



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

June Newsletter

Vol. 31 No. 6, 2020

Monday, June 8
ONLINE
GATHERING
7pm

2021 WINTER WALKS
At Normandy UMC
 Men's Walk #68
 January 21-24, 2021

Women's Walk #108
 February 18-21, 2021

BOARD MEETING
 Tuesday, June 23
 7pm

Inside this Issue:

Comm. Lay Dir., cont'd	2
Agape Love Movement	2
June Gathering	3
Gathering Offering	3
Emmaus Cross	3
Women's Registrar	4
Walk Registration Info	4
Spiritual Director	5
Social Media	5
Navigating the Corona Storm	6
Agape for Upcoming Walks	6

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 Brenda Donnelly
 Communication Chair
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 submitted by the 15th of each
 month.

newsletter@daytonemmaus.org

From the Community Lay Director



“Your faith has saved you; go in peace” (Luke 7:50).

Faith is the gift we give ourselves in Jesus Christ. The complete surrender to his will, love, and provisions. Dropping all angst, worry, and misery attached to our own human desire, to follow Him, the Great That-ness, the Great I Am, the One Be-ing in whom we are bound together as One.

Sometimes we follow what we can see and touch instead of pure instinct. We grasp for the unreachable by our own understanding instead of venturing through the doorway of Faith. Our faithfulness in Him makes the doorway appear! We think that time, people, or our circumstances stop us from loving. But as sure as the sun comes up every day, our love never has to stop. God gives us these constants, provides all the things for us, and simply asks for faith in return. Love + Devotion = Faith.

God wants us to know and love him so deeply that we give in to our God-given instinct to follow him even when it feels we are blinded and can't see the next step. I know a life where you “never saw things work out” or were never shown the “process of faith.” What if you were never shown the way? The way to follow God in faith and subsequently see him claim victory over your life. Without evidence it's hard to believe and when it's hard to believe, it's hard to have faith. What if all you've seen or felt is “failure, stumbling, and heartbreak?” This is why we soak ourselves in the Word.

In my church experience we historically sing the first 2-3 verses of

Continued on pg. 2

Community Lay Director Cont'd from front page

a hymn, the build-up, the story ... and stop. We hardly ever sing the last 1-2 verses ... you know, the glory, revelation, and victory of God! This is a good example of a stunted faith journey, where one never gets to feel the glory of victory, never seeing things “work out” in one’s favor. We risk faltering if we stop after singing the “first two verses” of our own story. We stumble in the faith process before allowing him to claim victory over our lives! Having faith is hanging on with hopeful love and adoration so deep that we believe God WILL redeem us and help us clean up our lives completely.

God blesses me deeply when I simply continue to choose love and focus on him. And, trust me, the difficulty level is directly related to the portion of blessing. Over the past two months he has given me His healing, restored my worth, and claimed complete ownership over my heart. Wherever you are in your journey of lessons, you can have faith he will bring you to a victorious finish! That is his promise! “For everyone

who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith.” — 1 John 5:4

“We are all in the same storm, but in different boats.” My heart is with you, in Christ. I pray you find love, unity, hugs, pleasantness, and receive God’s glory completely each day. I pray your “dry bones” are reanimated by the Great I Am, right now. Rid yourself of the dead flowers in your life and re-up your Faith game!

The bond of the Greater Dayton Emmaus community has been sustenance for my soul during these challenges. I trust it’s meant the same to you. We look forward to the time we can meet once again. Stay strong. We are a Holy people designed to love and to do great things in His name. I believe in the only begotten son of God, Jesus Christ!

In His service,
Michele Cremeans, WW#95
Community Lay Director



Join the Agape Love movement! It’s easy. Identify someone in the Greater Dayton Emmaus community you care about and reach out to him/her through a phone call, email, text message, social media post or video message and express your love and caring.

Remember how you were blessed on the Sunday of your Emmaus Walk as you read notes of encouragement from those you love. This is your opportunity to spread that same Agape Love to our community. These are difficult times for many and God asks us to encourage one another.

The [Community Directory](#) is listed on the website under the “Explore Emmaus” tab, “Forms/Downloads/ Links” and includes member addresses, phone numbers and emails.

