Grace for Today

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

January 2026

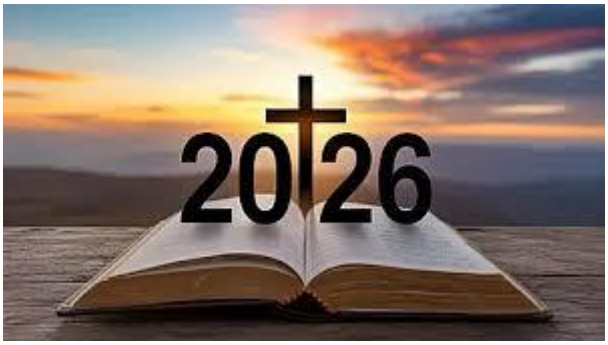
Coming Events

Saturday, Jan 17, Gathering at Grace Methodist, Palestine, Potluck at noon and Worship after

Saturday, Feb 21, Gathering at First Methodist, Gladewater, Potluck at noon and Worship after

Coming soon at Disciples Crossing Camp…
Men's Walk 112, Mar 5 – 8
Women's Walk 113, Mar 12 – 17
Pray about sponsoring a Pilgrim and submit the application!

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



Inside this Issue

2: Community Lay Director's Corner
3: Todd Morgan Men's Walk #112
4: Rhonda Gorrell Women's Walk #113
5: You can help with the Spring Walks
6: New Beginnings
7: A New Year, a Steady Promise
8: Serve
9: A Hymn for Everyone
10-11: God Uses the Largest Challenges to Bloom New Fruit
12: 2025 GRACE Emmaus Board of Directors
13: Support for GRACE Emmaus Community

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

Community Lay Director's Corner

Dear GRACE Emmaus Community,
It is my pleasure to introduce myself, I am your new Community Lay Director, Debbie Hays, I went on GRACE Emmaus Walk number 8, And I sat at the table of Ruth, I worship and serve with my husband, Tom at Marvin Methodist in beautiful downtown Tyler.

We are anxious to start our New Year 2026. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming January 17 gathering, at Grace Methodist Church in Palestine. We will meet at noon for potluck lunch and then proceed to our worship service. Please feel free to contact me at 903-452-5331 or by email dhayes55@yahoo.com.

We are gathering ideas for a greater 2026, if you would like to share your ideas with me, please do!

I would like to thank our Emmaus board members, who served so tirelessly for us in 2025. This includes the following board members: Sandra Grasch, Paul Breedlove, Jim Picken, Brian Walker, Wynn Harle, Betty Buchanan, Rich Smith, Douglas Denmark, Kim Brooks, Ken Sides, Martha Walker, Charlene Burton, Brian Jones, Brad Burton, Kevin Abney, Nancy Edwards, and John Webb.

Our new board members who have willingly agreed to serve beginning in 2026 for a three-year term include: Blake Burton, Dawn Woods, Pam McAdams, Kara Mitchell and CJ Cox.
Our spring teams for the March walks are already preparing for the pilgrims. Training will begin on January 10th, 2026. If you are on one of those teams, we will look forward to seeing you then.

My prayers for year 2026, are to become closer to Christ, by willingly stepping up in this ministry and loving our 4th dayers and our pilgrims to come.
Come join me for a joy filled 2026,
Community Lay Director
Debbie Hays

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

Men's Walk 112 Spring 2026- Todd Morgan

We made it through the holidays and then next thing you know we are heading into another men's walk. I knew this was coming but you still cannot be prepared for the feeling that I am way behind. Fortunately, this walk that I am leading is His walk and not mine, so I have full trust that God is in complete control thus no anxieties.

We have many men and women who have volunteered for this walk, and it completely humbles me that we have so many giving hearts in our community. Thank you, God, for that blessing! As always, the enemy began early on a few so I encourage everyone to pray for all the volunteers and pilgrims for both walks. Prayer is the shield that will make each walk the best walk ever!

