GRACE EMMAUS OF THE BLUEGRASS NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2026

“As they talked and discussed these things with each other Jesus himself came up and walked along with them;”
Luke 24:15 NIV

RSVP HERE

🍁 Thanksgiving Gathering! 🍁

Mark your calendars for Saturday, **November 14th, at 5:30 PM**, because you won't want to miss our

Grace Emmaus of the Bluegrass Thanksgiving Gathering!

We'll enjoy a delicious potluck meal (turkey, ham, and rolls provided!), a fun photo booth, activities for the kids, and the opportunity to vote for next year's Board members.

But the BEST part? THE PEOPLE! ❤️

This is our chance to reconnect with Emmaus friends we may not have seen all year, welcome our newest pilgrims, share hugs, laughter, and stories, and celebrate all God has done through our Walks!

And here's something we want EVERYONE to know: Our Gatherings are NOT just for those who have attended a Walk! Bring your spouse, children, grandchildren, friends, and family! Everyone is welcome at this Gathering and EVERY Gathering!

📍 Gardenside Christian Church
940 Holly Springs Drive
Lexington, KY 40504

Please RSVP using the QR code on the flyer so we can plan for everyone. You can also sign up to bring a dish or two to share!

Come hungry, bring someone with you, and leave with a full heart! We can't wait to see you! 🍂

🦋 Chrysalis: Helping Faith Take Flight!

Exciting news for Grace Emmaus of the Bluegrass! We're preparing for our very first Chrysalis Flights, and **we need YOU** to help make this new ministry a success!

What is Chrysalis? Think of it as a Walk to Emmaus for **youth ages 14–19**! This three-day Christian experience includes worship, prayer, fellowship, and 14 biblically based talks designed to help young people grow in their relationship with Christ. Participants begin as Caterpillars and emerge as Butterflies, symbolizing their new life in Christ.

Upcoming Flights:

Girls' Flight #1: January 15–18, 2027

Lay Director: Melissa Collier

Boys' Flight #2: February 12–15, 2027

Lay Director: Brian Collier

How can you help?

🦋 Sponsor a Caterpillar! Is there a young person God is placing on your heart? Your invitation could make an eternal difference!

Sponsor: https://forms.gle/9nMA9ZsLs5kh6NYn8

💙 Feel led to serve? Just like our Emmaus Walks, Chrysalis depends on willing hearts and helping hands. Prayerfully consider being part of this exciting new ministry!

Serve: https://forms.gle/zuHQDkXtcCHL6BMV8

Questions? Contact Marie Wilson at 859-445-8078.

Let's help the next generation experience God's love and watch their faith take flight! 🦋

Chrysalis Flights 1 & 2 — We Need YOU!

We are *Brian and Melissa Collier,* and we are honored to lead the first two Chrysalis Flights for Grace Emmaus of the Bluegrass!

As we prepare to launch this exciting new ministry, we ask our Emmaus Community to support us in four important ways:

🙏 PRAY: Prayer is the most important thing you can do for Chrysalis! We ask our entire community to begin praying now! Pray for wisdom and discernment as leadership makes decisions and builds teams. Pray that those God calls to serve will willingly say "yes" and that He will bless and protect their families throughout preparation. Pray for churches, youth groups, and families to recognize teenagers with God-given leadership potential. Most importantly, pray for the teenagers who will attend—that God will prepare their hearts, remove scheduling obstacles and distractions, deepen their desire to know Him, and ignite a passion to follow His calling in their everyday lives. Every prayer matters, and we cannot do this without God's guidance and your faithful prayers!

❤️ SAY YES: As we prayerfully select our teams, be open to God's calling. If you receive an invitation to serve, know that your name has been prayerfully considered and you have already been covered in prayer!

🦋 SPONSOR: Sponsorship is vital to the success of Chrysalis! Start looking for Christian teenagers ages 14–19 who demonstrate leadership potential in your church, youth group, family, or community. Remember, Chrysalis is not designed to "fix problem teens" or serve as an outreach to nonbelievers. Like Emmaus, its purpose is to encourage and equip young Christians who are already walking with Christ to grow deeper in their faith and become stronger Christian leaders. Sponsors play an important role in recognizing these young people, encouraging their participation, and supporting them throughout their Chrysalis journey. Each Flight is limited to 20 teenagers, so submit sponsorship applications early! We would love to have a waiting list for future Flights, but don't want anyone to miss this opportunity!

