

# GREATER DAYTON EMMAUS

450 ALEX-BELL RD. CENTERVILLE, OH 45459



APRIL 2025

"And they found the stone rolled  
away from the tomb,  
but when they went in they did  
not find the body of the  
*Lord Jesus.*"

Luke 24:2-3



## Gathering

APRIL 14 @ 7:15pm  
Normandy UMC, Centerville



# Spiritual Message

**Hello, my name is Cleopas...**

*"They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus... Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him."*

Luke 24:2-3,13-16

Have you every wondered what the very first "Walk to Emmaus" was like? Can you imagine with me the very first Gathering in a quiet upper room as the first pilgrim introduced himself?

"Hello, my name is Cleopas, Greater Jerusalem Walk to Emmaus #1, table of Jesus." (\*clap\*)

"What did the walk mean to me and what am I going to do about it?"

This walk changed my life. When we first started on this journey our faces were downcast because of what had happened in Jerusalem. The chief priests and our rulers handed [Jesus] over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of the women amazed us.

They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see. And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to us what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. As we approached the village... we urged the visitor to Jerusalem to stay with us, for it was nearly evening; the day was almost over. When he was at the table with us, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to us.



Then our eyes were opened and we recognized him, and he disappeared from our sight. We asked each other 'were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?'

That's what this walk meant to me. And what am I going to do about it? We got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. We found the Eleven and those with them assembled together and saying 'It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon. Then we told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by us when he broke the bread.'

What better time of year than Easter to share with others what happened on the way as you experienced your own Walk to Emmaus? And the best part of all, is that "while they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

DeColores,  
Palmer Jason, Spiritual Director



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**Greater Dayton Emmaus**

# A WORD FROM THE COMMUNITY CHAIR



**Happy Spring, Greater Dayton Community,**

I hope this finds you all well and ready for a new season. I know our Board is ready for a new season with new Board Members, the annual retreat in the books, and new goals that we will be asking for you to help us achieve.

At this year's retreat, I shared the goals that I hope for us to achieve, and they are as follows:

- 100% attendance at each Board Meeting
- Develop committees to raise future Board Members – each Board Member should have someone they work with to share the load of the work. The hope is that when the current chair finishes their term, the other person will be ready to take the role of the new chair for a new term.
- Develop strong Sponsorship Training – This is already being developed, so stay tuned, it is going to be awesome.
- Host a Renewal Weekend in September – this is for folks we don't see anymore and would like to invite them to renew their Emmaus experience in much more condensed version.
- Purposefully create space and time to fellowship with one another. The purpose is to not only get to know each other better, but also to learn how we can support you in your position.

The retreat was very productive. Thank you, Palmer for the fun ice breaker.

We talked a little about an article I gave them called, "Winning the Battle Inside You" by Rick Warren which focused on deepening your understanding of Christ, detecting and alarming the lie you're believing, and declaring your struggle to someone else.

We also talked about six things to do when you feel like giving up.

1. Remember heaven is watching you
2. Eliminate what doesn't matter
3. Run the race God has for you, not the race other people have for you
4. Focus on Jesus, not your circumstances
5. Minimize the pain and maximize the profit
6. Remember what Jesus did for you.

Community, we still have two Board positions to fill. Please pray about whether you are being called. It is extremely important to pray first. It is also important that you are active in the Community, you come to Gatherings, you serve during the weekends and possible have been on a live-in team. Being on the Board is not a status position, it is a calling. We are still praying for a Good Shephard and Men's Registrar. Please let me know if you have any questions.

As I mentioned in the beginning, we are in a change of seasons and with that can come storms and/or sunny days all at one time. This is much like life. We have ups and downs. I have always heard you grow in your valley.

I am reminded of Ecclesiastes 3:1 *There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven....* So, if you struggling, don't struggle alone, Ecclesiastes also reminds us in 4:9 *Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: 10 If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the many who falls and has no one to help him up. 12 reminds us too, though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.*

Let's work together and be sure to invite Jesus to join us.

DeColores,  
Brenda Baker, Community Lay Director



## WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Laura Wofford - Documentation Chair

Tom Donaldson - Housing Chair

Samantha Huang - Kitchen Chair

Mike Baughman - Vice Chairman of the Board

Gail Simpson - Women's Registrar



**IT'S HERE!!**

# ONLINE GIVING!

**Try it on the  
website!**

[www.daytonemmaus.org](http://www.daytonemmaus.org)

# Mark your Calendar

### APRIL GATHERING:

APRIL 14 @7:15 PM  
NORMANDY UMC

### MAY GATHERING

MAY 12 @7:15 PM  
NORMANDY UMC

### JUNE GATHERING

JUNE 9 @7:15 PM  
SULPHUR GROVE UMC

### THE BIG MOVE

JUNE - DATE TBD  
FROM NORMANDY TO SULPHUR GROVE

### MEN'S WALK #73

**JUNE 19-22**  
SULPHUR GROVE UMC

### JULY GATHERING

JULY 14 @7:15 PM  
SULPHUR GROVE UMC

### WOMEN'S WALK #114

**JULY 17-20**  
SULPHUR GROVE UMC

### AUGUST GATHERING

AUGUST 11 @ 7:15 PM  
SULPHUR GROVE UMC



# FROM THE KITCHEN

We all know that the food on the weekends is great tasting and abundant, but it also takes a lot of willing volunteers to make it all happen.

Some of Jesus most significant teachings and even miracles involved food. From eating in the homes of friends, dividing a few fish and loaves of bread to feed the 5000 or blessing the bread and wine at the Last Supper.

Our Emmaus weekends are life changing events for many Pilgrims and the food we serve is a big part of that blessing.

