



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

December Newsletter

Vol. 29 No. 12, 2018

December GATHERING

Monday, December 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, December 11
7PM, Normandy UMC

Inside this Issue:

December Gathering 2
Upcoming Walks 2
Pilgrim Applications 2
New Board Members 2
Kairos/Chrysalis 2

Spiritual Director 3

Good Shepherd 4

**Newsletter published
by:**Brenda Donnelly
Communication Chair

**Please send content
requests to:**

newsletter@daytonemmaus.org

Chairman's Corner

HOPEFUL EXPECTATION

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." Romans 15:13

This phrase can bring a smile when what we hope for is a pleasant or joyous event; when disaster or a life changing event has occurred, then hopeful expectation becomes a serious, sober petition to the Almighty One for His Will not ours, to be done. We breathe in the Holy Spirit and breathe out our prayer, with hopeful expectation that things will work out, healing will take place, lives will be restored. When I took my pilgrim Walk, God and I were "partners" (not in a good way); now 10 years after my Walk, I am His humble servant, awaiting the next chapter to unfold, the next day, the next hour. His Will be done. And sometimes, divine Peace is captured, divine Joy is embraced, and my purpose as a servant of Jesus is rewarded with not suffering alone but alongside others who care. I would be "chewing up the scenery" if not for my Emmaus Share Group!

The November Gathering was a blessing event for our community and for the Upper Room Outreach Mission called "The Gift". Emerging countries in Africa and Latin America who have budding Emmaus communities will be supported by the Greater Dayton Emmaus Community in their generous second offering that was given at the Gathering. This offering was on top of the generous offering given every month to support our own Emmaus Walks. A big THANK YOU!! to the Community!

Also, at the November Gathering, Leadership announced the nominations for the Board positions of Communications, Treasurer, Worship and Women's Registrar. Again, our community is blessed with volunteer servants who have filled all the open positions. I am looking forward with hopeful expectation of lives being touched by the Holy Spirit in January and February for our winter Emmaus Walks.

Decolores Everyone!

Barbara Courtice
Community Lay Director

JOIN US FOR THE DECEMBER GATHERING

'Tis the season or so they say. They claim it's about a man, reindeer and a sleigh. This always distracts us from the true focus of this season, the birth of Jesus Christ. He is the reason for this season. As we prepare our hearts and minds for this special time of year, please come join us, your fellow Emmaus brothers and sisters at the December Gathering, Monday December 10th @ 7:15pm to worship together in songs from the members of our community.

Special thanks to Julia Crowl for all her hard work in coordinating the musical talent this year.

Hope to see you all there,

Chris Wisinger
Men's Worship Chair

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

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

CONGRATULATIONS

Please welcome our new servant volunteers to the Greater Dayton Emmaus Board:

Communications - Brenda Donnelly

Treasurer - Darlene Fugate

Women's Registrar – Lisa Keller

Women's Worship - Julia Crowl

Community Members, please consider this a personal invitation to get involved by donating a couple of hours a month to assist our board members in fulfilling their commitment. Start by completing an online Willing Servant form (again) [CLICK HERE](#) so we might capture your current information and plug you into our Emmaus Walks in a functional way.

KAIROS (PRISON MINISTRY)



CHRYSALIS (TEEN MINISTRY)



Why Then, Why Now?

As we prepare our church for the Season of Advent and the arrival of Christmas Day once again this year—reading and praying over the familiar Scripture passages, I wonder, “Why then?” God, why did you choose to come among us in flesh and blood at that time and in that way to save, heal, rescue and deliver not only your people Israel but also the rest of us?

At a turbulent, fearful and uncertain period in our nation’s history, Thomas Paine wrote these words, “These are the times that try men’s souls.”

God chose a turbulent, fearful and uncertain time nearly two thousand years ago to bring salvation and redemption to his sin-sick, sorrow-worn people and world. God’s chosen people, “the light of the world” whose mission was to draw the world back to the one true God in justice and righteousness were in disarray—their leaders and institutions compromised by worldly Roman power while the fundamentalist Pharisee movement taught a strict works-righteousness that no one could possibly achieve. So, God himself came among us on a silent night in a way that no one could ever have imagined. In celebration of his coming we now sing, “Silent night, holy night, Son of God, loves pure light; radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace; Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.”

Advent’s four weeks of Holy Scripture reminds us that this season is more than just remembering the coming of Jesus two thousand years ago. It’s also about the remembering of his continuing coming to us and for us with redeeming grace through his Spirit.

In the life of our nation, these too, are sin-sick and sorrow-worn days that trouble men and women’s souls—days that are turbulent, fearful and uncertain as we are continually battered with new mass shootings, a toxic and ever more divisive political environment, increasing drug overdose death, growing bigotry and intolerance toward others, a widespread decline in morality, all leading to an unknown future for our nation. Right now, we need the Christ child and the redeeming grace he brings more than ever! He came to us then. He comes to us now. Are we still eager to welcome him? In these difficult times, may I offer up this Christmas prayer by Laurence Hull Stookey to our Emmaus community,

*Eternal God, by the birth of Jesus Christ you gave yourself to the world.
Grant that, being born in our hearts, he may save us from all our sins,
and restore within us the image and likeness of our Creator,
to whom be everlasting praise and glory, world without end.
Amen.*

May we all have a holy and joy-filled Advent and Christmas as we remember how much we’re loved by God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—whose redeeming grace came—comes—and will come again in final victory!

De Colores!
Pastor George Brewer

FORMATION IN CHRIST

Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.” Proverbs 27:17

If you've ever looked to the sky to see a flock of birds flying in formation you know it's one of the most beautiful phenomenon of nature. How do they know which way to turn in such a large group? They make it appear fluid and effortless, creating hypnotic designs. Birds flying in formation rely on their closest 3-7 neighbors for directional support! Flying in formation also helps the birds save energy by aligning themselves with each other, finding their location within the flock with the least wind resistance. In essence, they float as a unified field utilizing the talent and energy of all. Humans go through a similar process in the different stages of "formation" with one another. In the ministry of Emmaus, everyone is at a different stage on their path with Christ and in our community. Sometimes it's hard to know who your "first seven" are let alone how you "fit" in the flock. Most of us want to fly but need time or support to find our comfort zone while we take flight.

“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.” Ephesians 4:32

To be kind is the very least we can do to elevate our brothers and sisters in Christ. We are all familiar with the mountains laid on our path once we chose Christ. We also know the closer we draw to Him, the more severe the challenges set upon us. To fly and lend a hand to those who struggle, understanding we've all landed ourselves in the "extra grace required" category more than a few times. Please, offer that grace when it is required. Strength, hope, and tenacity which we've all cultivated in our lives are truly a blessing. In these times where prayer is the strongest tool in our box and our gift to another always mirrors a blessing for oneself. Just to be a blessing is a blessing.

Ways to be connected:

- Pray for our community!
- Follow monthly newsletter.
- Follow FB page.
- Submit your willing servant form.
- Come to gathering and community share group.
- Engage your personal share group.
- Serve on live-in team.
- Serve as support for each walk weekend.
- Support yourself and reach out for resources offered by your sisters and brothers in Christ.
- Sponsor a special person today.

Let us nurture our culture of kindness in our "Come as you are" community.
Peace and blessings this Christmas season!

Love,

Michele Cremeans
Good Shepherd