



# Greater Dayton Community

450 W. Alex-Bell Rd., Centerville, OH 45459

## January Newsletter

Vol. 31 No. 1, 2020

### 2020 WALK SCHEDULE

#### At Normandy UMC

Men's Walk #67

January 16-19, 2020

Women's Walk #107

February 20-23, 2020

#### At Sulphur Grove UMC

Men's Walk #68

June 11-14, 2020

Women's Walk #108

July 16-19, 2020

#### Candlelight

8:30PM Saturday of Walk

#### Closing

4:30PM Sunday of Walk

### JANUARY GATHERING

Monday, January 13

7:15pm at Normandy UMC

(details on pg. 2)

### BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, January 28

7pm at Normandy UMC

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Communication Chair

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## Good News for January 2020

Life expectancy in the United States has grown by ten years since 1951. A male child, born in 2019, can expect to live to the age of 76 and females, to age 81. During the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries improvements in sanitation, housing, education, and the elimination of some infectious diseases resulted in a decline in early and mid-life mortality. Thanks to medical discoveries more live births occur. ([www.nature.com](http://www.nature.com))

Yet for Christians, life expectancy carries little meaning because we are promised eternal life. By the sacrifice of God's own son upon the cross, we will one day go home to heaven to be with Jesus and our Heavenly Father. "My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?" (John 14:2)

Upon the completion of a Walk to Emmaus, we are challenged to attempt to live a balanced life of grace through piety, study and action. Joining a weekly share group or reunion group, provides accountability, allows us to bear one another's burdens through prayer and fellowship and share what God is doing in our lives. Surrender daily to Abba, He provides peace. Forgiveness also plays a role in living in peace. The Lord says He will remember our sins no more but will separate us from those sins as far as the east is from the west. (Psalm 103:12) Since God forgives us for our sin, do we forgive when someone sins against us?

Study helps us to grow in our faith walk. Spending time daily with the Lord increases one's faith. The love of Jesus becomes real and believable the more time we spend with our Savior.

As you begin your 4th day in 2020, please take action and ponder these three questions:

1. What has God taught me through failure?
2. What has God taught me through pain and sorrow?
3. What has God taught me through waiting?

Our next Gathering is Monday, January 13, 2020. Sign up at the Gathering or online to serve at the upcoming Men's and Women's Walks. Serve in the kitchen, housing or prayer (See page 3).

In the days to come, may you be richly blessed my beloved, brothers and sisters in Christ.

DeColores,

Pam DeHart, Community Lay Director

WW#59 Table of Rebekah

# Information for Upcoming Walk

## Men's Walk #67 • January 16 - 19, 2020

- The pilgrim roster is on page 3 and the team roster is on page 4.
- All willing servants throughout the weekend are to arrive when scheduled and to serve joyfully and graciously.
- We are here to support the pilgrims and the conference room team.
- ONLY the team and pilgrims are allowed in the conference room area.
- Emmaus Community members are reminded that children are ONLY permitted to come to send off on Thursday evening.
- 4th Day graduates are the only people permitted to serve or take part in worship services.
- No photography or video taping is permitted during the walk weekend.
- Please bake and pray over **BROWNIES** for the Men's Walk send-off on Thursday, January 16. You may either bring brownies to the church kitchen Thursday morning while the kitchen team is preparing, or immediately before the sendoff begins—between 5pm and 7pm. Thank you for supporting Men's Walk #67.



### 2020 WALKS:

#### Women's Walk #107

February 20-23, 2020 at Normandy UMC

#### Men's Walk #68

June 11-14, 2020 at Sulphur Grove UMC

#### Women's Walk #108

July 16-19, 2020 at Sulphur Grove UMC

**Women's Registrar:** Lisa Keller,  
[womensregistrar@daytonemmaus.org](mailto:womensregistrar@daytonemmaus.org)

**Men's Registrar:** Dennis Leach,  
[mensregistrar@daytonemmaus.org](mailto:mensregistrar@daytonemmaus.org)

**APPLICATION FORM:** Click [HERE](#)  
<https://tinyurl.com/PilApp>

### JOIN US FOR THE JANUARY GATHERING

Start the New Year  
with your Emmaus community!

