



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

September Newsletter

Vol. 29 No. 9, 2018

SEPTEMBER GATHERING

Monday, September 10
2nd Monday Every Month
7:15 PM, Normandy UMC

Share Group Reunion
@6:15pm in Chapel at
Normandy UMC

Sponsor Training
@ 6:30pm in Loggia at
Normandy UMC

BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, September 25
7PM, Normandy UMC

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Communication Chair

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newsletter@daytonemmaus.org

Chairman's Corner

FALL FORWARD

"But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, in those who await His gracious favor." Psalm 147: 8—12

As we enter the Fall season, we have only to look at the changing colors on the trees to understand that there is beauty in the death of a leaf, as it changes from green to gold, orange and red. This death is God's process so that the new bud can burst forth in the Spring celebrating a fresh start. Between that leaf-drop and the Spring bud, there is a pause, a time of silent growth beneath the surface. It's not the bud that is doing the work, it's the roots of the tree as it stores up its nourishment, grows new roots and sometimes presses into new soil.

As Emmaus moves forward, much prayer, effort and planning went into WW#104, and the decision to pause MW#66 scheduled for August until January. In all things, we give God the glory! Because of the postponement of our August Walk, the Emmaus Board has rethought the rotation of the Summer Walks. We have decided to "flip" the Summer Walks and move the Men's Walk to June (trying to avoid the Father's Day weekend), and keep the Women's Walk in July. Pilgrims and team members who were not available in August, may now participate in June!

What is our Mighty God up to right now in His Emmaus Ministry? What does your Emmaus Walk mean to you? Are you telling someone about it; looking for those moments of pause to reach out and invite someone to a Gathering? This Fall, move forward with those fourth day pilgrims and encourage them, greet them at Gathering, mentor them in a share group. Sponsors continue to look for those individuals who are needing a spiritual refreshing and invite them to a Walk in January, February, June or July. Through prayer, ask our LORD what He has in mind, and then take time to wait for the answer. Christ is counting on YOU!

Peace,
Barbara Courtice
Community Lay Director

Be sure to visit our re-designed website
daytonemmaus.org and like us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/daytonemmaus).

Greater Dayton Emmaus 2019 Walks

Men's Walk #66
January 17 - 20, 2019
Normandy UMC

Women's Walk #105
February 21-24, 2019
Normandy UMC

Men's Walk #67
June 20-23, 2019
Sulphur Grove UMC

Women's Walk #106
July 18-21, 2019
Sulphur Grove UMC



September Gathering

Monday, September 10 @ Normandy UMC
6:15 Share Group Reunion • 6:30 Sponsor Training
7:15 Gathering

Pilgrim Application Forms

available at daytonemmaus.org,
under "ENCOUNTER CHRIST" dropdown
menu "WALKS" or [CLICK HERE](#)

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

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

Book Collection



Please bring Christian books to the September Gathering. Books should be in good condition and relevant to our pilgrims' lives in today's world.

Sponsorship 101 Whom do we sponsor?

"They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" — Luke 24:32

Emmaus is for active Christians and members of churches whose own renewal will mean new energy, commitment and vision in the church and everyday environments. Those sponsored may include the following:

- church leaders (pastors and laypersons);
- dependable church members;
- less active members who need their awareness of grace rekindled;
- Christians who are hungry for "something more" and who want to grow spiritually;
- members and leaders who represent a cross section of the church;

Emmaus is right for many people, but not for everyone. Here are some examples of questionable sponsorship:

- non-Christians
- Christians whose theology and practice is notably different or incompatible with theology and practice presented by the Walk to Emmaus;
- people undergoing an emotional crisis or who are psychotically unstable;
- People who decide not to make a Walk after being presented the opportunity. Perhaps the timing is wrong. Perhaps God will renew the person in another way. Remember, the Walk to Emmaus is not the way to renewal for every Christian;
- people who go from church to church looking for the perfect church;
- people who are always looking for another spiritual high;

Two kinds of Sponsorship: Wise and Unwise

- Wise sponsorship is purposeful and prayerful. It will eventually produce a balanced, theologically-centered movement of the Holy Spirit which is honored by a variety of churches as an effective instrument for conveying God's grace, the call to discipleship and unity in Christ.
- Unwise sponsorship is haphazard and undiscerning. It will eventually produce a harvest that becomes more of a burden than a blessing for the church, a religious fringe group or a parachurch apart from the established church in the community.

DeColores!
Bill Jones
Men's Registrar

In My Feelings

"We love Him, because He first loved us."

