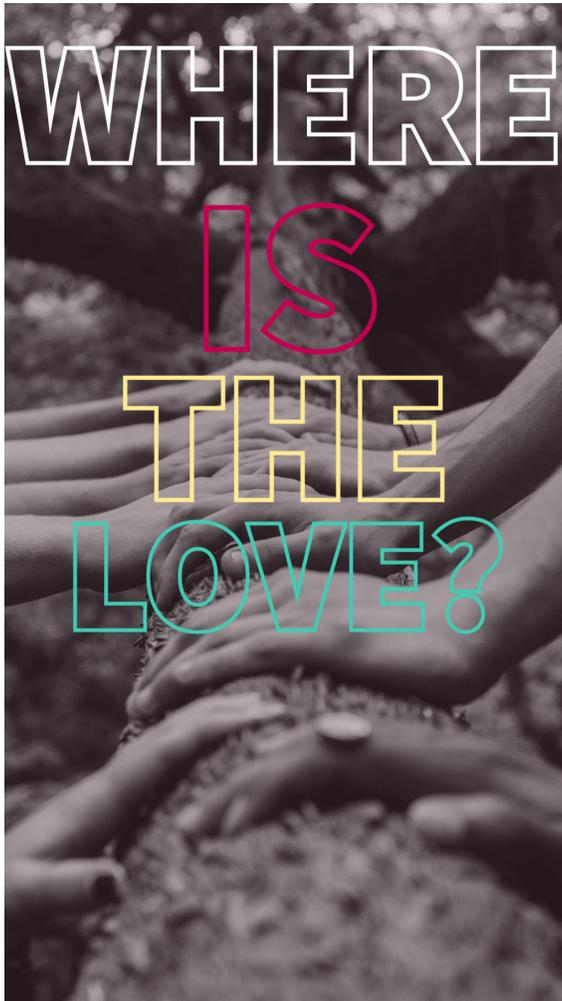


The theme for the February newsletter is ONE IN CHRIST: *“For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”* — Galatians 3: 27-28 Each contributor submitted an article based on this theme without knowing what the others had written. Please notice how God wove this newsletter together emphasizing repeated words and themes to celebrate how we are **ONE IN CHRIST**.



Community Lay Director

*“But if you only have love for your own race
Then you only leave space to discriminate
And to discriminate only generates hate
And when you hate then you’re bound to get irate
Madness is what you demonstrate
And that’s exactly how anger works and operates
Man, you gotta have love just to set it straight
Take control of your mind and meditate
Let your soul gravitate to the love, y’all”*

-Black eyed peas, “Where is the Love”

Some people in the world have a sickness. The sickness I’m speaking of is a sickness of the Spirit; a deficiency in the heart. We get a sickness in our Spirit when we are separate from Christ. When we are disconnected from His Love we withhold Love from ourselves and others. We pass our misery on like an old fashion game of hot potato. Getting and sharing the sickness of the Spirit is exactly what we as an Emmaus family are NOT going to do.

Let’s talk about what we ARE going to do...

We are going to remember the pride and joy we felt as pilgrims when we began to feel Loved by our Team. How about when you as a team member first met a new group of pilgrims? The feeling of One Love in alignment with Christ, your team, and the pilgrims. One heartbeat in

Continued on pg. 2

February Gathering

Monday, February 8, 2021
7:15pm **ONLINE ONLY**

**Join us on Facebook to watch the
February Gathering together!**

<https://www.facebook.com/daytonemmaus>

Or watch on our YouTube Channel

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwHRxsD7rSuuX-G4Uik22_g?view_as=subscriber

Inside this Issue:

Where is the Love? cont'd	2
Awaken in My Soul	2
Spiritual Director	3
They’ll Know We Are...	4
Walk with Emmaus	4
Reimagining the Walk	5
February Gathering	5
Sin of Racism	6

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, February 23 at 7pm

Newsletter Published by:

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

Continued from pg. 2

unison with Christ's will for the weekend. What we are going to do now is remember Love and that God is in charge of this ministry. Like we hear on our Walk weekends, we are "not going to anticipate." We are simply going to pray and keep God in the driver's seat. God is Driver One in this vehicle and the seat is set for His measurements, not ours.

Where is the Love? It is right here in each of our hearts. We must focus on toning our heart, mind, and spirit. We must condition ourselves to create spiritual stamina for what lies ahead.

We must live like Jesus did if we expect to bring souls to Christ- 1 John 2:6. Let us share the most pure

Love available-the unifying and unequivocal Loving presence of God.

"We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
And we pray that our unity will one day be restored
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love. Yeah, they'll know we are Christians by our love."

-from the song "They will know we are Christians by our Love"

Be Love. Be You.

DeColores,
Michele Cremeans
Community Lay Director
WW95, Table of Rebekah



Christ's peace be with you. Was it you? Did you ask for change? I don't think it was me. Well, I did ask for change, but it wasn't that. Maybe I used the wrong words. Maybe He didn't quite understand me. Oh no, He heard my words very clearly, but I just didn't know what I was really asking for.

