



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

## August Newsletter

Vol. 32 No. 8, 2021

### August Gathering

Monday, August 9, 2021  
7:15pm IN PERSON  
at Sulphur Grove United  
Methodist Church  
(Observe Health Protocols)

Available on SGUMC  
[YouTube Channel](#)

### Upcoming Walks:

Men's Walk #68: June  
23-26, 2022 and Women's  
Walk #108: July 14-17, at  
Sulphur Grove UMC.

### Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 24 at 7pm

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### [Willing Servant Form](#)

### Newsletter Published by:

Brenda Donnelly  
Communication Chair  
All newsletter articles must be  
submitted by the 15th of each  
month.

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

### [Walking with Emmaus](#)



## Re-presenting the Walk to Emmaus

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”  
Philippians 4:6

The restart dates have been dictated by reopening of churches based on covid. Every community will be different in this. Where we support any Emmaus community we support the global effort of building Christian leaders.

The board, LD's, and community are working around the clock to begin walks in an organized fashion. This season has been nothing short of multifaceted and complex.

The biggest concern is lack of pilgrims. We need members to focus on unification and sponsorship, and staying strong. We all have a passion for the Emmaus ministry and wish to succeed in our mission.

We have only a few registered for future walks. Sponsorship and building and promoting church attendance is where we would ask members to focus.

In His Service,  
Michele Cremeans  
Community Lay Director



# SUMMER WALKS 2022

We are excited to share the OFFICIAL DATES for the next Greater Dayton Walks to Emmaus! Men's Walk #68: June 23-26, 2022 and Women's Walk #108: July 14-17, 2022 both at Sulphur Grove UMC. Email Jeff Adams at [mensregistrar@daytonemmaus.org](mailto:mensregistrar@daytonemmaus.org) and/ or Lisa Keller at [womensregistrar@daytonemmaus.org](mailto:womensregistrar@daytonemmaus.org) for more information. Download a Pilgrim Registration Form at <https://tinyurl.com/28smk9mk>.

## Are you being salt to those around you?

In a recent daily devotion from The Upper Room, the author's message was inspired by Jesus' talk on salt and light in Matt 5:13-16. She remarked that, "Salt dissolves and brings out the best in the ingredients around it... [and observed] this function of salt represents what God has called the church to be: a people who influence and add to those around them for the better."

What a miraculous and inspirational thought this was as we all look forward with great anticipation the in-person Men's and Women's Walks in June and July of next year! God has placed each of us to not only be in relationship with Him to carry out His plan, but to be in relationship with those around each of us to influence and bring out the best in each of those around us. This is Christ's model of servant leadership, to lead by serving those around us to help them be the best they can be and be the person God created them to be to do the tasks He has already planned in advance for them to do (Eph 2:10 NIV).

Emmaus models this concept as well through weekly small share groups where men develop close relationships to a few men and women develop close relationships to a few women, and share when in the past week they felt closest to Christ, what were their calls to discipleship, and when did we fail to be Christ-like. As we prepare our Greater Dayton Emmaus Community to receive 30 new pilgrims for each walk, each of us can help by being the salt in our share groups to welcome new members or help them to get started in a share group. Our share groups help each of us to be strengthened and

accountable for our actions, and brings out the best in each person around us. Moreover, our share groups create a positive environment to excel and grow, and possibly receive new members.

If you are not in a share group now, you may be missing vital relationships God may want you to experience so you can fulfill the vision God has for you. Our Community Good Shepherd, Che McGown [goodshepherd@daytonemmaus.org](mailto:goodshepherd@daytonemmaus.org), and others who have been on an Emmaus Walk can help you find a share group. Additionally, as you talk to and encourage your friends, relatives (family), acquaintances, neighbors, and co-workers and former co-workers over the next 9 or 10 months or so about attending next year's Emmaus Walks or the Walks in 2023, you are helping God fulfill His plan of igniting passion in His disciples to be the leaders in His church to bring more and more of God's children into His Kingdom. Be the salt and help the community to strengthen itself through more share groups and help fill each Men's and Women's Walk as Emmaus strives to help your church and your church leaders by showing them God's love, mercy, and grace in new ways to ignite passion for Christ and people in your church.

