

# GREATER DAYTON EMMAUS

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**MAY 2026**



*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Hebrews 10:24*

## EMMAUS GATHERINGS

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday each month  
7:15pm at Normandy UMC

**MONDAY, MAY 11**

**MONDAY, JUNE 8**

**MONDAY, JULY 13**

**MONDAY, AUGUST 10**

## THE BIG MOVE

August - Date TBD  
From STORAGE to Sulphur Grove

## WOMEN'S WALK #115

Lay Director AJ Puderbaugh  
August 20-23  
Sulphur Grove UMC

*See you at the Gathering!*

**MONDAY, MAY 11 @ 7:15pm, Normandy UMC**

LET YOUR  
LIGHT SHINE!



# A Word from Wendy:



*“He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” – John 9:15*

*May you always be covered by the dust of your rabbi. – first-century Jewish blessing*

Even before the last of the snow has fallen, the mud appears. Mud puddles to splash in. Mud pies to make. Muddy paws to clean before coming inside.

Dirt moistened by melting snow. Dust saturated with spring rain. Dirt and mud show up repeatedly in the biblical story. God forms the first human being from the dust of the earth. The Israelites slog through the mud of the Red Sea on their way to liberation. Jesus makes mud from dust and spittle and puts it on the eyes of the blind man that he might see.

Mud is the messy place. Mud is the place of transformation and where liberation begins.

Mud might be the hard conversation we’ve been avoiding. Mud might be the injustice that becomes impossible to ignore. Mud might be the uncomfortable places where what we thought true and certain begins to crack open. Mud is the journey inward where we meet our own fears and prejudices that they may be transformed by Love.

This spring, may we find ourselves covered in the dust of our Rabbi Jesus – through worship and prayer, through study and service – that the rains of spring become a mud bath of transformation and liberation, that we might see clearly and live the cross-shaped life of the Savior whom we follow.

De Colores,

*Wendy Lybarger*  
Spiritual Director



## Blessing of Mud

Lest we think the blessing is not in the dirt.

Lest we think the blessing is not in the earth beneath our feet.

Lest we think the blessing is not in the dust, like the dust that God scooped up at the beginning and formed with God’s two hands and breathed into with God’s own breath.

Lest we think the blessing is not in the spit.

Lest we think the blessing is not in the mud.

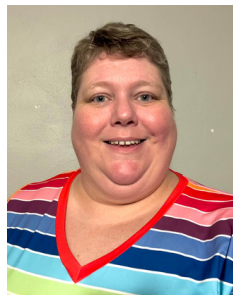
Lest we think the blessing is not in the mire, the grime, the muck.

Lest we think God cannot reach deep into the things of earth, cannot bring forth the blessing that shimmers within the sludge, cannot anoint us with a tender and grimy grace.

Lest we think God will not use the ground to give us life again, to cleanse us of our unseeing, to open our eyes upon this ordinary and stunning world.

*-Jan Richardson,  
“Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons”*

# Reach out and help change a life!



**Willing Servants Needed:  
Let your light shine!**



The Greater Dayton Emmaus Community is seeking willing servants with a heart for outreach to help share the message of Emmaus within their local churches. One of the most meaningful ways we can grow our community is by personally inviting others to experience the life-changing impact of an Emmaus Walk.

We are looking for individuals who feel called to connect, encourage, and engage members of their own congregations—helping them learn more about Emmaus and consider taking their next step in faith through experiencing an Emmaus Walk. Whether it's having one-on-one conversations, sharing your personal testimony, or helping distribute information, your willingness to serve can make a lasting difference. We aren't asking for you to do this alone but to be a contact and support in this outreach.

## Get Ready for Women's Walk #115

**Be a Sponsor:** Applications for both men's and women's upcoming Emmaus Walks are now being accepted. This is a wonderful opportunity to prayerfully consider who in your life might benefit from the experience and to walk alongside them as a sponsor. **Sponsorship training is always at 6:30 prior to Gathering.**

**Agape:** Now is also a great time to begin making agape—simple, heartfelt expressions of God's love—to bless and encourage our future pilgrims during their Walk. **NOTE: 60 pieces are needed of each.**

**Willing Servant Forms:** Finally, current team formation is happening for the live-in teams. Please update your Willing Servant forms if you have not done so recently.

