

GREATER DAYTON EMMAUS

450 ALEX-BELL RD. CENTERVILLE, OH 45459



DECEMBER 2023

Time to Sponsor a
Pilgrim!

See Chairman's
message on page 2

Christmas Gathering

11 Dec 23, 7:15pm
Normandy UMC



FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN

Isaiah 9:6

Greetings Emmaus Community!

This year has flown by for our community. We have seen the hard work of our Emmaus Board members who help support the Emmaus Community of volunteers who have taken the call to serve on the live in team of our two men's and women's walks.

I am thankful for those who have stepped in to help behind the scenes during our walk weekends. I also appreciate our Community Spiritual Directors that serve either on the Board, or on our walks, or at Gatherings. They take time away from their churches and families to offer support to our Emmaus Community, Live in teams, and Pilgrims. They also provide inspiring messages and guidance.

I know that our community is continuing to grow but we can not do it alone; we need your help.

Please encourage those who have been on the men's or women's walk recently to come back and serve with us or sponsor someone for our upcoming walks in January and February 2024.

I want to remind everyone that we have set deadlines for pilgrim applications in order to get all the information to our Housing, Kitchen, and Supply Chairs.

We also need time for the Men's live-in team to make final calls to Sponsor's and Pilgrims before the walk weekend and the appropriate things to be ordered for the walks.

For the January Men's Walk, Pilgrim applications are due by Friday, Dec 22nd to our Men's Registrar Steve Holmes. The Pilgrim Application is included in this newsletter for your convenience. Steve's email is sholmes1439@woh.rr.com, and his phone is 937-681-1986.

We are in danger of canceling the walk weekend due to a lack of pilgrims. We must have a full walk to proceed.

I enjoy Christmas time as we prepare for the traveling and time with family and friends, and share the joy of what God has done for us.



He gave up his place with God and made himself nothing. He was born to be a man and become like a servant.

Philippians 2:7

But at the same time, I also reflect on what real change is. THAT happened some 2000 years ago when God became man in a little baby born in Bethlehem, who was named Jesus and became our Lord and Savior. What happened that night and the many days and nights since that time is what I call CHANGE!

How about us? Have we allowed the birth of Christ to really change us? In Philippians 2:7 we read, "He gave up his place with God and made himself nothing. He was born to be a man and become like a servant."

Max Lucado said it this way in his book, **Just Like You**, "God is in the business of changing the face of the world. Our goal is simply to stand before God with a prepared and willing heart and then let God do his work."

Taking on the servant's role is at the very core of what we do on an Emmaus Walk. Serving during the Walk weekend, no matter the role, is like Christ "becoming like a servant".

We love the Christmas story and festivities that come with it. As we prepare for the New Year with four more "new" Walks we need to stand before God with a prepared and willing heart and then let God do his work through us, his willing servants.

I wish you all a Blessed and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Your Brother in Christ,

Jeff Adams

Community Lay Director and Chairman of Board.

CHARLIE BROWN AND HIS CHRISTMAS TREE

I grew up on television, so when Christmas comes around, I reminisce about the Christmas specials that came on television every year when I was a child. The abominable snowman in “Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer” always gave me nightmares. At first, I was frightened of “The Grinch,” but I came to enjoy the hilarious dialogue and creative animation. There were so many: “Frosty the Snowman,” “Santa Claus is Coming to Town,” and of course “It’s A Merry Christmas, Charlie Brown.”

You remember the story. Charlie Brown, the kid that can’t do anything right, the kid with the world’s longest losing streak as a pitcher, who never has kicked a football. Charlie Brown goes out to buy a Christmas tree for the school play. As he reaches the lot, he considers what kind of tree to buy with the little money he has. In a corner, he finds a small, lifeless tree, crooked and sparse, and this is the one he buys. Everyone laughs as he brings it to the school play, sits it down, and half the needles fall off.

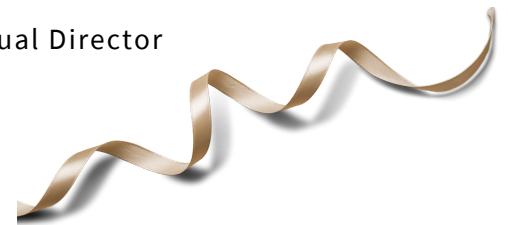
I may be sentimental, but I always felt for that tree and Charlie Brown because, as a child, I felt like Charlie Brown, the kid who had bad things happen to him, who was teased on the playground at school. At times, I felt like the lonely Christmas tree, not as “pretty” as the others. Although I had wonderful parents and a loving family, the insecurities of growing up made me feel like Charlie Brown.



But the Christmas story is all about the Charlie Browns and little Christmas trees in the world. Consider that God came as a baby (see Philippians 2:8), to lowly parents from an insignificant town (see Matthew 2:6), with a birth in a simple manger (see Luke 2:7).

Jesus came to lowly people for lowly people. Jesus came for all us Charlie Browns and little Christmas trees.

