

Due to  
"Shelter at Home"  
Order

**APRIL 13  
GATHERING  
CANCELLED**

**2020 WALK SCHEDULE**

**At Sulphur Grove UMC**

Men's Walk #68

June 11-14, 2020

Women's Walk #108

July 16-19, 2020

**BOARD MEETING**

Tuesday, April 28

7pm ONLINE

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All newsletter articles must be submitted by the 15th of each month.

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**From the Community Lay Director**

**The Grace Antidote**



But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

— 2 Corinthians 12:9

Grace really is the miraculous element that can pause, quell, or cure all of our human woes. Do you agree? I'm convinced active grace is sufficient, because it is OF GOD and thereby completely adequate to solve all the world's problems. We struggle when we're not living out of grace for ourselves and others, and therein lies the proof.

I think about my life before Grace, where the thickets of life whipped me in the face. I lived in unknown judgment from others. I desperately needed approval. I questioned and second-guessed myself. I hesitated to speak. I made myself sick trying to please others or not make a misstep that might bring disapproval, disappointment, or criticism. This is not what God wants for us at all. During our Walk to Emmaus, we learn about the gift of God's infinite grace, how to accept it for ourselves and offer it to others. His sufficient and infinite grace, used as an active resource, becomes a superpower where we ask Him to continually save us from our human shortcomings. Hence, the "Saving Grace" where He saves us from ourselves.

Grace softens our response to a threat.

Grace keeps the vines from whipping our face.

Grace quells.

Grace turns the lights back on.

Grace reversed judgment.

**Continued on pg. 2**

## The Grace Antidote Continued from pg. 1

Grace creates the space to breathe.  
Grace provides opportunity to change ourselves and creates space for other people to grow.  
Grace builds a bridge of compassion and understanding.

Being sisters and brothers in Christ we offer grace to each other by way of a smile, a pause, or forgiveness, thereby shining the Light of God on each other. We put grace in our backpack and walk the bridge to the other person-whether it's a short journey or long arduous journey-we do it for the love of Jesus Christ. Once over the bridge or mountain, we shine light on another person's beauty and their gifts. With that gesture comes an invitation to co-create God's kingdom here on earth. A friend will help you see your beauty and help reveal your gifts. A friend will sustain your heart and strengthen your feet for the journey ahead. He or she will love you the way Christ loves you so you can love yourself, enabling you as an integral part of the body of Christ. Emmaus is building a community, a safety net in Christ, where we can find comfort during our growth. We are here to awaken Christ's love in one another towards true unification. We are one Body, and what we do for another reveals our investment into the collective body of Christ.

We were made to be free and to live in God's love. In my search for the antidote to misery, here's what I've found.

The Grace antidote is a formula:

### Grace + Lovingkindness = Emancipation

We liberate ourselves and each other through offering God's grace. When we entrain into grace as a unified field we become an unstoppable force of Love in the world.

"From this day on, for you there is no such thing as a good day or a bad day. There is only a day of grace. And some days the grace of God allows you to enjoy what is happening. And some days the grace of God allows you to endure what is happening. "

(Graham Cooke)

— from Chris Wissinger's email signature.

May Divine grace guide us and fill us as we continue on our journey of studying, learning, living, and giving God's word. May we sponsor God's children for The Walk To Emmaus and build His kingdom through this ministry. May we underscore our lives with grace each moment, paving the way to a new world. May we open to grace in all things so we don't sever the ability to cultivate loving relationships and a loving world.

His Will be done for our lives in His world.  
God's peace be with you.

Your servant in Christ,

Michele Cremeans  
Community Lay Director

## Christopher M. Wissinger

October 9, 1965 - March 11, 2020

Our heavenly Father welcomed Chris Wissinger into His loving arms on March 11, 2020. As our Emmaus community mourns the loss of our dear brother, we can be sure that Chris is celebrating a sweet reunion with his Savior.

Chris attended Greater Dayton Men's Walk to Emmaus #24 in January 2001. He served on his first team in 2003. Through the years, Chris has served on 17 Walks to Emmaus as Table Leader, Logistics, Assistant Music Director, Music Director, Assistant Lay Director and in 2009 was the Lay Director for MW#48.

Joining the Emmaus Board of Directors in 2017 as Men's Worship Chair, he answered the call to become Vice Chairman/Team Selection Committee in 2018 and was preparing to become our Community Lay Director in April 2020.