**Monday, January 13, 2020  
at Normandy UMC**

**Share Group Reunion  
@6:15pm in Chapel**

**Sponsor Training  
@ 6:30pm in Loggia**

**The Gathering  
@7:15pm in Sanctuary**

To volunteer to serve at the Gathering,  
Click [HERE](#)

### Board Vacancy: Good Shepherd

The Chairperson will serve on the Greater Dayton Board of Directors for a three-year term.

- Instruct new members of the community about what a share group or reunion group is and to assist the 4th day pilgrim in finding a share group.
- Provide outreach to individuals and churches that need more information about Emmaus.
- Facilitate share group orientation held before the Gathering in the chapel each month after a walk weekend.
- Make sure prayer vigil is full or filled during Sponsor's hour.
- Attend Candlelight and Closing.
- Sell books to sponsors before closing.
- Prepare post cards to send to the pilgrims as a reminder of the share group orientation.
- Attend monthly board meetings

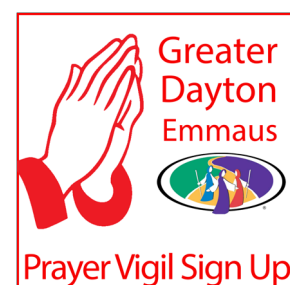
To apply, contact Pam DeHart at (937) 608-6468 or [chairman@daytonemmaus.org](mailto:chairman@daytonemmaus.org).

**Men's Walk to Emmaus #67**  
**January 16 - 19, 2020**  
**Normandy United Methodist Church**

PILGRIM	CITY	HOME CHURCH	SPONSOR
Jeff Baldrige	Springboro, OH	St. Francis Episcopal Church	Lex Luther
Buster Bash	Lewisburg, OH	Lewisburg UMC	Bob Halderman
Bryan Bigness	Moraine, OH	Memorial United Methodist	Jennifer Burns
Frank Brown	Lebanon, OH	Middletown LDS	Doug Cooper
Jack Catanzaro	Springboro, OH	Lebanon Presbyterian	Terri Catanzaro
Clarence Dees	Centerville, OH	Jubilee Community Church	Palmer Jason
Tom Donadson	Xenia, OH	Aley UMC	Michele Ruff
James Elam	Middletown, OH	Four Corners Church	Gary Stanforth
Tom Gauden	Wilmington, OH	First Heavy Metal Church of Christ	Jeff Hosner
Dave Gourley	Centerville, OH	Church of the Cross UMC	Tom McElfresh
Ronald Gregory	Dayton, OH	Fairhaven Church	Holly Bidwell
Robert Haman	Union, OH	The Ridge Church	Diana Haman
Konah Jones	Cincinnati, OH	Jubilee Community Church	Ronnie Shands
Tim Ketring	West Carrollton, OH	West Carrollton Nazarene	Jennifer Ketring
Pete Kinney	Kettering, OH	Jubilee Community Church	Chantel Brown
Bobbie MacDonald	Dayton, OH	Linden Avenue Baptist	Mike Bihlman
Dan Nihiser	Brookville, OH	Linden Avenue Baptist	Mike Bihlman
Gary Pade	Huber Heights, OH	Sulphur Grove UMC	Barry Baughman
Tim Parr	Lewisburg, OH	The Ridge Church	Dave Brooks
Mike Raines	Alpha, OH	Be Hope Church	Chuck Silcott
Mike Richardson	Eaton, OH	Community of Faith	Teresa Moore
Larry Reese	Vandalia, OH	New City church	Chris Reese
Zakk Sharp	Xenia, OH	Be Hope Church	Chuck Silcott
Jamar Smith	Dayton, OH	Holy Temple Church of God Sanctified	Chris Wissinger
Tom Vetter	Hamilton, OH	Hamilton Presbyterian Church	Rex Stupp
Sterling Walters	Dayton, OH	Mosaic Church	Paul Brannon
Jay Williams	Vandalia, OH	Ginghamsburg UMC	Sherry Loschi
Larry Williams	Fairborn, OH	Victory Christian Church	Chuck Silcott
Jim Woods	Beavercreek, OH	Vineyard Christian Church	John Hitchcock
Mario Ybarbo	Riverside, OH	Shelter Community Church	Steve Hoke

**Volunteer to Serve on Men's Walk #67**

Click on an image below to visit SignUp Genius to see available days and times to serve.