🤝 COME SERVE: Just like Emmaus, there will be opportunities to serve meals, prepare agape, provide snacks, pray for speakers in the prayer chapel, and attend Candlelight. Watch our Facebook page and community notifications for more details as the dates approach!

We are excited to see how God will use Chrysalis to impact the next generation of Christian leaders! We know these Flights cannot happen without God's blessing and the prayers, encouragement, and support of our Emmaus Community.

Let's come together to help these young people discover God's purpose for their lives and become the Christian leaders He has called them to be!

As I reflect on my time as Community Spiritual Director, my heart is filled with gratitude for the love, support, and appreciation you've shown me. It has truly been a blessing to serve and be part of such a wonderful Emmaus community. Though the transition took place at our last Women's Walk, I will continue serving as a mentor and active clergy member.

I'm excited to celebrate our new Community Spiritual Director, Glenn Edwards—my husband! I celebrate his "yes" and his willingness to take the reins. With nearly 10 years of serving Emmaus with a servant's heart, I look forward to seeing how God continues to use him. Please join me in supporting him in this new season!

"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow." — 1 Corinthians 3:6 (NIV)

May we continue to serve together, support one another, and trust God to grow the seeds planted in this beautiful Emmaus community!

Joy Harris-Edwards

My Fourth Day: A Journey of Healing, Growth, and Grace

The Walk Continues...

When I attended my Walk to Emmaus, Walk #6 in Sadieville, I had no idea how much God was about to change my life!

I grew up in a family affected by addiction and was not raised in a Christian home. Those experiences followed me into adulthood, leaving me struggling with loneliness, feelings of never being enough, and difficulties in the emotions of relationships. I knew something needed to change, but I thought I could fix myself if I just tried hard enough.

My Walk didn't magically erase those struggles. Instead, it gave me the courage to begin healing and the understanding that I didn't have to do it alone.

Following my Walk, I sought professional counseling. For more than four years, I worked through the hurts and experiences that had shaped my life. It wasn't easy, but God was working, even in the hard places.

And He didn't leave me to walk that road alone!

Through Emmaus, God brought people into my life who poured into my growth. He blessed me with a group of ladies who loved me through every stage of healing—not because I had everything together, but simply because they loved me. They prayed for me, encouraged me, and reminded me of God's promises when I struggled to see them myself.

One of the greatest lessons I've learned is that God doesn't expect us to have it all together before He can use us. He meets us right where we are, but loves us too much to leave us there. Philippians 1:6 reminds us that *"He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."*

God is still working on me! But today I know my worth isn't determined by my past, my circumstances, or anyone else's opinion of me. I am a daughter of the King, and I am enough because of who I am in Christ!

That's what my Fourth Day means to me. It's not just remembering an incredible weekend. It's allowing God to continue His work and extending that same love and grace to others.

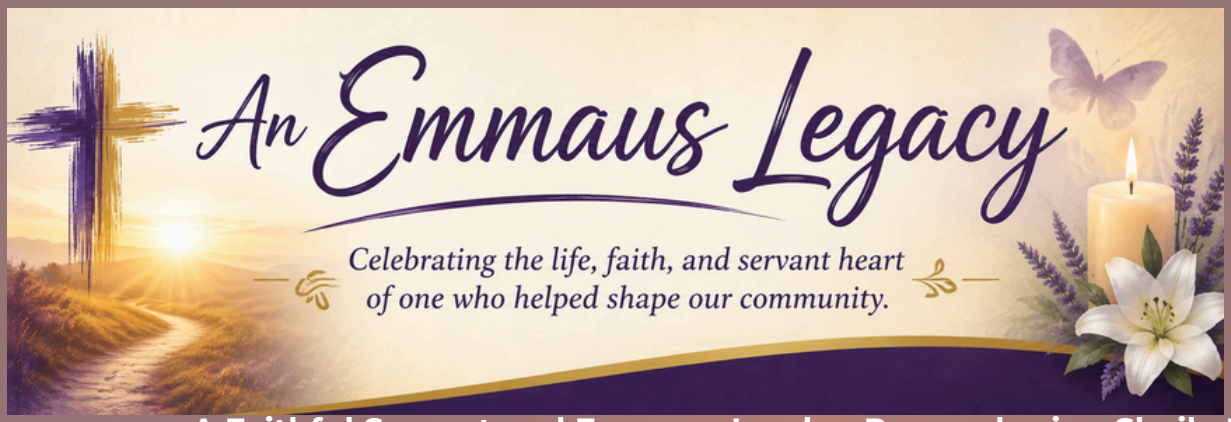
Don't underestimate the difference you can make in someone's Fourth Day. A prayer, a phone call, a hug, or an invitation to a Reunion Group may be exactly what God uses to help someone take their next step toward healing.