As we remember Chris and keep his family in our prayers, we invite you to read an article Chris wrote, [He Opened a Door](#) and view an interview he gave (click picture above) both in 2018.

Please see Chris' [OBITUARY](#) for information regarding condolences.

# MESSAGE FROM YOUR MEN'S REGISTRAR

My name is Jeff Adams and I am your new Men's Registrar. I have been a part of the Greater Dayton Emmaus Community since 2008. I attended Men's Walk #46 and sat at the table of Matthew.

Since my original walk I have served on numerous Emmaus live-in teams in many different roles. I have served in

Kairos Prison ministry since 2009, serving at Lebanon Correctional Institution, Southern Ohio Correctional Facility and Chillicothe Correctional Institution. I feel that God has given me a calling and the tools to serve both on Emmaus and Kairos teams. I know serving with Emmaus and with Kairos inside the walls of the prisons makes me happy. I love to share the love of Christ with each pilgrim on a walk and each resident inside the walls of the prison.

I first saw my wife Emily Adams at her closing ceremony when she was a pilgrim on Women's Walk #82 in 2010. I officially met her through a church young adults Sunday school class, and we were married in 2012. She has also blessed me with a 12-year-old stepdaughter named, Courtney. Emily is involved in Emmaus through worship playing guitar and serving on Emmaus women's teams. We love serving the Lord in all we do.

Last December, the Community Lay Director asked if I would be interested in serving on the Greater Dayton Emmaus Board. She asked if I would consider filling the remaining term left as Men's Registrar after Bill Jones passed away in the fall. I was able to help with the Men's registration for Men's walk # 67 and I was convinced that I could serve the Lord in this position. I am thankful for the support and all that I have learned from the previous registrars and all on the board who have welcomed me. I look forward to helping our Emmaus community grow.

We all must do our part to help this community grow. I want you to think back to your pilgrim walk. Remember the period of silence when you first opened your mind to the walk experience? Remember when the nail was placed in your palm? Remember



*Emily and Jeff Adams*

what you left at the altar and the experience of candlelight? Remember the gifts of agape love that you received, both from places far away and from places close to the heart? Take a minute to think and pray, is God laying someone on your heart to sponsor? Who in your life needs this

gift of an Emmaus Weekend? In this time where we are asked to distance ourselves for health reasons, it is a perfect time to draw someone closer to Christ.

Right now, our upcoming June Men's Walk is in jeopardy of being postponed. Not from the virus, yet, but from a lack of participation. Can you fill that gap? Those that God is laying on your heart, please, ask them. Think about the men in your church, your family, your friends, who needs to experience the love of Christ?

Invite them to attend the Dayton Emmaus Men's Walk June 11-14, 2020 at Sulphur Grove UMC. I have plenty of spots open. At this moment, we have five confirmed pilgrims. We need 20 men signed up by April 22, 2020 to move forward with Men's Walk #68. This is our GO, NO-GO date. We have a maximum of 30 spots for men for the weekend. If we can have our minimum number met, I will continue to accept applications until the final deadline of May 21, 2020 for the June walk. These deadlines are just for this upcoming walk. I will continue to accept all applications to look ahead at the January Men's walk. Please feel free to e-mail: [menregistrar@daytonemmaus.org](mailto:menregistrar@daytonemmaus.org) or text/call (937) 269-6023 if you have any questions or need help finding the information. [Registration forms](#) are available on the website by clicking on the "Walk" tab.

Christ is counting on you!

Your Brother in Christ,

Jeff Adams  
Men's Registrar



Trust the Lord with all your heart. Don't depend on your own understanding. Remember the Lord in everything you do. And he will give you success.  
PROVERBS 3:5-6

## INVITE A FRIEND TO THE WALK TO EMMAUS

Men's Walk #68  
June 11-14, 2020

Women's Walk #108  
July 16-19, 2020

### Summer Walks

Your GDE community is moving forward with its 2020 Summer Walks. Please continue to invite friends, family, church family and co-workers. If you or your potential pilgrim have any questions regarding COVID-19, please download this [LETTER](#) and/or reach out to our walk registrars for information and guidance.

