



# Greater Dayton Community

450 W. Alex-Bell Rd., Centerville, OH 45459

## April Newsletter

Vol. 30 No. 4, 2019

### 2019 WALK SCHEDULE

At Sulphur Grove UMC

MW #67 June 20-23

WW #106 July 18-21

#### CANDLELIGHT

8:30PM Saturday of Walk

#### CLOSING

4:30PM Sunday of Walk

#### NEXT GATHERING

Monday, April 8

2nd Monday Every Month

Normandy UMC

Share Group Reunion

@6:15pm in Loggia

#### Sponsor Training

@ 6:30pm in Chapel

#### The Gathering

@7:15pm in Sanctuary

#### BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, April 23

7PM, Normandy UMC

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Communication Chair

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### Chairman's Corner

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our risen Savior. It brings me great joy and honor to be elected by the Emmaus Board to be the new community Lay Director. For the past year, the privilege to be the Vice Chair of the community gave me, God ordained, experiences needed to lead the community. However, I ask three things of you.

1. Please pray for me and the Board members. We are all volunteers just like you.
2. Love one another through the fire of His love and share this love with all people you meet.
3. Pour out His grace within your church and at Emmaus events. Remember all that you say, good or bad, about Emmaus reflects on our family.

The first two walks of this year were life changing for all. Smiles were in abundance at the closing ceremonies after the January and February walks. I invite you to attend a closing this summer, June 23 for MW #67 and/or July 21, for WW #106. The love of Jesus shines forth as the community leaves for the night even more so than after candlelight because the pilgrims have than had time to process how much God loves them from that Saturday night service. Forty-nine brothers and sisters in Christ are new members of the Greater Dayton Emmaus community. Our job is to help them to get active by joining a share group, inviting them to come to a Gathering, or team members can ask a new 4th "dayer" to pray with them when they give their talk. Taking a new pilgrim to sponsorship training or encouraging them to serve on a team as an Assistant Table Leader, volunteering together in the kitchen or for housing at the summer walks, getting together while praying at the same time on the prayer vigil, sponsoring their spouses or friends, and family members for the June and July walks and meeting them for a bite to eat before a Gathering or just to get coffee to know them better are the ways we can grow and thrive as a community of believers. We need to act upon what is said during the weekend that they never have to go through anything alone because they have brothers and sisters who will be there for them.

Thirty Pilgrims per walk is the goal for each and every walk in the days ahead. NOW is the time to get those pilgrim applications in. Who do you know that Jesus wants to know better? Willing Servants are needed to

(continued on pg. 2)

## Join Us for the April Gathering

# Experience Renewal

Monday, April 8, 2019 at Normandy UMC

**Share Group Reunion**  
@6:15pm in Loggia

**Sponsor Training**  
@ 6:30pm in Chapel

**The Gathering**  
@7:15pm in Sanctuary



## Chairman's Corner

(Continued from pg. 1)

serve on teams. Is God nudging you to serve Him by being on a team? Do not be afraid to do a talk. God equips those He calls to serve. It is God's walk, God's team, and His children who come together to draw closer to

Jesus. By serving on a team, you bond with community members who become lifelong friends, who you can call any time, day or night, because you love them, and they love you. God gives us hope for the future of the community. Longtime community members are concerned because two walks were rescheduled due to lack of sponsorship. What does that mean for the future of GDE? NOTHING.

Revelation 2:3-4 *"You have persevered and have endured hardship for my name and have not grown weary. Yet I hold this against you: you have forsaken the love you first had."*

Have you lost the fire of His love because you no longer make the time to be in a share group? Are you attending Emmaus events for you or for God? Please spend more time this year in prayer by listening more and speaking less. This is my goal for this time of service. Pray for me. Thank you in advance.

DeColores,  
Pam DeHart, WW 59 Table of Rebekah  
Community Lay Director, Greater Dayton Emmaus

## Meet Your Emmaus Treasurer



Hello! Let me introduce myself! I am Darlene Fugate. I am married to Chuck Fugate and we live just outside of Yellow Springs. We have a son and daughter-in-law, Kevin and Sherry Fugate, two grandsons, Kyle and Seth and two cats, Grace and Sugar.

I graduated from Xenia High School; from Wright State University with a degree in Business Administration, Accounting Concentration; and from United Theological Seminary with a Masters in Divinity.

Twice-retired, the first followed 20+ years in accounting and project management at NCR and the second as an elder in the United Methodist church in June 2017. While active in ministry, I served at Rosewood UMC in Rosewood, RiverPoint Ministries and Oakwood UMC in nearby Oakwood.

With respect to Emmaus, I served as Assistant Live-in and Spiritual Director in the Northwest Ohio Emmaus Community before coming back to the Dayton Area.