There are nine meals on the weekend and each one requires a minimum of about six volunteers -- ideally more like eight.

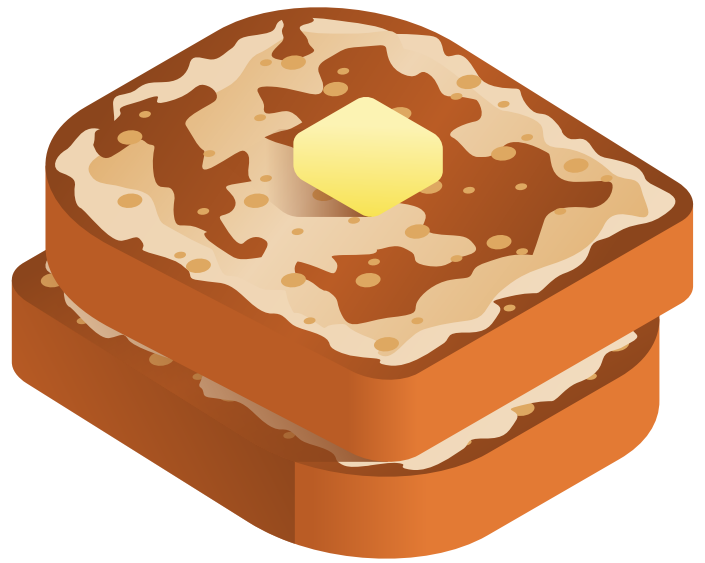
We are rebuilding our volunteer base after the Covid shut down cost us a number of volunteers, but the future is bright.

The last two weekends in January and February brought in quite a few new faces. Men from the January walk returned immediately in February to help with the February walk and several men and women from last June and July helped on both recent weekends.

**No experience is needed.** I have had a number of prospective volunteers say that they do not know how to cook. Sorry, but that is not an acceptable excuse. Our meals are simple and the jobs include cutting up fruit and vegetables, setting tables, cleaning up and washing dishes.

If you can boil water and wash dishes you are a valuable team member. The truth is, it's a lot like home cooking. We break occasional dishes, we burn bacon, we forget to add ingredients, we prepare a side dish and then leave it in the refrigerator, completely forgetting to serve it. In the end everyone laughs at these mistakes because we have all made them.

To continue to grow our base of volunteers, please consider signing up this summer or if you are a regular volunteer, consider inviting another Emmaus graduate from your church to join you and for sure, invite any recent weekend Pilgrim graduates to come with you.

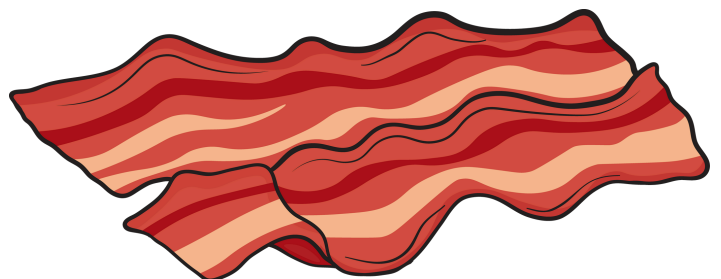


For each meal we also need a Meal Leader, someone who can be at that same meal each weekend and lead that volunteer crew of 6-8 willing servants. You will be the first one there, the last one to leave and you will be trained to understand the menu and procedures for that particular meal. At this point we have some experienced Meal Leaders but need a few more as well. Please consider this opportunity and contact me if you would like to take on this rewarding task.

For me the highlight of each meal is eating together after the Pilgrims and Team have left the room. It's an opportunity for us to sit down and take a well-deserved rest, eat of the food that we lovingly prepared and get to know one another. We also discuss the meal preparation, how it went and if there are any suggestions for doing it better the next time.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who have contributed to our kitchen Teams and let's invite more friends to join us.

Blessings: Mike Baughman  
Phone/Text 937-689-2433.  
Email: mbaughmn100@aol.com



# Board Members 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. The Good Shepherd aids Emmaus graduates in finding 4<sup>th</sup> Day Share Groups and helps to get the word out about Emmaus to local churches. If this sounds like you, **PRAY ON IT** and call Brenda Baker, Community Lay Director at 937-215-2592 with any questions. **If you have a friend who fits the description, talk to them!!**



A cot has come up missing from the February Women's Walk. We are hoping someone stuck it in their car or put it somewhere accidentally.

Sponsors, pilgrims and team...please take a look through your things. It's a metal frame cot in a black bag with a hole in it.

Contact Debbie Hayes if found:  
937-626-4665

## QUICK TIPS

from the registrars:

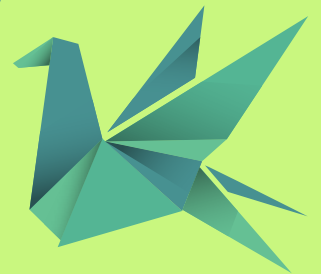
Sponsors can help ensure their pilgrim is comfortable during the Emmaus by checking three things with the pilgrim.

**First**, making sure the emergency medical form is accurately and completely filled out.

**Secondly**, explain Emmaus can fulfill gluten free and vegetarian dietary needs. For any other specific needs the pilgrim and the sponsor will be asked to supply specialized food.

**Thirdly**, please explore any mobility needs, it is impossible for someone who may need a wheelchair, crutches, or a walker to be comfortable at Normandy. We have an accessible weekend every year at Sulphur Grove.

AGAPE  
LOVE



It's not too soon to start working on AGAPE for the summer walks. Pilgrims love to see your little gifts of love on the tables at meals. It's a great activity to do with your share group!