GREATER DAYTON EMMAUS

450 ALEX-BELL RD. CENTERVILLE, OH 45459

WWW.DAYTONEMMAUS.ORG

GREATER DAYTON EMMAUS

NOVEMBER 2026

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever."
Psalm 136:1

We gather together



Monday, November 9, 7:15 p.m.

Fourth Day Speaker: Lacey Pike

Music: Richard, Amy and Nick Fitzwater

*Sponsorship Training, 6:30 p.m., Loggia Room
Normandy United Methodist Church,
450 West Alex-Bell Road, Centerville.

Men's Walk #75
January 21st-24th
Sulphur Grove UMC
Leader: Tim Macy

Women's Walk #116
February 18th-21st
Sulphur Grove UMC
Leader: Cathy Berry

A MESSAGE FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

They're One in a Million



"One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Luke 17:15-18

Have you heard the expression, they're one in a million? It's a popular idiom used to compliment someone who is rare or special or exceptional. It is saying that they are in a class all by themselves.

Well, what if I told you that there was a rare and special and exceptional person in scripture whose claim to fame was that they were one out of ten who said **thank you** to Jesus. The story stands out because when this person, (who had been cleansed of leprosy) came back and fell at Jesus' feet to thank him, Jesus had a few questions. Question #1) Were not all ten cleansed? Question #2) Where are the other nine? Question #3) Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?

Has God blessed you and you have taken it for granted? Have you just carried on with your day and forgotten to take some time to give Him praise in a loud voice. Do you remember your Walk, at your closing ceremony the gratitude and overwhelming desire to say **thank you** to your sponsor and to the community for their sacrifice and service.

I hope Jesus doesn't have to ask about you or me, "where are the other nine?" Let's not wait until Thanksgiving to start giving thanks. Let's start now. Here's a list to get you started.

Lord, Thank You for:

Sunshine	Rain
Shelter	the Great Outdoors
the Gift of Memory	the Ability to Forget
Spontaneity	Time to Plan
Youth	Old Age
Wisdom	Foolishness
Sobriety	Intoxication in the Spirit
Weight loss	Weight Gain
Food	Hunger
Healing	Dis(ease)
Gathering	Scattering
Darkness	Light
Summer	Winter
Cold	Heat
Laughter	Tears
Joy	Sorrow
Giving	Receiving
Life	Death
Emmaus teams	Pilgrims

De Colores,

Palmer Jason

Spiritual Director



The mission of Greater Dayton Emmaus is to inspire, challenge, and equip local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, communities, and places of work.

GOOD SHEPHERD'S CORNER



Share the blessing of God's faithfulness

Hello everyone! As the leaves change and the air turns crisp, November gently reminds us to pause and reflect on the many blessings that surround us. In this season of Thanksgiving, I'm especially moved by the gifts of family, faith, and the fellowship of Christian friends.

Gratitude isn't just a fleeting feeling tied to a holiday; it's a posture of the heart.

When we look at our lives through the lens of thankfulness, even the ordinary becomes sacred. I'm thankful for my family, who anchor me with love and support. I'm thankful for the gift of faith, which steadies my heart and directs my steps. And I'm deeply thankful for Christian friends, who are my companions in prayer, encouragement, and shared joy in Christ.

This month, I feel a growing desire to help others experience that same kind of connection. Do you know someone who needs to experience a time that uplifts, strengthens, and demonstrates the love of Christ? We are in need of pilgrims for our upcoming walks. Please consider sponsoring a pilgrim. There is sponsorship training prior to each Gathering. Forms for pilgrims and sponsors are on our website at www.daytonemmaus.org.

If you've been longing for deeper Christian community, or if you know someone who is, I would love to connect with you. That is why I'm also praying about our community's share groups. A share group is a space where we can gather in our fourth days to grow in faith, build lasting friendships, and walk through life together. I have members in our community looking for a share group. Some expressed interest in an online share group through zoom. If this would be appealing to you, please reach out to me at daytonemmausgoodshepherd@gmail.com so I can help connect you with others.

Whether you are new in your faith or have been walking with the Lord for years, there is a place for you. Let's help to encourage one another, just as Hebrews 10:24-25 reminds us: "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together... but encouraging one another."

May this season fill your heart with peace, your home with love, and your spirit with gratitude. Let's thank God for His faithfulness and look for ways to share that blessing with others.

With a thankful heart,

Emily Adams

Good Shepherd/Outreach Chair



gatherings

REFRESH - RENEW
REENERGIZE

Second Monday each month

NOVEMBER 9TH

DECEMBER 14TH

JANUARY 11TH

SponsorshipTraining, 6:30 p.m.
Gathering service, 7:15 p.m.