**Women's Registrar:** Lisa Keller,  
[womensregistrar@daytonemmaus.org](mailto:womensregistrar@daytonemmaus.org)

**Men's Registrar:** Jeff Adams,  
[mensregistrar@daytonemmaus.org](mailto:mensregistrar@daytonemmaus.org)

To download a **Pilgrim Application** click [HERE](#) or visit <https://tinyurl.com/PilApp>

### Try a Virtual Share Group

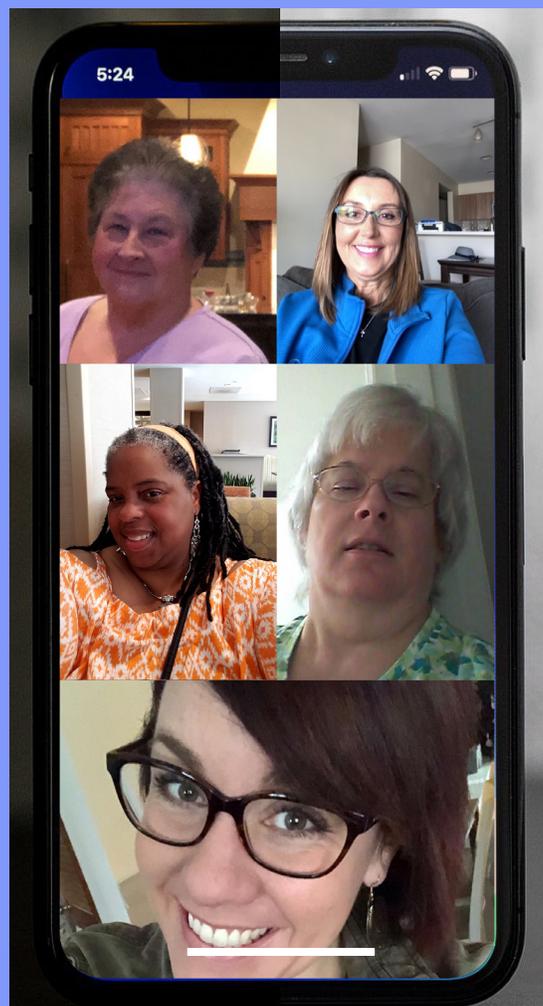
Staying connected to your Share Group has never been more important than right now. As we are asked to follow the "Stay at Home" Order, try hosting a virtual Share Group meeting. There are plenty of free services including [Zoom](#) and [Facebook Messenger](#). This is a great opportunity to learn something new and be stretched by God.

Ruth Share Group was formed during Women's Walk #104 in July 2018. The bonds God built at the table of Ruth grew into a sisterhood to include Brenda Donnelly, Karri Lewis, Tanya Mcdougale, Pat Miller and Joyce Woodall.

When the group first formed, proximity was a consideration. Some group members were as far North as Vandalia and others were South in Springboro, so they chose a central location to meet — Panera Bread near the University of Dayton.

Proximity became a bigger issue in July 2019 when group member, Brenda Donnelly, moved to Los Angeles, California for one year, but God had a plan. Thanks to technology Ruth Share Group continues to have virtual online share group meetings.

Brenda talks about how precious it is to meet with her share group, "Getting to see and hear from my beautiful sisters is like a hug from Jesus! I love sharing and praying together."



# This Too, Shall Pass



“This too shall pass!” was an expression my mother used to say to reassure us as we grew up during the tumultuous 1960’s. It was a chaotic time of violence, protest, and cultural and political upheaval. It was downright scary. As I write this on March 16, 2020, we are again living in a scary time of chaos and upheaval, albeit of a different sort. How will our lives be different in the coming days, weeks, months and even years? Will our lives ever return to be “normal” again? The unsettling thing is, no one seems to know.

I have turned to God’s Holy Word and the words of our saints these past few difficult and unsettling days to find solace and hope. A ninth century prayer cries out, “In the midst of life we are in death; from whom can we seek help?” The answer is found in Psalm 124:8, “Our help is in the Lord who made heaven and earth” and in Romans 8:11, “God, who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through the Spirit that lives in you.”

If we read the New Testament epistles as a whole, they all convey one powerful message: “This too, shall pass!” The early Christians too, lived in a time of fear and upheaval. They faced persecution, imprisonment and even martyrdom. Over and over, the epistles encourage them to be strong, hang in there, support one another and keep the faith. They were reminded that they were children of God, inheritors of

the promise of eternal life, water-washed and Spirit-filled, and that Christ is coming back in final victory. Then, everything will be made new! Don’t give up! Continue bearing the love of God in Jesus to a sin-soaked, sorrow-worn world. Love, love, love!