NAME	TEAM POSITION	TALK
Scott Anspach	Logistics 2	
Ken Ashmore	Assistant Table Leader	
Randy Barty	Table Leader	Christian Action
Charles Benner	Assistant Table Leader	
Mike Bihlman	Assistant Table Leader	
Dave Brooks	Logistics	
Leroy Chambliss	Assistant Spiritual Director	Obstacles to Grace
Rich Coolman	Table Leader	Discipleship
Keith Crabtree	Assistant Lay Director 2	Fourth Days
Stephen Cultice	Lay Director	Perseverance
Scott Day	Assistant Table leader	
Mark Flannery	Assistant Lay Director	Priority
Mike Hodgjin	Table Leader	Body of Christ
Chris Kitchel	Logistics	
Cathy Kooser	Assistant Spiritual Director	Justifying Grace
Scott Krisher	Table Leader	Changing Our World
Dennis Leach	Board Representative	
Kirk Lehneis	Prayer Servant / Mentor	
Bob Leibecke	Assistant Table Leader	
Jeff Null	Music Director	
David Orren	Table Leader	Priesthood of All Believers
Doug Puderbaugh	Prayer Servant	
Kevin Reinert	Logistics	
Jocelyn Roper	Assistant Spiritual Director	Prevenient Grace
Jonathan Taulbee	Table Leader	Life of Piety
Gary Trice	Assistant Table Leader	
Don Trumbull	Assistant Spiritual Director Live-In	Sanctifying Grace
Gary Wheeler	Spiritual Director	Means of Grace
Chris Wissinger	Assistant Music Director	
Jeremy Wofford	Assistant Lay Director	Grow Through Study

## Agape for Pilgrims and Team

You are encouraged to provide Agape for pilgrims and team members. Please review the rosters on pages 4 and 5. If you are acquainted with a pilgrim through your church, please consider not only providing Agape, but attending Thursday Night Send-off, Saturday Night Candlelight and Sunday Closing. Christ is counting on YOU!

- Pilgrim's individualized agape is limited to cards and letters
- A notebook with Agape ideas will be in the Agape Room on Walks and in the Narthex at Gatherings
- If you bring meal agape, bring enough for all the pilgrims and team
- Bedtime agape can be for pilgrims only, team only, or for everyone
- If you bring agape for everyone, 60 is a good number to bring
- If you bring agape for Pilgrims only, 30 items are needed
- Please put your name and phone number on your Agape package so that unused agape can be returned to you for future walks

See Agape Chair to retrieve excess agape at Gatherings (Narthex) or at Walks (Agape Room).

# “The Miracle is already in the room ...”

...To paraphrase Pastor Gary Wheeler from a devotional given a few weeks ago, “Are you the One who is to come, or should we expect someone else?” Matthew 11:3.

Nearly crushed under the pressure to perform this Christmas season, I stand stunted by the “must-do’s” that hover ominously. I imagine most traditions were



borne organically from the provisions at hand. It seems year after year, we strive to replicate holiday “feels” by sheer mechanical reproduction. Instead of racing out to maintain the integrity of external demands, can we search our internal cupboards for the love of Christ to share? Can we rest into the idea that what we need we already have? Where IS the gentle, sweet whisper of Christmas?

Pastor Gary spoke of “... searching within ourselves and ‘within the room’ for that which we seek. Instead of deferring miracle building to Saints and Holy people, we should include ourselves and the fruits we bear as miraculously worthy.” For, we are Christ’s footmen in the world striving to share the grace and glory we’ve grown to know with everyone. We know this is the only true and worthy commission on which to spend our days ... yet we constantly get snagged by the world’s grip. So, whether we’re talking about God’s physical or spiritual provisions, both holds underlying, revolutionary miracles within. The miracle

of God’s provisions will always be enough and may the miracles from within you bloom. The suffering we endure from the “rat race” is an illusion and keeps us from recognizing the Gifts at hand. Life can be simpler than we make it.

