



GREATER SCIOTO VALLEY EMMAUS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

FROM THE CHAIR

BY LANA MCGRATH

Happy Fourth of July!!

Prayers everyone has a wonderful and safe time celebrating our nation. With all that seems to be going sideways, we are still certainly a blessed nation!

I want to address a topic that has come up during several discussions I have had with GSVE community members. The topic is of The Upper Room and its connection with the United Methodist Church.

As most may know, The Upper Room is the resource for The Walk to Emmaus. Although The Upper Room has had a strong Methodist influence since its beginning in 1935, it remains a separate entity, not part of the larger United Methodist Church. See www.upperroom.org/about for more information.

The Walk to Emmaus materials are copyrighted and can only be used with the permission of and fees to The Upper Room. Our Board remains in contact with The Upper Room via a Ministries Manager portal and also through a personal representative from The Upper Room.

The Walk to Emmaus materials have had no changes made to them to date. It remains a non-denominational, ecumenical event. The purpose of Emmaus is to develop and encourage Christian disciples and leaders. It is a time of renewal with God, spiritual growth, fellowship with others, and strengthening of a spiritual foundation with God.

INSPIRING READS IN THIS ISSUE:

FROM THE BOARD - 2

FROM THE CSD - 3

UPCOMING WALKS - 3

NEW GSVE BOARD - 4

JUST FOR LAUGHS - 5

Please know that your GSVE Board is keeping a watchful eye and will continue to do so and have the conversations, however tough they may be, with our eyes on Christ. In ALL things, we will serve with humility and a commitment to stay true to the scriptures. You are encouraged to research for yourself and bring any questions to the Board. We have a time open at every meeting for community input.

Please know that we seek to be as transparent as we can be. All are welcome to attend board meetings and again, there is time in the agenda at each meeting for guests to speak.

Please continue to support The Walk to Emmaus with your presence, gifts and talents. WE NEED YOU!! THE WORLD NEEDS YOU! We want to continue in community to others by providing a wonderful opportunity for a renewed and strengthened relationship with Christ. Blessings to you all! DeColores!

In His service,
Lana McGrath - Community Lay Director

FROM THE BOARD...

BY JERRY KUNZ, LEADERSHIP



"But, we've ALWAYS done it that way..."

How often have you heard this, or even said it yourself? We in the Emmaus community are guilty of this as well! If we didn't step out in faith and try something different, Greater Scioto Valley Emmaus would not be! But, a little over 28 years ago, a group of regular people came together to host the first walks for GSVE. They had experienced an event so life-changing that they KNEW the people in the greater Scioto Valley deserved to share in the same experience! So, they started the Greater Scioto Valley Walks to Emmaus. Men's Walk #1 was Feb 2-5, 1995 and Women's Walk #1 followed on March 3-5, 1995.

The community started having monthly gatherings to share the experience with others. They sponsored spouses, family, friends, and pastors with the sole purpose of sending them BACK to their churches as bold, empowered followers of Christ who were supercharged to re-ignite the power of the Gospel in ALL of the local churches!

At the Greater Scioto Valley Emmaus, we come from all different denominations and represent Christ wherever we go. We each share a common bond, our walk weekend. We all shared in a very similar experience, thanks to the direction of the Upper Room Ministries and the local Board of Directors. It has always been a goal of the Upper Room that each community conduct the walks in a pre-scripted manner so that no matter where you attended your walk, whether in Ross County or in Shanghai, China, you had a common experience! There are Walks to Emmaus held all over the world, over 40 countries and on 6 continents (Sorry, no walks in Antarctica, yet!)

Locally, we DO have the ability to "adapt" certain parts of the walk weekend to our local needs but the major outline is carefully followed so that a person who took their walk in Brazil or Cuba or even China will have had the same experience. So, to an extent, we've always done it that way, right?

As a Board, the Greater Scioto Valley Emmaus has always sought to stay within the guidelines set forth by the Upper Room Ministries but made changes where we could to allow for the local "flavor" to come out. I am sure that there is no Hillbilly Band or "Hey, Delores!" in Zimbabwe! But, in all things, as your Board of Directors, we strive to continue to be scripturally based in all of our decisions. All skits have to be approved by the Board before they are used on the weekend to ensure of this. So, if you have a talent or an idea that you would like to share, the Board of Directors would be happy to consider!

It is also "pre-scripted" by the Upper Room that we hold monthly gatherings to share with the community what is happening in our lives and in our churches and how we have been the hands and feet of Christ. It is a time of celebration, sharing, and even introducing others to the community. These Gatherings are an important part of the experience, and are open to all.

