



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

December Newsletter

Vol. 31 No. 12, 2020

December Gathering

Monday, December 14, 2020
7:15pm ONLINE ONLY

Join us on Facebook
to watch the December
Gathering together!

[https://www.facebook.com/
daytonemmaus](https://www.facebook.com/daytonemmaus)

Or watch on our YouTube Channel

[https://www.youtube.com/chan-
nel/UCwHRxsD7rSuuXG4Ui-
k22_g?view_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwHRxsD7rSuuXG4Ui-k22_g?view_as=subscriber)

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, December 1 at 7pm

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Newsletter Published by:

Brenda Donnelly

Communication Chair

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

newsletter@daytonemmaus.org

Feeling Christmas

One of my favorite things to do around the holidays is sit at a coffee shop and watch life happen. It certainly has been a challenging year and we get to finish it by celebrating the birth of Baby Jesus. While reflecting, I spied a sign in a shop in large, beautiful font reading "Merry Christmas." This year has been very hard but that sign struck me as more beautiful than any other. I have a feeling we will hold our loved ones with intense tenderness this Christmas.

Most of this year's lessons either felt like a light scrubbing or explosive charges that left me racked with pain. All of them, events which brought my defense systems online. A willingness to examine my conscience during these times, allowed God to show me how to bury my "weapons," otherwise known as the Obstacles to Grace. For all of us the list looks different, but all are unnatural defenses offered by the flesh rather than the defense offered through the Holy Spirit. It states in Isaiah 54:17, "No weapons against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn."

I believe this includes the weapons we brandish against ourselves and others. The weapons that ultimately BLOCK LOVE. God wants us to remember our sacred and authentic Love. God wants us to offer this Love while brandishing No weapon against ourselves or another. I hear Him speaking, "Child, I need you to hold all of life like you would hold Me; you cannot at once hold what is Sacred while wielding unnatural weapons."

Would you hold Jesus' newborn body against your body while holding any weapons? What weapons would those be? I think, none.

After leaving the coffee shop, I saw another sign: "Amazing Grace how sweet the sound." What does Grace sound like? You know when you hear it, but can you describe what it sounds like?

Perhaps Grace sounds like the newborn baby Jesus crying — The sound that Saved us all.

Merry Christmas and DeColores!

In Christ's Love,

Michele Cremeans, WW95

Community Lay Director



December Gathering

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2020
7:15PM ONLINE ON FACEBOOK
[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/DAYTONEMMAUS](https://www.facebook.com/daytonemmaus)

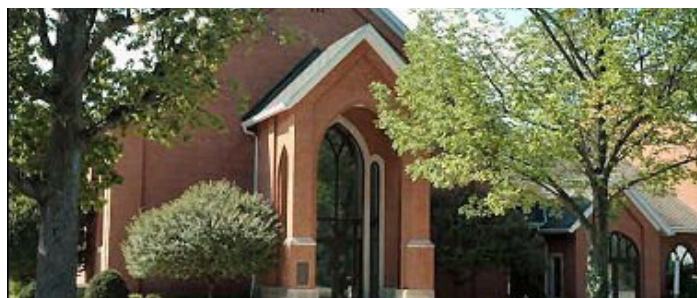
The December Gathering will be ONLINE ONLY on Monday, December 14 at 7:15pm on [Facebook](#). Join your Emmaus community as we gather to watch the Gathering broadcast together. For those not on Facebook, the video will be available on our Dayton Emmaus [YouTube](#) channel.

Women's Registrar: Lisa Keller, womensregistrar@daytonemmaus.org	Men's Registrar: Jeff Adams, mensregistrar@daytonemmaus.org
To download a Pilgrim Application click HERE or visit https://tinyurl.com/PilApp	

2021 Walk Information

Men's Walk #68 • June 10 - 13, 2021
at Sulphur Grove UMC

Women's Walk #108 July 15 - 18, 2021
at Sulphur Grove UMC



Walking with Emmaus

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

Join us for a monthly walking share group! All are welcome.

Our next walk will be 1:30 PM Sunday, December 6, 2020. Pets, family and friends are welcome to join.