God impressed on me a theme for the men's walk, "Humble Servant". I was led to a verse in Matthew 28:16-20, "*Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshipped him but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* We are to be humble servants like Jesus Christ and try to create as many disciples as we can. I believe the greatest blessing we have in this community is to be able to do exactly that, not only with pilgrims but we should also be intent on training and furthering our own walk with Christ. We are to mentor others to take our places in this community so we can grow and thrive.

Finally, I am humbled and blessed to lead Walk #112 at Disciples Crossing. The place I went on my walk 8 years ago and forever changed my relationship with God. I have been blessed to have many men that were essential in my Christian growth accept positions as volunteers on this walk and that explains everything I believe we are to do as fourth-dayers. We are first disciples in our church and community. Then we are to further our walk with Christ by volunteering with Emmaus in every capacity with a humble heart. Most importantly we are to progress to a point where we completely understand our reason and purpose for Him. Finally, we humbly teach and mentor the other fourth-dayers so they can continue creating disciples.

I pray for this community constantly. I hope that everyone who feels encourage to do so sponsors a pilgrim and watch them grow in Christ like I have and build your treasures in heaven.

God Bless all of you!
Love Todd Morgan
Lay Director #112

Women's walk 113 Spring 2026- Rhonda Gorrell

Hello to the GRACE Community, I hope everyone had an amazing Christmas and celebrated our savior's birth. My name is Rhonda Gorrell and I went on New Horizons Emmaus Walk, number 63 in Amherst Texas. My family and I worship and serve at Bar None Cowboy Church in Tatum Texas.

I have distinct pleasure of being the hands and feet of our Lord Jesus Christ and serve as the Lay Director for Walk 113. The dates for the Walk will be March 12th through the 15th . God's team for this walk has been selected, and I am very excited to see how the team will bond together during the trainings. Our training dates are January 10th at Crossroads in Canton, January 24th at Mineola First United Methodist in Mineola and February 7th at Bar None Cowboy Church in Tatum.

Please get your pilgrims signed up on the prayer vigil so we can cover these pilgrims in prayer.

Decolores,
Rhonda Gorrell

The Spring Walks are sooner than we realize, and you can help!

- ***Pray, Pray, Pray for our Fall Walks!***
  Disciples Crossing Camp in Athens
  Men's Walk #112, Mar 5 – 8
  Women's Walk #113, Mar 12 – 17

- ***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 can be 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 Betty Buchanan for more information. (jimbet85@gmail.com)

- ***Do you have a Golf Cart or Mule we could borrow for one or both Walks?***
  Contact one of the Walk Lay Directors, Todd Morgan (texantodd23@yahoo.com) or Rhonda Gorrell (fire322dfd@yahoo.com).

- ***Attend Candlelight at the Walks:***
  Saturday, gates open 7:30, worship at 8

- ***Attend Closing at the Walks:*** Sunday, Sponsors pick up Pilgrim's belongings at 3:30, Closing starts at 4

- ***Sign up on the Prayer Vigil posted on the website!***

- ***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. Arrive at the camp at 4pm. All you need are black pants, a white shirt, and a willing heart! Contact Betty Buchanan for more information. (jimbet85@gmail.com)

- ***Can you help with snacks and drinks for both Walks?*** We can use all types of drinks from bottled water to cans and bottles of soft drinks and tea. Cases of bottled water are greatly appreciated! We also need plenty of snack food, and individually wrapped goodies are best

January: New Beginnings

January invites us to breathe deeply and begin again. A new year doesn't erase the past, but it does remind us that God is always doing something new—renewing hearts, restoring hope, and calling us forward in grace.

The Emmaus journey itself is a reminder that Christ meets us right where we are and walks with us into what's next. As we step into this new year, may we do so with open hearts, listening for His voice, attentive to His presence, and ready to say "yes" to the work He is doing in us and through us.

May this January be marked not by resolutions we strive to keep, but by a renewed commitment to walk closely with Jesus, trust His leading, and share His love with others.

