

# GREATER DAYTON EMMAUS



450 ALEX-BELL RD. CENTERVILLE, OH 45459

[WWW.DAYTONEMMAUS.ORG](http://WWW.DAYTONEMMAUS.ORG)

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## JULY 2026

### WOMEN'S WALK #115

Weekend Lay Director AJ Puderbaugh  
August 20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, Sulphur Grove UMC



*10 pilgrims registered  
4 of which need sponsors  
10 pilgrims still NEEDED*

### MEN'S WALK #75: COMING JANUARY 2027 NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

### DAYTON EMMAUS COMMUNITY GATHERING

Monday, July 13<sup>TH</sup> at 7:15pm at Normandy UMC  
Steven Moore, Fourth Day speaker  
Emily Adams, music leader

*Are you a sponsor or would you like to be one?  
Attend Sponsorship Training at 6:30pm in the Logia Room.*

### SAVE THE DATE

#### GATHERING

Monday, July 13  
6:30pm Sponsorship Training  
7:15pm Gathering Worship  
Normandy UMC, Centerville

**WW 115 Registration Deadline**  
Thursday, July 30

#### GATHERING

Monday, August 10, 7:15pm  
Normandy UMC, Centerville

#### THE BIG MOVE

Saturday, August 15 8am  
From Storage to Sulphur Grove

**WW #115 WEEKEND**  
**August 20-23**  
**Sulphur Grove UMC**

#### PACK UP DAY

Saturday, August 29 9am  
From Sulphur Grove to Storage

#### Weekend Lay Director Training Session

Saturday, September 12

#### GATHERING

Monday, September 14, 7:15pm  
Normandy UMC, Centerville

*Welcome the new Pilgrims!*



## Celebrate His light

# Freedom: How Bad Do We Want It



“So, if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” John 8:36

The only way to Freedom is thru the Cross. We cannot legislate our way there; we cannot buy our way there; we cannot argue or debate our way there; we cannot educate or train our way there; we cannot segregate or integrate our way there; we cannot rehab or reform our way there; we cannot work our way there. The words to an old African American spiritual tell the story of a soul longing for freedom.

Oh, freedom, oh, freedom  
Oh freedom over me  
And before I'd be a slave  
I'll be buried in my grave  
And go home to my Lord and be free<sup>1</sup>

It's the same refrain that Minty speaks of in the movie *Harriet* just before she jumps off the bridge into the rushing waters below to escape her slave master who has hunted her down to return her to bondage. She says as she looks him in the eyes, “I'm uh be free, or die.”<sup>2</sup>

It's the same chorus from Patrick Henry's famous speech to the Second Virginia Convention in 1775 where his closing words were, “I know not what course others may take, but as for me, **give me liberty or give me death.**”<sup>3</sup>

It's the same hope that Martin Luther King, Jr. preached in his message entitled “I Have a Dream” during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on August 28, 1963.

“And when we let freedom ring... we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: **Free at last, free at last. Thank God Almighty, we are free at last.**”<sup>4</sup>

And it's the same concern that the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob addressed when he called to Moses from the burning bush. “And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh **to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt**” (Exodus 3:9-10). God is still calling ordinary people to do extraordinary things. God is still concerned about people being free.

The thing we have to ask ourselves is “how bad do we want it?” We have to stop placating sin. Sin is what keeps us in bondage. Sin cannot be rehabbed; you can't just put a little money and sweat equity into it and then flip it for a profit. What you are thinking is a fixer-upper, God is saying is a complete tear down.

