

# GREATER DAYTON EMMAUS

450 ALEX-BELL RD. CENTERVILLE, OH 45459

## The Shepherd's Corner

Welcome to fall when the air turns crisp, and the sound of falling leaves and the smell of wood fires fill the neighborhood. I hope that you are doing well and enjoying the changing season. In every passing day, please be in prayer for our community.

I'm Emily Adams and I am the new Greater Dayton Emmaus Community Good Shepherd.

I want to encourage you to be involved in a share group. It is important to maintain contact with others who support each other in their walk with Christ. We can't do this alone. I think often of Hebrews 10:24-25. *Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another.*

There are a few things that I would like to ask of you to help this community. The first thing is to take a few minutes to answer a short survey on this Google for:

<https://forms.gle/bv1twmUTooP6SiVw5>

Every reply will help me to connect people. It is important that we all help each other. The short time it will take to complete this survey may impact someone in a profound way if they are able to be connected to a share group

Contact me at  
**Daytonemmausgoodshepherd@gmail.com**  
with any questions.



## OCTOBER 2025

The next thing I ask is that you please attend monthly gatherings on the 2nd Monday of every month. Our next few Gatherings are October 13th, November 10th and December 8th.

Please put them in your calendar right now so you remember to attend. If you see that these dates are not on your church's calendar, please reach out to your church secretary and add them to the calendar so that it will remind others in your congregation about our monthly gatherings.

My last request is to prayerfully consider sponsoring a pilgrim. We are in need of pilgrims for both the upcoming men's and women's walks early next year.

Has your pastor been on a walk? Have leaders in your church been on a walk?

Have members of your small group or bible study been on a walk? Who do you know that needs time with Jesus?

Please attend the sponsorship training that is prior to every gathering at 6:30pm for the instruction and guidelines for sponsoring pilgrims.

Let us all encourage each other, stir our hearts to love and serve all of your people.

**They will know us by our love. DeColores!**

## Fall Greetings, from the Community Lay Director!

I hope this finds you all doing well and enjoying our Autumn season. I read something that said, "Notice how the trees do not cling to their leaves. Fall is about releasing the old to make way for the new." That seems very appropriate for our community right now.

Brothers and Sisters, I believe God is on the move in our community in a very powerful way. Though we don't like to see weekends cancelled or events cancelled, it is God's way of directing us. We must get back to letting the Lord lead our community and weekends.

Let's talk about team formation. It is imperative that when you are called to serve on a team, please, please, please, take a day and pray. Make sure your heart is in the right place when you say yes. When you make the commitment, make sure you can attend every meeting.

Every team I have ever been on, invariably, things come up on team meeting days that I really wanted to do. If you are truly committed to serve, then you have to be willing to say no to things you want to do and shift to being a part of the preparation time to serve the Lord.

Also, remember, you are making a commitment to God to serve him and allow him to mold you and transform your heart so that you can be fully used by Him and be one body during the weekend. God is calling you to be a willing vessel for Him to use to reach pilgrims who are desiring leadership and a closer walk with him. We are currently beginning the team formation for the January and February walks which will be at Sulphur Grove United Methodist Church.

Some people are leery to invite pilgrims to be on the weekend because you have lost trust that the weekend will actually happen.

I truly believe that God personally invites each pilgrim to come and experience Him in ways they never imagined and he needs you to work through. There are so many people who have never experienced his Love in ways they will during their walk. He invites them to a personal one on one visit with each of them, during different times in the weekend. How did that change your life and walk with him?

Why are we hesitating to invite someone to have this kind of experience and growth? He is working in the community and sometimes not in ways that we agree with but, we must get back to basics and cover this community, team formation times and weekend in prayer. Weekends and prayer have always been the foundation of Greater Dayton Emmaus.

When I first started attending Gatherings, I was so excited and felt so good when I walked in. What I have realized was that all those people who had the Holy Spirit living in them, created an energy that could be felt and you didn't want to leave. Let's fill the sanctuary again so that strong energy can be felt again. Let's bring the energy back...I just had a vision of the sanctuary glowing.

So, yes, things have changed, things have fallen off, but cling to Jesus during these changes. We are going to rebuild and bring back our community. See you at Gathering on October 13 at Normandy UMC.

