

GREATER DAYTON EMMAUS

450 ALEX-BELL RD. CENTERVILLE, OH 45459



NOVEMBER 2024

"Let the peace of Christ rule
in your hearts, since as
members of one body
you were called to peace.
And be thankful."

COLOSSIANS 3:15

**Join us
at the next**

Gathering

November 11, 7:15 pm
Normandy UMC
Centerville, OH

Spiritual Director

Prepare for the Contest

It's football season, and our family loves it. I recently heard a piece of advice from a Christian speaker who was giving tips on preaching.

He talked about how athletes prepare for their game/match/meet by warming up. They stretch their muscles, do some calisthenics, practice throwing, catching, hitting, blocking, whatever. They then go into a clubhouse – somewhere away from the field of contest – for final instructions and motivation from the coach. Many will sit down and become focused on the game at hand. Right before they begin their event, they prepare for it.

The speaker suggested that a good preacher, right before she or he goes to preach, should do the same thing. The sermon has been bathed in prayer. The study has been guided by the Holy Spirit. The message ultimately is about the love of Christ. All that should be a given and completed.

But before going to speak the Word of God to His people, the preacher should perform his or her Pre-Preaching Preparation. Then go out there.

When I heard this suggestion, I was intrigued. Believe it or not, there are plenty of voices in the head and ears of the preacher before delivering God's message. Someone comes up to you and shares a need, or worse yet, a complaint. Another wants to make an announcement that you didn't know about.

The PowerPoint needs a tweak before the service begins. You don't see a once-regular member who has missed a few weeks, while the person who has written a critical letter is always there.



Plus all the doubt and distractions that the devil tries to tell the preacher.

So I thought a lot about my Pre-Preaching Preparation message to myself. I wrote down several ideas, then put it in a place where I will see it before I go into the worship center to preach. I'm getting my heart, soul, and mind in the right frame before I preach.

How can you use this strategy? You're probably not a preacher. But you are a messenger of the Good News in the places God has placed you: home, work, social clubs, etc. God has called you to be His witness throughout the world.

Maybe you are also a Sunday School teacher of the 7th Grade class ("Lord help `em!"). Maybe you have coffee with someone each week. Or you are preparing an Emmaus Talk.

Wherever you are, prepare yourself for the contest that you have before you. In doing so, you will fulfill the directive from Paul in 1 Corinthians 9:24: "*Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.*"

Gary Wheeler
Community Spiritual Director
Greater Dayton Emmaus

FROM THE COMMUNITY CHAIR

Hello Community,

It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving is our next holiday. It seems the older I get, the faster time flies but also the more I am thankful for.

When it comes to Greater Dayton Emmaus, there are so many reasons to be thankful. I am thankful for the number of pilgrims that have said yes to Jesus' invitation to join him for a weekend. New pilgrims are how our community grows.

I believe many of our lives have been impacted by the transformation that only God could do. I am thankful for how the community lifts up each weekend and comes together to serve and fellowship with each other.

I am thankful to be able to serve with a Board that is focused on working together for the best interests of the community. I am thankful for our Spiritual Directors who help us stay faithful and guide us in our spiritual growth. I am thankful for the relationship I have with Jesus.

Yes, there is so much more to be thankful for, especially when we see what is going on in other countries. When was the last time you told someone, you were thankful for them? When is the last time you said thank you, Lord...thank you for getting me through the day, thank you for sending His Son for your salvation?



If you don't thank anyone else, make sure you always thank the Lord for all He does for you. *"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus"* 1Thessalonians 5:16-18.

I look forward to seeing you all at our next Gathering, Monday, November 11 at 7:15pm at Normandy United Methodist Church. If you sponsored a pilgrim and they have not been attending, bring them along or send them a reminder.

Our Gatherings are a great opportunity to reunite with table mates, fellowship, worship together, be uplifted by a Fourth Day speaker, and share Holy Communion together. See you soon!