Normandy United Methodist,
450 Alex-Bell Road, Centerville

walks

THE BIG MOVE

January - Date TBD

From STORAGE to Sulphur Grove

MEN'S WALK #75

January 21-24
Leader Tim Macy

Registration Deadline Dec. 31!

WOMEN'S WALK #116

February 18-21
Leader Cathy Berry

Registration Deadline Jan. 28!

Both Walks will be held at Sulphur Grove United Methodist in Huber Heights

**Servant Sign-ups will be available in December at the Gathering and on the website.*

A WORD FROM THE COMMUNITY CHAIR

Pilgrims Are Waiting for Your Call



The purpose of Emmaus is to inspire leadership in our home churches. We do that by inviting prospective Pilgrims to our three-day (72 hour) retreat weekends where we strengthen their own personal understanding and relationship with God. They emerge from the weekends on fire for the Lord, eager to expand their service to their churches, join a share group, read more of the Bible and Daily Devotionals, join in Bible study, pray more with a now deeper relationship with God.

Each of us began our own Emmaus journeys when someone invited us to attend a weekend. That simple gesture from a friend or acquaintance a few months or even many years ago stays in our memory and we are so thankful for that invitation. Now we have that same opportunity to pass on this amazing, transformational experience to others. In January we have a Men's Walk and February a Women's Walk. Team formation is beginning now, and our friends, acquaintances and fellow church members are simply waiting for our call. It's an easy ask really. So where do we find these potential willing servants?

Start with the low hanging fruit – people we know and see at church on Sundays. Expand on that list by talking to people you have seen at church but maybe don't know. Introduce yourself, meet a new friend and ask them about their spiritual journey. Mention Emmaus and your experience and then ask them if they might be interested in finding out more about the program. Expand your list of prospects to people at work, school, other classes you may attend and organizations where you volunteer.

Ask your pastor if you can provide a poster to put up at the church or if you can set up a table after service and give our Emmaus brochures and talk to people. You can get brochures at our monthly Gatherings. If your church has several small groups, ask if you can visit them and make a short presentation about Emmaus. Ask if you can speak at a Staff meeting or Church Committee meeting. Remember, the purpose of Emmaus is to inspire leadership in our home churches. The more people who attend Emmaus, the stronger your church leadership will be.

Sometimes the person who says "yes" is not your friend but someone they know. If the timing is not right for your friend, ask them who they know who might be interested. You can also ask people who turned you down in the past. Circumstances change. "Timing is everything." A "no" today is not necessarily a "no" forever. If you were truly inspired by your own weekend, think what it would be like in your church if there were 10 more people with your same motivation.

Applications are available on our website or at the monthly Gatherings, and training sessions for Pilgrim recruiting are held at the monthly Gatherings at 6:30 p.m. Let's continue to grow our community.

Blessings,

Mike Baughman

Community Lay Director



who will you call?

share the journey,
spread the blessing



WALK REGISTRATIONS

Sponsors, go to our website, www.daytonemmaus.org, and print a registration form or pick one up at the Gathering. Fill out and email, text or mail:

Men's Registrar Gary Stanforth
OR
Women's Registrar Julia Crowl

gderegistrar@daytonemmaus.org

Greater Dayton Emmaus
PO Box 292224
Dayton, Ohio 45429

A WORD FROM THE WOMEN'S REGISTRAR

Jump into the blessings of sponsorship

Hey there, new and seasoned pilgrims! This January and February you have a "Once in a Lifetime Opportunity" to SPONSOR that person God has placed on your heart to attend the next Greater Dayton Emmaus Men's or Women's Walk Weekend, so that they can grow closer to Him. Are you ready to jump in?

Did you ever wonder how that Emmaus Walk was able to bring you closer to God? How He knew just what you needed, at the right time, in the right place, and with the right people? It is no coincidence that someone sponsored you to attend a Walk built just for you. Some pilgrims come with great expectations, some with no expectations. Some are clueless about what they are doing there in the first place. Some pilgrims jump right in, feet first, while others take the long way around — waiting years to say yes to their sponsor just to get them OFF their back.

I remember my original Walk more than 25 years ago. I was part of a Bible study group with several church members, including my pastor and his wife. They shared a little about the Walk to Emmaus and explained that participants must have a sponsor. I was new in town and did not know many people, but I had already stepped outside my comfort zone by joining the praise team and the Bible study. I was one of the quiet members who listened more than I spoke. Although I had accomplished many things on my own, I wanted friends with whom I could share activities and explore the Bible more deeply. So, I put my trust in God and completed the application. The pastor and his wife were my sponsors.