# Looking toward the Future

One of my recent daily devotions was a story about watching a squadron of fighter planes flying in close formation. The author of the story expressed appreciation for the squadron's ability to operate so close and tight without hitting one another. The author went on to explain that the wingmen were actually giving up their own desires of flying free to strictly follow their leader. As the pilots trusted him to set the correct course, the squadron became a more powerful strike force. The author turned this experience into a metaphor to show how by giving up our control to Jesus, we are made a stronger and more effective witness to direct more attention to Jesus.

That reminded me of our Emmaus song, "letting your light shine, so they see Him." As this sunk in, another random thought came into my mind; a recent sermon, titled "Sometimes we are called to have small dreams." The sermon's conclusion was that often we try too hard to see the big picture and we often lose sight of the small things. By taking care of the little details, the big picture will take care of itself.

With all of these ideas swirling in my brain, I remembered back to my journey from my original walk and to my growth into the Emmaus community. During my first experience serving on an Emmaus weekend as an Assistant Table Leader, the Lay Director from my initial walk served as a Log. On my second team experience as a Table Leader, he was also to serve as a Table Leader. However, a table was dropped before the walk started. When the new table assignments were made, I was shocked to see he was assigned to be my Assistant Table Leader.

I didn't know whether to laugh or cry! I went to him to tell him I would gladly step down and be his assistant. But he responded, "It's your table to run, and I will



serve as your assistant." After I gave my assigned talk, he came up to me and told me I had a knack for doing this. That to me, was the highest praise I have ever received from another person. He made a sacrifice to become less in order to allow the team to grow stronger. I learned from this experience, the body of Christ is better served when we are willing to be less to allow the body to grow and become stronger.

I believe one powerful way for Emmaus community members to make the Body of Christ grow is to recruit more committed disciples for Christ. I remember two phrases from my walk, "We are called to be the hands and feet of Christ," and "Jesus is counting on you." If you were to pray about and ask one person to receive the gift of a deeper understanding of God's grace, think of how God would use your pilgrim to impact His kingdom!

DeColores!  
Bill Jones  
Men's Registrar

## Walk Information

**Men's Walk #67 • June 20 - 23, 2019 Sulphur Grove UMC**  
**Women's Walk #106 July 18 - 21, 2019 Sulphur Grove UMC**

Now is the time to invite a family member, friend or co-worker on a summer Walk to Emmaus.

Men's Registrar, Bill Jones

[mensregistrar@daytonemmaus.org](mailto:mensregistrar@daytonemmaus.org)

Women's Registrar: Shelly Crabtree

[womensregistrar@daytonemmaus.org](mailto:womensregistrar@daytonemmaus.org)

Download application form: Click [HERE](#)



# Leadership Training: March 24, 2019

To help grow leaders for work in God's kingdom, your Emmaus Community offers Leadership Training twice a year. The training focuses on building leadership skills including: mentoring and servant leadership.

For those interested in serving as a Lay Director (LD) on an Emmaus Walk, leadership training is required within 15 months of serving.

Class participants took an indepth look at the workings of Emmaus. They explored purpose of an Emmaus weekend including; team selection, team formation, team meetings, walk structure formation, spiritual formation, sacred moments, weekend schedule and 4th Day Follow-up. It's not only beneficial to LDs, but helps all Emmaus community members gain a deeper understanding of Emmaus.

This 6-hour training is filled with discussion, introspection, fellowship and food! Participants left with a firm foundation in leadership.



(Top row (l-r): Melanie Morrett, Steve Uphouse, Michele Cremeans, Che McGowan and Jeff Null  
Front row (l-r): Brenda Donnelly, Shelly Crabtree, Jean Keillor (Jarusiewicz), Kirk Leinus and Stephanie Looney)



(Melanie Morrett (Left) and Che McGowan share ideas about servant leadership.)



(Keith Crabtree (left) sits next to Shelly Crabtree who listens closely as she prepares to be the Lay Director for the July 2019 Women's walk to Emmaus.)



(Class members brainstorm what servant leadership should look like. There are several opportunities in Leadership training to discuss and explore.)

# An Urgent Message of Hope

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”* Jeremiah 29:11

On the most recent Kairos weekend, 40 pilgrims sunk into the heart of the Lord, replacing heartache and shame with renewed hope in Christ. The Holy Spirit is alive in the unlikeliest of places. As I witnessed their closing ceremony, a message appeared on my heart- “What has any one of us done in sin before we knew the Lord? To have to live the consequences long after one has repented.”

An urgency emerged, a challenge. The urgency to share Christ more diligently, quickly, swiftly, without pause or hesitation. To share God’s love through words, deeds, and spirit. Shine His transformative love, that those who might be on the brink of disharmony may instead feel His love and see the plans He has for them.

