

GREATER DAYTON EMMAUS

450 ALEX-BELL RD. CENTERVILLE, OH 45459
WWW.DAYTONEMMAUS.ORG



APRIL 2024

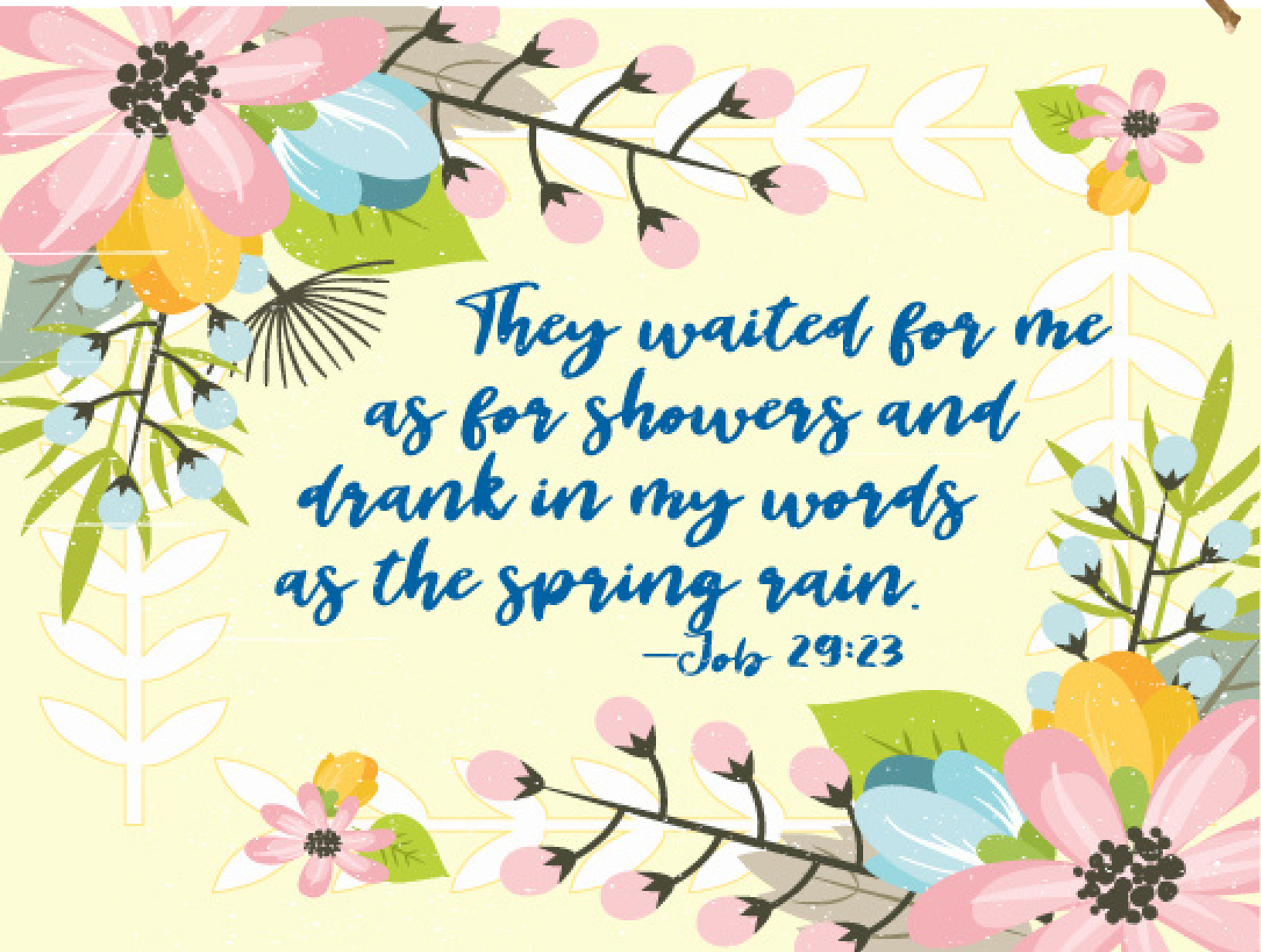
april gathering

APRIL 8, 7:15 P.M.

NORMANDY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, CENTERVILLE



*They waited for me
as for showers and
drank in my words
as the spring rain.
—Job 29:23*



DON'T MISS OUT

Gary Wheeler, Spiritual Director

On that terrible Friday we now call “Good,” the disciples huddled away in secret, ashamed that they had abandoned their Rabbi to a Roman cross, afraid that the religious leaders would come find them and do likewise, and adrift as to the future. They had walked with Jesus for three years, believing Him to be the Messiah, the Anointed One. But all that seemed dashed to pieces, like a jar thrown to the ground.

Useless. Trash. Unrecoverable.

However, jump ahead fifty days, and they boldly testified that Jesus is the One promised, that He lives, and that only through belief in Him can one experience forgiveness of sins and new life.

What happened in between those two points in history?

Of course, Easter. Jesus was raised.

But it was more than just that. Over the weeks that followed, He did twelve things to turn them from fearful disciples (followers) to bold apostles (ones sent out). What were they?

Because this is an Emmaus newsletter, let me focus on Cleopas and his unnamed friend.