Gary Wheeler
Community Spiritual Director



**‘Greater Dayton
Emmaus’**
IS ON FACEBOOK



Pastor Gary Wheeler's Latest Book Revisits the Holy Land

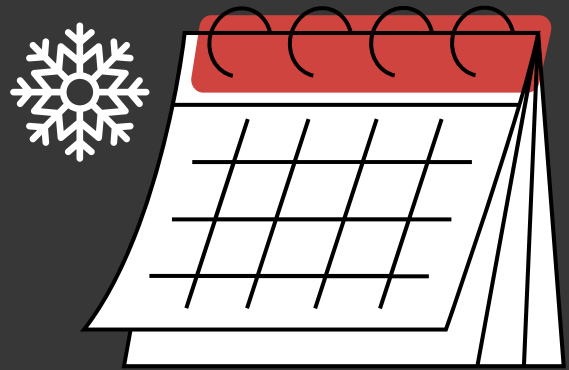
In 2019, a group from Greater Dayton Emmaus joined to visit the Holy Land and walk in the footsteps of Jesus, including a tour of Emmaus. It was an incredibly inspirational experience.

Gary's latest book, "Christmas Pilgrimage," captures the experiences someone has when they go to the Holy Land. A Christian Romance and Suspense novel, it follows Liz, who was to join her daddy on the trip until his untimely passing six weeks before. Then there's Derek, who was supposed to travel with his seminary class, but was denied without explanation. They meet on a trans-Atlantic jetliner, but will their pasts push them apart, even get them killed, before they can find forever love? It is a story of romance, intrigue, and inspiration, walking in the footsteps of Jesus.

If you are interested in a copy, contact Gary (garykwheeler@outlook.com) or search for "Gary K Wheeler" on Amazon.



:: 2019 group poses for a photo in the airport



IMPORTANT DATES



DECEMBER CHRISTMAS GATHERING:

DECEMBER 11 @7:15 PM
NORMANDY UMC
CENTERVILLE, OH

JANUARY GATHERING:

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

MEN'S WALK #71

JANUARY 18-21
NORMANDY UMC,
CENTERVILLE, OH

FEBRUARY GATHERING:

FEBRUARY 12 @7:15 PM
NORMANDY UMC
CENTERVILLE, OH

WOMEN'S WALK #111

FEBRUARY 15-18
NORMANDY UMC
CENTERVILLE, OH



Congratulations to the NEW Greater Dayton Emmaus Board of Directors starting next April 1, 2024!

Agape -- Shelly Crabtree

Good Shepherd -- Stephen Cultice

Housing -- Jeff Wilson (for at least one year)

Supply -- Debbie Hayes

We thank all of you for volunteering to be the chairs of these vital loving tasks for our Emmaus Community!

Community -- we need all of you to help these new chairs and our current chairs to put on our next two winter walks at Normandy UMC, January 18-21, 2024 Men's Walk and February 15-18, 2024 Women's Walk.

First, we need many more pilgrims and sponsors to fill each weekend, and January is almost here!

We also need agape for the pilgrims and team, faithful workers in the kitchen for meal preparation and serving, faithful workers to help set-up for each walk on Tuesday and Wednesday before the walk, workers to carry pilgrim baggage Thursday night, and many community to help reset the church Sunday morning and Sunday afternoon! AND your prayers before and during each walk!

We also thank our faithful and dedicated retiring Board members for their leadership and efforts these last 3 or 4 years: Linda Haller - Agape Chair; Che McGowan - Good Shepherd, Randy Barty - Housing, Cindy Cultice - Supply.

May God continue to bless each of you as you seek His will and support His Emmaus Ministry in the Greater Dayton area,

Blessings, peace, and grace,
Kirk Lehneis

Past Chairman of the Board/Nominations Chair
GDE Men's Walk # 14, Table of Peter

Share Groups

If your share group is looking for new members please reach out to the Good Shepard,
Stephen Cultice.

937-823-9262 or scultice424@gmail.com

SOUND BOARD HELP NEEDED



We need your help! we are looking for people who are interested in doing the Sound Board for our Gatherings at Normandy UMC.

NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY!

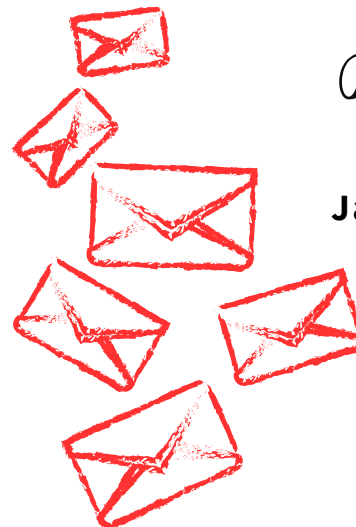
Randy, Jason Hoang, and Jeff Null are each willing to train you and be part of the rotation to do sound each month.

Please contact them with questions if you have interest in learning to do the sound board.

Jason Hoang - 937-672-4988

Jeff Null - 937-430-2230

Randy Barty - 937-602-7003



Agape

January will be here soon!

Start working on agape for the winter walks now!

Greater Dayton Walk to Emmaus

www.daytonemmaus.org

- Registration Form Revised 07/15/2023
The **Walk To Emmaus** is a highly structured weekend designed for strengthening and renewing the faith of Christians, and through them their families, congregations, and the world in which they live. Emmaus is organized through the United Methodist Church, but is ecumenical – open to any Christian denomination.

