

GREATER DAYTON EMMAUS

450 ALEX-BELL RD. CENTERVILLE, OH 45459



Reclaim Our Mission

Retreat and Workshop

September 26-27, 2025

Bergamo Center
for Lifelong Learning

4400 Shakertown Road
Beavercreek, OH 45430

Open to the **first 75**
GREATER DAYTON EMMAUS
and **DARK COUNTY EMMAUS**
community members to sign up and pay.



JULY 2025

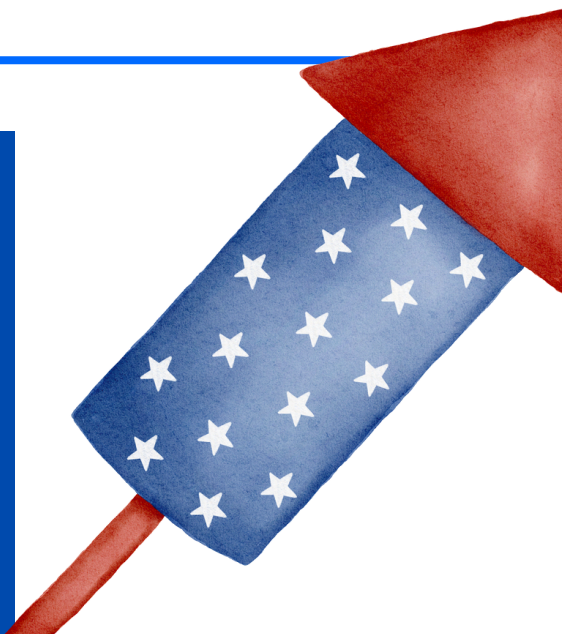
*See page 6 for a
new opportunity
to reinvigorate the
Emmaus mission!*

Women's Walk #114 has been canceled!

*It's not too early to start recruiting for men's and
women's walks in early 2026.*

*Who do you know that might be blessed by this
life-changing weekend event?*

Gathering
JULY 14, 2025
7:15 P.M.
Sulphur Grove UMC





Notes from the Spiritual Director

Freedom Day

“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son...” Romans 8:2-3

As I sit to write this article we are celebrating Freedom Day, the national holiday known as Juneteenth. And by the time this is published we will be preparing to celebrate Independence Day, the national holiday known as the 4th of July. If you are like me, you probably are more familiar with and know more about the latter holiday than the former.

I first heard of Juneteenth as a young adult the summer before my 19th birthday. I had moved to Texas to participate in a summer internship before beginning my freshmen year of college. We were sitting around with a group of new friends when they began talking about their plans to celebrate Juneteenth. Those of us from the Midwest asked, “what is Juneteenth?” Our new friends explained that it was a day for celebrating when formerly enslaved people in Texas were informed on June 19, 1865 that there had been an Emancipation Proclamation signed on January 1, 1863 which changed the legal status of African Americans in the southern states from slave to free. Those who received the news then celebrated with a festive gathering. I must admit my first thought was “why celebrate being held captive an additional two and half years, such injustice.”

Years later as the holiday began to be celebrated more broadly and the push came for making it a national holiday, I better understood the reasoning behind their jubilee. Anytime someone is set free from bondage we ought to celebrate! In fact, the greater tragedy is to have the good news of someone’s freedom and to not be willing to travel far and wide to proclaim it from the rooftop. I see a parallel with those who are still walking in darkness, enslaved to the law of sin and death.

General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston Texas on June 19, 1865 along with more than 2000 Federal soldiers of the 13th Army Corps to announce and enforce General Orders, No.3. The order informed Texans that, in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves were free.

For Christians we have our own General along with a heavenly host (army) that came to “proclaim liberty to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” His name is Christ Jesus. He has set us free, liberated us, acquitted us, delivered us. That’s news worth celebrating—Freedom Day!

DeColores,
Palmer Jason, SD



Greater Dayton Emmaus

A WORD FROM THE COMMUNITY CHAIR



Summer Greetings Greater Dayton Emmaus.

As you may have heard or noticed, our community is going through some changes. I had someone refer to it as a shaking. Hebrews 12:26-27 refers to this “shaking”. When we follow Christ, we are part of an unshakable Kingdom. We can withstand the shaking and sifting. When we feel unsure about our future, we can have confidence that no matter what happens, what changes, God never changes, and we can put our trust in Him to build a solid foundation for us.

We have had to cancel weekends due to not having enough pilgrims, our team formation is getting much more difficult to complete due to the lack of community members who form the live in teams, our Gatherings are become less and less attended, just to name a few. And just so you know, we are not alone. Other communities are experiencing similar challenges.

