



The Greater Austin Emmaus Community Newsletter



April 2020

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Volume 31, Number 4

Fear Itself

I have been thinking about what has happened to the world over the last few weeks and even what has happened to the United States. The closest thing I can remember that is even remotely similar in the way it has affected the attitude and fear of the people is what happened to the United States during the Great Depression. The Great Depression started with the stock market crash of October 29, 1929, known as Black Tuesday and the severe economic depression spread to the world. The worldwide Gross Domestic Product (GDP) between 1929 and 1932 fell by an estimated 15%. The unemployment rate high was in 1933 at 25% and still was about 15% in 1940. The Great Depression was the longest, deepest, and most widespread depression of the 20th century and is an example of how intensely the world's economy can decline. The GDP of the US did not return to the 1929 level for over ten years. The Great Depression was finally ended in most countries and the US by World War II.

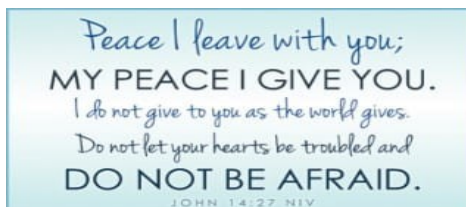
On top of that, the Dust Bowl started in 1934 and lasted until about 1940. The Dust Bowl affected 100,000,000 acres with drought and erosion centered on the panhandles of Texas and Oklahoma with parts of New Mexico, Colorado, and Kansas. The unanchored soil turned to dust which the prevailing winds blew away in huge clouds that sometimes blacked the sky and traveled across the US. The "Black Blizzards" reached New York City, Washington D.C., and other East Coast cities. The Dust Bowl forced tens of thousands of poverty stricken families to abandon their farms because they were unable to pay mortgages or grow crops and migrate to California and other states. Now that you have time on your hands, you might want to read "The Grapes of Wrath" by John Steinbeck that covers the Dust Bowl.

During this time many families were broken up by the men becoming hobo's and riding the trains illegally to find work. Sons were sent by families to go to Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps to provide manual labor jobs related to the conservation and development of natural resources in rural lands owned by federal, state, and local governments. The CCC provided food, shelter, and jobs to relieve families for providing for the unmarried young men ages 17-28 and they were required to send \$25 of the \$30 per month wage home to their families. In Texas, state parks such as Bastrop and Garner still have buildings built by CCC in use today.

Families were in many cases fearful of how they would provide food for their families and when the Depression would end. Families were praying and doing the best they could to survive the Great Depression. We probably all have great grandparents, grandparents, and maybe parents that lived and experienced the situations that I described above. Franklin D. Roosevelt in his March 4, 1933 Inaugural Address stated, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself – nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance." The American people worked hard, suffered, made sacrifices, prayed, received government assistance, and maintained a positive attitude that things would get better. It took time, but slowly things did get better. People had hope in the future.

I wanted everyone to realize by the above history lesson that the US experienced major difficulty before. The article is meant as a hope of what we have gone through before and survived as a nation, as the world. You will notice some similarities in the situations we are experiencing now: economic crisis, stock market going drastically down, lack of food, unemployment, fear, sacrifice, suffering, government assistance, prayer, and hope for the future. As children of God, we have hope in the future! We know that God is in control and that we can turn to him in prayer to give us strength and peace through this Coronavirus pandemic. Remember the following scripture from John 14:27. "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

De Colores!
Steven Scott
Acting Lay Director



Greater Austin Emmaus Community

Board of Directors and Non-Board Positions

Acting Lay Director

Steven Scott

LayDirector@austinemmaus.org

Assistant Lay Director

Open

AssistantLayDirector@austinemmaus.org

Past Lay Director

Fred Widmer

PastLayDirector@austinemmaus.org

Secretary

Harold Sundbeck

Secretary@austinemmaus.org

Treasurer

Patti Bizzell

Treasurer@austinemmaus.org

Upper Room Support

Mel Chambers

UpperRoom@austinemmaus.org

Assist Upper Room Support

George Scherer

AssistUpperRoom@austinemmaus.org

Communication Support

Lauren Moffatt

Communication@austinemmaus.org

Walk Support (Sign-up/Trailer)

Jeanne Randall

WalkSignups@austinemmaus.org

Assistant Walk Support (Agape)