Thomas Merton, a Catholic monk who dialogued with people from many traditions long before it was considered acceptable to do so, clearly speaks from this depth of realization:

“Life is very simple: we are living in a world that is absolutely transparent to God and God is shining through it all the time. This is not a fable or a nice story. It is true. God manifests himself everywhere, in everything, in people and in things and in nature and in events. You cannot be without God. It’s impossible. Simply impossible.” - O’Grady, Selina, *Spiritual Stars of the Millennium* (Continuum, 2002) pg. 155



I’m going to remember to get quiet and listen to God speak His will on my heart. Take a deep look around for the hidden treasures in my life to enjoy.

May you and your families have a miraculously healthy and prosperous new year!

In Gratitude and Love,  
Michele Cremeans  
Good Shepherd/Outreach



[www.westohiochrysalis.com](http://www.westohiochrysalis.com)

West Ohio Girls Chrysalis #69 - Jan 18-20, 2020  
West Ohio Boys Chrysalis #69 - Feb 15-17, 2020



[www.kairosOhio.org](http://www.kairosOhio.org)

Lebanon Correctional Institution Kairos Inside #60  
Mar 12 – 15, 2020 - Ron Herre, Contact [herre@earthlink.net](mailto:herre@earthlink.net)



## A Change is Coming

A change is coming to Emmaus. Sulphur Grove United Methodist Church has graciously offered to host the July and August 2020 Gatherings. Mark your calendar and save the summer Gathering dates of Monday, July 13, 2020 and Monday, August 10, 2020 to be hosted at Sulphur Grove UMC, 7505 Taylorsville Road, Huber Heights, OH 45424.

This change in venue is only for these two summer months so the pilgrims who complete their summer walks can come back and reconnect with sponsors and friends where they took their walk. Please share this information with your share group and other Emmaus brothers and sisters in Christ. Thanks for getting the word out.

## Trusting God to Get it Done

*“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.”* Hebrews 12:1-2a

The constant echo of achieving goals is lost almost before the words leave our lips. Good intentions are great but if they don't achieve the objectives set are we simply dreamers or people who are determined to unrelentingly pursue what God has for us? Is it possible that we are holding ourselves back?

Occasionally we will experience discouragement when trying to reach an objective and discouragement can lead to despair and when despair sets in so can hopelessness and distress. Understanding why we have unmet expectations is worth exploring and God's word gives us a formula for achieving God established goals. He tells us to “lay aside every weight”.

Years ago when I took up weight training I understood that it would help me to build lean muscle to be stronger and better equipped to go through the motions of life. I was led through something referred to as resistance training an exercise using weights that cause muscles to contract against external resistance with the expectation of increased strength and endurance. In essence, weight training is strength training.

When Paul admonished us to lay aside every weight he was encouraging us to put down or lay aside the heaviness of sin that keeps us from moving forward. You see in resistance training you aren't consistently carrying around the weight, no; as you pick the weight up you are also laying it down. The same can apply

to our spiritual lives. Sin, the things we've committed against God are weights. If you are constantly punishing yourself for past sins you have committed you are picking up the weightiness of sin and you will never achieve your goals. You are basically saying that God can't possibly or is incapable of forgiving you of the heaviness of sin. Satan will always remind you of what you have done and seek to defeat you but it is God who already knows what you have done and who willingly gave His Son so that you and I no longer have to bear the weight of it (past and or present) because He bore it on the cross which enables us to resist the accusations of Satan.

No one is perfect, no one, but God is and when we rely on Him no goal will be unmet. The more you resist the snares of Satan you gain strength and are better equipped to achieve success. You never have to pick up the weightiness of sin again. Leave it at the foot of the cross.

What will make this year different? Christ! But only if you rely on His power, His strength, and His unwavering love.

Here's to a blessed, purpose driven goal achieved New Year!!

Happy New Year,  
Mamie Johnson  
Spiritual Director