

# Fellowship Focus

## Our Emmaus Road

Nicole Curtis, Director of Fund Development



The story of the journey to Emmaus is one of my favorite parts of the Easter story. Jesus, who only hours earlier rose from the dead, decided to surprise

Cleopas and his friend as they walked from Jerusalem to Emmaus. Just think about it: The risen Christ decided to go for a walk.

I can only imagine the merriment in Jesus' heart as he overheard the conversation between his two disciples. I can only imagine the look on their faces as they were completely dumbstruck that their walking buddy hadn't heard about the recent events in Jerusalem. They must have thought that Jesus had been living under the proverbial rock.

And then, can you imagine their surprise when their eyes were opened as Jesus

broke bread with them? And poof, he vanished before their eyes, leaving them to marvel.

How often does Jesus show up on our journey as we travel down the path of despair, hopelessness, or grief? If you are like me, the risen Christ often shows up when I least expect him. Like the two disciples on the Emmaus Road, my eyes are often closed. I'm too deep in my anxiety or despair to recognize his presence. Yet he is there. Even on the glorious paths of joy, hope, and peace, our risen Lord walks with us.

I take comfort in the fact that no matter our current journey, we are never alone. May our eyes be opened to Christ's presence with us — today and always. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

“Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”

LUKE 24:32b, NRSVUE

## Celebrating 90 Years of *The Upper Room*

### A Journey of Faith and Community

This year, we joyfully commemorate *The Upper Room* daily devotional guide's 90th anniversary—a testament to nine decades of fostering spiritual growth and unity. Born amidst the challenges of the Great Depression, *The Upper Room* emerged from a simple yet profound idea: to reestablish the “family altar”—the practice of daily prayer and Bible reading in the home.

In 1935, the first issue (April-May-June) reached 100,000 readers, reflecting a deep hunger for spiritual connection. Today, thanks to your generosity, *The Upper Room* daily devotional guide is available in **30+ languages** across **100+ countries**, touching millions of lives.

We are deeply grateful for your support, which has sustained this ministry. As we look ahead, we remain committed to nurturing spiritual lives and building communities of faith. Thank you for being part of this incredible journey—past, present, and future!





# A Snapshot of your Generosity

## Emmaus Ministries Celebrates 40 Years of Chrysalis



With great joy, we invite you to the Emmaus Ministries Regional Gathering & Celebration. This event will be held in Nashville, Tennessee, on August 29–31, 2025. The Regional Gathering offers a way for Emmaus Ministries communities to celebrate, worship, and learn together. This particular Gathering will focus on celebrating the legacy of the Chrysalis program, which marked its 40th anniversary in June 2024. Our commemoration of this milestone continues this year as we celebrate the four decades of transformation, growth, and spiritual renewal for our youth. No matter which Fourth Day Ministries event you attended, there will be something for you to enjoy at this Gathering. For more information, please visit [UpperRoom.org/EmmausGathering](https://UpperRoom.org/EmmausGathering).

Let's be in prayer for West Malaysia, which will have its 3rd set of Walks, May 22–25 (men) and May 29–June 1 (women), and Malawi, which will have its inaugural Walks later this year.

## The Academy: Sacred Spaces of Transformation

Thanks to the generosity of donors, two Academy for Spiritual Formation communities completed their transformative journeys last fall. In November, 71 participants from across the United States completed Two-Year Academy #42—the largest cohort in our history! This inspiring group deepened their spiritual lives and formed a community committed to embodying Christ's love as they return to serve and lead in their local contexts.

In October, 41 participants from six countries completed the online one-year Academy. This global community embodied The Academy's vision of creating accessible sacred spaces for people around the world.

Looking ahead, Two-Year Academy #43 begins November 3, 2025, with sessions in both Nebraska and Arizona. Learn more or apply at

**[Academy.UpperRoom.org/43](https://Academy.UpperRoom.org/43).**

Your faithful support makes these sacred spaces possible. Together, we are building communities that embody Christ's love, hope, and justice in the world.

*Thank you!*





# ity in Action

## The Center for Healing and Resilience Offers Virtual Cohort

Thanks to your generosity, we're helping churches and leaders navigate challenges together. In late 2024, The Center for Healing and Resilience launched the Healthy Church Institute, a virtual cohort for laity in partnership with the Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Upper New York Annual Conferences in the UMC. With your support, over 200 participants gained essential skills in communication, conflict resolution, and emotional well-being.

