

GREATER DAYTON EMMAUS

450 ALEX-BELL RD. CENTERVILLE, OH 45459



NOVEMBER 2025

*"Return to me,"
declares the Lord Almighty,
"and I will
return to you."
– Zechariah 1:3*



**We've
missed you!**

NOVEMBER GATHERING

**November 10, 7:15pm
Normandy UMC**

Fall Greetings

from the Community Lay Director

Hello Community,

It is hard to believe that we are in November already AND have gained an extra hour of sleep...Woo hoo. I am also reminded that we are in a month of thankfulness.

It has been an interesting year for Greater Dayton Emmaus. Never did I think that we would go an entire year without a walk. But let's look at what we have gained.

I believe we have gained a community that has realized how critical it is to come together, to pray, and to support what Greater Dayton Emmaus started in the beginning. We need to remember our WHY.

Who decided to start Greater Dayton Emmaus? Why? Did you know it was started to renew believers and empower Christian leaders as committed disciples of Jesus Christ? However, what I am seeing now reminds me of Matthew 9:37-38 – *The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.*

The harvest field is about to open back up with walks in January and February. The workers are coming, in the form of teams and the community. Let's start the new year with a full team and a full walk. There are people waiting for you to ask them if they would like to go on their walk.

Did you know that the Lord works through you to do the inviting? But what is even more exciting is that He waits for them and then gives them his undivided attention during the weekend. He sits with them, He sits with the team, and He repairs hearts, restores and renews minds, and loves, loves, loves.



He shows them His great love and mercy through you when you attend our special events and serve during the weekend.

Your Board is working hard to make sure that we are prepared for the weekends and ready to receive new community members. We pray for our community and for each other.

So, we are nearing the end of the year and hopefully the end of a time of dry bones, but we are gaining hope and assurance that the Lord is well aware of our work as laborers in the field.

We will not be thankful for just a month; we must be grateful and thankful all year long.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at our next Gathering this month.

Love and blessings to each one of you.

DeColores,

Brenda Baker
Community Lay Director

A WORD FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

For those of us who need this weekend the most...

“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;” Luke 24:13-15

I remember the conversation with my sponsor as if it were yesterday. It went something like this: “I went on the Walk to Emmaus and it changed my spiritual life. I think you should go. You would love it.”

It wasn't the words that she said that got my attention, it was the fact that she was getting goose bumps as she said them.

I asked, “So, when did you go on this walk?” She said, “oh, about six years ago.” I said, “six years ago, and you still get goose bumps when you talk about it? Sign me up!”

That conversation took place almost 30 years ago and I still get as excited as she did when I get the opportunity to sponsor someone or to serve in some way on a walk weekend. Emmaus really is the gift that keeps on giving.

I was new to pastoral ministry when my sponsor extended the invitation. I had just recently graduated from seminary and planted a new church. I had spent the last 52 weeks pouring out into the lives of others. I was serving a motley crew of Jesus followers (in a ministry field that I referred to as the ‘up and out’ rather than ‘down and out’) that were willing to give me the honor of being called pastor.



I desperately needed a weekend off, a retreat, a sacred space to be ministered to. And, boy, did I find just what the doctor ordered.

One of the things I enjoyed the most was the anonymity--we were not allowed to share our profession or our church affiliation.

I was able to just be one of the guys. I laughed and cried and sang and ate and prayed and listened to that still small voice of the Holy Spirit as He spoke to me. He comforted me and prepared me for the journey that lie ahead. I remember the early morning chapels and the late evening examination of conscience in the sanctuary. I remember the prayers we offered up “for those of us who need this weekend the most.”

All these years later I am still involved with our community, giving back for all that was given to me those 29 years ago. I still serve on live-in teams and behind the scenes. And I still love to sponsor new pilgrims, (especially pastors, “...the ones who think they need it the least.”

Who do you know that needs this weekend? This is a great time to sponsor someone for an upcoming Walk!

DeColores,

Palmer Jason
Spiritual Director

The Shepherd's Corner

Hello everyone! As the leaves change and the air turns crisp, November gently reminds us to pause and reflect on the many blessings that surround us. In this season of Thanksgiving, I'm especially moved by the gifts of family, faith, and the fellowship of Christian friends.

Gratitude isn't just a fleeting feeling tied to a holiday; it's a posture of the heart. When we look at our lives through the lens of thankfulness, even the ordinary becomes sacred.

I'm thankful for my family, who anchor me with love and support. I'm thankful for the gift of faith, which steadies my heart and directs my steps. And I'm deeply thankful for Christian friends, who are my companions in prayer, encouragement, and shared joy in Christ.

