



GREATER SCIOTO VALLEY EMMAUS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

FROM THE CHAIR

BY LANA MCGRATH

Spring forward or Fall back?

I don't know about you; these time changes are hard for me to adapt whenever we spring forward or fall back. As the seasons and time changes, we adjust and continue to move forward. One thing is for certain, time does not "stop".

While we look back in time throughout the years of GSVE's history, we are so very thankful for those who followed the leading of the Lord and put in the time, effort and resources to create this community. We have been blessed with many servants and a facility that has accommodated GSVE well. The Board and many community members have continued to pray over this ministry, keeping our hearts, minds and hands open to the Holy Spirit.

With an overall decline in participation, in the spring a sub-committee was formed to research and reach out to churches in the Chillicothe area with the idea in mind to possibly "rotate" Gatherings to several different churches in an effort to peak interest and to invite others to experience the Emmaus and Chrysalis ministries; and along with that, searching for a possible change of venue.

As He always does, the Lord brought to us an opportunity far beyond what we could have imagined! As announced at the October Gathering, we have been blessed with an opportunity to revitalize and grow our community through a camp venue.

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On October 28 about 20 board members and community members met at Koinonia Farms near Laurelville to take a look at the facilities and surroundings of the camp as a potential site to have our Walks. The camp is nestled in the middle of Hocking Hills and has plenty of space (including 16 showers!) for GSVE to create all the elements needed for a Walk.

Those who visited the camp met afterward to discuss pros and cons. Overall everyone is super excited about all the possibilities available at the camp! It is so very beautiful and peaceful, and again, offers all that we could need and more. The owners of the camp are excited to partner with us in ministry which simply adds to the blessing!!

While it's always good to remember those sweet times of our Walks at Trinity UMC and to be thankful to all those who have served to build this Community, we truly believe God is calling us to move forward.

There is a separate QUESTIONS section on page 7 to address some of the questions we have anticipated. We invite you to send any further questions you may have to communityld@gsve.org.

Continued on page 4.

FROM THE BOARD...



BY JERRY KUNZ

If you have been following our newsletters in the past year or so, you've likely noticed that each month we have featured a short article from a different board member describing what they do on the Board. Most of the work of the Greater Scioto Valley Emmaus community is carried out by committees lead by these people. There is no way that 15 board members could do all of the work required to host walks and gatherings, as well as handle all of the administrative tasks of the Board of Directors. All of the Emmaus Community is encouraged to participate in "committees" of volunteers to cook meals in the kitchen, clean showers and bathrooms, prepare and distribute agape, and even perform skits. All of this is done to show the Love of Christ to the pilgrims!

As a member of the board, each person is given an area of service to "head up" and organize other volunteers to serve. Like Christ, we are called to humble servitude, not calling out attention to our good deeds but focusing our actions on showing the Agape Love of Christ to those we serve! Every meeting we recite a Board Cannon which emphasizes, "in all things, I will pray, not I, but Christ!" Service on the board is an honor, not a chore. The GSVE local Board of Directors consists of 15 members, each person serving a term of 3 years. Each year, 5 new members are elected to fill the spots of 5 board members who are finishing their 3 year term.

And now, it is time for elections for the G.S.V.E. Board of Directors. As a board, we have identified members of our community, both laity and clergy, who want to help lead our community. We discuss names of people who serve frequently in the community in various capacities and then inquire if they would be willing to serve on the board. General election are held in November for the term starting in January. New board members are invited to the December Board meeting to introduce them to the existing board. Again this year, we will have an online voting option as well as in person voting at the November gathering. The vote is tallied and finalized that same night and new members are announced. If you have registered your email with us at GSVE.org, the voting link will be emailed to you. You will also be able to follow a link on the GSVE.org website to vote. If you know a member of our GSVE community who does not have electronic access, have them come to the November Gathering where we will be distributing paper ballots for in- person voting.

If you are interested in serving on the Board, we encourage you to become active in the community, serve in the kitchen or clean bathrooms but most importantly, **SERVE ON A COMMITTEE!**

DeColores,
Jerry Kunz - Leadership position GSVE Board of Directors.

CHECK OUT THE UPDATED WEBSITE AT [GSVE.ORG](https://www.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

My thought this month will fall right in with thanksgiving and all the food we will see and taste. My thought is taste and see. As I read Psalm 34: Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

Try it; you'll like it. Or taste and see!

