



Greater Dayton Community  
450 W. Alex-Bell Rd., Centerville, OH 45459

## April Newsletter

Vol. 29 No. 4, 2018

### 2018 WALK SCHEDULE

At Sulphur Grove UMC  
WW #104 July 19-22  
MW #66 August 23-26  
CANDLELIGHT  
8:30PM Saturday of Walk

CLOSING  
4:30PM Sunday of Walk

NEXT GATHERING  
Monday, April 9  
2nd Monday Every Month  
7:15 PM, Normandy UMC

BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, April 24  
7PM, Normandy UMC

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Newsletter Published by:  
Brenda Donnelly  
Communication Chair

Please send content  
requests to:  
[newsletter@daytonemmaus.org](mailto:newsletter@daytonemmaus.org)

### Chairman's Corner

*"Do you love me? Feed my sheep."* John 21:17

My name is Barbara Courtice and I attended the Greater Dayton Women's Walk to Emmaus #61 and sat at the table of Elizabeth (CLAP!). I am your new Community Lay Director from April 2018 through March 2019, and I am truly humbled to serve God and his community in this way.

On February 21, 2018, the world said goodbye to the Rev. Billy Graham. I saw in a video that his daily devotional habit included reading 3-5 Psalms, one Proverb, and a reading from Acts of the Apostles. He also read one Gospel a month. I tried this during this season of Lent and found that this process launched me into quite a bit of quiet reflection, vivid imagery and some conviction about attention span! This reminded me of the Grow through Study Talk, particularly the "Grow" part; the richness of the Psalms and Proverbs urged and challenged an attitude of Piety; and Acts and the Gospel (of John) demonstrates the power of the Word, through the Holy Spirit in providing the canvas upon which to listen, to prepare, to serve, to become available; to obey Jesus' command to feed, to follow, to love.

Thirteen years ago, I completed my pilgrim experience on the Greater Dayton Women's Walk. I don't remember any specific Talks, but what I do vividly remember is one dear servant of God, pushing and pulling a mop because the bathroom floor had gotten very wet during a pilgrim break. She was smiling; there may have been a halo, (I don't remember) but there was a love message, an offering of service, a selfless giving without counting the cost, a "getting on with it" with joy. Action — the third leg of the stool in a Life in Grace.

The cool thing about the ministry of Emmaus is that in whatever we are challenged to do or become in our life, the mental image of a Life in Grace held up by Piety, Study, Action goes with us in our Fourth Day. It's an ideal and a challenge. The Service Card encourages us in our Share Group, so that when Jesus asks us, "Do you love me?" We can give testimony of HIS love, HIS voice, HIS work in our life!

Thanks to God and the GDE Community for allowing me to serve Jesus in 2018 — 2019, and through His instrument. It's going to be a great year because God Reigns!

Peace and DeColores!  
Barbara Courtice  
Community Lay Director



## Key Dates and Reminders

**Next Gathering:** Monday, April 9, 2018  
**Sponsorship Training:** 6:30pm in Loggia  
**Gathering:** 7:15pm in Sanctuary  
**Women's Walk #104:** (Sulphur Grove) July 19-22, 2018  
**Men's Walk #66:** (Sulphur Grove) August 23-26, 2018  
**Every Walk:**  
Candlelight - Saturday at 8:30pm  
Closing - Sunday at 4:30pm



## Sponsorship:

Seeking pilgrims for upcoming walks. Please start talking with prospective pilgrims and submit applications now to insure a place on the next walk.

**Men's Registrar:** Bill Jones, mensregistrar@daytonemmaus.org

**Women's Registrar:** Shelly Crabtree, womensregistrar@daytonemmaus.org

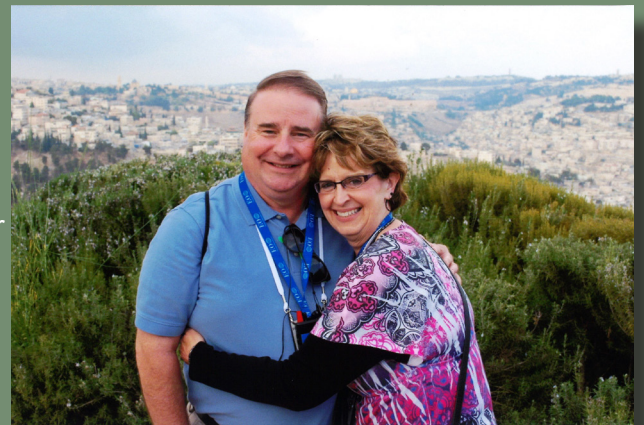
**Sponsorship Training:** Available before Gatherings at 6:30pm in Loggia at Normandy UMC

**Application Forms:** available at [www.daytonemmaus.org](http://www.daytonemmaus.org), under registration tab, or link:  
<http://daytonemmaus.org/deForms.shtm>

## GDE Holy Land Trip

Would you like to see the Sea of Galilee, Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jerusalem AND Emmaus...with your own eyes?

Gary and Myra Wheeler (pictured right) are hosting a Greater Dayton Emmaus Community(GDE) trip to the Holy Land October 28 — November 7, 2019. We will see the places of Scripture, deepen our understanding of the Bible and walk in the footsteps of Jesus, plus share Communion at Emmaus. There will be optional extensions afterward, either retracing the Exodus to Mt. Sinai, Cairo and the pyramids, or going to Jordan, Mt. Nebo and Petra. The trip will be organized through Educational Opportunities, a travel company that has specialized in Christian trips since 1974.



For more information and a brochure, see the Holy Land table at Gatherings, contact Gary at 937.204.4400. or go to [www.germantownchurch.com/grow/holy-land-trip-2019/](http://www.germantownchurch.com/grow/holy-land-trip-2019/).