- For Emmaus use only -

- Book & Application Response Card Sent
- Sponsor's Application Response Card Sent
- Data sent to Computer Chairperson

Application postmark date: _____

Payment Amount \$ _____

Name on Check _____

Check Number _____

Information to be completed by Pilgrim (Incomplete forms will not be accepted and will be returned)

*Required information

Personal Information

Name: _____ *Age: _____ *Sex M F *email address: _____

*Name as preferred on name tag: _____ *Phone (____) _____

*Address: _____
Street City State Zip Code

*Spouse's Name: _____ *Spouse's Walk # & Location: _____

*Given the opportunity, I would be able to attend a Walk on short notice.

Work Information

*Occupation: _____ Work Phone: (____) _____

Church Information

*Current Church Home: _____ *Pastor's Name: _____

*Do you regularly attend worship services? _____ *Do you participate in other ways in your local church? _____

Close Friend /Emergency Contact Information (other than sponsor)

(Please DO NOT omit this information)

*Name: _____ *Phone Number: (____) _____

*Address: _____
Street City State Zip Code

Special Needs for the Walk Weekend

*Dietary: _____
(Vegetarian, allergies, etc.)

*Medical: _____
(Medications, allergies, etc.)

*Mobility: _____
(Assistance, trouble with stairs, etc.)

(Briefly state why you want to attend Emmaus and what you expect :)

I understand this signed application does not reserve a position on a particular walk, but does put me on the list for upcoming Greater Dayton Emmaus Walks.

*Signature: _____ *Date: _____

Include a **NON-REFUNDABLE** pre-registration deposit of \$20.00 (Please make check payable to **Greater Dayton Emmaus**) which will be applied toward your \$85.00 charge for the weekend, and **return this form to your sponsor**. Your sponsor will complete the reverse side and forward it to the registrar. Please send a separate check for each registration.

Greater Dayton Walk to Emmaus

The Walk to Emmaus is not an evangelistic tool or a place to solve deep emotional problems. Individuals recommended for Emmaus should be currently active in a local church and believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. They should have a desire to deepen their faith and to become closer to Christ in their Discipleship.

It is the responsibility of the sponsor to provide information to the applicant to assist them in the decision to attend a weekend, to pray for and support them during their weekend, and to help them get involved in the life of the Emmaus community through "Share Groups" and Emmaus Gatherings after their walk.

Information to be completed by Sponsor (Incomplete forms will not be accepted and will be returned)

*Required

Sponsor's Personal Information

*Name: _____ *E-mail address: _____

*Address _____ *Phone: _____

: _____ Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

*Emmaus Cursillo Chrysalis weekend
attended:

*Location

*Number

*Date

Yes No

Do you get the Emmaus newsletter?

SHARE GROUPS

*Are you in a share (reunion) group?

*Will you help your pilgrim get into a Share Group?

SPONSORSHIP

*I have attended a Greater Dayton Emmaus Community Sponsorship training (held the hour before each Gathering)

*Have you read about and do you understand your duties as a sponsor (found in the "Fourth Day" booklet)?

*Will you accompany your pilgrim to and from the weekend?

*Will you attend the events that are in support for your pilgrim?

*Are you willing to pray and sacrifice for your pilgrim?

*Are you aware of the importance of minimal contact with the pilgrim during the weekend?

PILGRIM'S SPOUSE

*Has his/her spouse already been on a Walk weekend?

*Have you invited his/her spouse to attend a Walk weekend?

*Is the spouse supportive of this pilgrim's participation?

Information about your pilgrim

*Name: _____ *Sponsor's relationship to pilgrim: _____ # years known: _____

*Why do you think the pilgrim is a good candidate for the Walk to Emmaus? What benefit do you see for him/her and the local church?

Additional Comments: _____

Walk Weekends

Normandy UMC / Sulphur Grove UMC

Men's Walk

January (Normandy UMC)

June (Sulphur Grove UMC)

Women's Walk

February (Normandy UMC)

July (Sulphur Grove UMC)

Exact dates are posted on the Emmaus Website: www.daytonemmaus.org - Encounter Christ - Walks

Mail completed application forms and deposits to (or email to: mens.registrar@daytonemmaus.org)

Men's Registrar
Greater Dayton Emmaus
PO Box 292224
Dayton, OH 45429

or womens.registrar@daytonemmaus.org)

Women's Registrar
Greater Dayton Emmaus
PO Box 292224 Dayton,
OH 45429

OR



Walk to
Emmaus
THE UPPER ROOM

Please fill out and send
with your Pilgrim
Registration Form!

Thank you!

GREATER DAYTON EMMAUS Pilgrim/Team Emergency Information Form

Name _____ Date: _____

Home Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Emergency Contact Information

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work/Cell: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work/Cell: _____

Sponsor name and phone number: _____

Preferred Hospital: _____

Doctor: _____ Phone: _____

Please indicate any health conditions (allergies, medications etc.) that
would be helpful in an emergency situation:

Signature: _____ Date: _____