You also helped make possible emotional care retreats for cross-cultural clergy. One minister shared, "I finally felt seen and heard. It's good to know I'm not alone."

Your gifts are creating spaces for healing, learning, and connection.

*Thank you!*



## Greek Editor Visits Nashville!

It is always a joy when one of our ministry partners visits us. In late February, we were able to spend time with our Greek editor, Rev. Fotis Romeos and his wife, Mary, who were in the States on business. Fotis and Mary are a part of the mission group AMG—International. A part of their work is helping refugees who come to Greece and the 20,000 homeless people in Athens. As a part of their ministry to those who are homeless, they provide copies of the Greek edition of *The Upper Room*. In his role as the Greek

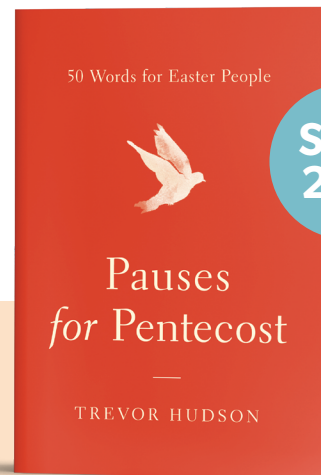
editor of *The Upper Room*, Fotis has a team of six people, including himself. Fotis says that he and his team "dream of the unity of the body of Christ."

Due to donors' support of the international editions of *The Upper Room*, Fotis and his team can translate, edit, and distribute the devotional guide to the people of Greece and beyond. We are grateful for your generosity.



Established: 1952  
Circulation: 1300

Fotis and Mary (left) pose with Tia Inman and Lindsay Gray, members of *The Upper Room* editorial team.



Save  
20%

Did you know that the Christian calendar sets aside a season of 50 days between Easter and Pentecost? The Easter season, sometimes called Eastertide, includes our Lord's ascension and leads to the Day of Pentecost, when Christians remember the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Jesus' first followers.

*Pauses for Pentecost* by beloved author Trevor Hudson offers 50 brief meditations that guide you to reflect on a biblical word and scripture passage, then do a simple daily practice. The daily practices do not take much time, and they are designed to let the new life of the Resurrection and the power of Pentecost flow into your life.

**Save 20%** on your copy with the promo code **FOCUS** at **Store.UpperRoom.org/pentecost**.

# Because of *you*, 2024 was amazing!

**9,274** **19,369**  
**DONORS** **GIFTS**  
**\$1,198,760.74**  
**TOTAL**

Every gift makes a difference, and we are so grateful for your support in nurturing spiritual lives around the world. Thank you for being a part of this meaningful work!

For more detail, including a breakdown of individual funds, please read the 2024 Annual Donor Report, which will be available late April, online and through email.

## Access Your Giving History

Manage every part of your philanthropic journey with ease through our donor portal. Log in to update your information, review your contribution history, download tax receipts, and adjust recurring donations—all in one place.

Log in with your donor email or activate your account today! Scan to log in or visit

[UpperRoom.org/donorportal](https://UpperRoom.org/donorportal)



## Make a Lasting Impact with Your Giving

Did you know you can support The Upper Room through a **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)** from your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)? This tax-smart giving option allows you to make a meaningful gift while meeting your IRA requirements.

You can also leave a lasting legacy by including The Upper Room in your planned giving. Your generosity ensures future generations have access to the spiritual resources that have nurtured your faith.

To learn more, contact us at [development@UpperRoom.org](mailto:development@UpperRoom.org). The Upper Room's EIN# is 36-5019628.

*Thank you* for your faithful support!



## Join The Upper Room's Fellowship Circle,

a dedicated community empowering our ministries through monthly giving. Designate your gift and ignite change. Visit [UpperRoom.org/fellowship](https://UpperRoom.org/fellowship) or email us at [Fellowship@UpperRoom.org](mailto:Fellowship@UpperRoom.org).

## Give today!



*The Upper Room covers all its ministry expenses from product sales, participants' fees, interest income, and the generous support of donors. We do not receive any apportionment funds from The United Methodist Church or any other group. Donations are needed to help sustain and expand the reach of our ministries so others may experience God more fully.*