

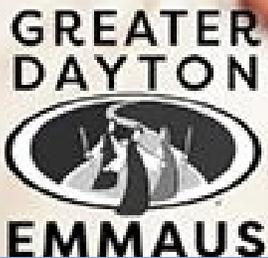
# ***GREATER DAYTON EMMAUS***

450 ALEX-BELL RD. CENTERVILLE, OH 45459

FEBRUARY 2022



**Abiding in  
Love**



## **THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE GREATER DAYTON EMMAUS COMMUNITY**

**WHEN: APRIL 30 FROM 1 - 5 PM**

**WHERE: SULPHUR GROVE UMC, 7505 TAYLORSVILLE RD, HUBER  
HEIGHTS, OH 45424**

**WHAT: FOOD, FUN, FELLOWSHIP, SINGING, AND HISTORICAL  
INFORMATION FOR EACH WALK.**

**WHO: YOU! YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY AND EMMAUS BROTHERS AND  
SISTERS**

**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

**PLEASE CONTACT KIRK LEHNEIS TO VOLUNTEER AND FOR MORE INFORMATION AT  
KLEHNEIS@SBCGLOBAL.NET, 937-426-6255 (PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE)**

# Heal Forward

BY MICHELE CREMEANS,  
COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR

My dearest brothers and sisters in Christ, it is 2022 and the time we have waited on is near. Preparations are in full swing for the Greater Dayton Emmaus walks scheduled for this summer. The events of the past few years will live in our memories for the rest of our days. We will remember loved ones who have passed and intense personal struggles we overcame. We will remember how the journey tested us and like all adversity deepened our faith in our Savior, Jesus Christ.



There seems to be no shortage of stress and trauma in our lives these days. As the pace of life quickens stress seems to accumulate quicker than we can say the word. We spend our time pining over what has happened and allow pain to pile on our heart. Deprived of the oxygen of joy, our heart's Flame suffers.

Thankfully, we remember Jesus. Even through the hard times we have the gifts He has given us. I know it sometimes feels like work to "be happy" when our hearts are heavy. Sometimes we can allow simple pleasures like laughter, joy and love to carry us through the dark times. With a heart of gratitude, we remember to witness Jesus all around us and the salvation He promises.

*"Because of the Lord's great love, we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. I say to myself 'The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for Him'."*

Lamentations 3:22-24

My prayer for Us is to Heal Forward. To continue walking together in Christ remembering whose we are. We have walked through the forging fires of yesterday. Let us now walk in acceptance of our past so we may begin to heal forward into a fresh tomorrow.

*DeColores!*

*"Love is patient,  
love is kind.  
It does not envy,  
it does not boast,  
it is not proud.  
It does not dishonor  
others,  
it is not self-seeking,  
it is not easily  
angered,  
it keeps no record of  
wrongs.  
Love does not delight  
in evil but rejoices  
with the truth.  
It always protects,  
always trusts, always  
perseveres.  
Love never fails."*

*1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8A*

**GATHERING:  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14 @  
7:15P  
NORMANDY UMC,  
CENTERVILLE**

**MEN'S WALK:  
JUNE 23-26, 2022  
SULPHUR GROVE UMC,  
HUBER HEIGHTS**

**WOMEN'S WALK:  
JULY 14-17, 2022  
SULPHUR GROVE UMC,  
HUBER HEIGHTS**

**REMINDER: JUNE, JULY AND  
AUGUST GATHERINGS WILL  
BE HELD AT SUPLHUR  
GROVE UMC**



## *OUT OF CAPTIVITY AND EXILE*

[READ NEHEMIAH 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10]