**“For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.”**

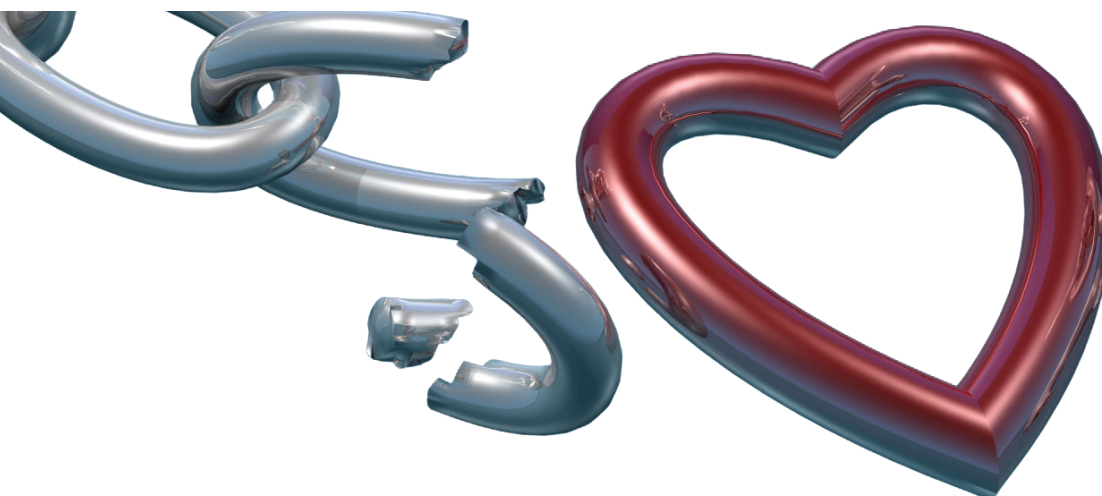
**Matthew 16:25**

So, as we celebrate Independence this month, remember that we can only truly declare our independence in Christ. And also remember, there are people who need to hear about this God that we serve who can set them free from sin and death. What good is your freedom when others are still in bondage?

De Colores,

*Palmer Jason*

Lead Spiritual Director



<sup>1</sup>[Link to "Oh Freedom!" song](#)

<sup>2</sup>[Link to Harriet movie clip](#)

<sup>3</sup>[Link to speech reenactment](#)

<sup>4</sup>[Link to "I Have a Dream"](#)

## By Invitation Only

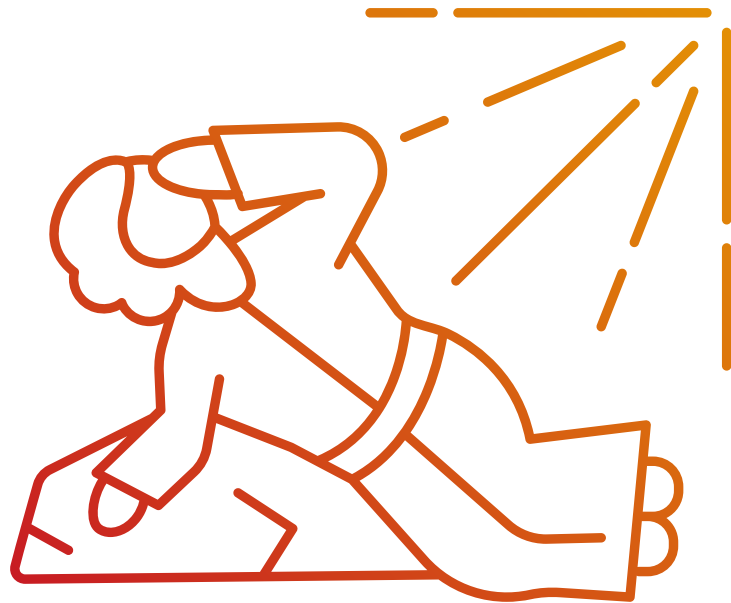
Gatherings and worship generally begin with an invitation to join. Some of us are more comfortable asking people to participate than others, but, overwhelmingly, **Pilgrims who attend a Retreat Weekend agreed to the invitation of a friend or acquaintance.** Seems easy, but all of us lead busy lives and have many responsibilities. It may take a convincing plea to encourage acceptance of the invitation.

Jesus invited 12 Disciples to join him on a faith journey in the beginning of His ministry and, although the Bible descriptions are pretty brief encounters, I am sure that there were some questions and prayers and discussions before the “yes” was assured.

**When Saul was approached by Jesus on the road to Damascus, he was a very reluctant prospect.** Jesus resorted to blinding Saul and having him led to the city where he only recovered his eyesight when Jesus appointed his willing servant, Ananias, to go and lay his hands upon Saul. “And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying He is the Son of God” (Acts 9:18-10).