There is a tragic story of a small starving child in Sudan, too weak to walk. Her parents walked away momentarily to take food from the truck. In this time, a National Geographic photographer took a poignant picture of the collapsed child with a vulture postured behind it. The man had been instructed to not make physical contact while in the field. Following orders, the man only took the photo and did not “help the child.” The article states the girl “had enough strength to walk away” but her ultimate fate was unknown. This man ultimately took his own life due to the various horrors he witnessed. He came under critical fire once this photo was released and wrestled with internal and external conflict. God rest his soul. I’d rather like to imagine beautiful imagery for inspiration, but sometimes the truth of the matter is inspiration is often derived from the point of breakage, where the heart activates and says, “NO MORE!” The moment beyond thought when He moves us to stand in the gap and bring justice.



Can we help? Yes. Can we help?? Yes. Can we break “standard issue” convention and follow the Holy Spirit into the darkness where we trust the Lord will equip us? Guess what, we are permitted! We do, we have, and we will.

The men in LeCI meet every Saturday for prayer and share. Imagine the level of bravery it takes to share openly and pray in a place where openness can be viewed as the ultimate weakness. Our Kairos brothers in Christ went in there and shared the unbridled love of God with men. Men who may have done unthinkable things because they knew not the love of God. “My words are empty vessels if I do nothing in this place.”

Well, they did a big Something! The ultimate something of sharing Christ with “the least of these.”

“So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.” 1 John 4:16

Claim your world a breeding ground for His works. I’ll stand in the gap with you.

Love,

Michele Cremeans  
Good Shepherd



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

Warren Correctional Institute (WCI Lebanon) #21  
April 25 – 28, 2019 - Mike Baughman, Leader



[www.westohiochrysalis.com](http://www.westohiochrysalis.com)

West Ohio Girls Chrysalis #68 - June 21-23, 2019  
West Ohio Boys Chrysalis #68 - July 19-21, 2019

# Message from the Spiritual Director: Who Are We?

On the road to Jerusalem Jesus asked his disciples, “But who do people say that I am?” Peter, if you remember, gave the right answer saying, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Yes, we like Peter know who Jesus is, but what if the question was reversed? How would we, as Jesus followers, respond if he asked us, “Who do people say that you are?”

We live in a time of toxic tribalism in our nation and even in many of our churches—a time of sharp division, judgement and condemnation of others who believe and act differently by people who live into their own narrow understanding of “truth.” As Christians, we point our fingers and look down our noses at people more often than not. We’re quick to look at others around us and think, and even to say, “You people are going to hell!” We forget more often than not that Jesus never met a person that he didn’t love. We forget the verse following John 3:16, where Jesus proclaims, “I came not to judge and condemn the world but to save and heal it.”

When people look at us behaving this way, what do they see? Who do they say we are? Do un-churched people see us and exclaim, “I want what you have! I want to be just like you!”? Or, do they see and say something else?

I pray with all my heart that this Lent and Easter season, we may reclaim our identity as Easter people—heart-stricken by his sacrifice, grateful for his pardoning and justifying grace, and filled with joy and hope by his resurrection. The great hymns say it all:

“Upon that cross of Jesus mine eyes at times can see, the very dying form of One who suffered there for me; and from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess: the wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.” (Beneath the Cross of Jesus)



“Love’s redeeming work is done ... Fought the fight, the battle won ... Lives again our glorious King ... Where, O death, is now thy sting? ... Once he died our souls to save ... Where’s thy victory, boasting grave? ... Soar we now where Christ has led ... Following our exalted Head ... Made like him we rise ... Ours the cross, the grave, the skies ... King of glory, soul of bliss ... Everlasting life is this ... Thee to know, thy power to prove ... Thus to sing, and thus to love ... Alleluia!” (Christ the Lord Is Risen Today)

So, let us stop pointing our fingers, open our hearts, put joyful smiles upon our faces and shout out “Alleluia!”, not just on Easter morning but every day, so that when people see us and ask, “Who are they?” All will say, “They are Easter people, and we want to be just like them!”

Soaring now where Christ has led, I am Pastor George Brewer, an Easter person!

DeColores!  
George Brewer  
Spiritual Director

## New Women’s Share Group NOW Forming

Share group looking for new members! Meet on Mondays at 5:30pm at Panera in Beavercreek. Please email [Lauranugent77@yahoo.com](mailto:Lauranugent77@yahoo.com) if you’re interested in attending.

## Lost and Found

A sleeping bag and pillow was found in the luggage area after the last Men’s Walk. Please contact [chairman@daytonemmaus.org](mailto:chairman@daytonemmaus.org).