Perhaps, just perhaps, this advice is just as appropriate for us today as it was for them so long ago.

There is a prayer that I have been praying a lot these past few days. The author is unknown:

*Almighty God, our Father, from whom we come, and to whom our spirits return:*

*You have been our dwelling place in all generations. You are our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*

*Grant us your blessing in this difficult time, and enable us to put our trust in you that our spirits may grow calm and our hearts be comforted.*

*Lift our eyes beyond the shadows of earth, And help us to see the light of eternity.*

*So we may find grace and strength for this and every time of need;*

*through Christ our Lord. Amen!*

DeColores,  
Pastor George Brewer

## Save the Dates!

The Gathering will be at  
Sulphur Grove UMC

July 13 and August 10



Mark your calendar and save the summer Gathering dates of Monday, July 13, 2020 and Monday, August 10, 2020 to be hosted at Sulphur Grove UMC, 7505 Taylorsville Road, Huber Heights, OH 45424. This change in venue is only for the these two summer months so the pilgrims who complete their summer walks can come back and reconnect with sponsors and friends where they took their walk.

## 2020/2021 Greater Dayton Emmaus Board of Directors

<b>Chairman of the Board / Community Lay Director</b> Michele Cremeans <a href="mailto:chairman@daytonemmaus.org">chairman@daytonemmaus.org</a> (Term Ends March 31, 2021) (937) 671-5036	<b>Secretary</b> Kirk Lehneis <a href="mailto:secretary@daytonemmaus.org">secretary@daytonemmaus.org</a> (Term ends March 31, 2023) (937) 426-6255
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<b>Book Table / Normandy Rep</b> Bob Knell <a href="mailto:books@daytonemmaus.org">books@daytonemmaus.org</a> (Term Ends: TBD) (937) 479-3924	<b>Spiritual Director</b> Mamie Johnson <a href="mailto:Mamie.Johnson@daytonemmaus.org">Mamie.Johnson@daytonemmaus.org</a> (513) 860-0657
<b>Communications</b> Brenda Donnelly <a href="mailto:newsletter@daytonemmaus.org">newsletter@daytonemmaus.org</a> (Term ends March 31, 2022) (614) 531-0655	<b>Spiritual Director</b> Gary Wheeler <a href="mailto:Gary.Wheeler@daytonemmaus.com">Gary.Wheeler@daytonemmaus.com</a> (937) 204-4400
<b>Documentation</b> Karen Heydinger <a href="mailto:documentation@daytonemmaus.org">documentation@daytonemmaus.org</a> (Term ends March 31, 2023) (937) 554-8458	<b>Men's Registrar</b> Jeff Adams <a href="mailto:mensregistrar@daytonemmaus.org">mensregistrar@daytonemmaus.org</a> (Term ends March 31, 2021) (937) 269-6023
<b>Good Shepherd / Outreach</b> Che McGowen <a href="mailto:goodshepherd@daytonemmaus.org">goodshepherd@daytonemmaus.org</a> (Term ends March 31, 2021) (216) 857-8109	<b>Women's Registrar</b> Lisa Keller <a href="mailto:womensregistrar@daytonemmaus.org">womensregistrar@daytonemmaus.org</a> (Term ends March 31, 2022) (937) 684-3856
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<b>Kitchen</b> Stephanie Looney <a href="mailto:kitchen@daytonemmaus.org">kitchen@daytonemmaus.org</a> (Term ends March 31, 2021) (937) 718-0114	<b>Women's Worship</b> Julia Crowl <a href="mailto:womensworship@daytonemmaus.org">womensworship@daytonemmaus.org</a> (Term ends March 31, 2022) (937) 296-0056
<b>Sulphur Grove Rep</b> Amy Brooks <a href="mailto:sgumc@daytonemmaus.org">sgumc@daytonemmaus.org</a> (Term ends March 31, 2021) (937) 344-3982	<b>Men's Worship</b> Jonathan Taulbee <a href="mailto:menworship@daytonemmaus.org">menworship@daytonemmaus.org</a> (Term ends March 31, 2023) (513) 371-2925

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