Daniel's Peace Memorial Park
7500 Stiver Road, Germantown, OH 45327



Reforming a Scrooge

from the Spiritual Director

I'm going to admit something to you: I have a strong "bah humbug" streak in me. I know, it's almost sacrilegious to be a pastor at Christmas and be that way. The wonder of the birth of our Savior should be celebrated with sights, sounds and songs.

But I can't help it. I can be quite the Scrooge. I proudly wear a "Grinch" t-shirt on Christmas mornings.

And what do I do? I married a woman who loves Christmas. Myra takes an entire week's vacation to put everything up. And I grumble the whole time:

"Do we have to put all seventeen strands of lights on the tree?"

"Please don't turn on that music clock that plays Chipmunk's 'We Wish You A Merry Christmas' every hour on the hour."

And when she isn't looking, rearrange her wooden block letters that are supposed to spell out "NOEL." "LEON" is my favorite, but "LEOZ" or "MOLZ" works as well.

When it comes to Christmas, I am less "angelic host from heaven" and more Herod the Great (without the murderous streak).

I guess when it comes down to it, I like the simplicity, the humbleness that characterized the first Christmas over the commercialization of Christmas. And I realized this about myself a couple of weeks ago.

I had to work the day the Christmas tree was going up, so it was almost dark when I got home. My responsibility as it comes to the tree is to stand behind it in the corner and pass the light strands from one side to the other, while Myra makes it pretty in the front. After the lights came the garland. By this time, it was about 8pm. Myra was tired from all the work she had done – and I was exhausted by the little I had to do! We sat down and looked at our efforts – without Christmas bulbs and all the other do-dads she puts on the tree. We turned the ceiling fan on since it's been so warm this November. The light breeze caused the garland to shimmer amongst the lights on the tree, almost twinkling like the stars in the heavens. The simplicity warmed my heart.

"Myra, it's beautiful... just as it is."

If Christmas becomes "too much" for you...

If the holidays have become an annual strain on your finances...

If you just can't take one more Hallmark Christmas movie...

Then hear the words of the angel:

"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:10-12, NIV)

Remember the simplicity and the humbleness as God came to earth, and the Scrooge in you will be reformed.

Gary Wheeler
Spiritual Director



THE GIFT OF GRACE

December in Ohio brings colder weather, delicate snowflakes, the frenzy of shopping for that perfect gift, as well as the wonderful celebration of Christmas. This year brings more shopping and Christmas challenges than ever before. Yet, one thing is not a challenge for those who know the one true God.

We already possess the perfect gift of grace, thanks to Jesus. When we share this gift with others, it cannot be returned but will last a lifetime. This Christmas season, we have hope because a human child came down from heaven as a baby to bring hope to the world. Read the prophecy and account of His birth in Isaiah 7:14, 9:6 and 11. Also read Matthew 1 and Luke chapters 1 and 2.

Thanks to the Walk to Emmaus, I now hunger to study the Bible daily, to read God's journal. I have been given the gift of friendship from hundreds of men and women who have benefitted from this once-in-a-lifetime experience called Emmaus. Pray about those who you know and love, who might want to go on a Walk to Emmaus. Give them the gift like my sponsor gave me. Thank you for the honor and privilege of serving Him with you. It has truly been a gift I will remember each 4th day.

Love in Christ,
Pam DeHart WW59
Past CLD



Christmas Connection

FROM THE AGAPE CHAIR

Many of us will not be able to be with our share groups, friends or families during the Christmas holiday because of COVID restrictions. We must think of small ways we can stay connected to one another. One way is to pray for each other. We can all feel God's love and your presence in those prayers. Another is through Zoom or Facebook family get togethers. Yet another way is to send to our share groups, family and friends a small token of the Christmas season. This might be an Email card, a store-bought card or a note letting each person know how much they are loved and appreciated.

Let's make this Christmas memorable by remembering that a little baby was sent by God to show everyone how much he loves us.

Hope, Peace, Joy and Love this Christmas Season!
Linda Haller
Agape Chair