—1 John 4:19

Our heart plays a significant role in our emotional experience. If you have ever been in a romantic relationship that ended unexpectedly, it can be one of the most intensely devastating encounters you could ever imagine. All kinds of thoughts whirl through your mind as you seek to understand why your heart is breaking.



Imagine then how Jesus must feel when His love isn't returned. Since He experienced what it was like to be human, I suspect His reaction is not dissimilar to our own. I'm reminded of the story of Lazarus. When Jesus got to the tomb where He lay the bible said, "Jesus wept (John 11:35)." In Luke 19:41 Jesus wept over Jerusalem and in Hebrews 5:7a Jesus offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears. The Prophet Isaiah said, "He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief." The mere thought that our Savior cried is an overwhelming example of the love that He has for all of humankind.

No one likes to feel that their love isn't being returned especially when they've given it their all. When we reject Christ, His teaching, His love, we in essence are breaking His heart because His desire is that none would perish but that all would come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).

Emmaus is a great initiative in expressing God's love. It's not about a weekend, it's about the love of a lifetime and we get to share that love with others. It is a love we not only received, but I pray, the kind of love we want to return through selfless acts of service.

May our words and actions express the love Jesus gave us and in response the love we give to others.

DeColores,
Mamie Johnson
Spiritual Director

The Story Behind Our Speaker's Crosses



The speaker's cross is used by every speaker at each Walk and then given to the Lay Director at the end of the weekend. Tom Lenssch, Greater Dayton Emmaus Men's Walk #4 has been making our crosses for 28 years, since shortly after his own Walk. At the August board of director's meeting, Tom

presented GDE with enough Walk engraved crosses to take us through 2034! The crosses are made out of exotic woods from South America and Africa. Tom is the proprietor of a company that makes unique specialty puzzles. He uses the scraps from his puzzle business to make our speaker's crosses.

Fearless Faith

Your grace abounds and surrounds,
Your true love persistently pursues my soul.
I empty all that is me and welcome You in.

I dreamt I bit down on two black snakes! It was without fear and hesitation. I did what I knew needed to be done and my soul received the message. God spoke, "Let fear and doubt be conquered, dear one. They were a control drama of the seducer of souls. The dark one will lurk around every corner inhibiting your growth in Me. I see your obedience and hard work and reward you with freedom."

Keeping our focus of faith can be challenging as we're bombarded with old stories, people drama, negativity and our internal fears and doubts. Repositioning ourselves to receive life from a new vantage point is easier said than done. Habits of a healthy spiritual life are not unlike our approach to a healthy body, and habits of a healthy mind that usually demand a multi-pronged plan. Without exercising these new practices, old habits will continue to entrap and lead us into narrow corridors of old limiting fears and doubts. Again, easier said than done.

Early on, in any new endeavor, the forks in the road are many. Change itself is so invigorating, and we can be very motivated at first, eager to make "good choices." With so much advancement comes pride, and we get thrown off course. Waylaid by our ego, we begin to think it's all about us and forget Jesus. We forget to thank Him. We forget to lean on Him. We forget to humble ourselves at His feet. Jesus wants us to overflow with Him so that, we are not only fully nourished, but we have more than enough to share with others.

Now, with the eyes and heart of Jesus, can you see who needs Jesus? Can you reach out today in small ways, but big ways in Jesus' eyes, to someone in need? Through your faith, can you overcome fear and doubt to keep your eyes on Jesus—the Jesus in another that is suffering? Can you reach out to the Jesus in another that is cloaked and hidden under so much pain they need your hand to reach out and pull them through?

"I am indeed indebted to you, Lord, for saving my soul. Through your hands and feet extended by your followers, I survived it all and will continue to not only survive but thrive in the light of Your love for us. I will keep my eyes on you, Lord, not on the threatening storm. I will keep my heart outstretched so that Your reach will touch another through me. I know what You want me to do, Lord, and I will stay steadfast in Your word to sustain the Holy Spirit that is alive in me. I will pray. I will listen to the urging in my heart to recognize the need of another. I will follow through. In Your precious name, Jesus. Amen."

Join us for Community share group at 6:15pm before the next Gathering at Normandy UMC where we can unite and support each other in our Christ following journey.

Love,
Michele Cremeans, Good Shepherd



Agape Worldwide

Every weekend there is an Emmaus walk going on somewhere in the world, let's remember them in prayer.

Faith Walk Jackson, TN

Men's Walk #21 September 20-23

Women's Walk #22 September 27-30

Email Agape to: palanca.faithwalkjackson@gmail.com

West Michigan Emmaus Community

Men's Walk October 4-7,

Women's Walk October 18-21

Email Agape to: enieman79@gmail.com

Brisbane South Community in Australia

You are invited to sign up to pray for Men's Walk #98, September 6-9 in Australia! Just click [HERE](#) to register for their prayer vigil.