DeColores,
Brenda Baker
Community Lay Director





HELP IS NEEDED FOR GATHERINGS (ESPECIALLY FOR THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GATHERING!)

There is a need for help at Gatherings to serve communion, take up the offering, give a Fourth Day talk, pass out and distribute prayer cards, provide music, and set up and clean up communion.

Christmas will be here before you know it! If you sing, play an instrument, or like to do readings, your help is needed to make the special Christmas Gathering a blessing for all who attend.

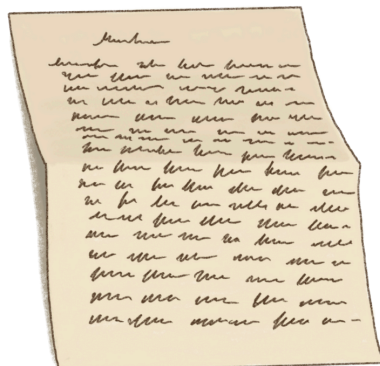
If you are interested in lending a hand, please contact the Worship Chair Linda Haller or for offering, contact Tonya McDougle.

The Worship Committee is always in need of volunteers for walks as well. If you would like to learn how to set up and use technical equipment, we need you!

Contact information is on the website:
<https://daytonemmaus.org/board-of-directors>

AGAPE

It's not too early to start preparing agape for the next walks in January and February. We can always use more table agape. There are many ideas online, Pinterest etc.



SAVE THE date

NOVEMBER GATHERING:

NOVEMBER 11 @7:15 PM
NORMANDY UMC
CENTERVILLE, OH

CHRISTMAS GATHERING:

DECEMBER 9 @7:15 PM
NORMANDY UMC
CENTERVILLE, OH

JANUARY GATHERING:

JANUARY 13 @7:15 PM
NORMANDY UMC
CENTERVILLE, OH

MEN'S WALK #72

JANUARY 23-26
NORMANDY UMC

FEBRUARY GATHERING:

FEBRUARY 13 @7:15 PM
NORMANDY UMC
CENTERVILLE, OH

WOMEN'S WALK #113

FEBRUARY 13-16
NORMANDY UMC

Share Groups

If your share group is looking for new members, please reach out to the Good Shepherd,
Michele Cremeans at 937-671-5036
or Misshella1@aol.com



Is it time for you to step up?
Voting for
**Board Members for
term beginning 1
April 2025**
will be held at November
Gathering!

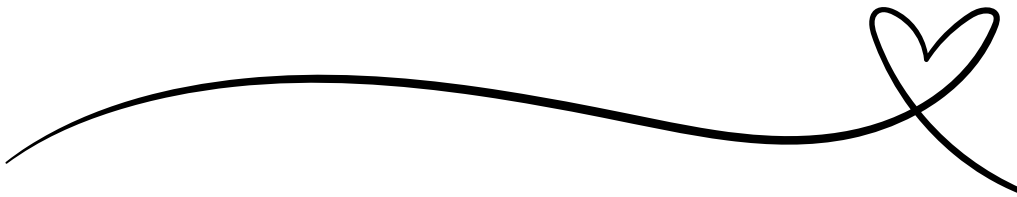
Are you feeling the call? Nominations are still needed for:

- Communications Chair (newsletter, website, etc.)
- Housing Chair

Please contact the Nominations Chair, Jeff Adams, or feel free to contact the individuals currently serving in the positions to hear more about the job and see if you would be a good fit.

Elections are at the November Gathering

<https://daytonemmaus.org/board-of-directors>



Time to update your Willing Servant form

- Haven't been called in a while to serve on a team?
- Want to get the latest newsletter in your email?
- Have you moved or changed your phone or even your name in the past few years?

If any of those situations apply, you probably need to submit an updated Willing Servant form so our database administrators have the latest contact information and know what areas in which you might wish to serve. It's easy to update. The form is located at the bottom of the forms page:

<https://daytonemmaus.org/downloads%2Fforms%2Flinks>