AS I WRITE THIS, JANUARY 2022, IS COMING TO A CLOSE AND WITH IT COMES THE DISQUIETING NEWS OF MORE AND MORE COVID INFECTIONS, HOSPITALIZATIONS, AND DEATHS. WHEN THE PANDEMIC STARTED OVER TWO YEARS AGO, I REMEMBER PEOPLE ASKING ONE ANOTHER, “DO YOU KNOW ANYBODY THAT HAS CAUGHT IT?” WE ALL ANSWERED, “NO.” TODAY IS A MUCH DIFFERENT STORY. WE DAILY LEARN OF MORE AND MORE PEOPLE WE KNOW AND ARE CLOSE TO WHO HAVE BECOME ILL AND HAVE EVEN DIED. AFTER MORE THAN TWO YEARS OF CONTINUALLY, DAY-IN AND DAY-OUT, HAVING TO DEAL WITH THIS ALL OF US IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER ARE EXHAUSTED— MASKS, MANDATES, LOSS OF FREEDOM, ZOOM, ISOLATION, QUARANTINE, CLOSURES, REMOTE SCHOOL AND WORSHIP, DISAGREEMENT AND ANGER OVER RULES, CONFUSION, BEING FORCED TO CREATE AND LIVE INTO A NEW “NORMAL”, AND A YEARNING TO RETURN TO LIFE THE WAY IT WAS BEFORE. IN A SENSE, WE HAVE BEEN LIVING IN A COVID EXILE, A PANDEMIC CAPTIVITY.

IN THE MIDST OF ALL THIS LONG-ENDURING SUFFERING, THERE IS A GLIMMER OF HOPE: MANY EXPERTS ARE SAYING THAT THE CURRENT VARIANT IS PEAKING AND WILL SOON BE IN RAPID DECLINE. LORD, MAY IT BE SO! MAY OUR CAPTIVITY AND EXILE SOON BE OVER! MAY WE RE-START OUR “NORMAL” LIVES AGAIN! BUT IF AND WHEN THAT DAY COMES, WHAT DO WE DO? AS GOD’S PEOPLE—CHOSEN, CALLED, AND EQUIPPED TO BE HIS LIVING PRESENCE ON EARTH, HOW DO WE GO ABOUT DOING THAT? WHERE DO WE BEGIN THE RE-START?

I BELIEVE WE CAN FIND THE ANSWER IN HOW OUR ISRAELITE FAITH ANCESTORS RE-STARTED THEIR LIVES AFTER THEIR OWN EXPERIENCE OF EXILE AND CAPTIVITY IN BABYLON. NEHEMIAH TELLS US THAT WHEN THE PEOPLE RETURNED, UNPACKED, AND GOT SETTLED THE FIRST THING THEY DID WAS TO GATHER IN FRONT OF THE WATER GATE OF DESTROYED JERUSALEM AND ASKED THE PRIEST AND SCRIBE EZRA TO BRING OUT THE INSTRUCTION SCROLL FROM MOSES (TORAH) THAT GOD HAD GIVEN TO HIS PEOPLE INSTRUCTING THEM ON HOW TO LIVE AS HIS PEOPLE IN THE WORLD IN ORDER FOR ISRAEL TO BE A LIGHT SHINING IN THE DARKNESS OF HUMAN SIN BRINGING ALL PEOPLE BACK TO GOD.

AND WHAT DID ALL THE ASSEMBLED PEOPLE DO? NEHEMIAH SAYS THEY ROSE IN REVERENCE AND FELL ON THEIR KNEES IN PRAYER AND WORSHIPED THE LORD. ALL THE PEOPLE WEPT WHEN THEY HEARD GOD’S INSTRUCTIONS AGAIN AFTER THEIR LONG ORDEAL. NEHEMIAH, THE GOVERNOR, TELLS THE PEOPLE, “DON’T MOURN OR WEEP! DON’T BE SAD, BECAUSE THE JOY FROM THE LORD IS YOUR STRENGTH!”

MAY WE TAKE HEED OF THE RE-START FAITHFULNESS OF OUR FAITH ANCESTORS FROM LONG AGO AS THEY EMERGED FROM THEIR EXILE AND CAPTIVITY, THEIR LOSS OF WHAT THEIR LIVES HAD BEEN LIKE “BEFORE”.