If you have not been to a gathering in a while, OR NEVER AT ALL, I encourage you to come! We are planning a fun time of celebration at our **July Gathering on Thursday July 20, 2023 6-8 PM AT THE LARGE PAVILION IN YOCTANGEE PARK, CHILLICOTHE** where we will be serving **ICE CREAM** to all who come!

Wait! What?? Yoctangee Park??? "But we've never done it that way....."

Gotcha!

In His Love,
Jerry

CHECK OUT THE UPDATED WEBSITE AT GSVE.ORG

where you will find links to sign up for the 72 hour Prayer Vigil, Housekeeping, and Kitchen Help for the upcoming walks, info on future events and a whole lot more!

FROM THE COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

BY DAVE BURRISS

Faith over Fear

Mark 4:35-41 On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

It is important to recognize that the fear in this story was valid. This is not a story about irrational anxiety. Notice the language in the text describing “a great windstorm,” “the waves beat[ing] the boat” and “that the boat was already being swamped.” This was real. The disciples were lifelong fishermen who knew the sea and could recognize genuine danger, and they were convinced they’d die.

This makes the contrast with Jesus all the more remarkable. Look at how Jesus acted: “He was in the stern, asleep on a cushion.” Mark paints a picture of serenity, but one surrounded by chaos. I wonder how the disciples viewed Jesus at this moment. He was one of the few in the boat who was not a trained fisherman. Perhaps they viewed his nonchalant attitude as a symptom of ignorance rather than an enduring sign of faith. They faced real danger, one they expertly understood, while their teacher seemed oblivious and out of touch. It was at that moment Jesus awoke. I like to picture Him slowly sitting up, maybe stretching for a moment and then stepping out to command the waves to “be still!” Instantly, the wind died and seas calmed. At His word. The very word that spoke the sea into existence.

His question is one we must all answer, “Why are you afraid?” Take a moment and ask yourself. Fear can be a symptom of a lack of faith. It is human to imagine a worst-case scenario occurring in the future—whether a pandemic, economic collapse or something else entirely. But, do we remember that God will be with us in that future? Do we see only waves or is our attention fixed on Jesus who still rests in the boat? Fear is a form of thinking in which when we imagine a future in which God will not be present. Even in a “worst-case scenario,” Jesus has a funny habit of showing up and transforming into something else entirely.

This does not negate the reality of human suffering and grief. Jesus repeatedly demonstrates His compassion for those suffering. Furthermore, we should not feel condemned for the fear we feel. It’s natural to worry and, no matter how strong your faith, you’ll probably still deal with it to some extent. But this does challenge us to lift our perspective so we are not defined by fear. No matter what occurs in this life, Jesus—the very Word of God—is still with us. He still has authority over the storm, and He has conquered death itself. We may go through trials, but we live in hope. It is all-too-easy and all-too-human to let fear grow bigger than God. Like the disciples, we follow Jesus during everyday life, but what happens when a storm appears out of nowhere and threatens to swamp us? How do we view Jesus? As a person who doesn’t understand the danger of the situation? Or as a God who reigns over all the earth? Our perspective changes everything. So what is your perspective today, What are you focused on the storm or God?

Blessings Pastor Dave

UPCOMING EVENTS '23

July 20

GATHERING / Ice Cream Social

6:00 - 8:00 pm Yoctangee Park

(Large Pavilion)



GSVE Gathering

*Ice Cream
Social*

Yoctangee Park

THURSDAY, JULY
20TH

6:00 - 8:00 PM

**Girls Chrysalis Flight
July 8-10**



SUMMER CHRYSALIS FLIGHTS

July 8-10 Girls Chrysalis Flight
July 15-17 Boys Chrysalis Flight



JULY 15 - 17, 2023

BOY'S CHRYSALIS FLIGHT



2023 WALKS

Sept 14-17 Women's Walk #60

Lay Director - Michelle Conley

Oct 12-15 Men's Walk #44

Lay Director - Jamie Rout



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. WHAT'S KEEPING YOU? GET IT DONE.

Sign up for the 72 hour Prayer Vigil, Housekeeping, and Kitchen Help
GSVE.org

2023 GSVE BOARD

Executive Committee

Community Lay Director - Lana McGrathcommunityld@gsve.org
Vice Chair - Cindy Moodyvicechair@gsve.org
Secretary - Bill Leesecretary@gsve.org
Treasurer - Gary Jordantreasurer@gsve.org

Clergy

Community Spiritual Director - Dave Burris communitysd@gsve.org
Clergy - Mark Gray mark.gray@gsve.org
Clergy - Open
Clergy - Open

