

Grace for Today

G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community Newsletter March 2026

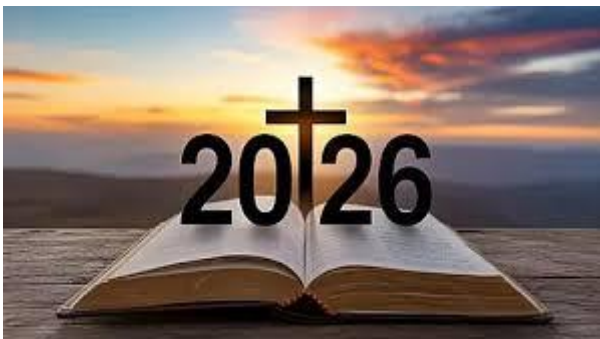
Coming Events

Saturday, March 7th, Candlelight-Men's Walk, Disciples Crossing, Gates open at 7:30, Gathering starts at 8:00 pm.

Saturday, March 14th, Candlelight-Women's Walk, Disciples Crossing, Gates open at 7:30, Gathering starts at 8:00 pm.

Saturday, March 28th, Babe Chick Gathering at Marvin Methodist Church, Tyler, Babe Chick training at 11am, Potluck at noon (bring extra food for the Babe Chicks!) followed by worship

Saturday, April 18th, Gathering at Life Source, Lindale. Potluck at noon, service immediately after.



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

www.GRACEEmmaus.com

Community Lay Director's Corner

Dear Emmaus Family,

God has truly blessed me with the opportunity to serve as your Community Lay Director. I went on my walk in 1999, and so much has changed in our community since then. We have changed the camps we use, welcomed over 1,000 pilgrims who are now 4th Dayers, received countless snack donations, and continued to be supported financially through your generosity. We are blessed with volunteers who host our gatherings, provide agape, and faithfully pray for us and for each walk. I am humbled and in awe of how this ministry continues to grow and build a strong future. I also want to recognize the many men and women who serve on the walks—volunteering their time, leading tables, giving talks, and sharing their musical gifts—while still paying the same fees as the pilgrims. Their servant hearts make this ministry possible.

February has been a busy month for GRACE Emmaus. Our very own Blake Burton has stepped into the role of Treasurer and has already been hard at work. He has also secured a dedicated donation tag to make giving easier for our community. Because of your continued generosity, we can offer sponsorships to pilgrims and 4th Dayers in need. Thank you, Blake, for your leadership and service.

We are also excited to share that we now have our very own golf cart, complete with two newly added rear seats—thanks to John Webb!

As we look ahead, we are already preparing for next year's walks. Soon, we will begin interviews for the 2027 Lay Directors. I hope you will prayerfully consider finding a way to serve this year or next. It is a joyful experience, and you will meet some of the most talented and faith-filled people in the East Texas area.

Thank you for allowing me to share the many blessings of volunteering with the Emmaus Community Team.

Debbie Hays

GRACE (Greater Rose Area Community Emmaus) Community Lay Director



The Lenton season

Lent, Lists, and Lifelong Friends.

If you've ever interacted with the Registrar, you know I love a good list.

Names. Forms. Checkboxes. Deadlines.

Room assignments. Alphabetical order makes my heart oddly happy.

But as we step into Lent, I'm reminded that some of the most important things in

Emmaus don't fit neatly on a spreadsheet.

Lent is a season of preparation. A season of reflection. A season of making room for

Christ. We often think about what we're "giving up," but perhaps Lent is also about what we are willing to let God build within us.

Emmaus has a beautiful way of building something unexpected: deep, meaningful, soul-level friendships.

Not surface-level small talk.

Not "see you once a year" acquaintances.

But friendships forged in prayer, vulnerability, laughter, tears, and late-night holy conversations.

Some of us met our closest spiritual friends because we filled out a registration form.

Think about that.

A simple "yes" led to someone sitting across from you at a table... and now she knows how to pray for you when you don't have words. She knows your struggles. She celebrates your victories. She reminds you who you are in Christ when you forget.