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" — Isaiah 43:19

Charlene Burton

GRACE Emmaus Registrar

A New Year, A Steady Promise

January has a way of inviting us to pause and look ahead. Whether we step into the new year with excitement, uncertainty, or a bit of both, we can rest in one unchanging truth: **God goes with us.**

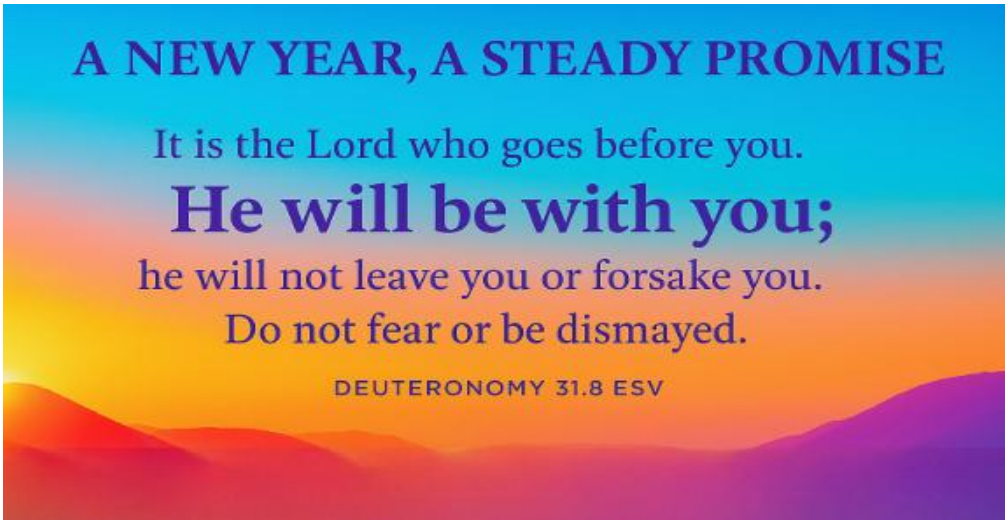
Scripture reminds us that God is always at work, renewing and restoring. *"Behold, I am doing a new thing…"* (Isaiah 43:19) isn't just a verse for inspiration—it's a reminder of who He is. He doesn't wait for a date on the calendar to begin something new in us, but He gladly meets us here at the start of a fresh year.

We don't need perfect resolutions or flawless plans. What we need is confidence in the God who carried us through last year and is already preparing the way for this one. Whatever this year brings — answered prayers, new opportunities, or simply a deeper awareness of His presence — we can trust that He is faithful.

As we begin this new year together, let's hold onto the promise that God is already in our tomorrow, guiding our steps and strengthening our hearts.

Wishing you a year filled with grace, hope, and God's steady peace.

Martha Walker
Community Reunion Groups



Serve

As we turn the corner into a new year, let us reflect on what it truly means to be a disciple—to serve God in all that we do and to love our neighbors as ourselves. During the Christmas season, we are reminded that giving is far better than receiving. God designed us in such a way that when we serve others, we are serving Him, and in doing so, we experience deep and undeniable joy.

It is truly a blessing to serve our Creator and our neighbors. When we do, our hearts are lifted. I have learned this lesson many times in my own life: when I am feeling discouraged, it is often because I am too focused on myself. The remedy is simple—go out and serve.

Opportunities to serve surround us in our communities and churches. We can serve in the streets, at the supermarket, and in our workplaces. If you are reading this newsletter, chances are you had a meaningful experience on a Walk. Countless people serve in countless ways to make these Walks impactful for every pilgrim.

If you haven't signed up for the next Walk, please consider supporting the community in another way. Sponsor a pilgrim, bring agape, attend Candlelight, serve Christ's Dinner, or join us for Closing. The Grace Emmaus community has transformed many lives, and it is important that we continue to grow and strengthen this instrument of God's grace.

See you there,
An anonymous community member.

