



**Greater Dayton Community**  
450 W. Alex-Bell Rd., Centerville, OH 45459

## April Newsletter

Vol. 32 No. 4, 2021

### April Gathering

Monday, April 12, 2021  
7:15pm IN PERSON  
at Sulphur Grove United  
Methodist Church  
(Observe Health Protocols)

Available on SGUMC  
[YouTube Channel](#)

### Stay Tuned:

Men's Walk #68 TBD  
Women's Walk #108  
TBD

### Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 25 at 7pm

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### Newsletter Published by:

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Communication Chair  
All newsletter articles must be  
submitted by the 15th of each  
month.  
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## Are You Feeling Good?



Rejoice! Rejoice! Spring has sprung and Resurrection Sunday is upon us! Our God is a faithful God who liberates us by His love every day. The Earth springing forth each year is proof that a new day will always dawn and that He will always provide. He offers reliable cycles through His creation so we can have hope for our future. In this creation the plants and animals give their lives for us to live. My Emmaus family is always there for me in good times and bad. He holds us and nourishes us if only we trust Him, and the cycle is complete when we give Him our love and devotion. In this world in which He gives us dominion, we must remember He gave us dominion so we can care for it. Gratitude overwhelms me when I stop to appreciate the level of detail in his design.

I have never been more resourced in my life. That is one of the things born out of my Emmaus weekend; a supportive community dedicated to walking in the footsteps Jesus. My walk weekend was a critical turning point in my life with Christ. I was virtually the walking dead feeling my way through the dark without direct connection to my Source, Jesus Christ. He brought me in, tended my wounds, and set me on a course for healing. Since then, my path has been paved with his teachings. He keeps me surrounded by fellow believers and therefore, liberated by His love.

In the words of Nina Simone... 🎵 "It's a new dawn, it's a new day, it's a new life...for me... and I'm feeling good!" 🎵

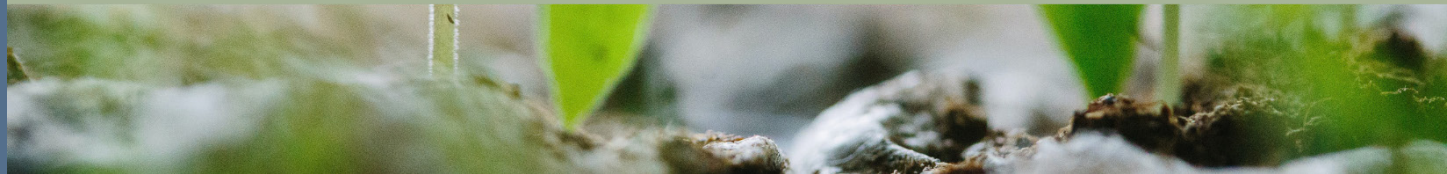
Have a happy spring and may you have all you need. Let all of creation be drenched in His love as we water the seeds we have planted. Let us all drink from the well until it is well with our souls. Glory to God!

DeColores of the springtime!

Michele Cremeans  
Community Lay Director  
WW95, Table of Rebekah



## I HAVE BEEN BORN AGAIN



*“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead; For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.” (1 Peter 1:3,23)*

It's Springtime the time where we are awakened from the frigidty of winter, the season of cold temperatures, darkness, and hibernation to rejuvenation and an awakening of all that had gone to sleep. Seeds planted months ago are beginning to break through previously frozen ground and we see all around us God's hand as nature reveals to us the intricacies that lie in creation. Plants born from seeds germinate eventually producing a beautiful array of fruits and flowers. As I pondered this I realized that it all started with a simple seed placed underground, in darkness, watered and fed by the sun which provides the food it needs to grow. That seed not only has to make it through the soil but through the rocks that may lay on top of it fighting to get to the sunshine as well as the birds seeking to devour the seed. God took great care in all He made and said that "It was good" which is clearly evident when we open our eyes and see this beauty all around us. We can learn a lot about God through creation.

I realized that it was in the dark period, when the plants are underground that they reach for the sun. They must push pass the dark previously dry ground to reach the sunlight to acquire the nutrients it needs to grow. It was as if they were asleep and beginning to awaken to be what they were purposed and designed to be. It reminded me of how much effort God put into His blueprint and so much more when He created humankind.

As I look at my own life in light of God's creation, I never really understood what it meant to be born again and quite frankly I thought it to be a bunch of hokey (i.e. very silly, old-fashioned). Before my born again experience I was much like that seed hidden in the dark searching for the light. Seeking to push past the obstacles similar to the rocks that hinder the seed from growing and the birds that seek to devour the seed. As John states "The thief cometh not, but to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: (John 10:10a)". Our struggle is mankind's sin and it is in rebirth, a reawakening that new hope through the resurrection of God's Son is offered. Through nature I was able to see how even in the darkness, underneath the surface even grappling through pain and distress God was doing something, He was making me new. Now here I stand as one who joins this illustrious group of disciples sharing the message of Christ to anyone and everyone who will listen (or not). Being born again became a reality and all mystery was erased. It is a gift to be shared and to encourage others to be saved.