So, with that said, I have reached out to the Upper Room in Nashville. We are going to offer a weekend, September 26-27, 2025, at the Bergamo Center in Beavercreek. We have invited Darke County Emmaus Community and may be inviting Northern Lights to also join us. You can go to our website, click on the three lines in the top left corner, when the options drop down, click on Encounter Christ, go to the bottom of the list and click on Reclaim Our Mission. You can read about it and sign up to attend. There is also a flyer in the newsletter, feel free to print it and share it. This event is for us to come together as a community to see what we can do...with a professional from Upper Room, who has a proven track record of communities successfully restoring their communities, after going through this workshop. We can also assist you in registering for the event at the next Gathering. Christ is counting on you!

We are also excited that someone has stepped up and answered the call for Good Shephard. I prayed for this and waited. Glad I did. Stay tuned for more news on this as we work out a few details. You can begin to help by inviting us to your church to share what Emmaus is all about and how valuable it can be in your church. I would love to give your Pastor a scholarship to attend a weekend. My email is on our website; I will look forward to receiving your invitation.

In the meantime, please come to Gatherings, attend the Sponsorship Training, attend Reclaim Our Mission and keep praying. We are in this together. I guarantee you will learn something new at the September event and from other communities. Please pray for our community to Reclaim Our Mission.

See you at Gathering at Sulphur Grove UMC in July.

DeColores,
Brenda Baker
Community Lay Director



Reminder:

Communion servers, offering collection , Fourth day speakers and Community prayer folks are needed for July a

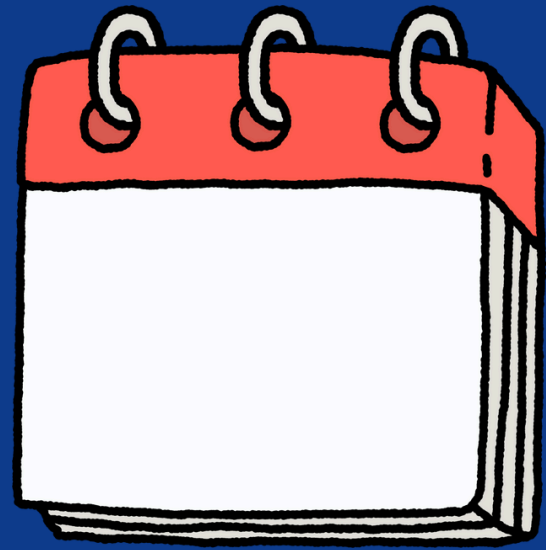
nd August Gatheribng at Sulphur Grove. This would be a great opportunity for the folks who live north of town to participate in the gathering!



**IT'S HERE!!
ONLINE
GIVING!**

**Try it on the
website!**

www.daytonemmaus.org



UPCOMING GATHERINGS AND EVENTS

**THE BIG PACK-UP DAY!
JULY 9
CANCELED!!!**

**JULY GATHERING
JULY 14, 7:15 PM
SULPHUR GROVE UMC**

**WOMEN'S WALK #114
JULY 17-20
CANCELED**

**AUGUST GATHERING
AUGUST 11 , 7:15 PM
SULPHUR GROVE UMC**



BOARD MEMBER URGENTLY NEEDED

If you have a gift for talking to people, here's your chance to put that spiritual gift to use.

If you like to talk to people, the GDE Community can use that talent! The ***Men's Registrar*** talks to every single (male) pilgrim and sponsor and helps them get ready for upcoming walks. If this sounds like you, **PRAY ON IT** and call Brenda Baker, Community Lay Director at 937-216-2592 with any questions. **If you have a friend who fits the description, talk to them!!**

*Independence
Day*

**God Bless
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
America!**

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Reclaim Our Mission is an opportunity to bring as many community members as possible together for a morning/afternoon of sharing. We will remind each other of our "WHY," while we learn what most active communities do to thrive.

We then transition to discussing what the "ideal" community does during the Pre-event, Event, and Post-event activities and discuss what our particular communities do well...

THEN we ask what "growing edges" our communities have. The idea is to come up with a consensus of three items the community wants to focus on in the next year and recruit volunteers to serve on Task Forces.

This gathering will also empower people for future service on Emmaus Boards and help to create the Committee structure where many share the burdens rather than just a few.

ENJOY Music, worship, guest speakers and much more!

COST: \$69 per person PLUS LODGING

\$79 for a single room

\$100 (\$50 each person) for a double room

or come for the evening and return in the morning.



Use the QR to register or visit
www.daytonemmaus/reclaim-our-mission

Questions? Call Brenda Baker @ 937-216-2592 or Brenda1smith@aol.com

Schedule

Arrive Friday 5-6 pm, dinner at 6pm,
program follows dinner
Saturday starts with breakfast at 8 am,
program ends mid-afternoon.