Contact someone to check on them today! Your words of love and caring might be just what they need. Let that person know the ways you have been blessed as you have served or worshiped with them. Send as many messages as you want. Let’s get those Agape Love letters sent today!



Join us online for the June Gathering on **Monday, June 8 at 7pm!** We continue to be flexible and trust God for His perfect timing to return to meeting in person. For now, enjoy the Gathering from the safety of your own home. You will experience worship, prayer, a Fourth Day testimony and

inspirational messages. Look for an email with a YouTube link to the June Gathering and/or you can join us on our [Facebook](#) page to participate in a live premiere of the Gathering video. Watch with other community members and comment in real-time! Until we can be together, your Emmaus Community is here for you!

If we are able to meet in person for the July Gathering, please plan to join us at Sulphur Grove UMC. We will keep you updated as news becomes available.

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 cancelled, 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**

What's on the Emmaus Cross?



On one side of the Walk to Emmaus cross is the phrase, "Christ is counting on you." This phrase reminds us that Christ needs our hands and feet to share all the love God has in store for the world. On

the other side is the ancient Christian symbol called the monogram of Christ. The letters X(chi) and P(rho) are the first two letters of the Greek word for Christ (XPIETOE). Using the first two letters was shorthand for referring to Jesus Christ.

The symbol first came into use during the reign of Constantine I(360-337 AD), the first Roman Emperor converted to Christianity in 312 AD. While preparing for a battle, Constantine saw Christ in a dream and was told to paint this symbol on his army's shields. He ordered his troops to do so, and they won the battle. In 318 AD he declared Christianity to be the state religion of Rome. Since that time, this has become a commonly recognized symbol for Christians around the world.



Message from Your Women's Registrar

Wow - I really miss seeing all of your beautiful faces! I was thinking this morning about how important my Emmaus walk has been to me. See, my walk was truly a breakthrough for me and my eyes truly became opened, opened to God's remarkable grace. I'm thinking that most of us leave that weekend feeling that way. I know one thing for sure, I would have handled this whole quarantine thing differently than I am now. I'm hoping that you all are feeling the same way. God's got this.

As our summer walks are now cancelled, this gives us a chance to build up a nice list of pilgrims for the winter walks. And the Coronavirus has stopped many things, but it hasn't stopped us from needing to be closer to God or experiencing his grace. In fact, the need is probably more. Inviting people to a weekend is handing them a life preserver.

This isn't just a weekend of good food, good talks and LUXURIOUS accommodations, it is their chance to experience that grace that only comes from the Lord. Remember back to how you felt on Sunday of your walk weekend, and I'm not talking about wanting to FINALLY get to your own bed and to FINALLY stop crying, I'm talking about that "Jesus glow" that we

see on the pilgrims' faces at the end. I'm also thinking about the friendships that have been built by being in small groups or even just serving in the kitchen during a walk weekend. I really miss my Saturday afternoon meal friends!

The applications are being handled as they always have in the past. We check the PO box weekly. And I know it may seem like a long way off, but think about how long we've been in quarantine, and if you would have told me in March that we'd still be hunkered down in May, I would have NEVER believed it! Winter is going to be here before we know it - ugh, I'm not a winter girl. I'm so looking forward to seeing you all at our next gathering, whenever that might be. I feel like as a community we have a special bond and I'm looking forward to being in community again, not just at work or church, but also with all of you who I know are going to be right behind my blood family when I cross that pearly gate! And remember, that is another bonus you will be offering to your friends by letting them experience an Emmaus weekend!

De Colores!
Lisa Keller WW #91
Women's Registrar

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>



Abiding *in love*

“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

I’m heartbroken over some of the things I’ve seen and heard over the last few months. Some of you know my story but for those of you who may not let’s just say thanks to God I am where I am today, saved, restored, and delivered. In spite of all of the things my family didn’t have I learned some invaluable lessons in a state of poverty. One of those lessons was in regard to respect for others no matter who they are.