At church, the pastor often spoke about stepping out of your comfort zone like stepping out of a boat to grow closer to God. When the call came from the registrar, I declined the first Walk. Being a teacher, I could only go in the summer. The call came again to attend the July Walk and so I said yes. I did not really know what I was getting myself into, but I was trusting God. At first, I did not know anyone who was going on the Walk from my church until one day I learned someone else in the praise team was also going; that made me more comfortable. I was nervous but plunged ahead.

What made it a little hard for me was the fact that, although I knew my sponsors, they did not really know me. One of the other praise team members had been on Emmaus years before and became one of my co-sponsors. My experience encouraged me to sponsor others I knew from school and church. Over the years I have sponsored or co-sponsored several people on a Walk, and I talk about it all the time.

Each of us has family, friends, neighbors, colleagues, and acquaintances that we may feel inspired to talk to about The Walk to Emmaus and our experience. Each person's experience is different and is personal to them, especially for new pilgrims who have just finished attending their Walk.

That brings me to Sponsorship Training. It is a big – Big – BIG responsibility to be a sponsor. So, it is imperative for sponsors to attend an informational training session. If you are a new pilgrim, it is a requirement to attend Sponsorship Training. Just putting your name on the back of the application does not prepare you for the responsibilities of a sponsor. There are many details you will need to know as you take on the job of being the hands and feet of Christ. Come to a training session to learn about your role of being a sponsor before, during, and after a Walk weekend. Even if you are a seasoned Pilgrim or you have not sponsored someone in many years, attending Sponsorship Training will freshen your skills and remind you of your role on the team. And yes, YOU are part of the team.

Whether you are new to Emmaus, a seasoned sponsor, from another community, or took your Walk in a different state, attend a sponsorship training session or talk to one of the registrars about what you need to do in order to sponsor that person God has placed on your heart to ask them to attend the next Walk Weekend. Sponsorship Training happens at 6:30 before the Gatherings. The next training will take place on Monday, November 9th at Normandy Church in the Loggia Room. **JUMP ON IN!**

Blessings, *Julia Crowl*
Women's Registrar



GOD IS COUNTING ON US AND WE ARE COUNTING ON GOD!



Pictured left to right: Cathy Berry, Palmer Jason, Jean Keillor, AJ Puderbaugh, Linda Haller, Dawn Hedrick, Julia Crowl

The Greater Dayton Emmaus Board of Directors met for a special retreat on Unity and Team Building this past month. Pictured are Board members working together to complete a team project.

Palmer Jason delivered a presentation on “Spiritual Unity,” Cathy Berry on “Defining Unity” and Jean Keillor on “Unity Among the Board.”

To be unified we must:
-Focus on Common Goals
-Respect our differences
-Ensure safe communication

A unified board promotes teamwork allowing decision making to share diverse perspectives and expertise. This leads to more informed decisions.

Your GDE Board seeks to govern and manage our local Emmaus community ministry through

- staying tightly aligned with the Emmaus mission
- collaborating by promoting open communication and transparency and
- holding to high ethical standards.

Please pray for your Board of Directors that God will strengthen them and use them to build up the GDE Community and help fulfill its mission.

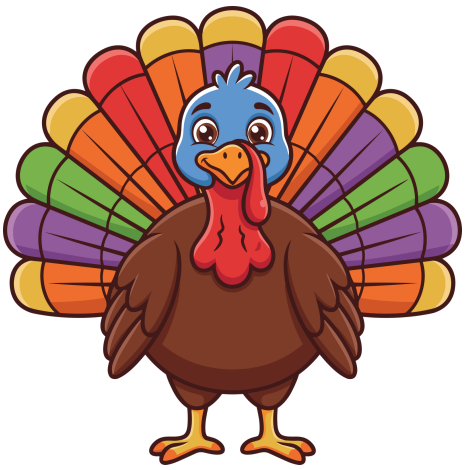
Where can you serve?

Do you want to make a difference in the Emmaus Community? Is God calling you to step up? Nominations are currently being accepted for Kitchen Director for the term beginning March 2027. If you are interested in leading the organization and management of meals and willing servants in the kitchen, pray on it and contact Brenda Baker, Nominations Director, at 937-216-2592 or brenda1smith@aol.com with any questions.

There are always opportunities to serve at Gatherings to help with the sound board, serve communion, take up the offering, give a Fourth Day talk, distribute prayer cards, provide music, and set up and clean up communion. If you are interested in lending a hand, please contact the Worship Chair Linda Haller, Lmusicteach@aol.com, or for offering, contact Dawn Hedrick, drhedrick20@gmail.com.

Show your support for our new pilgrims by pitching in at a Walk Weekend. We will need people to help move supplies from the storage unit to the church, set up, teardown, prepare-serve-clean up meals, make agape, and most importantly, PRAY. More details next month!

De Colores



Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:3