**Seems like the hardest nut to crack was the most productive.**

Inviting Pilgrims to participate in a Weekend is way easier than the route that Jesus sometimes took, but he invited literally everyone to hear his story. Some said “yes,” some said “no” and some may have said “I will think about it.” In the end, Jesus and 11 of his faithful Disciples met with amazing success for which we are eternally grateful and blessed 2000 years later.



**We are sponsoring our 115<sup>th</sup> Women’s Walk on August 20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> and invite you to invite your friends and acquaintances and everyone you meet to join us,** to feel the love of Jesus, the power of the Holy Spirit, the joy of singing loudly, the fellowship of good friends and the curiosity of great discoveries through conversation.

There are countless potential Pilgrims out there who may know nothing about Emmaus, but **God may change their lives if we simply ask them to attend.** Think hard about what the Emmaus weekend has meant to you, how it has affected you, your lifestyle, your family, maybe your job, and how you live your life.

A month ago, we invited members at the Gathering to give a short testimony about their Fourth Days. Six people who had been attending Gatherings for 25 years or more were excited to talk to us. **The power of an invitation can change lives. Please, let's quickly fill up this Women’s Walk roster with eager Pilgrims. Jesus is walking beside you, always, and will not fail you.**

Blessings,

*Mike Baughman*

Community Lay Director





# Let Christ Shine Through YOU

## Happy Independence Day!

As we celebrate the birth of our nation this July, we are reminded of the powerful truth found in our Declaration of Independence: that all people are created equal. As Christians, we know this truth reaches even deeper. **Every person is created in the image of God and is worthy of the love, grace, and salvation offered through Jesus.**

As members of the Emmaus Community, we are called to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world around us. Whether at home, at work, in our churches, or in our communities, **our mission is to share Christ's love with every person we encounter.** May we continually seek opportunities to extend grace, offer encouragement, and demonstrate the unconditional love that Christ has shown each of us.

## Reconnect With Your Share Group

Summer is a wonderful time to reconnect with fellow Emmaus members. If it has been a while since your share group has gathered, consider reaching out and scheduling a time to meet.

These relationships are one of the greatest blessings of the Emmaus movement and help strengthen us in our Fourth Day journey.

As you reconnect, prayerfully consider members of your congregation or Christian friends who may be good candidates for a Walk to Emmaus. **A personal invitation from someone they trust is often the first step toward a life-changing Emmaus experience.**

## Closing Blessing

As we celebrate our nation's freedom this month, may we also celebrate the freedom we have in Christ. Let us continue to walk together, encourage one another, and share Christ's love with all whom God places in our path. May God bless you, your families, your churches, and our Emmaus Community.

De Colores,

*Emily Adams*

Good Shepherd/Outreach  
[daytonemmausgoodshepherd@gmail.com](mailto:daytonemmausgoodshepherd@gmail.com)

## Cover the Women's Walk #115 in prayer...

- that God will embolden us to share an invitation
- that God will lead the right women to attend
- that God will inspire many to answer the call to serve at the Weekend
- that God will make this walk a meaningful and transformative experience.



Please go to our Facebook Page

and fill out the special survey there for our Good Shepherd. Are you in a share group? Would you like to be in a share group? Do you have room for more people in your share group? How do you like to receive the newsletter?

Help us serve you better!



GREATER DAYTON EMMAUS



## Connect after the Gathering

Our Good Shepherd Emily Adams is on hand at the *Rainbow Table* each Gathering to help answer your questions and share information about our Community. Emmaus print materials are also available.

Review and update your Willing Servant Form at the *Rainbow Table*. Keeping your information current allows us to contact you about upcoming opportunities to serve within our Emmaus Community, such as assisting in worship for our Gatherings.

And special tables will be set up at the July and August Gatherings to sign up for Kitchen and Housing service for our August 20-23 Women's Walk. Many hands are necessary to give our new pilgrims a great uplifting experience. Thank you for allowing God to use you.



