



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

July Newsletter

Vol. 31 No. 7, 2020

July Gathering
Monday, July 13, 2020
 in person at
Sulphur Grove UMC
7:15pm

August Gathering
Monday, August 10, 2020
 in person at
Sulphur Grove UMC
7:15pm

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, July 28
 7pm

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Brenda Donnelly

Communication Chair

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

newsletter@daytonemmaus.org



"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." John 16:33

Jesus, thank you for coming through for us each time we choose YOU! We know our work is done the moment we make that choice, and the choice continues to rest in our hearts. Holy Spirit of God, empower your people past fear straight into righteousness. As the sun kisses each blade of grass your Love kisses our every move. Let us work for You completely. Amen.

Niagara Falls starts as a placid lake with its glassy surface easily casting a reflection. Unfortunately, life is not always this smooth or clear. As the water falls over the cliff it picks up speed and crashes mercilessly into itself at the bottom. As I write this, I have peace in my faith and in the restoration that Jesus brings. And yet, I have twinges of sadness over the unresolved issues in our world. Turbulence abounds and drama amplifies the potential fear over current events (and not-so-current, recurring events). One cannot say for another how real the fears should be or how we should respond, so we stand for one another in solidarity and support. Right now, it may feel as if we're stuck at the bottom of the waterfall in tumbling velocity with the hard currents. As Christians, we are trained in the nature of the calm turbulence of walking in the world; where peace can exist each moment (even) through the roughest waters. Because, praise the Lord we are strengthened and sustained by Jesus Christ himself (what a joy!). Christians, like water, will adapt to meet external influences but our inherent qualities will remain unchanged. Our required and virtuous Love for Jesus is our true nature and no external circumstance can change that. Powerfully loving or powerfully destructive, we each make a choice in how we affect our world.

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How are you imparting peace? How are you keeping peace alive in your hearts and active in the world? The whole human race can have peace the moment we each choose it. Sounds Easy, right? We do our own work each moment in choosing Love. The indwelling Spirit of God empowers us beyond fear into righteous action. I pray you let the song of your heart be heard in transforming our world of pain into a world of peace.

My battlecry: "I allow the Holy Trinity to run my life completely!" Peace and Joy are born by choosing God and simply allowing Him to provide. God advocates and intercedes as a provider and protector. The Peace and Joy of resting in the arms of the Almighty will transform the world... and it starts within each of our hearts.

What say we give Peace a chance and help create a society reborn of God by being a force of love in the world? We are EMMAUS STRONG because we know THE POWER OF OUR ALMIGHTY FATHER IN HEAVEN!

Be STRONG as you sing the loudest of God's never-ending love! Filling the skies with our praise and prayer..." May all hearts and minds entrenched in worldly imprisonment be set free and know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior! In Jesus' name, Amen!"

Be Love, for it is your true nature.

DeColores! God is Good, always.
Michele Cremeans, WW#95
Community Lay Director

What is a virus? By simple definition it is, "a microscopic parasite that can infect living organisms and cause disease. It can make copies of itself inside another organism's cells." Virus has become a household word with first, the rapidly spreading coronavirus and then the second, hate. Neither of these viruses are new.

Coronavirus was first discovered in the 1930s within chickens and by the 1960s, people were being diagnosed. The first reference we see to the hate virus is in Genesis with the first two humans that were birthed, Cain and Abel. Cain is considered the originator of hate through his acts of murder and jealousy of his brother. It's a virus that today runs rampant in society.

Hate is a much more infectious virus than many people realize, and it is spreading rapidly, making copies of itself from generation to generation. Hate shows up in many forms and infects the hearts of people. It disguises itself by other names, in today's headlines we see it as racism. Often, I tell people we don't have a race issue, we have a hate issue because racism is just one tentacle that has been birthed of a deep-seated hate that Satan himself, that microscopic parasite, infected man with, that caused such a horrible disease called racism. In I John 4:8 we read, "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."

Racism is a product of hate, where there is hate there is no love and where there is no love, God is void. You can't hate God's people and claim to love God. To love God, you must know him and to know him means hate and all its components have to be given



an "anti-viral" medication found in the scripture. I Corinthians 13 verse 6 says this, "Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth."

Truth opposes iniquity ... iniquity refers to wrongdoing, injustice and evil done to others. We are called to walk in truth and to oppose all iniquity and we do this by following God's instruction in Micah 6:8, "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

God's love is the antidote ... are you ready to receive it?

DeColores,
Heather Christoff
GDE WW#63, Table of Esther



JULY GATHERING

MONDAY, JULY 13 AT SULPHUR GROVE UMC

The July Gathering will be **IN PERSON** on Monday, July 13 at 7:15pm at Sulphur Grove UMC, 7505 Taylorsville Road, Huber Heights, OH 45424 (There will be a live simulcast available online)

We are so excited to invite you to the Greater Dayton Emmaus July Gathering and we are grateful for the hospitality of our host church, Sulphur Grove UMC.