I know, because I was that someone.

De Colores!

Carolyn Rouse-Horn

Grace Emmaus of the Bluegrass Walk #6



A Faithful Servant and Emmaus Leader: Remembering Sheila Murphy

Throughout her life, Sheila loved gardening, canning, fishing with her husband, and finding joy in the simple things. She could, and often did, outfish him!. Yet she will be remembered most as an encourager, mentor, and faithful friend to many. She possessed a deep love for Scripture and an unwavering confidence in her Lord and Savior. Sheila never hesitated to share her faith, offer encouragement, or provide biblical wisdom and guidance. Her counsel was often sought because she spoke truth with compassion and consistently pointed others to God's Word and promises. She devoted countless hours to ministry through her church and local food outreach efforts, preparing and delivering hundreds, if not thousands, of meals to those in need. Sheila saw every opportunity to serve as an opportunity to reflect the love of Christ. Through her actions, she demonstrated what Christian discipleship looks like: loving God wholeheartedly, serving others selflessly, and remaining steadfast in faith.

For many who knew Sheila, her greatest legacy was not simply what she did, but how faithfully she lived out her commitment to Christ each day. While she would have been the first to admit she was far from perfect, Sheila continually sought to follow God's calling with a joyful and willing heart. Her faith was not reserved for Sundays; it shaped the way she lived, served, and invested in others.

Within the Grace Emmaus of the Bluegrass community, Sheila's impact was immeasurable. Emmaus was one of her greatest passions, and she poured herself wholeheartedly into the ministry she loved. Whether serving quietly behind the scenes or leading from the front, she approached every task with enthusiasm, humility, and a servant's heart. Sheila understood that Emmaus is ultimately about bringing people closer to Christ, and she devoted herself faithfully to that purpose. In doing so, she inspired numerous others to deepen their faith and embrace lives of Christian service.

Those who served alongside Sheila knew her as passionate, dependable, and deeply committed to God's work. She was never afraid to lovingly hold others accountable in their Christian walk, always with the goal of helping them grow closer to Christ.

While we mourn the loss of a beloved Sister in Christ, we also celebrate a life faithfully lived. Sheila leaves a lasting imprint on the Grace Emmaus of the Bluegrass community and on the countless individuals whose spiritual journeys were strengthened through her service, friendship, guidance, and example.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 31, 2026, at Central Church, 224 New Coleman Lane, Georgetown, Kentucky. Visitation will be held from 11:00 a.m. until the time of service.

We can only imagine the welcome she received as she entered her eternal home and heard the words she spent a lifetime striving to earn:

"Well done, good and faithful servant." (Matthew 25:23)

WHAT'S NEW IN 2027? 🦋

JANUARY 17 **Community Service for Girls' Chrysalis #1** Gardenside Christian Church	**Chrysalis Is Coming!** Our first Chrysalis Flights are coming in January and February, scheduled over the MLK Jr. Day and Presidents' Day holiday weekends to accommodate school schedules. To give our youth the same wonderful community support at Candlelight that we give our Emmaus pilgrims, our January and February Gatherings will coincide with Chrysalis Community Service. **So take note:** Gatherings move to **Sunday evening** in January and February. Come out, show your support, and help us give our Chrysalis youth a warm Emmaus welcome!
FEBRUARY 14 **Community Service for Boys' Chrysalis #2** Gardenside Christian Church	
MARCH 20 **Community Gathering** Location TBD	
APRIL 1–4 **Men's Walk to Emmaus #35**	
APRIL 3 Community Service for Walk #35	
APRIL 8–11 **Women's Walk to Emmaus #36**	
APRIL 10 Community Service for Walk #36	

SAVE THE DATES

Reunion Groups – 2026

Reunion groups are small accountability groups that meet regularly, usually weekly, to support one another in their spiritual journeys. These groups, typically consisting of four to six people, provide a space for sharing experiences, reflecting on spiritual growth, and encouraging each other in discipleship.