# Worship Thru Christian Service

**YOU ARE WANTED AND NEEDED!**

**Where:** Gatherings at Normandy UMC

**What:** Run our Sound System including set up and teardown

*Personal training provided AND Reference Manual currently in the works.*

**Availability:** approximately every other month

### Other Gathering opportunities:

- LEAD THE CORPORATE PRAYER
- GIVE A FOURTH DAY TALK
- LEAD MUSIC
- TAKING UP THE OFFERING
- SETTING UP / TEARING DOWN COMMUNION

If you are interested or know of anyone who could help fill these needs, please contact Linda Haller at [Lmusicteach@aol.com](mailto:Lmusicteach@aol.com) or fill out a new Willing Servant Form either on the website or at the Gathering Rainbow Table

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE  
be a  
SPONSOR

We still need 10 pilgrims in order to hold the Women's Walk #115 August 20-23. And we have a few pilgrims that need sponsors.

Sponsors are the backbone of the Emmaus community. Sponsoring a Pilgrim enlightens and enriches you, knowing that you have brought a friend or acquaintance closer to God.

Fill out the registration form online, save it, and email to:  
[ellie-bellie-boo@att.net](mailto:ellie-bellie-boo@att.net)

**OR** print and send it to:

Women's Registrar  
Greater Dayton Emmaus  
PO Box 292224  
Dayton, OH 45429

**OR** text it to 937-671-2616.

Sponsorship training is offered at 6:30 at Normandy UMC in the Logia room before Gatherings.

Let your light shine!

*Julia Crowl*

Women's Registrar



## What does it take to put a Walk Weekend together?

The Greater Dayton Emmaus Community is invited to attend a Weekend Lay Director Training and Information Session this September 12 with Jean Keillor, Vice Chairperson.

Please note, all prospective Weekend Lay Directors MUST attend this training within six months before the Weekend they wish to direct. However, all who have been on an Emmaus Walk are welcome for informational purposes and for future consideration.

Watch future newsletters for details.



# WW #115: WAYS TO SERVE



*Help pilgrims break bread together by serving a shift or more in the kitchen*

\*Each shift involves preparing food, serving food and cleaning up.

**\* PLEASE SIGN UP NOW.**

Signing up beforehand helps us ensure the right balanced coverage for each shift.

**Thursday, August 20**

Weekend Prep 9 am to noon  
Brownie dropoff 5 pm  
Send off Dinner 5 to 8 pm

**Friday, August 21**

Breakfast 6:30 to 11 am  
Lunch 11 am to 3 pm  
Dinner 3 to 7:30 pm

**Saturday, August 22**

Breakfast 6:30 to 11 am  
Lunch 11 am to 3 pm  
Dinner 3 to 7:30 pm  
Ice Cream Social after Candlelight to 10:30 pm

**Sunday, August 23**

Breakfast 6 to 10:30 am

\*Also needed: Someone to do a load of towels and aprons each of the four days.

Call, text or email Samantha Hoang

Cell phone/Text: 937-287-5850

Email: [samantha.hoang82@gmail.com](mailto:samantha.hoang82@gmail.com)

Or click [Kitchen Signup - Women's Walk](#)

*Help the Team members and Pilgrims by getting everything moved in, set up, then torn down and packed away.*

BE SURE TO SIGN UP EARLY SO WE KNOW WE HAVE A FULL TEAM!

**Saturday, Aug 15 starting at 8 am**

MOVING DAY from the storage unit to Sulphur Grove

**Wednesday, Aug 19 starting at 7 pm**

Help set up the church for the walk

**Thursday, Aug 20 5:30 to 7:30 pm**

Greet pilgrims and carry luggage

**Sunday, Aug 23 starting at 6 am**

Get church back to normal for worship

**And after closing service, approx 5 pm**

Finish tearing down

**Saturday, Aug 29 starting at 9 am**

Help to pack the U-haul to return Emmaus supplies to storage unit

Call, text or email Tom Donaldson

Cell phone/Text: 937-470-9114

Email: [tdonald557@hotmail.com](mailto:tdonald557@hotmail.com)

Or click [Housing Signup - WW #115](#)

Shine  
your light!