This past weekend, I was reminded that if change is going to happen, then it's up to me to seek it and make time for it. That fire has been reignited, but I don't want it to blaze as if fuel had been dumped on it and burned it out in a blink. I want a fire that is constant and consistent. I want a fire that I can get excited about and I'm drawn to. I want a fire that will wow me and grow me.

Moses experienced a Fire that wowed and excited him. A Fire that drew him in and grew him. But that's not where his story began, not at all. You talk about some crazy change to move, pull, stretch, and grow

him into the leader God asked him to be. From the arms of a Hebrew mother, to Pharaoh's side. From a murderer to a desert wanderer. From a family man to a questioning mind, to a servant of the Lord on a mission he knew he couldn't do alone. But he knew the One who called him from the field to the mountain, and allowed him to see Him, would never abandon him. The Lord knows Moses didn't understand why certain things happened and why people acted the way they did, but he trusted the Lord with his life.

That's the kind of fire to have in your soul. Is your fire dwindling? Throw another log on. Or better yet, build a self-feeding fire. Those logs are scripture, books, podcasts, Mass, prayers, Christian fellowship with a community of saints, quiet time with God, worship music, mentors, etc. We learn and grow through many experiences and seasons. If it only took one experience, the Bible wouldn't be filled with so many chapters.
<https://thirddaydevotions.com/blog-feed/>



“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” Romans 1:16

February is black history month as well as the month we celebrate Valentine’s Day. What a great opportunity to share not only the inclusiveness of God but also the love of God. Growing up in a relatively segregated neighborhood, I was afforded the opportunity to be involved with individuals who weren’t like me. It was during that time I experienced different traditions and cultures and gained respect for all of them. Such experiences allowed me to see through a lens I wasn’t familiar with and one that would prove God designed for my future.

Romans 1:16 is one of two scriptures that God used to call me into the preaching ministry. On the surface I didn’t give it much thought but as I began to explore the complexity of the Apostle Paul’s words, I realized God was sharing with me the depths of His love for me but not just for me but for everyone.

This is what Emmaus represents, God’s love and the power of God’s love. During my Emmaus walk, I never felt out of place or that some were given more privileges than others. Over the three days I watched; I watched the leaders, the Spiritual Directors, the Team Leaders, the Team, and the ones who served on the sidelines. So much love was being poured out that in some ways I didn’t believe that it was real. But it was! Coming in not knowing anyone’s position or status made it all the more equitable because no one felt lorded over by someone with greater status than they. It was like experiencing heaven if for only three short days.

Roman’s 1:16 is about Paul’s love for Christ and how he understood that it wasn’t just for himself but for everyone who would believe in Jesus Christ our Savior. Paul in this short verse shared his heart and God’s love for all people without distinction. And He also understood that the good news, the inherent power of Jesus Christ is received when we accept and believe in Him. I’ve found that the love and the power of God can pierce the hardest of hearts, I’ve seen Him do it!

A few years ago I too asked God for His heart, to see as He sees, to feel as He feels and it is His heart that drives me to fulfill the mission to which I have been called. God’s heart is a heart that is filled with love and compassion to and for everyone.

In the lyrics of one of my favorite Emmaus songs, Love, love, love, love, the gospel in one word is love, Love your neighbor (all people) as your (brother and sister), love, love, love.

Mamie Johnson
Spiritual Director



They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

My Emmaus walk took place over 30 years ago. I still remember how loving and accepting the leaders were. I think of the song we sang on the weekend and still sing on each walk, "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love." It was not important to anyone on the walk what denomination we were or what we did for a living. It didn't matter if we were young or old, weak or strong, rich or poor, a person of color or white. We all were "One in the Spirit, One in the Lord." Together we are the body of Christ. Christ accepted everyone with open arms.

I was a teenager and young adult during the time of the Vietnam war. I can remember protesting on the college campus against what the military leaders stood for. We raised our fists and carried signs, but there was no violence. I think about the symbolism of the raised fist. I look at that action through the eyes of Jesus. He never closed his hands to anyone. He always reached out to everyone with open arms and hands. It did not matter to Him if you were a leader in the church, a leader in the government or a fisherman. He welcomed you into the Body of Christ. That is what I witnessed on my walk weekend. Everyone accepted me just as I am. They loved me because Christ loved them. They never criticized me for always being the "missing pilgrim." My sponsor

even went out of her way to have someone purchase a teddy bear for me that I desired from a walk we took on our Friday afternoon break.

It is more important than ever that we reach out to one another with open hands and not fists. I pray that one day we will all know Jesus by our love. I am reminded of the first verse of the song, "They'll Know We Are Christians by our Love."

*We are one in the Spirit;
We are one in the Lord.
We are one in the Spirit;
We are one in the Lord.*

*And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
by our love.*

Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

— Copyright 1966 by REL publications

As the agape chair for our community, it is important for us to show our agape love through our actions as a community!