For those planning to attend the Gathering at Sulphur Grove UMC, please be prepared to adhere to the following church protocol. Each attendee must wear a mask. Before entering the church, hands must be

sanitized with church-provided hand sanitizer, temperatures will be taken and you must give your name for contact tracing. Follow the seating plan which will be clearly marked in the sanctuary and adhere to 6' social distancing throughout the church building. Please know that we will NOT be hosting a Share Group Reunion or Sponsor Training. We joyfully look forward to being with you soon!

Gathering Offering

When you support Greater Dayton Emmaus, you are helping to renew Christians as faithful and committed disciples of Jesus Christ. Although our Summer Walks have been postponed, 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. Online giving is available at daytonemmaus.org or you may make checks payable and mail to:

Greater Dayton Emmaus
PO Box 292224
Dayton, OH 45429

Upcoming Walks

Look for important information regarding our 2021 Greater Dayton Emmaus Men's and Women's Walks in the near future. As your Board of Directors discerns God's Will for our community and the safety of all,

important decisions are being made. Please remember that guests are always welcome to Gatherings. You need not have been on a Walk to attend a Gathering. Please continue to be a light to all you encounter and share how God used your Walk to Emmaus to change your Fourth Days!

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>



[1. Click to watch
Oh Freedom! - The Golden
Gospel Singers](#)



[2. Click to watch
HARRIET - "Im Going
To Be Free Or Die"](#)



[3. Click to watch
Patrick Henry's Give
Me Liberty Speech](#)



[4. Click to watch
Martin Luther King
Jr.'s Speech](#)

Freedom, How Bad Do We Want It?

Oh, freedom, Oh, freedom
Oh freedom over me
And before I'd be a slave
I'd be buried in my grave
And go home to my Lord and be free

The words to this old African American spiritual tells the story of a soul longing for freedom. It's the same refrain that Minty speaks of in the movie Harriet just before she jumps off the bridge into the rushing waters below to escape her slave master who has hunted her down to return her to bondage. "I'm uh be free, or die."

It's the same chorus from Patrick Henry's famous speech to the Second Virginia Convention in 1775 where his closing words were, "I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death."

It's the same hope that Martin Luther King, Jr. preached in his message entitled 'I Have a Dream' during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on August 28, 1963. "And when we let freedom ring... we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: Free at last, free at last. Thank God Almighty, we are free at last."

And it's the same concern that the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob addressed

when he called to Moses from the burning bush. "And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt." Exodus 3:9-10 God is still calling ordinary people to do extraordinary things. God is still concerned about people being free.

The thing we have to ask ourselves is "how bad do we want it?" The only way to Freedom is through the Cross. We cannot legislate our way there; we cannot buy our way there; we cannot argue or debate our way there; we cannot educate or train our way there; we cannot segregate or integrate our way there; we cannot rehab or reform our way there. Church, sin cannot be rehabbed, you can't just put a little money and sweat equity into it and then flip it for a profit. Where you are thinking a little drywall and paint, God is thinking a complete tear down.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

So you may be reluctant to get involved in the struggle. But let me ask you a question that I am convinced Harriet or any other conductor on the Underground Railroad would pose. "What good is your freedom, if your brothers and sisters are still in bondage?"
#Icantbreathe #nojusticenopeace #blm #handsup

DeColores,
Palmer Jason, SD



“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another ...” Heb 10:24-25 NIV Due to the current pandemic and the havoc it has wreaked, I, and the rest of the world was forced to stop meeting with family and friends to spend time with them. Since I’ve been “sheltering in place,” I’ve had plenty of time to start and finish a few projects. The biggest and most challenging one to date has been my kitchen: I completely gutted it. The cabinets were taken down and replaced, the sink & countertop was taken out and replaced, and the floor was taken up and a new one installed. When the work was complete; I had a new and sturdy kitchen.

This project reminded me of a recent Sunday School lesson about restoration. The teacher opened the lesson by asking “When was the last time you restored something?” I wanted to answer: “If anyone can attest to restoring something, it’d be me: I just finished with my kitchen yesterday! Literally!” Instead, I let the question simmer because according to what the group discussed, I wasn’t sure if I actually restored my kitchen.

Later I showed the teacher before and after pictures of my kitchen and asked, “If there was a difference between restoring and remodeling something?” The response was “Restore means bring back, remodel means change the structure. You probably did a bit of both.” I thought about the response and applied it to the work on my kitchen, but, the question wasn’t settled for me so I went to the dictionary. Dictionary.com defines restore as returning something to a former condition, place, or position, and remodel as reconstructing; or making over.