Make Giving to “The Gift” Part of Your Fourth Day Experience!

It's time again for the Walk to Emmaus Gift Fund, called “The Gift.” This was introduced in 2007 during the International Advisory Committee to help support the emerging Christian communities throughout the world who need additional funds to train and transport leaders, and to buy resources to launch their first Emmaus Walk. The Gift Fund makes it possible for pilgrims everywhere, like South America and Africa, to have a closer journey with Christ.

For a new community to start up, clergy and lay leaders are first invited to participate in a Walk with a healthy, existing community elsewhere. Sometime this community is an ocean away. The expense of the travel and the cost of resources is beyond reach for people in some parts of the world.

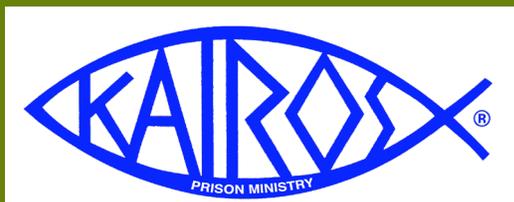
As part of our Covenant with the Upper Room, your Board has been asked to have a fundraiser to support “The Gift.” The Greater Dayton Emmaus Board has decided again this year to offer a second collection at the Gathering, during the month of November — the “Giving” month. As we are all giving thanks for the LORD's bounty in our lives, we can now have the opportunity to tithe God's resources back to Him by supporting “The Gift.” In 2017, generous people like YOU, gave \$127,369.22 to help Christians around the world experience the grace of God.

Please make plans to come to the November Gathering on Monday, November 12 at 7:15pm at Normandy UMC. See you there!



Dayton Correctional Institution (DCI) #12
September 20-23, 2018, Glenna Baughman Leader

Lebanon Correctional Institution (LeCI) #54
September 13-16, 2018, Jim Young Leader



kairoschlo.org



westohiochrysalis.com

West Ohio Girls Chrysalis #67 - January 19-21, 2019
West Ohio Boys Chrysalis #67 - February 16-18, 2019

Mat Donations

We are still accepting monetary donations to defray the cost of the mats (each mat costs about \$50). Please mark your checks “mats” and drop in the offering basket at the Gathering, or send to the Greater Dayton Emmaus; PO Box 292224; Dayton Ohio 45429-2224.

Emmaus Caribbean Cruise

Join us as we celebrate “40 years of the Walk to Emmaus Ministry” by joining us on a Caribbean cruise!

Experience a time of fellowship, music, worship and fun with fellow Emmaus pilgrims! Each morning you will have the opportunity to share in worship together. When we are at sea, you will have the opportunity to hear speakers talk about their Emmaus experiences and how it affected their Christian lives:



Rev. Stephen Bryant currently serves and Publisher of The Upper Room and Associate General Secretary at Discipleship Ministries. From 1986-1992, he served as Director of Spiritual Formation for The Upper Room and as the International Spiritual Director of The Walk to Emmaus and Chrysalis. Steve is an author and launched Discipleship Resources International, a resourcing initiative for Central Conferences.

Pat Luna is an international consultant/instructor in stewardship, board member of the General Board of Church and Society and a recipient of the Denman Award for Evangelism. She has been a retreat leader for the Academy for Spiritual Formation and is deeply involved with the Emmaus ministry since her Walk in 1985.

Jacob and Rachel Armstrong founded Providence Church near Nashville TN in 2008 to see those who are disconnected from God and the church find hope, healing and wholeness in Jesus Christ. They co-authored the book *The Connected Life: Small Groups that Build Community*. Jacob attended Chrysalis in 1998 where he felt called to the ministry. Rachel attended the Walk to Emmaus in 2002.

Emmaus Ministries staff will share about newer ministries like Discovery Weekend, Chrysalis, Journey to the Table, and Face to Face in a question and answer period. When we are in port you will have an entire day to discover Cozumel, Mexico.

Click [HERE](#) to download a brochure, get more information and to register.

You are welcome to share this with your community through your newsletters or email.

Registration is now open!

Emmaus Trip to the Holy Land

You can now sign up for the Greater Dayton Emmaus Community trip to the Holy Land October 28—November 7, 2019. We will see the places of Scripture, deepen your understanding of the Bible, and walk in the footsteps of Jesus, plus share Communion at Emmaus. There will be optional extensions afterwards, either retracing the Exodus to Mt. Sinai, Cairo, and the pyramids, or go 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. To register, contact Gary Wheeler at 937.204.4400 or click [HERE](#).



The Garden Tomb, a possible site of Jesus' burial.