Jo Peters

Agape@austinemmaus.org

Gathering Support

Chuck Tencer

Gathering@austinemmaus.org

Spiritual Director

Rev. Sylvester Chase

SpiritualDirector@austinemmaus.org

Team Selection Support

Susan McMillan

TeamSelection@austinemmaus.org

Reunion Group/POC Support

Rom Johnson

ReunionPOC@austinemmaus.org

Training Support

Nelda Carpenter

Training@austinemmaus.org

Database/Website Support

Rick Seifert

DatabaseWebsite@austinemmaus.org

Non-Board Positions

Music Coordinator

Mike Carmagnola

Music@austinemmaus.org

Assistant Music Coordinator

Jesse Maddera

AssistMusic@austinemmaus.org

Registrar

Myles McKemie

Registrar@austinemmaus.org

Website Developer

Eric Bursley

WebsiteDeveloper@austinemmaus.org

WalkTalk Editor

Kellye Noret

WalkTalkEditor@austinemmaus.org



BOARD MEMBERS



Financial Statement

as of 3/7/20



Bank Balance

\$16,146.95

General Scholarship Fund

\$455.00

Pastors Scholarship Fund

\$15.00

Terry Gruber Scholarship Fund

\$520.00

GAEC Website

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

GAEC Facebook page

www.facebook.com/groups/GreaterAustinEmmaus/

Emmaus Sunday! Don't forget!

The first Sunday of each month is Emmaus Sunday. Wear your cross and lanyard to worship. This is a great opportunity to help bring awareness to the Walk to Emmaus at your church!



June Gathering!

Join us at Round Rock Presbyterian Church on June 6th for the June Gathering. Agape Making Party at 4:00, Potluck Dinner at 5:30, Annual Meeting, Music, and Worship at 6:30

Contact Chuck Tencer at chuck.tencer@gmail.com for childcare.

The *WalkTalk* deadline is the 20th of each month; anything received after that will be printed only if space is available.

WalkTalkEditor@austinemmaus.org

Greater Austin Emmaus Community 2020 Walks

NOTE: Because of the Coronavirus, we have moved Women's Walk #147 from May 14 – 17 to July 30 – August 2.

Women's Walk #147

Deena Raynor, Lay Director
Nancy Mossman, Spiritual Director
Lynn Magee, Board Rep.
Steven Scott, Servant Team Coor.

July 30 – August 2, 2020

Contact: Deena@austinemmaus.org

Contact: Lynn@austinemmaus.org

Contact: Steven@austinemmaus.org

Women's Walk #148

Debby Duplantis, Lay Director
Spiritual Director TBD
Diane Merwarth, Board Rep.
Bob Duplantis, Servant Team Coor.

November 5 – 8, 2020

Contact: Debby@austinemmaus.org

Contact: Diane@austinemmaus.org

Contact: Bob@austinemmaus.org

Both of these Walks will be held at Eagle's Wings Retreat Center in Burnet.
The fee is \$210.00 each.



GAEC Board Director Officer Roles 3/21/20

<u>OFFICER ROLE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
Lay Director	Steven Scott	2021
Assistant Lay Director	<i>open</i>	2021
Past Lay Director	Fred Widmer	2021
Secretary	Harold Sundbeck	2022
Treasurer	Patti Bizzell	2023
Upper Room Support	Mel Chambers	2022
Assist Upper Room Support	George Scherer	2021
Communication Support	Lauren Moffatt	2023
Walk Support (Sign-up/Trailer)	Jeanne Randall	2022
Assistant Walk Support (Agape)	Jo Peters	2021
Gathering Support	Chuck Tencer	2023
Spiritual Director	Rev. Sylvester Chase	2021
Team Selection Support	Susan McMillan	2021
Reunion Group/POC Support	Rom Johnson	2023
Training Support	Nelda Carpenter	2022
Database/Website Support	Rick Seifert	2023



Term Expiration 2021-4, 2022-4, 2023-5.

Top three Directors expire every year.

NOTE: Officer roles and terms to be voted on at the June 6th Annual Meeting.

Next GAEC Board Meetings

Saturday, April 4, 2020, 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 2, 2020, 4:00 p.m.

The above Board meetings will be online via ZOOM.

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**Regular Board meetings will resume as scheduled below at their normal time of 3:00.**

June 6 at Round Rock Presbyterian Church Gathering

July 11 at Cedar Creek UMC Gathering

August 15 at Bethany UMC (*tentative*)

September 12 at Lake Travis UMC Gathering

November 21 at Hope Presbyterian Church Gathering



## Change Is Coming

In an effort to provide better communication to the Greater Austin Emmaus Community (GAEC), we will be using MailChimp to send out the *WalkTalk*, Gathering, and Walk information in lieu of the difficult to use Yahoo Groups. Lauren Moffatt will be sending information out to all emails that we have in our database that are known to be valid. If you do not receive emails from GAEC, then you need to contact Lauren with a new email address at [Communication@austinemmaus.org](mailto:Communication@austinemmaus.org) to receive the GAEC information. We are excited about the change in the method we communicate with the GAEC.