Remember your Walk? Remember the feeling of God's love, mercy, and grace you experienced? Do you know the joy, closeness, benefits of being in a share group where you share about the ups and downs of your personal Walk with Jesus Christ? If not, maybe Christ is urging you to be in a share group where you can develop vital relationships with a few

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Christians and grow with them as they help you grow by being salt to each other.

Please talk to your friends, relatives (family), neighbors, co-workers and former co-workers and encourage them to attend to experience in a new way the love, mercy and grace God has for each of them and maybe to ignite, reignite or deepen their love for the Lord and become the leader God designed them to be. No reason for them to wait to register; sign them up now and registrars will call them to ensure they can attend a particular Walk. Men's and Women's Registrars and Registration Form are on the Greater Dayton Emmaus website at <http://daytonemmaus.org>

1. Men's Registrar – Jeff Adams, (937) 269-6023, [mensregistrar@daytonemmaus.org](mailto:mensregistrar@daytonemmaus.org)
2. Women's Registrar – Lisa Keller, (937) 684-3856, [womensregistrar@daytonemmaus.org](mailto:womensregistrar@daytonemmaus.org)
3. Registration Form: Pilgrim Registration 05-15-20. pdf ([CLICK HERE](#))

If you have any questions, let me know or talk to another Emmaus friend. Thank you!

Blessings, grace and peace,

Kirk Lehneis  
Vice Chairman /Team Selection  
Greater Dayton Walk to Emmaus



There is an ancient Chinese curse that states, “May you live in interesting times!” Well, I think we can all agree that since March of last year with the arrival of COVID, these have been interesting times in our lives and in the lives of our churches. A pastor friend recently shared an article written by pastor and writer, Jenny Smith, which I believe accurately describes the interesting time we are now living through as church leaders, both clergy and laity.

She writes: “I’m hearing this refrain in every corner of my pastor world. Pastors (and church leaders) are tired. On a soul level. This is systemic. My brother runs marathons. It’s amazing to see the training and preparation that goes into this accomplishment. I cannot even imagine what it feels like to run for 26.2 miles and feel absolutely depleted at the end. Well, maybe my soul does know that feeling. Maybe yours does too. We just ran a marathon. We closed our doors to in-person worship. We figured out online worship. Maybe. Kind of. We felt the brunt of unprocessed grief in our communities. We tried to continue as many ministries as we could sustain. We dreamed up new ones. We crashed and burned.

We wondered if giving would continue. We became video chat professionals. We ached with isolation. We continued to speak hope and grace and possibility. We questioned our calls to servant leadership. We agonized over the safest ways to return to in-person gatherings. We took a few days off here and there, trying to find solid ground to rest on. We smiled on camera as if we could stir our hearts to life with our own pleading. We received grace and stunning kindness from people in our communities. We watched colleagues look like they had it together. But we guessed they didn’t either. Then we opened our doors to in-person worship again. We crossed the finish line! We made it! We did a hard thing! Then... Instead of collapsing at the finish line in a heap. Instead of drinking water. Instead of resting our aching bodies. Something else happened. An official-looking race organizer slapped another number on our back and pushed us toward another starting line that mysteriously appeared. Wait. What? A second marathon? Right now? We look down at our blistered aching feet, our hopeful but exhausted hearts, our

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overwhelmed but determined minds, and we take a step forward into life as a gathered community once again.”

I remember once seeing copies of WW II recruiting posters showing a fierce looking, bearded, top-hatted Uncle Sam staring straight at the viewer with pointed finger, with the words, “I WANT YOU!”

As our exhausted churches now attempt to take those first post COVID steps on our second marathon, I can visualize an image of the loving face of Jesus with open arms reaching out to us with the words, “I NEED YOU!” The Emmaus Walk’s purpose, it’s very reason for existence, is to lift up leaders for the local church. In my lifetime, I can think of no other time when this has ever been more important than now. Our churches need more than ever Spirit-filled leaders renewed, refreshed, and re-energized to meet the challenge of bringing the Good News of God’s redeeming, new life-giving love and mercy in Jesus to a sin-sick, strife-torn, sorrow-worn world.