Far be it from me to think I was the head of my life and that I called the shots. It was sin, man's moral failure that put us to sleep that put me to sleep and left us in darkness rendering us spiritually blind. But it was the mercy of God that enabled rebirth and gave us the ability to start all over again.

I've learned much in my season of darkness and looking back I can see not only God's mercy but I see His grace, His love that wooed me into a relationship, to a new life, a new birth, a life lived through Him. I thank God I have been born again!!

Mamie Johnson  
Spiritual Director





## Greater Dayton Walk to Emmaus Community Posts

Bible Study this Morning ☀️

Hebrews 11:1, 6

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Without faith it is impossible to please God 🙌  
Because anyone who comes to Him must believe He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.

Have a good day! I love you 🙌🙏🙌

Monty Mabry,  
Owner M3 Fitness  
Mind. Body. Soul.  
Walk #51

So last Sunday after church, Gary and I went to lunch. As I was trying to get in the ladies' room door, a woman much older than I with a walker was trying to pull the door open and keep her walker out of the way. I asked if she would let me slide past her so that I could hold the door open for her. She did. As she was shuffling away, I said "Have a great day!" She replied, "have a great life!" I commented that this was a much better thing to say. She stopped, turned around still leaning on her walker and said that each day adds up to a life. And having a great life was better than a great day. I've been thinking about that all week. I've decided she was very wise. So, everyone, go have a GREAT LIFE! 💜

Jodi Blacklidge  
WW#104, Table of Deborah



So, if you know me you know I appreciate a beautiful sunset, and we are so blessed to witness them right from our deck. Obviously, this isn't the prettiest sunset, but for some reason I just couldn't take my eyes off of it, the light just kept getting brighter and brighter. Our crew has had a few hiccups lately and I've found myself lingering a little too long on the "whys" the past 2 weeks. This mediocre sunset was just the reminder and reset I was needing because sometimes I allow myself to get a little weary, a little "off" even when I know without a doubt that the LIGHT is never gone. It may get a bit cloudy or even pitch black for a moment, but right behind that is the LIGHT! In this moment, I am even thankful for the cloudiness and the pitch-black moments — without them I might not recognize the GLORY of the LIGHT. You also know, I don't often share my "stuff", but tonight, just as clear as the message in this sunset, I knew someone out there needed this, too. Be blessed, reach for the JOY, seek the PEACE.

Diana Leighner  
WW#107, Table of Lydia



## Walking with Emmaus

Share groups are an extension of the Walk to Emmaus weekend experience.

Join us for a monthly walking share group! Our next walk will be 4:30 PM Saturday, April 17, 2021. Pets, family and friends are welcome to join.

Grant Park: 501 Normandy Ridge Rd, Centerville, OH 45459 <https://www.cwpd.org/parks/grant/>

If you're interested in having dinner at Table 33 after the walk, please contact Shelly Miller at [RealtorForMe@aol.com](mailto:RealtorForMe@aol.com).

## Visit our 30th Anniversary Emmaus Merchandise Store

[Online GDE Store](#)

To celebrate the Greater Dayton Walk to Emmaus 30-year anniversary, we have partnered with Teespring, Inc. to bring you a GDE Merchandise Store. All items are produced on-demand, so there is no stockpile of products. All proceeds are used to further God's mission through the Greater Dayton Emmaus Community. Be a walking testimony for GDE! It's quick and easy, so order what you like when you want.



## Send A Prayer Request

Through our Greater Dayton Emmaus Prayer Chain, your prayers will be prayed over by more than 50 community members.

visit our website: <https://daytonemmaus.org/prayer>. Complete the online form and click SEND. All prayer requests are shared only with the prayer team. We ask that you limit your requests to a serious, urgent nature and to the needs of either a member of the Emmaus Community or your immediate family.

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”*  
— Philippians 4:6

Join the Agape Love movement! It's easy. Identify someone in the Greater Dayton Emmaus community you care about and reach out to him/her through a phone call, email, text message, social media post or video message and express your love and caring.

Remember how you were blessed on the Sunday of your Emmaus Walk as you read notes of encouragement from those you love. This is your opportunity to spread that same Agape Love to our community. These are difficult times for many and God asks us to encourage one another.

Contact Emmaus Good Shepherd, [Che McGowan](#) for a list of community members to contact.