Brenda Baker  
Community Lay Director

# A WORD FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

## The Greatest Truth I Ever Learned

I grew up alone. What I mean by that is I grew up feeling as though I never fit in. I was more of an outsider than someone who belonged. I was more of an afterthought than a first consideration. I hope you get my point. I hope there are some out there who can relate.

My conversion to Christianity happened in crisis. I was at the end of my rope. I was full of anxiety and despair. I was near the end. Then (thankfully) someone told me about Jesus and accepting Him into my heart. That one act changed everything about my life and here, 48 years later, we are still going strong.

I know for some that my situation doesn't fit their narrative and that is okay. We are all different and the things that shape our lives and make impact are as varied as the person themselves.

The greatest truth that I ever learned that made the deepest imprint on my life is how much God loves me. We sing the song...*Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so*...and while that is a beautiful sentiment I believe that we have to know it by and through practical experience. We can see a glimpse of it in John 3:16 – *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.*

That word “world” is not just talking about the trees, rivers and mountains. It refers to the inhabitants (us). It refers to the inhabitants (us). God sent His Son for us.

I remember saying out loud once that nobody cared for me or the fact that I was alive.

God spoke to me (I don't mean that I heard an audible voice, but there was a strong impression inside me) and said, “What am I chopped liver”? (That got my attention).

The Lord continued, “I love you and loved you before you were born. In fact, I knew you would get to this place in life and I wanted you to know that I sent My Son to die for you because I love you and never wanted you to be without Me”. That pulled all the slack out of my cord. That put things into perspective for me.

Could you handle knowing that God loves us as much as He does Jesus? How can I say that? His love knows no partiality. No preference. His love is unconditional and fully available to all and for all. The only thing that would stop His love from working in us and for us is our ability to believe what He said.

Weymouth's translation of Romans 5:8 says *But God gives proof of His love to us in Christ's dying for us while we were still sinners.*

That verse let me know He was removing any barriers and hindrances between us and clearing a path before we ever came to Him or knew about Him. His love works for the saint as well as the sinner. We as children of God, should know better than those who have not yet experienced Him that He loves us and has nothing but good prepared for us. We should never let the devil or situations and circumstances change our belief in His unfailing love.

I want to encourage you that no matter where you are or what you are going through to lean into the Love of God and allow that same power and grace that delivered you from your past to help you in your present and carry you into a glorious future.

DeColores,

Bishop Dr. Brian K. Hayes





# New Board Members Needed for 2026

Do you want to make a difference in the Emmaus Community?

Do you want your voice to be heard?

Is God calling you to step up?

Nominations are being accepted for new board members to start terms beginning March 2026.

The following positions are open:

Supply Chair      Communications Chair  
Women's Registrar  
Secretary      Treasurer

Please pray on these opportunities! If you feel called to serve on the board in one of these positions, please contact the nominations chair, Jeff Adams at  
937-269-6023  
[Jdadams8412@gmail.com](mailto:Jdadams8412@gmail.com)

## From the Worship Chair

We have a wonderful opportunity presented to our community.

We have been invited to hear the Christmas portion of *The Messiah* at Sulphur Grove UMC on Saturday, December 6 at 6pm.

It will be performed by a community choir from the Dayton and Springfield areas with a few of our own Emmaus Community members in the choir.

Come and enjoy the music, especially if you have never heard the Messiah sung live.

There will be cookies and punch provided for refreshments. If you are willing to bake some Christmas cookies and bring them, it would be appreciated.

I hope to see all of you there!

Blessings,  
Linda Haller, Worship Chair

## UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER GATHERING  
OCTOBER 13, 7:15 PM  
NORMANDY UMC

NOVEMBER GATHERING  
NOVEMBER 10, 2025  
NORMANDY UMC

Find  
us on



Greater Dayton Emmaus

Communion servers, offering collection, Fourth day speakers and Community prayer folks are needed for Gatherings!

Contact:

Linda Haller  
937-859-3574

[Lmusicteach@aol.com](mailto:Lmusicteach@aol.com)

Tanya McDougale  
937-260-0097  
[gdeww104.secnews@gmail.com](mailto:gdeww104.secnews@gmail.com)