JESUS, GOD’S WORD MADE FLESH, OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, HAS LEFT US A REFINED AND CLEAR INSTRUCTION TO LIVE AS GOD’S PEOPLE IN THE WORLD TODAY: HIS COMMAND TO LOVE. WHEN THIS PANDEMIC WITH ALL ITS SUFFERING AND DISTRACTION IS FINALLY OVER AND DONE WITH, MAY WE ONCE AGAIN RE-START OUR LIVES BY REDISCOVERING THE JOY FROM THE LORD IN JESUS, RISE IN REVERENCE AND FALL TO OUR KNEES IN PRAYER AND WORSHIP WITH MORE FERVOR THAN EVER. WHY? THE DARK AND BROKEN WORLD NEEDS THE LIGHT THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS MORE THAN EVER! BE LOVE’S LIGHT! AND NEVER FORGET: THE JOY OF THE LORD IS OUR STRENGTH!

DECOLORES, PASTOR GEORGE BREWER

# GREETINGS FRIENDS!

IT IS FEBRUARY! OR “LOVEUARY” AS THE HALLMARK CHANNEL IS PROMOTING!

WITH THE ARRIVAL OF FEBRUARY, MANY OF US MAY THINK OF VALENTINE’S DAY WHEN OUR HEARTS AND MINDS OFTEN TURN TO THE LOVED ONES IN OUR LIVES: OUR SPOUSE, OUR GIRLFRIEND OR BOYFRIEND, OUR CHILDREN OR GRANDCHILDREN, OUR FAMILY, CLOSE FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS.

***1 JOHN 4:19, WE REALIZE “WE LOVE BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US.”***

***1 JOHN 4:16, WE KNOW “GOD IS LOVE, AND ALL WHO LIVE IN LOVE LIVE IN GOD, AND GOD LIVES IN THEM. GOD IS LOVE, AND HE WHO ABIDES IN LOVE ABIDES IN GOD, AND GOD IN HIM.”***  
***JESUS SAID, “BY THIS ALL PEOPLE WILL KNOW THAT YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES, IF YOU HAVE LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER” (JOHN 13:35)***

**WE ARE REALLY BLESSED** THIS YEAR TO BE RESTARTING IN-PERSON EMMAUS WALKS IN JUNE AND JULY. ON MY ORIGINAL EMMAUS WALK, I EXPERIENCED THE LOVE OF JESUS IN NEW WAYS THAT I HAD NEVER KNOWN BEFORE – THE LOVE OF JESUS THROUGH THE BODY OF CHRIST. DO YOU REMEMBER HOW YOU FELT ON YOUR ORIGINAL EMMAUS WALK? WE NEED YOUR HELP IN BRINGING CHRIST’S LOVE TO YOUR SPOUSE, FRIENDS, CO-WORKERS AND NEIGHBORS THAT HAVE NOT FELT CHRIST’S LOVE IN THIS WAY. A LOVE THAT CAN REIGNITE THEIR LOVE FOR JESUS SO THEY CAN RETURN TO THEIR CHURCHES **REINVIGORATED AS LEADERS**. YOUR CHURCH NEEDS TO CARRY ON CHRIST’S MISSION THROUGH THE MISSIONS AND PROGRAMS IN YOUR CHURCH. THE TIME IS NOW TO INVITE THEM ON THEIR WALK TO EMMAUS WHERE **JESUS WILL MEET THEM RIGHT WHERE THEY ARE, SO THEY CAN LAY ANY BURDENS AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS**. THEY WILL BE REENERGIZED AND GROW CLOSER TO JESUS AND INTO THE PERSON HE CREATED THEM TO BE. SHOW YOUR LOVING CARE FOR THEM BY SPONSORING THEM FOR THE SUMMER WALKS AT SULPHUR GROVE UMC, JUST 4 AND 5 MONTHS AWAY:

