

GREATER DAYTON EMMAUS

450 ALEX-BELL RD. CENTERVILLE, OH 45459



DECEMBER 2025



*"Thanks
be to
God
for his indescribable
gift!"*

– 2 Corinthians 9:15

*Come home
for
Christmas!*

DECEMBER GATHERING

**December 8th, 7:15pm
Normandy UMC**

A Christmas Message of Hope from Spiritual Director

As a small child, I experienced a Christmas devoid of any joy. There were no presents, no scents of Christmas dinner, no dark. It was a dark and gloomy time, and I was left wondering why there was so much despair and sadness during a season meant for joy and gift-giving.

Now, I'm well past those days, and as I've grown in many ways, I thought, maybe if someone had taken the time to share Christmas's true meaning—the genuine spirit of the season—I wouldn't have felt so empty and alone.



As we celebrate this sacred season, may the true spirit of Christmas—the gift of Christ—fill your heart with warmth and lasting hope. In a world that sometimes feels uncertain, let us remember the humble birth of Jesus, whose light shines brighter than any challenge we face. His love provides us with peace, joy, and the promise of new beginnings. Cherish the gift of His presence, show kindness to others, and let the hope found in Christ guide you now and in the year ahead.

Wishing you a Christmas filled with His grace, love, and lasting hope.

Mamie Johnson
Spiritual Director



**It's not too early to be
thinking about AGAPE
for winter walks!**

The Beauty of the Season and the Promise of Christmas



As we move into this blessed season of Advent, our hearts are drawn once again to the quiet beauty and enduring promise of Christmas. In the midst of winter's chill, the light of Christ breaks through—reminding us that hope is never far, that joy is meant to be shared, and that love is God's greatest gift to us all. This is a time when our Emmaus family has the opportunity to pause, reflect, and renew our commitment to living out the message of Emmanuel: God with us.

A Season to Reach Out

Just as the shepherds and wise men journeyed to meet the newborn King, we too are called to journey toward one another. Many in our community—friends, neighbors, and past pilgrims—may be longing for connection, encouragement, or simply a reminder that they are remembered. A phone call, a handwritten note, or an invitation to join us in worship can make a profound difference. Let us be intentional this season in extending Christ's love, reaching out not only to those nearby but especially to those we haven't seen in some time.

Pilgrims Needed for the Winter Walks

As we prepare for our upcoming winter walks, we are prayerfully seeking new pilgrims who are ready for a deeper encounter with God's grace. If you know someone who would benefit from the Emmaus experience—someone who needs renewal, encouragement, or a spiritual spark—now is a wonderful time to invite them.

Past pilgrims and members of our Emmaus community can also help by reconnecting with their reunion groups, reaching out to fellow pilgrims from previous years, or simply sharing their own testimony of how the walk impacted their life. Every invitation is a seed planted, and God is faithful to bring it to life.

Looking Forward in Joy

Our hearts are especially joyful as we look forward to two beautiful gatherings that will enrich our Advent journey:

Handel's Messiah Concert –

December 6th

A cherished tradition and a powerful reminder of the prophecy and promise fulfilled in Christ. Come prepared to be moved and inspired. It is being held at Sulphur Grove. Please wear your Emmaus name tags as we gather together.

Christmas Gathering

December 8th

A time for fellowship, celebration, and the warmth of community. Bring your joy, your laughter, and your gratitude as we share in the spirit of Christmas together.

Prayers for Peace, Joy, and Love

As the season unfolds, may our prayers rise like incense for peace in our world, joy in our homes, and love in every heart. Let us walk together in faith and expectancy, trusting that the God who came to us in a humble manger continues to walk beside us today.

May the light of Christ shine brightly for you and through you this Christmas season.

Blessings to you and your family,

Emily Adams
Emmaus Good Shepherd



NEW BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED FOR 2026

**Do you want to make a difference in the
Emmaus Community?**

Do you want your voice to be heard?

Is God calling you to step up?

Nominations are being accepted for new board
members to start terms beginning March 2026.

The following positions are open and will be voted
on in November:

Supply Chair Communications Chair
Women's Registrar
Secretary Treasurer

Please pray on these opportunities! If you feel called to
serve on the board in one of these positions, please
contact the nominations chair, Jeff Adams at
937-269-6023 – Jdadams8412@gmail.com

Feel free to contact the current board members to
learn more about what each position entails.
Contact information is on the [website](#).



WHAT'S HAPPENING

"The Messiah"
December 6, 6pm
Sulphur Grove UMC

DECEMBER GATHERING
December 8, 7:15 pm
Normandy UMC

JANUARY GATHERING
January 12, 2026
Normandy UMC

MEN'S WALK #73
January 22-25, 2026
Sulphur Grove UMC

FEBRUARY GATHERING
February 9, 2026
Normandy UMC

WOMEN'S WALK #114
February 19-22, 2026
Sulphur Grove UMC

MARCH GATHERING
March 9, 2026
Normandy UMC

Worship

December Gathering will be held at Normandy Church on Monday, December 8 at 7:15 pm. The service will be hosted by the the Board Members this year.

Come and enjoy hearing the Christmas story, wonderful Christmas music and the singing of carols. This service is always a special time in our community.

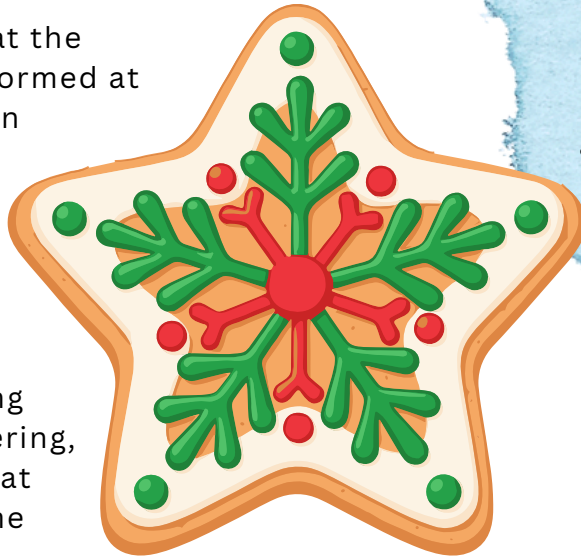
Don't forget the November Gathering at 7:15 at Normandy Church. Please feel free to bring a friend or someone who has expressed an interest in attending a walk.

Lastly, a reminder that the Messiah is being performed at Sulphur Grove UMC on Saturday evening, December 6 at 6:30 pm.

If you would like to help in supporting the service by bringing a dozen cookies, ushering, or welcoming people at the door, please let me know.

You can talk to me at Gathering or you can email me at Lmusicteach@aol.com. It would be great to have a group show our support to Sulphur Grove.

Blessings,
Linda Haller
Worship Chair



**Communion servers,
offering collection,
Fourth day speakers and
Community prayer folks
are needed for
Gatherings!**

Contact:

**Linda Haller
937-859-3574
Lmusicteach@aol.com**

**Tanya McDougale
937-260-0097
gdeww104.secnews@gmail.com**

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