A Hymn for Everyone

The Dentist's Hymn.....Crown Him with Many Crowns
The Weatherman's Hymn..There Shall Be Showers of Blessings
The Contractor's Hymn.....How Firm a Foundation
The Tailor's Hymn.....Holy, Holy, Holy
The Politician's Hymn.....Standing on the Promises
The IRS Agent's Hymn.....I Surrender All
The Gossip's Hymn.....It Is No Secret
The Electrician's Hymn.....Send The Light
The Shopper's Hymn.....In the Sweet By and By
The Realtor's Hymn.....I've Got a Mansion Just Over the Hilltop
The Massage Therapist's Hymn.....He Touched Me
The Pilot's Hymn.....I'll Fly Away
The Paramedic's Hymn.....Revive Us Again
The Judge's Hymn.....Almost Persuaded
The Psychiatrist's Hymn.....Just A Little Talk With Jesus
The Waiter's Hymn.....Fill My Cup, Lord
The Baker's Hymn.....When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder
The Shoe Repairer's Hymn.....It Is Well With My Soul
The Geologist's Hymn.....Rock of Ages
The Librarian's Hymn.....Whispering Hope
The Mail Carrier's Hymn.....Deliverance Will Come
The Nurse's Hymn.....Rescue the Perishing
The Telephone Operator's Hymn.....Jesus on the Mainline
The Fisherman's Hymn.....Shall We Gather at the River?

Friendship Baptist Church No. 2 Mineral Bluff, Georgia

God Uses the Largest Challenges to Bloom New Fruit

During Christmas, I was given a new devotional book written by C.H. Spurgeon. It has already proven to be an informative book and of great benefit in meditation and discipleship. I want to share one of those daily devotions today and add comments at the end.

"I will give thee for a covenant of the people." Isaiah 49:9

Jesus Christ is Himself the sum and substance of the covenant, and as one of its gifts, He is the property of every believer. Believer, can you estimate what you have gotten in Christ? "In Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." Consider that word "God" and its infinity, and then meditate upon "perfect man" and all His beauty; for all that Christ, as God and man, ever had or can have is yours—out of pure free favor, passed over to you to be His entailed property forever. Our blessed Jesus, as God, is omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent. Will it not console you to know that all these great and glorious attributes are altogether yours? Has He power? That power is yours to support and strengthen you, to overcome your enemies, and to preserve you even to the end. Does He have love? Well, there is not a drop of love in His heart which is not yours; you may dive into the immense ocean of His love, and you may say it all, "It is mine." Hath He justice? It may seem a stern attribute, but even that is yours, for He will by His justice see to it that all which is promised to you in the covenant of grace shall be most certainly secured to you. And all that He has as perfect man is yours. As a perfect man, the Father's delight was upon Him. He stood accepted by the Most High. O believer, God's acceptance of Christ is your acceptance; for do you not know that the love which the Father set on a perfect Christ, He sets on you now? For all Jesus wrought out, when through His stainless life He kept the law and made it honorable, is yours and is imputed to you. Christ is in the covenant.

"My God, I am thine—what a comfort divine!
What a blessing to know that the Savior is mine!
In the heavenly Lamb thrice happy I am,
And my heart it doth dance at the sound of His name."

Paul tells us to persevere, to run the race, and in all things, through prayer and thanksgiving, supplicate the Lord. I want you to think about God's ultimate perseverance. God has persevered with His rebellious creation for six thousand years now and hasn't given up on us. Jesus persevered through the weight of billions of sinners throughout the ages as He hung on

that tree. That power of perseverance is also yours. Put it to work for you. Know that God is always with you—that if you take it to God in prayer and thanksgiving, even thanksgiving for the things that trouble you most, God can use that to work good in your life. That the very thing or challenge that is on the verge of breaking you, through prayer and thanksgiving, God can use to fertilize the fruit of happiness and growth for your future. When it gets tough, lean not on your own understanding, but lean hard and heavy on the Spirit of the Lord, who uplifts us all through groanings and silent prayers. May we all be transformed anew this year to be more like our brother and co-heir in Christ Jesus.

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Brian Walker

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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 bring. 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 #: _____

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