The information on the website has been uploaded by Ed Turner for three years now. Ed is now retiring from his service to the GAEC. Thank you for your time and efforts, Ed, to provide information on the website to keep us all informed! Lauren will now upload the website information as part of her responsibility as the Communication Support person on the GAEC Board.



## Next Gathering!

**Saturday, June 6, 2020**

Round Rock Presbyterian Church  
4010 Sam Bass Rd., Round Rock, 78681

Agape Making Party at 4:00 p.m.

Potluck dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Annual Meeting, Music, and Worship at 6:30 p.m.

4th Day Speaker TBD



## Fourth Day Experiences

Do you have 4th Day experiences you would like to share with the community? Perhaps a reflection on your spiritual journey since your Walk? Or maybe sharing your answers to the two questions asked at Closing: What has this weekend meant to you? What are you going to do with it? Send your reflections to:

[WalkTalkEditor@austinemmaus.org](mailto:WalkTalkEditor@austinemmaus.org)

We will all be blessed by your sharing!

## NOTICE

Please bring your own agape supplies to work on together at agape making parties before each Gathering. Supplies will not be furnished by the GAEC.

## GAEC Facebook page!

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/  
GreaterAustinEmmaus/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/GreaterAustinEmmaus/)





*Greater Austin Emmaus Community*

## **GAEC GATHERING**

**Saturday June 6, 2020**

Round Rock Presbyterian Church

4010 Sam Bass Road

Round Rock, TX 78681

4:00 – Agape Making Party

5:30 – Potluck Dinner

6:30 – Annual Meeting, Music, and Worship

4th Day Speaker TBD

**BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

4<sup>TH</sup> Day Please Bring:

Last Name: A – G: Main Dishes

H – K: Desserts

L – Z: Appetizers, Salads, Side Dishes

Child care is available for ages 5 and under with  
reservations by 2 PM Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Please contact Chuck Tencer at

[chuck.tencer@gmail.com](mailto:chuck.tencer@gmail.com)



## Clergy Corner

Community clergy, would you like to write an article to share with the Greater Austin Emmaus Community? It can be as long or as short as you would like, and on any topic of your choice. Just send your musings to:

[WalkTalkEditor@austinemmaus.org](mailto:WalkTalkEditor@austinemmaus.org)

We will all be blessed by your words of wisdom!



*Christ has risen!*

*Christ has risen indeed!*

## CHRIST IS COUNTING ON YOU!!

I was planning on writing a small article about the joy we all receive in attending our Gatherings, but now in this time of such great uncertainty, I can't help but look to God for strength and guidance.

The crosses we wear tell us that Christ is counting on us to be his hands and feet, to spread His love, and to reach out to our neighbors. But we are now in a "new" normal, where we must keep our distance from people, practice good personal hygiene at all times, watch what we touch, and constantly wash our hands. I pray that the medical experts find a cure for this disease. I trust we will get through this challenging time, and that we will be able to once again gather together to share in a meal, take communion, and sing our praises to God.

So this is not the time for us to find JOY by attending our Gatherings. But it can be the time for us to find JOY by being the hands and feet of Christ to help our neighbors and support small businesses in our area.

**De Colores!**  
**Harold Sundbeck**  
Secretary



## Special

People in our lives are special because they saw our Christian love and invited us to go on an Emmaus Walk. They felt we could make a difference in the world. Are there people around you at church, work, meetings, the park, bible study, or coffee shop that you think are special too? Should you invite them to participate in a Walk?

Our lanyards are special because they are a reminder that Christ is counting on us and we are counting on Christ. They are special because someone took the time to pray over them: our relatives, friends, church members, and people we don't even know. And since our Walks, we now take the time to pray over other pilgrims' lanyards. Our lanyards are special because they remind us that we are to be the hands and feet of Christ.

Members of the Emmaus community (yep, that's us!) are special because now we have the opportunity to invite as many women as we can think of to fill the two Women's Walks to Emmaus between now and November.

As we navigate the Coronavirus in our lives, let's remember the word "SPECIAL" and that CHRIST IS COUNTING ON US!!

**De Colores!**  
**Mel Chambers**  
Upper Room Support





Thank you, Harold Sundbeck, for these great photos from the March Gathering at Northwest Hills UMC!



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**GAEC Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes**  
**March 7, 2019**  
**Northwest Hills UMC**

Steven Scott, Acting Lay Director, called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. and opened the meeting with a devotional and a prayer. Those in attendance were Steven Scott, Acting Lay Director; Harold Sundbeck, Secretary; Patti Bizzell, Treasurer; Mel Chambers, Upper Room Representative. Bob Duplantis and Debby Duplantis were also in attendance. **QUORUM:** Four Board members were present, providing a quorum for the meeting.

**MINUTES:** The Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes were sent by email for the previous meeting held on February 6, 2020 and were approved by email.