Below is the listing of existing groups and their contact person(s):

MEN

Group	Contact Person	Phone #	Meeting Information
Lexington Prodigals	Andy Milburn	859-948-2828	Tuesdays @ 8am, Sayre Christian Village
Harmony Fellowship	John Ritchie	859 333-6177	Thursday mornings @ 6am, hybrid
Near & Far	Brian Whalen	859-298-5127	Friday evenings, @6:30, virtual

WOMEN

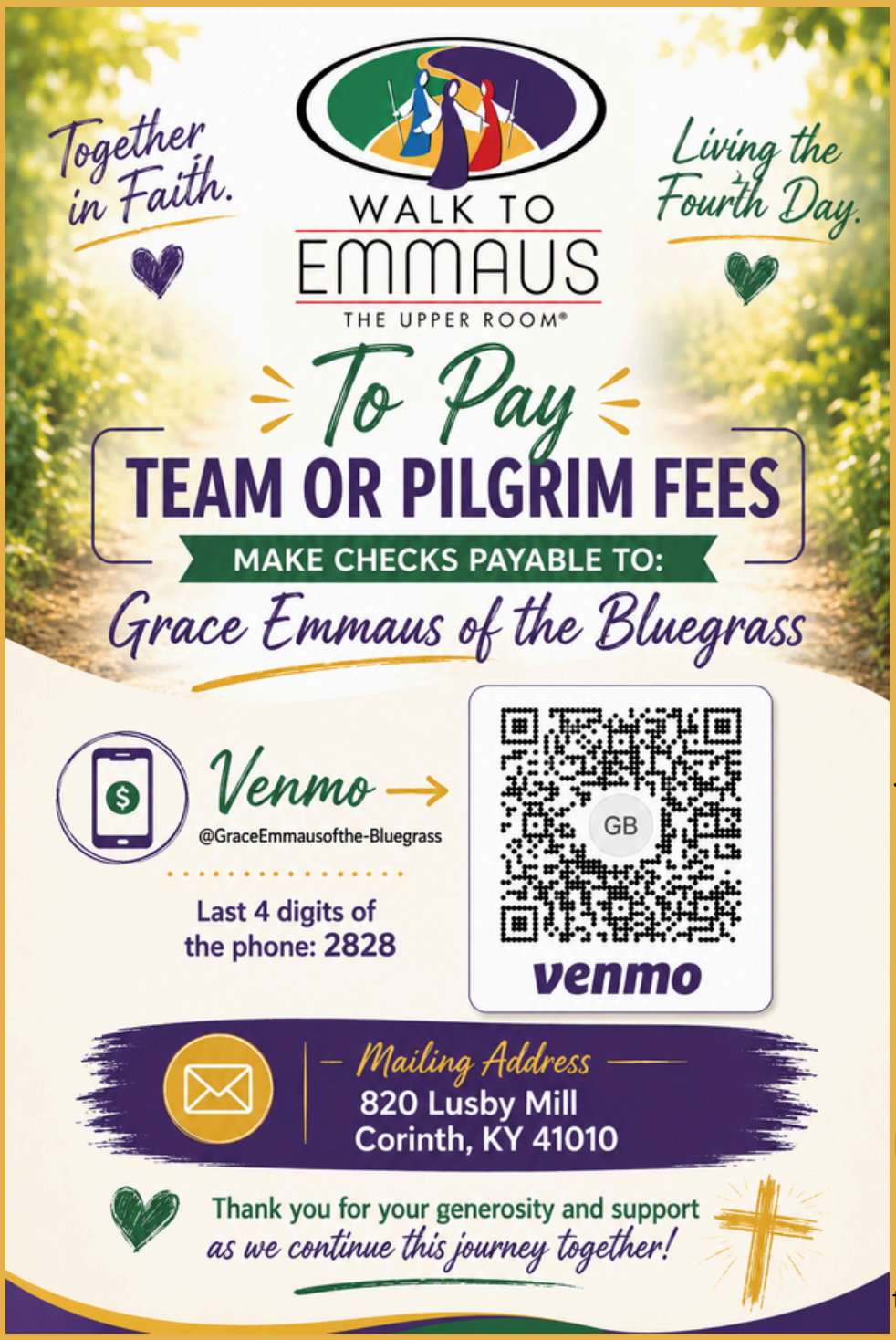
Group	Contact Person	Phone #	Meeting Information
Two or More Ladies	Phyllis Milburn/Mary Dever	423-871-5235/ 859-457-7112	TBD
Lincoln Ladies	Joan Hackley	859-338-8254	Wednesdays @ 1pm, in person & phone mixed
SASL-Sisters Across State Lines	Ellen Williams	859-333-6431	Thursday evenings @ 6:30pm EST, virtual
Church Chicas	Marisol Martin	859-221-6826	first & third Thursdays
Ya-ya's crossing divides	Ellen Williams	859-333-6431	monthly, dates, times, & locations vary
Table of Lydia (32)	Cheryl Bogarty/ Ellen Williams	859-553-3376/ 859-333-6431	Mondays @7p, via Zoom
A Walk with YHWH	Amanda Maier	270-405-3023	Thursdays @5pm, Lebanon Library