That's what David is urging us to do. He is inviting us to experience what he has discovered: the goodness of God's salvation. David is celebrating that God has rescued him from his fears and troubles.

Psalm 34 is a song of gratitude we can all sing when God brings us out of a "close call" situation. But David's joy is only a foretaste of the future redemption God will bring to all who trust in him, to all whom God will redeem through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

God promises great blessings to his people. God will deliver, guard, supply, listen, and redeem all who trust in his power to save. God himself also gives us the ability to believe and trust in him. And in response we seek to honor him in all things, speak truthfully, seek peace and justice, and humbly serve our God.

"Taste and see that the Lord is good." This psalm is an invitation to take God at his word, to trust in the Lord and experience his goodness firsthand, to know God personally, realizing that he loves us more than we can imagine.

The invitation is ours to receive, but it is also ours to extend. What opportunities has God given us to share his invitation with others? Whom would God ask us to include in his rescue and deliverance?

Thanksgiving is a great time to taste and see, and this may satisfy our physical hunger, But if we take the time to see the wonderful table of blessings, grace, and hope that God has prepared for us, we can taste and see the amazing bounty of God's love for all creation and that is truly a thanksgiving.

Blessings, Pastor Dave

Volunteer to help at a Gathering

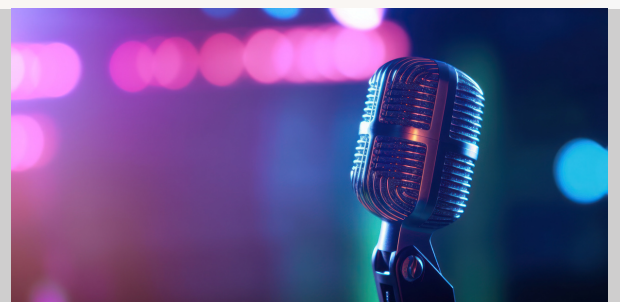
Lead Worship

email: Music@gave.org

or

Share your 4th Day Story

email: Info@gsve.org



CONTINUED ... FROM THE CHAIR

The Board will vote at the November meeting to move forward with bringing a vote to the Community, which will occur at the December Gathering. We will have a time of Q&A prior to the voting to address questions. All community members present at the December Gathering may vote. While we always welcome visitors to Gatherings, please note that you must have attended an Emmaus Walk or Chrysalis Flight to vote. We are trusting the integrity of all to abide by this provision.

As always, we continue to be in prayer for GSVE. We ask the Lord to continue to lead us, give us clarity and discernment, and to serve in humility.

Certainly, it is no small undertaking, but we are confident that as long as we follow the Lord's leading He will move us forward in His ministry we call Emmaus.

In His Service, Lana McGrath

UPCOMING EVENTS '23



NOVEMBER GATHERING

Nov 16th 2023

2024 WALKS

In the Planned Phase -
Pray with us as we explore next years schedule and opportunities.



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. IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO REGISTER FOR FUTURE WALKS.

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

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(See Acts 7:30-34) 03-24-2014

MOSES? DO I HAVE YOUR FULL ATTENTION?



FOLLOW US

<https://facebook.com/GreaterSciotoValleyEmmaus>

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(See Genesis 37:3-36)

05-05-2014

JOSEPH!!!

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08-25-2014

CAN YOU HELP SET ME UP SO I CAN FRIEND AND LIKE JESUS, TEXT HIM MY PRAYERS, AND SHARE ALL HIS TWEETS?

VISIT GSVE.ORG to sign up TODAY!

QUESTIONS ???

IS GSVE LEAVING CHILlicothe?

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 considering.

WHERE DO YOU WANT TO HOLD THE WALKS?

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 ongoing reasons, the most pressing being that our numbers continue to decline, 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.

Additionally, Trinity UMC is growing their ministries and much of the space we have been accustomed to using is no longer available particularly to accommodate the growth we pray and hope for in GSVE.

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

This venue will come with the need for a commitment to intentional service. We anticipate that there would be a "live-in" logistics/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, so it is definitely not impossible. Also, locally we have found no other affordable facility that has the needed accommodations.

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. The evidence of 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?

Our hope is to seek out churches that are willing to host Gatherings 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. The two 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 other churches, not just inviting them on the Walks.

We encourage you to send additional questions by email to communityld@gsve.org.
Come to the December Gathering for open discussion and voting.