That is no small thing.

During Lent, we remember that Jesus walked toward the cross not alone, but with disciples; imperfect, sometimes confused, but deeply loved. Faith was never meant to be a solo journey. Emmaus reminds us of that again and again.

As Registrar, I see the names before the weekend begins. I see the anticipation. I see the nervousness. I see the "maybe I should" and the "I'm not sure I'm ready."

But what I really see is possibility.

Possibility for renewal.

Possibility for courage.

Possibility for friendships that will carry someone through seasons they haven't even faced yet.

This Lent, perhaps the question isn't only "What am I giving up?"

Maybe it's also, "Who is God inviting me to walk alongside?"

If you've been nudged to sponsor someone... listen.

If you've been considering serving... step forward.

If you've been holding back from deeper community... lean in.

Some of the holiest things begin with a simple registration form.

De Colores,

Charlene Burton

G.R.A.C.E. Registrar

A word from the Lay Director's of the spring 2026 Walks.

Men's Walk 112 Spring 2026- Todd Morgan

Congratulations Fourth Dayers! What an amazing weekend it has been! Some of you have found your purpose, some of you have let go of those anchors that were keeping you from flying high and some of you have broken down those walls around your heart; what next? We have all been there and have come out fired up. Take that fire back to your families, churches and communities and spread it to all you encounter. The most important advice I can give you is you will have to work hard to keep that fire burning. Join a group that will keep you accountable and grounded. Go to gatherings and get involved; all of these, are things that have helped me keep my fire burning. The most important advice I can give is give yourself grace and never quit. God loves you regardless of your sins and He wants that honest relationship with Him.

Hopefully and prayerfully these small pieces of advise we'll help you maintain your path with Jesus Christ and you will do what we are all commanded to do and that is make more disciples of Christ. God Bless and use your new friends in times of prayer.

Love,
Todd Morgan-Lay Director #112



Women's walk 113 Spring 2026- Rhonda Gorrell

Welcome to the team, Fourth Dayers!
I pray you have found Disciples Crossing to be holy ground upon which you have stood. This walk has been centered on **2 Timothy 1:8**:

"So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God."

This verse is a timely reminder that we are called to live unashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ—

Unashamed to follow Him.

Unashamed to feed His sheep.

Unashamed to speak His name.

Unashamed to serve with courage and joy. Jesus' call to "follow Me" has never been casual; it is an invitation to surrender. His command to "feed My sheep" has never been optional; it is a commission to action. Together, they form the heartbeat of discipleship.

When we pray, we are feeding His sheep. When we serve, we follow Him. Thank you for attending this walk and allowing us the privilege of answering His call to serve. It is truly our great honor to serve alongside you.

My prayer is that this walk has ignited a renewed courage in each of us—not just for a weekend, but for a lifetime of faithful service.

De Colores,

Ronnda Gorrell

Lay Director #113

For all you caramel lovers!



Sugar begins as something simple — white, crystalline, and sweet. It carries quiet promise, but as it is, it remains sugar.

For sugar to become caramel, it must endure heat. Steadily, patiently, it changes. What once was rigid and cold begins to melt and surrender. And at just the right moment, the master caramel-maker watches closely, never turning away, never rushing the process. He knows precisely what the heat is doing — not to scorch or destroy, but to refine.

So it is with God and the soul.

In His wisdom, God allows seasons of warmth and pressure — the very things that soften us. In His care, nothing is wasted. When we encounter difficulty or discomfort, He does not abandon us to the flame, but remains near, attentive and patient, knowing transformation is underway.

And then comes the pouring in.

Like cream meeting hot sugar, God pours His grace into the places that have surrendered. It may bubble and stir with intensity, but the result is astonishing. His Spirit blends with our softened hearts, and something new emerges — richer, smoother, more compassionate, more radiant, and more resilient.

Sugar is good, but caramel is unforgettable.

So too is the soul that has yielded to God's refining and received His generous pouring of love. In His hands, we become more than we were — a testimony to the patient work of a faithful Creator.

“He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion.” — Philippians 1:6

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