So, Emmaus, let’s step up to the starting line and get our feet moving again! Let’s fill those 2022 June/ July walk pilgrim slots! Let’s say “yes!” when asked to serve! Let’s serve even when nobody asks! Let’s do all we can to get our beloved Greater Dayton Walk to Emmaus Community up and running again! Why? Because Jesus is depending on you. Because Jesus is depending on me. Because Jesus is depending on us. And know this—Jesus is waiting for us with open arms at the finish line!

I will close with the apostle Paul’s questions for us in Romans 10:14-15 (NLT):

But how can they call on Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!”

Run, Emmaus, run!

DeColores! Pastor George Brewer



## Christian Leadership

Matthew 20:25-28

*Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave — just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

As I look back on my professional life, I realize there is only one person I worked for in over 30 years that exemplified Christlike leadership. It was in my telecom

days and I worked many long hours and weeks of days selling service contracts to companies that had spent beaucoup bucks for their PBS phone and call center systems. My job was extremely challenging because I had the unpopular task telling the CEO’s and CFO’s their warranty was going to expire and oh-by-the-way, the cost for a service contract to keep their system running and them in business was going to cost them about 10% of what they had already laid out for the purchase of the system. Seems like the Sales Reps didn’t want to lose the deal during the sales process, so they would tell the client that “someone from Service Contracts would be reaching

out to them prior to the warranty expiration to review their options.” That “someone” was me.

I had no idea what I was in for. In those meetings, the high-powered executives would call me everything but my name most days, as though it was my job to set the pricing for the service they required.

But I had a great boss, “Dennis.” Dennis loved Jesus, was not shy about sharing his faith and he taught me how to turn the abuse into a blessing. He demonstrated a cool head when under fire, he was kind and generous to a fault. He kind of reminded me of the person King David describes in Psalm 15:

*“LORD, who may reside in Your tent?  
Who may settle on Your holy hill?  
One who walks with integrity, practices  
righteousness,  
And speaks truth in his heart.  
He does not slander [a]with his tongue,  
Nor do evil to his neighbor,  
Nor bring shame on his friend;  
A despicable person is despised in his eyes,  
But he honors those who fear the LORD;  
He takes an oath to his own detriment, and does not  
change;  
He does not [b]lend his money [c]at interest,*

*Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.  
One who does these things will never be shaken.”*

Dennis brought his lunch every day and he would eat at his desk while reading scripture or a Christian publication of some type. He said it “kept his sword sharp for the Lord.” On occasion, he would invite me to join him at one of the little round umbrella’d tables that the property management company had placed outside our building so we could talk and plan new strategies for keeping me out of hot water with these business execs! But mostly, Dennis and I shared some of our life stories and talked at length about God’s redeeming grace in our lives.

Twelve years after I started working there, our company was acquired by another and most all of us lost our jobs. And Dennis and I lost contact with one another after a couple of years. I don’t access social media, so I don’t and won’t know what roads Dennis has travelled since then. But I do know that I will see him again in heaven. And if there’s a little round table with an umbrella, he and I will most likely be there telling our Jesus stories once again.

Jenni Ketring  
Greater Dayton Emmaus WW#22  
Table of Lois



The August Gathering will be held on Monday, August 9 at 7:15pm in-person at Sulphur Grove United Methodist Church, 7505 Taylorsville Rd, Dayton, OH 45424. If you are fully vaccinated from the Corona Virus, you may attend without a mask at your personal discretion. If you are partially vaccinat-

ed or not at all, please wear a mask. We will still be social distancing, hand sanitizing and contact tracing.

If you would like to join us online, please visit Sulphur Grove’s [YouTube channel](#) or watch the broadcast later on our [daytonemmaus.org](http://daytonemmaus.org) website.