You know the story. The pair left Jerusalem early Sunday morning to return to Emmaus. Confusion filled their hearts as Jesus, the One they hoped would redeem Israel, was killed on a hill called Golgotha. But before they left for home, they began to hear rumors too wild to believe: an empty tomb, along with angelic messages that Jesus was alive. They encountered a stranger along the way and told their tale.

Surprisingly, the man chastised them, then took them through Old Testament passage after passage that predicted the things that had happened.

Then, when their journey appeared to be over, they convinced him to join them for a meal.

When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight.

They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” (Luke 24:30–32, ESV)

Sometimes, when our world seems to shatter into a million pieces, when we are lost in fear, when everything seems to have turned upside down, we are apt to withdraw, pull away from people, the Church, even God. When the diagnosis is bad. When he says, “I want a divorce.” When it’s the police who come to the house, not your child. When our world turns upside down, we often pull away and go off to where we think is home, safe, normal.

But like Cleopas and his friend, they missed confirmation of the rumors. They did not have the whole story, so that the resurrected Christ Himself had to go to them and let them know the good news.

Whatever is happening in your life, you do not have the whole story. God’s plan is far beyond our plans.

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:8–9, ESV)

God’s plan for you is there. Don’t miss out.

If you want to know more, read Gary’s book “Hanging on in an Upside Down World,” available on Amazon.

FROM THE NEW COMMUNITY CHAIR

I am your new Community Lay Director and it is an honor and a privilege to be given this opportunity to lead the Great Dayton Emmaus Community. After my walk in April of 2005, I served our community in many different capacities. I am very excited to see what God has in store for us over the next year.

In March, our Board met for a time of worship, fellowship and learning. We are focused on providing all the tools needed to successfully sponsor new pilgrims, providing effective serving opportunities to all the community while also restoring training opportunities to those of you who are interested in serving on a weekend, progressing into a leadership role such as a weekend lay director and even serving on our Board of Directors. Committees will also be formed for various Board positions. We will keep you posted on these opportunities.

Our Documentation Chair has been very busy getting all our weekend manuals up to date and all the weekend documents current and consistent. We will also be updating the board manuals so everything is fresh and relevant. It is amazing what can happen when a team comes together to accomplish such a big undertaking. Thank you!!

Kitchen has revamped all the manuals and are ready to go for the next walk. It was exciting to see the community signing up at last Gathering... tables were signing up as well as sponsors and their new members.

It is important that you check with the kitchen manager and record your attendance in the sign-in book. We will be tracking this information for future consideration to serve on weekend teams. The Kitchen was my first place I served and it put me right back on that mountain top. Get in there and share the love we have for each other.

Our Treasurer has decided to step down from his role on the Board. Thank you, Ed, for your time and energy you have dedicated to the Community. We are now praying for God to bring us another person to fill this important Board position. If you feel called and would like to be considered, please reach out to me or one of the Board members.

As I close, I pray that your 4th days are full of love, peace and joy. I would love to see our sanctuary filled for Gatherings and all our walks full. Please find space on your calendar to serve when you can. Together, we can reconnect and be rejuvenated to continue in our journey.

In Christ's Love,

*Brenda Baker
Community Lay Director
Greater Dayton Emmaus*



INFLATION CATCHES UP TO GREATER DAYTON EMMAUS

It's no secret that prices are rising on everything from food to paper products to heat and utility costs.

The Great Dayton Emmaus community is not immune to those rising costs. After much study and consideration, the board has voted to increase fees for Live-in Team members and Pilgrims so that we can continue this ministry and still break even.

Donations from community members are ALWAYS welcomed to ensure all who want to participate may do so without financial hardship.

Effective with the July 2024 walk, prices will now be:

Pilgrims - \$25 initial fee + \$100 -- Total \$125

Live-in Team - \$90



NEW way to sign up for Prayer Vigils!!

Our new Prayer Vigil Tool will be accessible to community members for special prayers, including Emmaus Walk Vigils. Bookmark this link for upcoming vigil registrations.

<https://www.prayervigils.net/vigil.php?pvId=1598>



Questions? Find the answers on the website:



daytonemmaus.org

Learn how to be a better sponsor, who is on the members, how to serve and much more more!

AGAPE

Now is the time to start making agape for the men's walk in June!

Check here for ideas:

<https://daytonemmaus.org/agape>



Share Groups

New community members! Don't forget to attend the Share Group Orientation at 6:15pm before the Gathering on April 8!

If your share group is looking for new members please reach out to the Good Shepherd,

Stephen Cultice

937-823-9262 or

scultice424@gmail.com

**GREATER DAYTON EMMAUS
IS ON FACEBOOK**



SAVE THE DATE

APRIL GATHERING:

APRIL 8 @7:15 PM
NORMANDY UMC
CENTERVILLE, OH

MAY GATHERING:

MAY 13 @7:15 PM
NORMANDY UMC
CENTERVILLE, OH

JUNE GATHERING:

JUNE 10 @7:15 PM
SULPHUR GROVE UMC
HUBER HEIGHTS, OH

MEN'S WALK #71

JUNE 27-30
SULPHUR GROVE UMC
HUBER HEIGHTS, OH

JULY GATHERING:

JULY 10 @7:15 PM
SULPHUR GROVE UMC
HUBER HEIGHTS, OH

WOMEN'S WALK #112

JULY 18-21
SULPHUR GROVE UMC
HUBER HEIGHTS, OH