This month, I feel a growing desire to help others experience that same kind of connection. Do you know someone who needs to experience a time that uplifts, strengthens, and demonstrates the love of Christ?

We are in need of pilgrims for our upcoming walks. Please consider sponsoring a pilgrim.

Sponsorship training is offered prior to each gathering and forms for pilgrims/sponsors are here: [Greater Dayton Emmaus Forms](#)

If you've been longing for deeper Christian community, or if you know someone who is, I'd love to connect with you.

That's why I'm also praying about our community's share groups. A share group is a space where we can gather in our fourth days to grow in faith, build lasting friendships, and walk through life together. I have members in our community looking for a share groups in Miamisburg and Dayton.

Some have open availability and others would prefer to meet during the day. If you have any availability or are in need of a share group please fill out the form in the link listed below.

Whether you're new in your faith or have been walking with the Lord for years, there is a place for you. Please help me connect with you by filling out this simple Google form. It is just a few questions to help me to learn how to best connect you into our Greater Dayton Community.

Good Shepherd Questionnaire

Let's help to encourage one another, just as Hebrews 10:24-25 reminds us: *"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together... but encouraging one another."*

May this season fill your heart with peace, your home with love, and your spirit with gratitude. Let's thank God for His faithfulness and look for ways to share that blessing with others.

With a thankful heart,
Emily Adams
Community Good Shepherd



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 and will be voted
on in November:

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

Feel free to contact the current board members to
learn more about what each position entails.
Contact information is on the [website](#).



NOVEMBER GATHERING
November 10, 7:15 pm
Normandy UMC

"The Messiah"
December 6, 6pm
Sulphur Grove UMC

DECEMBER GATHERING
December 8, 7:15 pm
Normandy UMC

JANUARY GATHERING
January 12, 2026
Normandy UMC

MEN'S WALK #73
January 22-25, 2026
Sulphur Grove UMC

FEBRUARY GATHERING
February 9, 2026
Normandy UMC

WOMEN'S WALK #114
February 19-25, 2026
Sulphur Grove UMC

MARCH GATHERING
March 9, 2026
Normandy UMC

Worship

December Gathering will be held at Normandy Church on Monday, December 8 at 7:15 pm. The service will be hosted by the the Board Members this year.

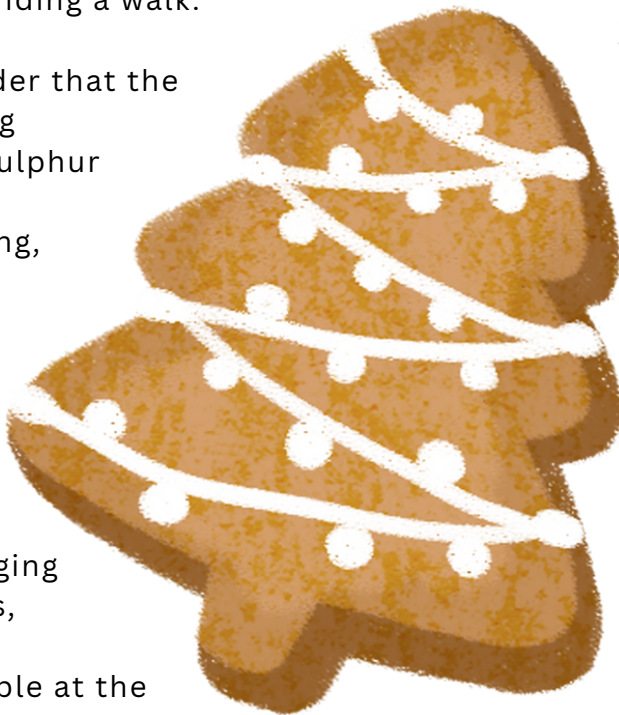
Come and enjoy hearing the Christmas story, wonderful Christmas music and the singing of carols. This service is always a special time in our community.

Don't forget the November Gathering at 7:15 at Normandy Church. Please feel free to bring a friend or someone who has expressed an interest in attending a walk.

Lastly, a reminder that the Messiah is being performed at Sulphur Grove UMC on Saturday evening, December 6 at 6:30 pm.

If you would like to help in supporting the service by bringing a dozen cookies, ushering, or welcoming people at the door, please let me know. You can talk to me at Gathering or you can email me at Lmusicteach@aol.com. It would be great to have a group show our support to Sulphur Grove.

Blessings,
Linda Haller
Worship Chair



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

Contact:

**Linda Haller
937-859-3574**

Lmusicteach@aol.com

**Tanya McDougale
937-260-0097**

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