Don't see one that works for you? *Consider starting your own* by following the steps outlined on the back

For Assistance/Support, Facilitation, Guidance in starting a new group, feel free to reach out to

Men: Brian Whalen | 859-298-5127 | bwhalenky@gmail.com

Women: Ellen Williams | 859-333-6431 | p413ewill@gmail.com



Where Does Your Emmaus Money Go?

Every Dollar Makes a Difference in God's Kingdom!

Have you ever wondered why we charge a fee to attend or serve on a Walk to Emmaus when everyone volunteers their time?

Grace Emmaus of the Bluegrass is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. No one receives a salary or earns an income from our community. Every dollar collected goes toward keeping our community operating and furthering God's Kingdom!

Just like our own homes, our Emmaus community has ongoing expenses. Beyond renting the campground and providing meals, snacks, and drinks for everyone, purchase paper products, crosses, hand crosses, blue pouches, envelopes, printing supplies, blankets, and even shoes when needed! We also pay for portable toilets (porta-potties). There are also recurring expenses that continue long after each Walk ends. And just like our household budgets, the rising cost of EVERYTHING affects our Emmaus community, too!

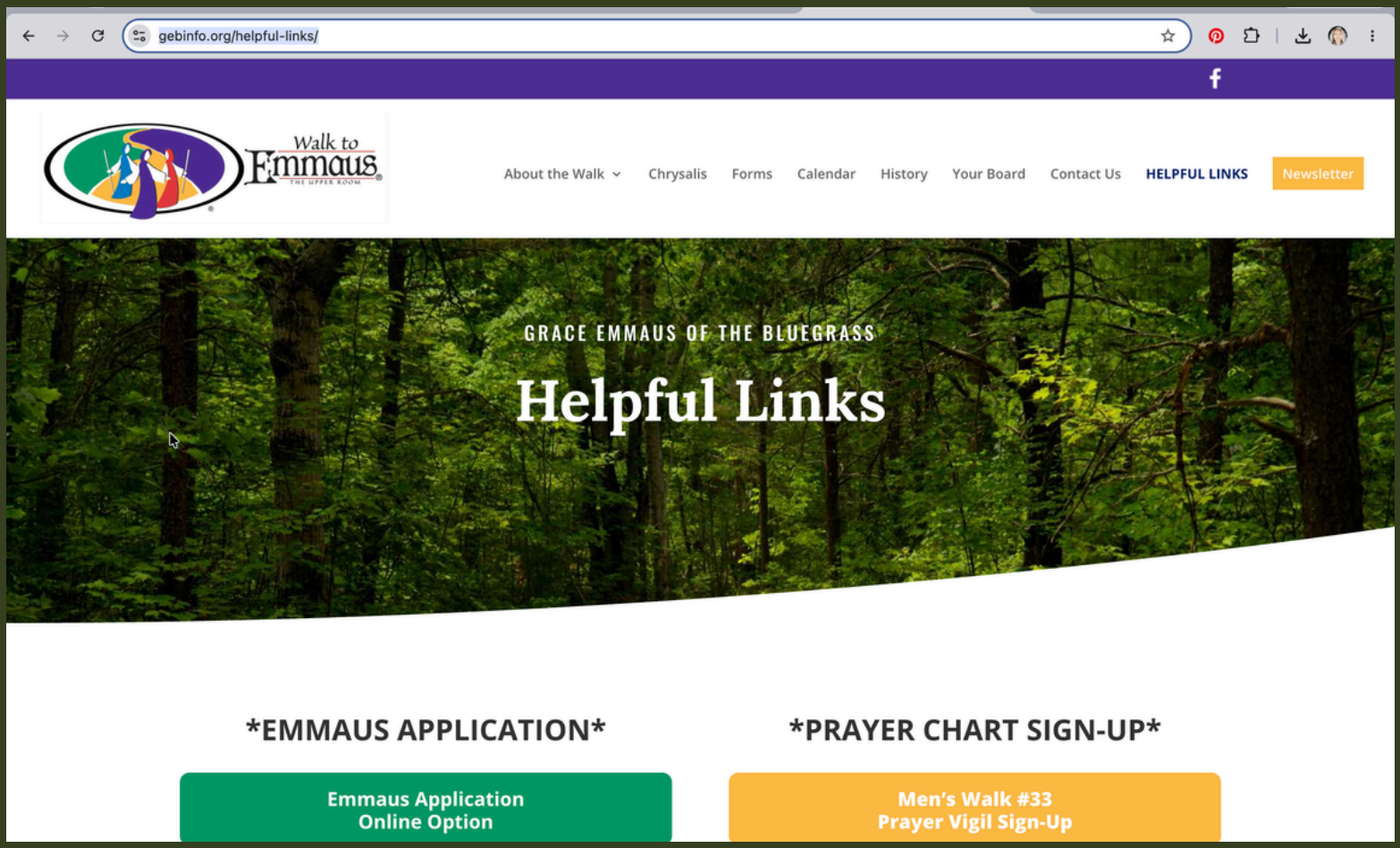
Our community operates solely through *Walk fees and the generosity of donations*. These funds allow us to continue offering Walks, provide scholarships for those who genuinely need financial assistance, and keep this life-changing ministry going. Without them, our community simply could not continue.

