



GREATER SCIOTO VALLEY EMMAUS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

FROM THE CHAIR

BY GARY JORDAN

Welcome to December, time just goes faster and faster the older I get, how about you?

Well we're excited about our new members upon completing Men and Women's walks this year.

Looking forward to the new year serving with all of you! I would like to encourage the community to continue to come to the Gatherings, continue serving, especially prayers for the community, for direction for decisions to better serve our Lord and each other. We also have new Board Members, I thank you in advance for stepping up to serve the Emmaus Community.

Elections are over but as we prayed for the election, let us continue to pray for those elected. First of all for their SALVATION for Godly guidance, Godly decisions and protection. 1Ti 2:1-4; I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

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For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 2Ch 16:9 "For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. 2Ch 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. Amen Amen

We thank you for every prayer and everything you do. Looking forward to seeing you in the New Year. Your Community Lay Director, Gary Jordan, may God Bless you and your family in Christ.

FROM THE BOARD...

BY JOE MCQUINIFF



Merry Christmas!!!

It's hard to believe that we are entering Advent Season. This year has went so fast. As we think about the meaning of the season, these 4 Sundays of Advent represent Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. The wreath represents eternity, reminding us of God's infinite love and presence in our lives. The greenery used symbolizes everlasting life and hope given to us by Jesus. In "A Charlie Brown Christmas", a frustrated Charlie Brown asks "Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about? Linus, with his blanket in his hand, steps center stage and quotes Luke 2:8-14. In the middle as he says "Fear Not", he drops his blanket - the things that he clings to when afraid. The Advent Wreath is something to cling to during this Christmas season.

I currently serve as the Team Selections and Nominations Committee on the Emmaus Board. We had 4 successful walks at Camp Koinonia in 2024 and we now have several new Emmaus community members. Now is the time to give back by serving on a team or in other areas that are involved in an Emmaus walk. You will receive many blessings in return by serving the pilgrims. In Matthew 25:34-40, Jesus praises his followers who saw people in need and responded in love. We need to be the hands and feet of Jesus, observing the needs of others and serving the pilgrims and giving what we are able.

There are many ways that you could serve. The board is made up of individuals that leads a specific area of ministry. Each board member needs an army of enthusiastic volunteers to make their ministry area successful. It's been said and remains true that "many hands makes light work". We are all called to be hands and feet of Christ. Sharing God's love through the Emmaus experience expressing agape love, supporting the walk weekend by making table agape gifts, writing letters, praying for pilgrims and speakers, attending the community events during the walk weekend (send off, candlelight, and closing) as well as giving time/talent for non-walk weekend activities. Activities like, participating in a small group, sharing your story with others in a "4th day" talk at the gatherings, and most importantly praying for our Emmaus Family.

2024 Board Election Results

Welcome to the following who were elected to the 2025 GSVE Board.

Jerry Kunz
Dave Coates
Amy Grand
Rusty Staton



FROM THE COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

BY DAVE BURRISS

Israel's Joyful Expectation

As Christmas draws ever more near, we joyfully look forward to our celebration of Jesus' birth. We look back at the blessed event and rejoice in a promise fulfilled, a Savior born. But in the years and centuries before Christ's birth, God's people waited in joyful expectation, for a Savior promised, but One who had not yet come. Their joy was not based on the knowledge of what God had already done through his Son Jesus Christ, but their joy was an outpouring of their faith in what God WOULD do.

Throughout the Old Testament, God calls his people to joyfulness. In a section of Deuteronomy about tithing and offering to God, it says that after giving an offering, "then you shall rejoice in all the good things the Lord your God has given to you and your household" (Deuteronomy 26:11). This verse is a command from God to rejoice, but it also a recognition of the cause and effect relationship between orientation toward God, and joy. When we take time to reflect on what God has done for us and offer him our very best—in time, effort, skills, gifts—the inevitable response of our souls is joy.

Biblical joy is different than what most people think of as joy. It is not just a happy emotion that we either feel or don't feel, it is a state of being that finds its source in God. The Bible is clear that joy comes from God (Neh. 8:9-10), and our joy is a product of what God has done and continues to do. It is gladness and contentedness flowing out of the well-spring of God's faithfulness and mercy, quite independent of our circumstances. The Psalmist writes, "Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it...Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness" (Psalm 96:11-13). Isaiah declares, "Sing for joy, O heavens! Rejoice, O earth! Burst into song, O mountains! For the Lord has comforted his people and will have compassion on them in their suffering" (Isaiah 49:13).