## **MEN’S WALK #68 – JUNE 23-26, 2022**

MEN’S REGISTRAR: JEFF ADAMS, (937) 269-6023  
MENSREGISTRAR@DAYTONEMMAUS.ORG

## **WOMEN’S WALK #108 – JULY 14-17, 2022**

WOMEN’S REGISTRAR: LISA KELLER, (937) 684-3856  
WOMENSREGISTRAR@DAYTONEMMAUS.ORG

*THROUGH CHRIST ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE!*

*MATTHEW 19:26*

STEP UP AND INVITE THOSE THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS CALLED YOU TO SPONSOR FOR THESE WALKS. THANK YOU FOR ANSWERING THE CALL.

KIRK LEHNEIS,  
GREATER DAYTON EMMAUS MEN’S WALK #14, TABLE OF PETER  
LEADERSHIP CHAIR, GREATER DAYTON EMMAUS COMMUNITY





## DO YOU REMEMBER...

...WHEN SOMEONE FROM YOUR CHURCH, A COWORKER, FRIEND, OR FAMILY MEMBER APPROACHED YOU ABOUT GOING ON A SPIRITUAL RETREAT CALLED THE WALK TO EMMAUS?

I REMEMBER BEING ASKED BY ONE OF THE MEN FROM KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY ABOUT DOING A KAIROS WEEKEND AND SAID "YES". HE THEN INQUIRED IF I HAD BEEN ON AN EMMAUS WALK. I SAID, "NO BUT HAD HEARD ABOUT IT AT CHRIST CHURCH UMC".

AS TIME PASSED, I BECAME CURIOUS AND DECIDED TO ASK KEN WILSON ABOUT IT WHILE WE WERE AT OUR MEN'S MONDAY NIGHT CHURCH SOFTBALL GAME. I KNEW HE WAS INVOLVED IN THE DAYTON EMMAUS COMMUNITY AND HE MADE ME FEEL COMFORTABLE ENOUGH TO SAY YES TO A PILGRIM WEEKEND. MY WALK WAS IN AUGUST OF 2008 AT CHRIST CHURCH. KEN WAS THERE FOR ME THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND, SERVING MEALS AND AT CANDLELIGHT. THE AGAPE LOVE AND SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY AND SPONSORS MEANT A LOT TO ME. GOD HAS PUT MANY GREAT PEOPLE IN MY LIFE THROUGH EMMAUS AND DEVELOPED FRIENDSHIPS THROUGH WALK WEEKENDS, SERVING IN THE KITCHEN, CANDLELIGHT, CLOSINGS, SERVING ON EMMAUS LIVE IN TEAMS, AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. IT'S AMAZING HOW MUCH WE GROW IN CHRIST AS WE SIMPLY CHOOSE TO WALK WITH HIM.

SPONSORING IS ALL IN THE PERSONALIZED DETAILS.

TURN IN YOUR FORMS TO A REGISTRAR TO SECURE THEIR SPOT.

TAKE SPONSORSHIP TRAINING HELD AT 6:30PM, 30 MINUTES BEFORE EACH GATHERING HELD IN THE LOGGIA NEAR BY THE CHAPEL. WE ARE HERE TO RESOURCE YOU FOR SPONSORSHIP. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO FOR THE GREATER DAYTON EMMAUS COMMUNITY. CHRIST IS COUNTING ON US.

**PRAY.**

**ASK A CHRISTIAN.**

**SPONSOR YOUR PILGRIM.**

**KINDLE THE FIRE BY SHARING YOUR STORY.**

**BUILD CHRISTIAN LEADERS IN THE WORLD TODAY.**

DECOLORES,

JEFF ADAMS

MEN'S REGISTRAR

MEN'S WALK #46 TABLE OF MATTHEW