We know finances can be challenging for everyone, and that's why every contribution matters. Whether you're paying your Walk fee, sponsoring a pilgrim, giving a little extra, or donating towards a scholarship for someone else, you're investing in something far greater than a weekend.

You're investing in changed hearts, renewed faith, stronger disciples, and lives touched by God's love!

We are so grateful for everyone who gives, serves, and supports this ministry. Please prayerfully consider how you can help sustain Grace Emmaus of the Bluegrass for future pilgrims and generations.

Every penny has a purpose! Every gift makes a difference! And every life changed is worth it!



Your Emmaus Resource Center

Did you know that almost every resourse you need for
Grace Emmaus of the Bluegrass is available in one place?

Our website is the hub for staying connected with our community. Whether you're applying for a Walk, serving on a team, or simply wanting to know what's happening next, the information is just a few clicks away. You'll find:

- ✅ Walk/Chrysalis Applications
- ✅ Flocknote sign-up for prayer requests and community updates
- ✅ Prayer Charts sign-ups for upcoming Walks
- ✅ Community Calendar
- ✅ Community Bylaws
- ✅ Forms and documents
- ✅ Links to our Facebook Community
- ✅ Current Newsletter

Bookmark this page today: gebinfo.org

Then click Helpful Links from the top menu to access the resources you need.
Staying informed helps us stay connected. Whether you're serving, sponsoring, praying, or simply participating in our Fourth Day, our website is your one-stop resource for everything Grace Emmaus of the Bluegrass.

Connected people build a stronger community!