God's people had joy because they anticipated a time when the promised Messiah would come and "Those who have been ransomed by the Lord...will enter Jerusalem singing, crowned with everlasting joy. Sorrow and mourning will disappear, and they will be filled with joy and gladness" (Isaiah 35:10). Their faith in God promise meant that even in sorrow, "Though the fig tree should not blossom and there be no fruit on the vines. Though the yield of the olive should fail...Yet I will exult in the Lord, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation" (Hab. 3:17-18).

Our Joyful Response

Today, our joy is anchored in the knowledge that God fulfilled his promise. And with Advent more than half over, our joyful anticipation of Christmas is coming to a head. It's easy to be giddy and full of rejoicing when we replay the angels words, "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!" (Luke 1:11). But, it is important to remember that the joy we have in Christ is not seasonal or situational. Like the joy of the ancient Israelites, our joy is a response to what God has already done and continues to do.

When Christ came and dwelt among his people, he was their rabbi or teacher. He taught them about God's love and urged them to remain in him, saying "I have told you these things so that you will be filled

Volunteer to help at a Gathering

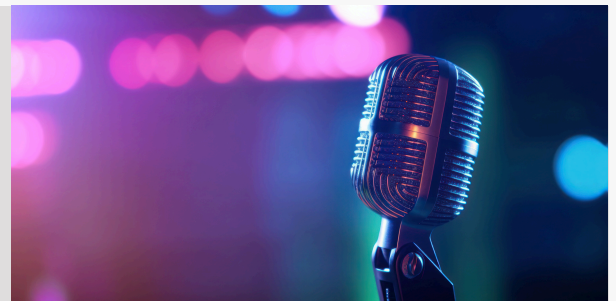
Lead Worship

email: Music@gsve.org

or

Share your 4th Day Story

email: Info@gsve.org



2024 GSVE BOARD

Executive Committee

Community Lay Director - Gary Jordancommunityld@gsve.org
Vice Chair - John Manascovicechair@gsve.org
Secretary - Bill Leesecretary@gsve.org
Treasurer - Michele Routtreasurer@gsve.org

Clergy

Community Spiritual Director - Dave Burris communitysd@gsve.org
Clergy - Jamie Darling
Clergy - TBD

Registrar - Aaron Grand, Linda Jonesregistrar@gsve.org
Purchasing - Aaron Grandpurchasing@gsve.org
Team Selection - Joe McQuiniffteamselection@gsve.org
Music - Michele Rout, John Manascomusic@gsve.org
Agape - Cindy Moodyagape@gsve.org
Housekeeping - Jason Moodyhousekeeping@gsve.org
Kitchen - Amy Brownkitchen@gsve.org
Sponsorship - Linda Jonessponsorship@gsve.org
Social/Outreach - Bill Jones, Danny Sturgill.....outreach@gsve.org
Leadership - Lana McGrathleadership@gsve.org
Community Trainer - Mike Matheneycommunitytrainer@gsve.org
Good Shepherd - Jody Wilsongoodshepherd@gsve.org

Chrysalis Reps - Kris Liles, Rochelle Barney.....chrysalis@gsve.org

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT GSVE.ORG

The website has been recently updated and reorganized. Events and walk information are now on the home page, right where you want it.
Check it out and stay in touch and join us as we follow Christ.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Walks 2025

Women's Walk #63
April 24th-27th

Men's Walk #47
May 15th-16th

Chrysalis Flights, Girls January 18-20
Boys February 15-17

Information at
southernohiochrysalisweb@gmail.com

Board Meeting

December 14 th @ 8 AM

Harvest Center Church

678 Kinnamon Lane

Chillicothe Ohio 45601

All are welcome to attend.

December Gathering

December 15th 2:30 pm

Walnut Street Methodist Church

24 South Walnut Street

Chillicothe Ohio 45601

Next Walks

April 24-27 Women's Walk 63

May 15-18 Men's Walk 47

Check gsve.org to stay informed.



WHO ARE YOU SPONSORING? TIME IS NOW TO BE PRAYING AND TALKING UP YOUR EMMAUS EXPERIENCE WITH THOSE THAT GOD HAS PUT ON YOUR MIND AND IN YOUR PATH. BOTH PILGRIM AND SPONSOR FORMS ARE ONLINE AT [GSVE.ORG](https://gsve.org). WHAT'S KEEPING YOU? GET IT DONE. IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO REGISTER FOR FUTURE WALKS.

Volunteer opportunities for each walk will be available online. Check out GSVE.org

JUST FOR LAUGHS...