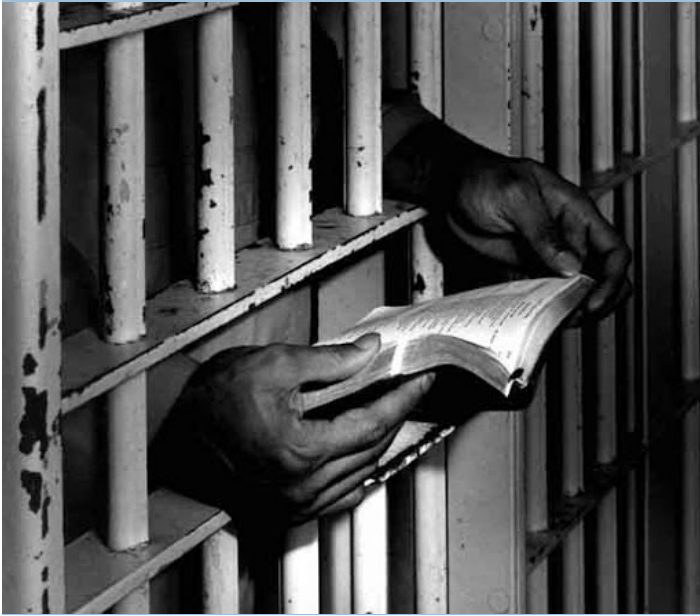
I believed (which isn’t totally wrong) restore meant to take something like an old broken-down table and bring it back to new condition through adding new

legs, sanding, and then painting it. And because I didn’t paint the old cabinets, sink, or floors, I just replaced them with new ones; I hadn’t restored anything. But after talking with the teacher and doing research, I came to the conclusion that I did do a bit of both: I returned my kitchen to its former condition of being a new kitchen, and I did make it over - in the sense of creating it again.

That’s what the Agape Love Movement (ALM) is about: restoration and remodeling. Restoring our brothers and sisters to the love and connection they felt after their “pilgrimage” and making the Greater Dayton Emmaus Ministry (GDE) over again into a sturdy ministry that operates with God’s love, facilitates connection, and equips all members to be leaders in their churches. The ALM is not new – as we’ve been prompting you to send an encouraging word or note to a fellow community member for a few months, and it is our prayer that you continue doing so as God’s Spirit leads. What is new is this specific call to action.

Do you remember the feeling of love and connection you felt after your first Walk? Do you want to help restore your fellow community members to that feeling? Do you want to be instrumental in making GDE over again into a sturdy ministry? Are you counting on Christ to be your Lord and Savior? I know He’s counting on you to be His hands and feet. Are you willing to “not give up meeting together” and meet your brothers and sisters in spirit? Then **heed this call to Christian Action**. If you are ready to show Christ you can be counted on, please email your name and contact information to goodshepherd@day-tonemmaus.org or agape@daytonemmaus.org and a detailed explanation of the ALM and directions on how to accomplish this mission will be provided.

Remember Christ is Counting on You!
By Ché McGowan – Good Shepherd



"I needed clothes and you clothed me , I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."
Matthew 25:36



My name is Jeff Adams and I attended the Greater Dayton Emmaus Men's Walk to Emmaus #46 and sat at the table of Matthew. Approximately one year before my Emmaus walk, I was asked to participate in a Kairos weekend by two men in my church. After completing my Emmaus Walk at Christ Church UMC Kettering, Ohio in August of 2009, I submitted my Kairos application and made plans to attend the 2010 Kairos #39 at Lebanon Correctional Institution and was added to the Table of Matthew (the same table name I had at my Emmaus Walk).

I admit I was nervous the first time I walked inside the prison. Hearing the gate lock as I walked through each check point, we headed to the gym where the Kairos weekend was held. We walked past inmates as well. Once I got to the gym, I felt calm and the nervous feeling went away.

After meeting the residents which is how we referred to the inmates, I felt like God was with me telling me everything would be okay. I had a great time as a table servant and served the residents and team members at my table enjoying the weekend. I was also able to take cookies to the residents in the cell blocks and see how the men lived inside the walls of the prison.

The residents of each cell block understood that when a Kairos weekend was held, the entire prison would get cookies. Those chosen to participate in the weekend with us are calm not wanting to cause trouble. There is a calm throughout the weekend with no problems or issues which helps make the corrections officers' (CO's) job a little better when we are there.

Since then, I have served on Kairos Weekends at Lebanon, Chillicothe Correctional, and Southern Ohio

Correctional Facility. Each prison and Kairos weekend is different but God's presence during the weekend is uplifting. It is powerful to witness men accept Christ into their lives. Some CO's with us during the weekend experience change. Kairos Prison Ministry Program helps to change lives for residents and their families.

Please keep the residents in your prayers for each of the prisons served through Kairos during the Covid-19 pandemic. We hope and pray sometime in the future to be able to go back to the prisons we serve and see the men or women that we all as volunteers have developed relationships with.