## Sign up to Pray

You have an opportunity to pray for incarcerated women from ages 17-25 who will be part of Epiphany DCI #13, April 27 -29, 2018. Please sign up to pray at the April Gathering. You are not required to commit to a certain time of day or length of time, all that is asked is for you to give your first name and state so a chain similar to Kairos can be made for the young women to see who is praying for them.



[www.westohiochrysalis.com](http://www.westohiochrysalis.com)

West Ohio Girls Chrysalis #66 - July 6-8, 2018  
West Ohio Boys Chrysalis #66 - July 27-29, 2018



[www.kairosohio.org](http://www.kairosohio.org)

## Because: An Easter Meditation

God sent his Son, not to condemn us, but to save us, to forgive us, to deliver us, to heal us, to set us free. They called him Jesus---Emmanuel, God with us, Savior, Messiah, the Christ, God's Anointed One, Teacher, Example, King of Kings, Lord of Lords.

He came to love us, to love us to show us how very much the Father loves us... all of us... without condition... not expecting anything in return; to show us how we are to love God and one another.

He lived and died to buy our pardon, to wipe our sins away, to give us the chance to put our pasts behind us and start our lives all over again; to begin a new way to be human. In the way, the truth and the life of Jesus.

An empty grave is there to prove our Savior lives! To prove that the power of God's love is greater than all the death-dealing powers of the Evil One set loose in the world. Then. Now. And in all the days to come.

Because He lives, we can face tomorrow knowing that we are not alone; that He is with us; that we are loved with a love that will never let us go... No matter what.

Because He lives, all fear is gone: Fear of the Evil One and his minions; fear of death; fear of a life lived without meaning or purpose; fear of a future not filled with faith, hope, love, peace, and joy.

Because He lives, we know He holds the future in his hands. For me. For you. For our sin-sick, suffering world; the future of new life rising out of death; the future that is bringing the final victory of God's grace and mercy; the future of new creation, new beginning. His Kingdom comes! His will is being done! In my life. In yours. On earth, as it is in heaven. How do I know? Because. Because the grave is empty, I know life, His life, is worth living. Because He lives! In me. In you. In us.

DeColores,  
George Brewer



## Thank You

A huge "thank you" to the Community of Greater Dayton Emmaus for providing funding for 60 new foam sleeping mats for our Pilgrims and Team! Your love for this mission to create servant-leaders and provide for them as they experience Christ, is truly outstanding!

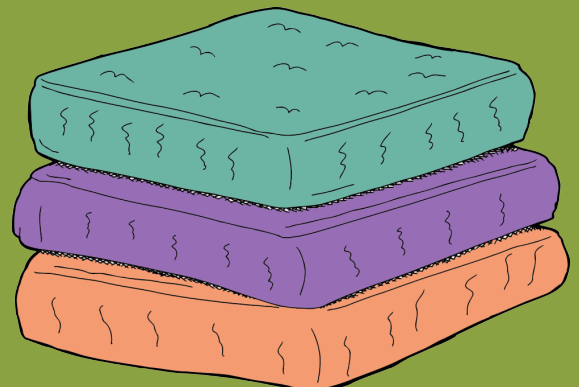
## Opportunity to Move Old Foam Mats

Greater Dayton Emmaus can use your help! If you are physically able, willing and available we will be moving the old foam mats from the "tunnel" to the attic at Normandy UMC. This will be in preparation for the new replacements due to be delivered within the next two weeks. The more helpers that show, the faster the work will go! Please come! (De Colores, Steve Uphouse, new Housing Chair)

**Date: Friday, April 6, 2018**

**Time: 3pm**

**Location: Normandy UMC**





# Kintsugi

The Japanese, known for their beauty in many practices, created an artform called Kintsugi, the art of repairing broken pottery with lacquer mixed with gold. Our good and gracious Father mends our wounds with the gold of His wisdom each time we turn to Him.

We have all experienced the pain and let down of breakages in our life. Hearts break, relationships endure breakages, emotional, spiritual, physical ... I mean, the list goes on and all breakages come accompanied by an indescribable amount of pain ... and eventually healing.

*"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."* Ps. 34:18

We are met by God in our darkest times where He gives us comfort, hope and a promise of healing. In the spirit of Kintsugi, that which was once considered a "loss" is not only returned to a state of wholeness but said to have an increased value after its repair. We were made new by Jesus' suffering and offered renewal through His grace and endless mercies. It's as if He offers us a continual "UPGRADE" status through our pain.

Like we have a sign on our back that states: "MUST BREAK TO RECEIVE GOD'S GRACES."

*"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."* Rom. 12:2

We ask, "How many times must I suffer?!" He always responds, "As many times as it takes, My child." As Christians, we should be known for our self-reflection. For we know God placed His heart of gold within us and all we need to do is search inward to find Him. And when we find Him, we find proper perspective for the strength to persevere one more day.

So each time we look toward Jesus in our hearts or in the eyes of one another, we are reflecting. We are reflecting back to one another the love of Jesus Christ.

*"And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into His image with intensifying glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."* 2 Cor. 3:18

We are the river of God's gold pouring the reflective love onto God's kingdom. He mends us with his golden wisdom, and in return, we rise to share His great love with the world. Within and throughout our homes and communities, we carry the idea of Kintsugi that says, "Perfection can only be made by God our Lord. Our flaws are flawless. I celebrate my repairs, for His Love shall never be disguised!"

**"KINTSUGI!"**

Yours in Christ,

Michele Cremeans  
Good Shepherd,  
Greater Dayton Emmaus