Your Sister in Christ,
Linda Haller



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 11am Sunday, February 21, 2021. Pets, family and friends are welcome to join.

Beechtree Trail, Stonelick State Park
2895 Lake Dr. Pleasant Plain, OH 45162
We'll meet in the parking lot by the Service Center
<https://ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/find-a-property/stonelick-state-park>

Walk Update

At this time, your board of directors has voted to suspend future walks until such a time as when those involved feel safe and comfortable participating. We will reschedule and resume Walks o Emmaus as soon as we can gather safely.

In the meantime, your Board is exploring temporary options to keep our community connected. Ideas will be discussed at the Tuesday, February 23 board meeting.

We invite you to connect with any member of the board before February 23 to express thoughts and ideas on how we can continue to answer God's call to renew christian disciples and strengthen local churches.

Support Dayton Emmaus

When you support Greater Dayton Emmaus, you are helping to renew Christians as faithful and committed disciples of Jesus Christ. The administrative costs such as insurance, music licensing and communication expenses continue to serve our community. If you are in a position to make an offering, your gift is appreciated. Click the "Give Now" button or you may make checks payable and mail to:

Greater Dayton Emmaus
PO Box 292224
Dayton, OH 45429

GIVE NOW

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>

Online February Gathering

The February Gathering will be ONLINE ONLY on Monday, February 8 at 7:15pm. Join your Emmaus community as we watch the ****LIVE**** broadcast of the Gathering on [Facebook](#). For those not on Facebook, there will also be a ****LIVE**** broadcast on our Dayton Emmaus [YouTube](#) channel. After the broadcasts, the Gathering will be available on our website, www.daytonemmaus.org.

February Gathering

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2021

7:15PM ONLINE

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/DAYTONEMMAUS](https://www.facebook.com/daytonemmaus)

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/CHANNEL/UCWHRXSD7RSUUXG4UIK22_G](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWHRXSD7RSUUXG4UIK22_G)



The Upper Room Publisher's Perspective on the Sin of Racism

By Rev. Stephen D. Bryant

What is The Upper Room's perspective on racism? This is a question that we've been asked in response to our posting of resources related to recent racial unrest.

The Upper Room's stance since our beginning 85 years ago is unchanged and consistent with the worldwide consensus of the church ecumenical (as reflected in statements from a variety of communions and in the historic creeds linked below) that racism is sin, an obstacle to grace that works against the reign of God in society, in our relationships, and in our formation as human beings made in God's image designed to grow in the love and likeness of Jesus Christ.

Ethically, racist attitudes and actions violate the most universally accepted principle of law and human relationships for Christians and non-Christians alike: the "golden rule" (Mt. 7:12) and its application to both personal practice and social policy. Spiritually, racism is rooted in an inordinate attachment and loyalty to our racial identity over and against (or in ignorance of) our true identity in God. Overcoming racism from the inside out involves the glorious discovery of who we truly are beneath the surface of our remarkable diversity—children of God. It requires the daily practice of the spiritual awareness that we belong to God, we are family, and we are "our brother's keeper" (Gen. 4:9). As we see it, the issue of racism or racialism was settled long ago on the cross of Christ and on the Day of Pentecost. In the upper room in Jerusalem, on the night before he was betrayed, Jesus offered his body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the restoration of the whole human family. In fact, we are reminded whenever we gather for prayer and worship before the carving of the last supper in The Upper Room Chapel that Christ gave his life for all, that

God's blessing is not for some but for everyone. Fifty days later, while praying as one in that same "room upstairs" (Acts 1:13. 2:1), Jesus's followers were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to proclaim the gospel in languages of people from all nations and races. God's Spirit overcame the differences by which people have long divided up the world and prioritized races and gave birth to a new kind of community, international and interracial in character. Through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, God gave humanity a new beginning, a glimpse of the world to come, and a foretaste of the world God wills where "there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28).

Therefore, racism is an obstacle to the realization of God's will in the world and to the work of God's grace in our lives and relationships. And yet we do not lose heart. The ministry of The Upper Room is inspired daily by our prayerful observation that God's love is new every morning, always working for good in the world, and that when we open our hearts through prayer and scripture, we discover again and again that the Lord is with us already, stirring up in us a desire to live peacefully with God and neighbor and all of creation. Yes, in the light of God's love, we also discover sin in ourselves—attitudes, patterns of living, and ways of participating in the world that shut God out, that stand in God's way, and that blind us to the image of God in the people with whom we share life in this world. But we believe that God is with us to deliver us from the power of sin, free us for the practice of Christ's love, to heal us of our heartlessness, and to reform our life together in this world. This is the dynamic process of spiritual formation that we—The Upper Room—are here to support and resource.

<https://www.upperroom.org/resources/the-upper-rooms-perspective-on-the-sin-of-racism>