Registrar - David Strickland, Linda Jonesregistrar@gsve.org
Purchasing - Joshua Rugglespurchasing@gsve.org
Team Selection - Amy Grandteamselection@gsve.org
Music - John Manasco, Sue Kellymusic@gsve.org
Agape - Cindy Moodyagape@gsve.org
Housekeeping - Jeff Brammerhousekeeping@gsve.org
Kitchen - Karen Edmonsonkitchen@gsve.org
Sponsorship - Jason Moodysponsorship@gsve.org
Social/Outreach - OPENoutreach@gsve.org
Leadership - Jerry Kunzleadership@gsve.org
Community Trainer - Mike Matheneycommunitytrainer@gsve.org

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

WE NEED LOTS OF HELP FROM THE COMMUNITY DURING THE
WALK WEEKENDS. VOLUNTEERING IS THE MOST IMPORTANT
WAY FOR THE BOARD TO SEE WHO IS INTERESTED IN
SERVING ON A TEAM IN THE FUTURE! GO TO GSVE.ORG TO
SIGN UP

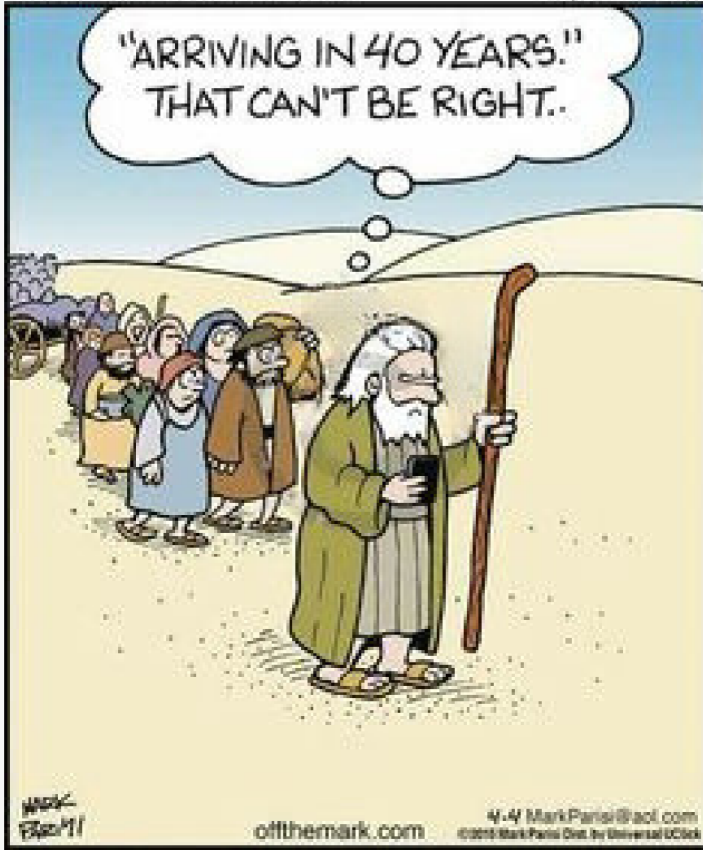


VISIT GSVE.ORG to sign up TODAY!

JUST FOR LAUGHS...

off the mark.com

by Mark Parisi

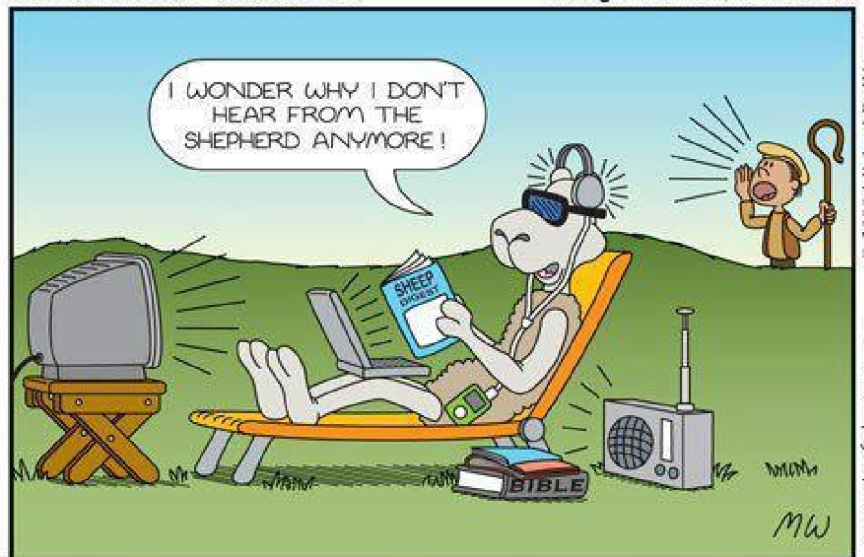


FOLLOW US

<https://facebook.com/GreaterSciotoValleyEmmaus>

SHEPHERD'S VOICE

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.
- JOHN 10:27 NIV

VISIT GSVE.ORG to sign up TODAY!