It was on a quiet summer day as I sat watching the cars go by. I was a small child and I remember remarking about a passerby who didn’t look like me. I didn’t know that my father heard what I said but he did. My father wasn’t a learned man but he had values. After my derogatory remark my father quickly and angrily admonished me. He asked me in his biggest and angriest voice; “What did you say?” Hesitantly I repeated my remark frightened that I would receive a beating because of it. Instead he said, “You know nothing about that man and don’t you ever let me hear you call anyone else out of their name.” As poor as he was, as poor as we were, as much as he didn’t have, as often as our family may have appeared oppressed, he had a respect for people even when those people didn’t respect him. And it helped shaped me into the person that I am.

Seeing African American men being shot down, held down, beat down, and accused of things they haven’t done simply breaks my heart. This is the first time I have chosen in any format to speak about racism but my Emmaus Community seemed to be a fitting and right place.

I have served in the Dayton Emmaus Community for over 20 years and I have never been disrespected or made to feel less than anyone else and I wonder why our world can’t be this way. It simply breaks my heart and tears me apart inside. The love that has been poured out for so many people through the walks and small groups is a glowing example of what people of faith are supposed to emulate. So, what I’m asking as a community of believers is that, whatever your circle of influence, I pray that love would abound and that we would be vigilant in sharing the love of Christ to everyone we encounter no matter who they are and to teach others God’s love and justice. God came for everybody and that means anybody and He shares His love to us for one and all. We can make a difference. “Love, love, love, love, the gospel in one word is love. Love your neighbor as your brother (and your sister), love, love, love.”

In His Service,
Mamie Johnson
Spiritual Director

**Greater Dayton Emmaus is on
Facebook AND Instagram!
@daytonemmaus**



Navigating the Corona Storm

How Acts 27 can help us.

How are you faring during this Corona Storm? In my bible study, I couldn't help but draw parallels between Paul's experience and my own. Take heart! God knows this storm and he is with you in your boat.

The Book of Acts chapter 27 shares the account of Apostle Paul being transported on a prison ship to his final destination of Rome, experiencing a shipwreck at the island of Melita.

This journey started with the ship, Adramyttium, slow-sailing up to "The Fair Havens" in Crete (verses 2-8).

When sailing was becoming dangerous, Paul admonished Julius the centurion that the voyage would end in disaster for all of them (including the loss of their lives). Julius, however, believed the shipmaster (who stated that they would make it) and resumed sailing (verses 9-13).

The ship was caught and remained in a tempest for many days so that neither the sun nor stars were seen. Although they did what they could to survive, including tossing overboard much cargo, eventually all hope of their salvation was gone (verses 10-20).

But an angel of God spoke to Paul, who in turn encouraged everyone on the ship to be optimistic, declaring that no one would lose their lives (yet the ship itself would be lost). Paul even rebuked them, stating that they should not have left Crete to bring all this harm and loss upon themselves (verses 21-26).

Some of the crew attempted to sneak off the ship into a lifeboat but were stopped by the centurion under Paul's advice. The lifeboat was cut loose (verses 30-32).

Since no one on the ship had eaten for fourteen days Paul encouraged them to eat again (at daybreak Paul took bread, gave thanks to God, broke it, and ate) (verses 33-38).

276 people total were on the ship (verse 37).

The ship was eventually run aground, the front in the ground immovable and the back broken up in the waves (verse 41).

The soldiers onboard discussed killing the prisoners so they would not escape but were stopped by the centurion (who wanted to save Paul) (verses 42-43).

All came safely to land (verse 44).

So, with this major storm that they foolishly went into ... all hope of salvation lost ... starved for 14 days ... some attempting to sneak away ... prisoners under a threat of execution ... a ship half-wrecked at the island ... how many of the 276 souls were lost in the sea?

NOT A SINGLE ONE.

Just a thought.

Stephen Uphouse
Housing Chair

Agape for Upcoming Walks

Help build our Agape stock for the upcoming winter walks. If you have leftover agape that you are willing to share, please contact Agape Chair, [Linda Haller](#). If you and your share group would like to make agape, please check out the Dayton Emmaus [website](#) to see examples of agape you can make. Now is the time to prepare for our upcoming Walks to Emmaus.