Let us continue to strengthen our community by reaching out, extending invitations, and being faithful willing servants. If you feel called to assist with outreach efforts, we encourage you to step forward—your voice and your witness matter.

**Please swing by the *Rainbow* table in the narthex at Gathering or contact Emily Adams directly at [daytonemmausgoodshepherd@gmail.com](mailto:daytonemmausgoodshepherd@gmail.com).**

*Emily Adams*

Good Shepherd/Outreach

## Your Board is almost complete. Are you the missing piece?

**Tanya McDougle has served faithfully as Board Secretary since 2023.** She has enjoyed “being the person God chose ‘For such a time as this’.” Tanya reflected, “I've grown spiritually by being around such a diverse and amazing group of Jesus followers, and personally by stepping out of my comfort zone and doing something that I wasn't sure that I could handle.”

If you are a good listener, can take notes, are task-oriented and willing to serve, this may be your next assignment. Tanya is willing to assist you in stepping into the role of Board Secretary.

### Duties of the Board Secretary:

- *Gatherings*- Find servants to take up the offering, count and deposit the offerings.
- *Walks*- Collect the balance of fees on Thursdays. Reconcile fees with the registrar. Collect and count Candlelight service offering. Deposit all money the week after the Walk.
- *Attend Executive Board and regular Board meetings*; if the chair and vice-chair are absent, lead meeting. Take minutes and email them out in a packet to all members before the next monthly meeting.

- Coordinate with the Chairperson and the Treasurer.
- And most importantly, be the hands and feet of Jesus in willing service.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Tanya McDougle at [gdeww104.secnews@gmail.com](mailto:gdeww104.secnews@gmail.com) or Chair Mike Baughman at [mbaughman100@aol.com](mailto:mbaughman100@aol.com).



# Recharge your spirit at the Gatherings

## *Have you been to a Gathering Recently?*

We did something a little different at our last Gathering and asked for anyone who had taken their walk more than 25 years ago to stand up. There were seven or eight smiling faces and I asked each one of them to introduce themselves and speak briefly on what brings them back to Gatherings for 25 years which seems incredible at first. The replies included:

*“My weekend has meant so much to my life that I just feel that I need to give back to the community.”*

*“I really like the community and volunteer whenever I can.”*

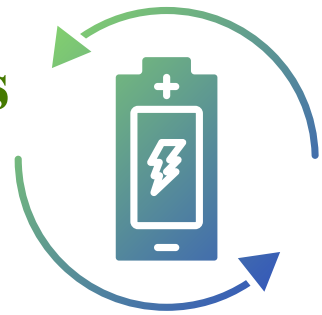
*“I enjoy the group and seeing friends each month.”*

*“Emmaus changed my life and I am inspired whenever I come back.”*

The retreat weekends are full of talks and discussions, funny skits, prayers, worship, music, and communion, but I think that for most of us our Emmaus Walk was truly a deep emotional experience. Many of us cried along with people who were strangers just a few hours or days before. We prayed deeply even in our private times, and found quiet corners of the church to contemplate the message that was being discussed.

After years of returning for reunions and participating on teams and as volunteers, I believe that it is this emotion that brings us back. The words of the songs, talks and discussions have been forgotten, but how we felt during spiritual times like those talks, prayers, worship, communion and the outlandish laughter during the skits and the heartfelt warmth we felt singing *Amazing Grace* and *Let Your Light Shine* are what bring us back to the Community each month.

Life happens every day and we can quickly be distracted by work and home responsibilities, family issues, and all kinds of unforeseen problems. Who doesn't need a recharge on a regular basis? We need to clear out our brain fog, sing loudly, laugh and share our week with people that we like to be around, and that means the Emmaus Community. We are always building teams and planning for the next amazing men's or women's weekend so Emmaus gives us a positive mindset of looking forward to future events.



Please consider returning to our Emmaus Community Gatherings on the second Monday of each month at Normandy Church.

Feel the friendship. **See you on May 11th!**

Blessings,

*Mike Baughman*

Community Lay Director



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## Keep on sharing

As we prepare for upcoming Walks, we encourage everyone to remain active in their share groups. These groups are the heart of our continued spiritual growth and accountability, helping us stay connected and strengthened in our faith.

### Location matters

**ALL Gatherings and committee meetings are now held at Normandy UMC, Centerville**

**ALL Weekend Walks and Team trainings are now located at Sulphur Grove UMC, Huber Heights**