I serve in Kairos to serve alongside the body of Christ to plant a seed with residents inside the prisons I serve because I see Christ change men inside the walls. They have to make the change on their own and continue it along with prayer and share every week which is like a small share group inside the prison. I go when I can. Some of us volunteers are doing zoom meetings of prayer and share each week to support the men inside and outside the walls of the prison. It has had an impact on me and sometimes is hard to explain about a weekend. You have to see it with your own eyes and ears. Go to KairosOhio.org and KairosPrisonMinistry.org for more information about Kairos. Reach out to anyone of us in our Emmaus Community who have served with Emmaus. We would be happy to answer your questions you may have.

Please remember that all Kairos Weekends are cancelled until we are allowed back in by the state of Ohio Department of Corrections.

God Bless
Jeff Adams



FINDING TRUE FREEDOM BEHIND PRISON WALLS

Kairos Prison Ministry

“For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles — I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge — that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.” —Ephesians 3: 16-19

Unlike the Apostle Paul, envision a life in which poor choices have led to a life behind prison walls. You are no longer free to come and go as you please. Your entire day is spent with strangers. Often your family and friends have abandoned you due to your choices. Life seems hopeless. The reality is, thousands of women spend years if not a lifetime behind prison walls.

I first learned of the Kairos ministry through a young woman who had actually spent several years behind the walls of Dayton Correctional Institute. She was now working and regaining her life on the outside after serving her sentence. Her story and her encounter with Kairos could only have been orchestrated by God.

She blew away my stereotype and preconceived ideas of what “ex-offenders” were all about. Her story also began to convict my heart on how I had put limits on the transforming power of the Gospel! How, as a believer in Jesus, I had put the great and powerful love of Jesus Christ into a neat little box.

So began an incredible journey volunteering for my first Kairos weekend. I don’t know about you, but obedience to the Holy Spirit is not always easy.

My Kairos weekend involved just a few more hours of commitment than I had originally anticipated. So instead of depending upon “my own power” to do this “good work” I had to rely on the power of prayer and God’s mighty warriors who were also praying for me. Was I apprehensive about going into a prison?

Absolutely. Would I say the wrong things? Probably. The very first afternoon with the women at DCI was more than incredible. God is so good! He knew exactly what each of the women needed and He knew exactly what I needed.

By the end of the weekend, no longer was I behind the walls of a prison with women who were suffering the consequences of poor choices, but I was with women who desperately needed the hope and love that only comes through the love of Jesus Christ. The transforming power of the Holy Spirit touched so many that weekend. It wasn’t about me, but about a great God; a God who brings true freedom through the love of His Son Jesus Christ.

Even though most of you reading this newsletter are not behind actual prison walls, many of us are in bondage to something. Where do you find hope and freedom? I pray that you have found that freedom that only comes through a personal relationship with Jesus. If you have experienced that freedom, won’t you prayerfully consider joining me and many other faithful servants in a Kairos weekend? Will you prayerfully consider sharing the love and hope of Jesus Christ to the women at DCI who so desperately need to find true freedom behind prison walls? Further information is available at: <http://kairosohio.org/> or you may contact me at: karenparsons4100@gmail.com and I would love to talk you about a Kairos weekend and the many other volunteer opportunities available.

On a side note, because of the current situation of the Covid-19 health crisis all ministry in the prisons has been suspended. Please pray for those women who are currently incarcerated that the powerful love of Christ will be with them and God will do a mighty work within the walls of DCI.

To a God who is faithful!
Karen Parsons



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 Saturday, July 11, 2020 starting at 9am. Pets, family and friends are welcome to join.

Miami Whitewater Forest Trails 9001 Mt. Hope Road, Harrison, OH 45030

We'll be hiking the Badlands trail.

Daily Motor Vehicle Permits can be purchased for \$5 each for Hamilton County residents and \$8 for non-residents at park entrance booths, visitor centers, boathouses, campgrounds, golf pro shops and ranger stations. If you have any questions, please call (513) 521-7275, Monday-Friday, 8am - 4pm.

Save some gas money and permit fee, contact [Shelly Miller](mailto:shelly@greatparks.org) by Thursday, July 9, 2020 to carpool.

<https://www.greatparks.org/parks/miami-whitewater-forest/miami-whitewater-forest-trails>

Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace;
 where there is hatred, let me sow love;
 where there is injury, pardon;
 where there is doubt, faith;
 where there is despair, hope;
 where there is darkness, light;
 and where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master grant that I may not so much seek
 to be consoled, as to console;
 to be understood, as to understand;
 to be loved, as to love;
 for it is in giving that we receive;
 it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
 and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

From the Worship Booklet for Pilgrims.



Greater Dayton Emmaus is on
 Facebook AND Instagram!
 @daytonemmaus