**GAEC MERGED POSITION REPORT:** Steven presented a list of the GAEC Merged Board of Directors with their positions and term dates. At this time there are still two open positions – Assistant Lay Director and Gathering Support. After discussion of the members and positions, Patti Bizzell made a motion to approve the list and Mel Chambers seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**REPORTS:** The following officers, directors, or other persons presented reports to the Board of Directors, with any items discussed or actions taken as noted below. The following items were discussed:

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – Patti Bizzell had sent out the financial report by email. The Frost Bank balance reconciles with the Aplos balance of \$16,146.95. Patti made the motion to accept the financial report. Mel Chambers seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**UPPER ROOM REPORT** – Mel has the new Upper Room Covenant to be signed. He wants to wait until we finish filling the open Board positions. Mel will also check on Clergy Training dates and locations for our future Spiritual Directors.

**COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT** – Lauren Moffatt has recommended MailChimp for our future email distribution to the community. Steven made a motion to use MailChimp. Harold seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**WALK SUPPORT** – Jeanne reported the sign-ups are on the site, however, when Steven checked he didn't find them. Lauren will take over the communications for future sign-ups. Jo Peters will take over the Agape to assist Jeanne.

**GATHERING SUPPORT** – Still working on filling the Gathering Support position. Our next Gathering will be held on May 2, 2020 at Round Rock Presbyterian Church.

**TEAM SELECTION** – Susan McMillan will organize a Team Selection committee for our future Walk teams. The Board needs to suggest two 4h Day members from the community to be on the Team Selection Committee for a year.

**DATABASE/WEBSITE SUPPORT** – Patti paid \$67.00 to Verve to renew our website. Also, we are using Go Daddy to host our email. We need to update our website to include the new community members. We are working at updating our website and possibly using the DEEWC site updated for GAEC content. Bob Duplantis reported the committee met with Rick Seifert to discuss a template for our Walk Master. Jack Forman's son, Kyle Forman, is assisting since he is available and has the knowledge to provide guidance in the design of a new database.

**WALK #147 LD REPORT** – Deena Raynor held the first team meeting for Women's Walk #147 on Saturday, March 7, 2020. She still has two team positions to fill. Steven, Harold, and Mel attended the first team meeting to support the team. Mel did some training with the team as well.

**WALK #148 LD REPORT** – Debby Duplantis is still looking for a Spiritual Director for Women's Walk #148. Several names were suggested and she will reach out to those individuals. We will set a Team Selection for early April.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Board meeting dates are set through November. Our next meeting date will be April 4, 2020 at 3:00 pm at Bethany UMC in room D211. We also need to make a couple of changes to our By-Laws that will be addressed at a later date prior to our next Gathering.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Steven will write the Lay Director article for the *WalkTalk*. Harold will also submit an article and some photos from the March Gathering.

Steven Scott closed the meeting with prayer and the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

*Minutes taken and respectfully submitted by Harold Sundbeck.*

**Meeting  
Minutes**



## 2020 GAEC Emmaus Community Gatherings

Training Workshops at 4:00 PM

Potluck Dinner 5:30 PM

Music and Worship at 6:30 PM

**NOTE: We have moved the May Gathering to June 6 due to the Coronavirus . Please mark this change on your calendars.**

### June 6, 2020

Round Rock Presbyterian Church  
4010 Sam Bass Rd., Round Rock, 78681

Board Meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Agape Making Party at 4:00 p.m.

Potluck Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Annual Meeting, Music, and Worship at 6:30 p.m.

4th Day Speaker TBD

### July 11, 2020

Cedar Creek UMC

5630 FM 535, Cedar Creek, 78612

Agape Making Party at 4:00 p.m.

Potluck Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Music and Worship at 6:30 p.m.

Women's Walk #147 Team Commissioning

4th Day Speaker TBD

### August 15, 2020

Welcome Back for Women's Walk #147, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Location TBD

### September 12, 2020

Lake Travis UMC

1502 Ranch Rd 620 N, Lakeway, 78734

Sponsoring Training at 4:00 p.m.

Potluck Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Music and Worship at 6:30 p.m.

Women's Walk #148 Team Commissioning

4th Day Speaker TBD

### November 21, 2020

Hope Presbyterian Church

11512 Olson Drive, Austin, 78750

Welcome Back for Women's Walk #148 at 4:00 p.m.

Potluck Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Music and Worship at 6:30 p.m.

4th Day Speaker TBD



### Fourth Day Speakers Needed!

Would you like to give a Fourth Day talk at a Gathering? Fourth Day speakers are always needed! Please contact Chuck Tencer at [chuck.tencer@gmail.com](mailto:chuck.tencer@gmail.com) if you are interested. We will all be blessed by your sharing!

