoft

Cell: 903-520-0294 Email: kwdues@gmail.com

Book Table : Betty Buchanan

Cell: 903-930-2678 Email: jimbet85@gmail.com

Prayer Vigil/Wall Agape: Debbie Wade

Cell: 903-520-8495 Email: eleridancer@gmail.com

Gathering Coordinator: Debbie Hays

Cell: 903-452-5331 Email: dhays55@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor: Ernest Rodriguez

Cell: 903-810-0633 Email: erod7707@gmail.com

Community Trailer: Rhonda Gorrell

Cell: 575-749-1221 Email: fire322dfd@yahoo.com

Publication Coordinator: John Epps

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Sponsorship Training: Laura Resler

Cell: 617-953-4486 Email: ltfnp2@gmail.com

Reunion Groups: Scott Catchot

Cell: 903-373-5415 Email: pastorscottcatchot@gmail.com

Non-Board (non-voting) Positions

Registrar: Jim and Betty Buchanan

Cell Betty: 903-930-2678 Cell Jim: 903-930-2360 email: jimbet85@gmail.com

Walk Crosses: Elizabeth Minor

Home: 903-657-8112 Email: mnm-design@msn.com

Cell: 903-720-1740

Doves: Jay Edwards, je7255@aol.com

Webmaster: Martha and Brett Walker

Cell Martha: 903-235-0158 Cell Brett: 903-987-3090

email Martha: marthasgarden55@gmail.com email Brett: brettfcall@gmail.com

GRACE EMMANUS 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

Tyler, TX 75713-2212