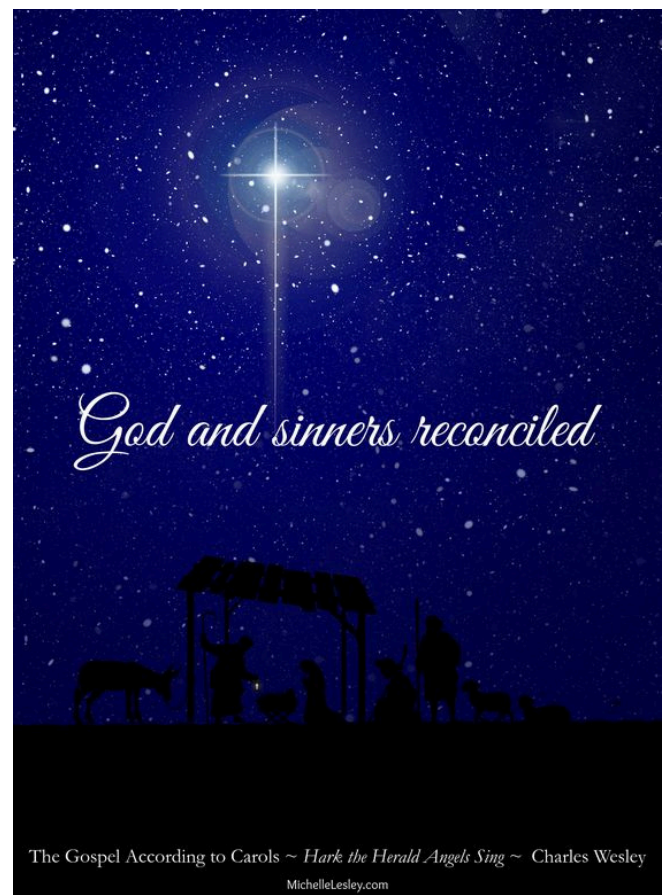
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*"The Word became flesh
and made his dwelling
among us. We have seen his
glory, the glory of the one
and only Son, who came
from the Father, full of
grace and truth."*

— JOHN 1:14



VISIT GSVE.ORG to sign up TODAY!

DECEMBER 2024

QUESTIONS ???

IS GSVE LEAVING CHILLICOTHE?

No. GSVE is based in and will continue to be focused on the ministry of the Chillicothe and surrounding communities. Holding our Walk Weekends at a nearby facility with cabins and conference accommodations is what we are giving the GSVE community a new experience. Monthly Gatherings will be held at various churches in the Chillicothe area. Let us know if you would like to host a Gathering at your Church.

WHERE ARE THE GSVE WALKS BEING HOSTED?

Koinonia Farms is located east of Laurelville, OH. This beautiful location in the Hocking Hill area is the ministry built by a local Christian family with strong ties to Chillicothe. It was built during the Covid pandemic shutdown and they continue to build new accommodations and features. They want to offer the use of their facilities as a ministry gift to GSVE. They are excited to offer a partnership with us to share the gospel and promote Christian discipleship.

WHY CHANGE VENUES FOR THE WALKS?

There are a number of reasons, the most pressing being that our numbers were declining, both in service and pilgrim participation. We've been given an opportunity to revitalize and grow by pivoting the experience to a camp environment which allows for communion with God's beautiful creation, without distractions from the outside world. Since our announcing a change in venue, we have had an overwhelming positive response to the new experience we will be able to offer.

WHY SO FAR AWAY? I'M CONCERNED ABOUT COMMUNITY SERVING

This venue will come with the need for a commitment to intentional service. There are accommodations for "live-in" logistics and kitchen team. The camp has ample space to house additional servants. We would encourage car-pooling when coming to serve for just a few hours. Both the Love Community and Southern Ohio Emmaus currently hold their walks at camps, and have a wonderful experience.

WHY CHANGE NOW?

The future of GSVE has been prayerfully poured over by many people for a long time, even before Covid brought us to a screeching halt. While some Emmaus and Chrysalis communities are thriving, many, like GSVE, are struggling to recover from such a shutdown. The need for a ministry like ours is evident in those communities that are doing well. In Matthew 9:37-38 Jesus tells the disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." The purpose of Emmaus is to support the spiritual formation of Christians seeking to know and experience God more fully. As laborers we must continue to pray and go into the "harvest" of believers so that they may continue to grow in their faith and walk with the Lord.

WHAT ABOUT GATHERINGS?

Gatherings will be held in churches in the Chillicothe area so that we can reach others with the ministries of Emmaus and Chrysalis. The Board is evaluating elements of Gatherings, such as day of the week and time of day and would love to have input from the community on this topic. Our Gatherings in the park were well attended and we definitely have multiple outdoor resources for better weather. GSVE is an ecumenical organization and we need to show our support in strengthening disciples within all area churches, not just inviting them on the Walks.

We encourage you to send additional questions by email to communityld@gsve.org.