



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

January Newsletter

Vol. 32 No. 1, 2021

January Gathering

Monday, January 11, 2021
7:15pm ONLINE ONLY

Join us on Facebook to
watch the January
Gathering together!

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

Or watch on our YouTube
Channel

[https://www.youtube.com/channels/
UCwHRxsD7rSuuXG4Uik22_g?view_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwHRxsD7rSuuXG4Uik22_g?view_as=subscriber)

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, January 26 at 7pm

Inside this Issue:

January Gathering	2
Walk Information	2
Walking Share Group	2
Spiritual Director	3
2021 Resolution: Shake the Flake	4

Newsletter Published by:

Brenda Donnelly

Communication Chair

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

newsletter@daytonemmaus.org

Happy New Year

Greater Dayton Emmaus Family!

As we nestle into the winter months, it puts me in mind of Psalm 46:10, "Be Still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."

I am eager to see how God is exalted through the Emmaus community in 2021! Let us now receive the gift of restoration He provides and Be Still. In this time of quiet we pray and ask what seeds to bury in the fertile soil of our hearts. May the seeds of God's will germinate by our loving prayers so He may be exalted!

Many in our community are grieving heartbreak and challenges of all kinds. We have to be "physically" distant right now but are making up for it by the strength of our heart connections. The disciples followed Jesus faithfully through trials and let us remember they did it together. Please pray and reach out to those God places on your heart. We have stayed vital by reaching into the wellspring of resources offered by the Body of Christ. We find our strength in the Lord and maintain obedience by bringing Christian action to our communities. May God's mercies meet us at every turn.

Lord, we promise to be patient during this time with a firm foundation of faith, hope, and belief in You alone. When we falter, we promise to offer compassion and grace to ourselves and others. We will lean on Your understanding and not our own. We will have patience, Lord, as we wait to serve. We will praise you with joyful hearts for each day. Each day we will make a difference in this world. Oh Lord, we wish to be the kind of face in the crowd that holds space for hearts to be tender. We trust you are using this time to clear all interference between our hearts and Yours. Lord Jesus, we choose to follow You every day in any capacity of Your choosing. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Beautiful Disciples, Emmaus helped train each of us to be aware, to care, and to follow Him with bravery and confidence wherever He leads. I pray you stay inspired, look for the miracles, and be creative in your discipleship. Bring the tide of His love onto someone's shore. Christ is counting on you. DeColores!

In His love,

Michele Cremeans, WW95

Community Lay Director



January Gathering

MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2021

7:15PM ONLINE

FACEBOOK

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

YOUTUBE

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/?GL=US&TAB=W1](https://www.youtube.com/?gl=us&tab=w1)

The January Gathering will be ONLINE ONLY on Monday, January 11 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!
Our next walk will be 1:30 PM Saturday, January 9, 2021. Pets, family and friends are welcome to join.

Little Miami Scenic Trail - Corwin Trailhead
3600 S Maple St., Waynesville, OH 45068
<https://littlemiamistatepark.org/park-and-trail/trail-maps>



FOLLOW THROUGH!

FROM THE SPIRITUAL
DIRECTOR

And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them... And the angel said unto them, "Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:10-11

My mother was an accomplished amateur tennis player. I was blessed to have her as my teacher and coach. One of the most fundamental instructions she gave me on the court was, "When you swing your racquet, always follow through! If you don't follow through you will lose power and accuracy. Follow through!"

Well, it's the beginning of January. Most of us, I'm sure have already fallen short of continuing to celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas through Epiphany, January 6. Trees, decorations, and lights have been already taken down and packed away for next year. Once again, we've failed to follow through! Now, I'm not pointing fingers—I'm just as guilty!

Of course, this time of year is the time we make New Year's resolutions. I came across an Angus & Phil cartoon recently. It showed two dogs staring off into space. One dog asks the other, "What exactly is a New Year's resolution?" His companion answers, "It's a 'to-do' list for the first week of January."

Every Christmas we celebrate the "great joy" of God's gift of Savior Jesus. In Him eternal salvation appears on the earth. His appearance is a gift of God's grace. It is unmerited, unearned, and freely given. And yet, does it not demand a response that requires follow through? A biblical scholar scoured the gospels and found thirty-eight specific commands Jesus gave his followers. First among them all is "repent" —seek a new heart and new life in God's merciful love revealed in and through Jesus. Our Walks to Emmaus have taught us that this new heart and new life is realized through a disciplined following through; i.e., practicing personal and communal piety, study, and engaging in Christian action of loving kindness.

So, as we all stumble into this new year, while the "good tidings of great joy" have not completely faded, may I suggest that we reaffirm, recommit, and follow through on a new heart and new life resolution. May our efforts add new power and accuracy to Jesus' saving work in our sin-sick, sorrow-worn world in 2021.

Don't forget! Follow through!

May God continue to bless you, our churches, and our Greater Dayton Emmaus community in this new year!

DeColores,

Pastor George Brewer
Spiritual Director



2021 RESOLUTION: SHAKE THE FLAKE

“And don’t say anything you don’t mean. This counsel is embedded deep in our traditions. You only make things worse when you lay down a smoke screen of pious talk, saying, ‘I’ll pray for you,’ and never doing it, or saying, ‘God be with you,’ and not meaning it. You don’t make your words true by embellishing them with religious lace. In making your speech sound more religious, it becomes less true. Just say ‘yes’ and ‘no.’ When you manipulate words to get your own way, you go wrong. (Matthew 5: 33-37 The Message)

An old friend of mine had a hard time saying no. Instead, she would say yes and then cancel out at the last minute using half-truths, “insincere-truths” and little white lies as her excuses.

After a time, people learned to ignore her empty yeses, understanding there would be no follow through. My friend wondered why she stopped receiving invitations.

We are to bring glory to God by reflecting Him with our honesty. We are to be people who can be trusted and therefore do not need to swear because our “yes” means “yes” and our “no” means “no.”

I think my friend is not alone in her struggle to follow through. When I was in my twenties and thirties, I had built a reputation on being a “flake.” My definition of being a flake might be different from yours, so please bear with me as I explain. My mother would say, don’t try anything new, Brenda, because you will just complain and quit. She knew me by reputation.

I liked the idea of trying new things. I took piano lessons for a time and when it got hard, I quit. I joined a Jazzercise class, but when I found something new, I quit. I started several new jobs, then quit. Do you see the pattern?

When my mom called me out, it was a wake-up call. In utter frustration, I asked her, “How long do you have to do something before you can quit, so people don’t think you’re a flake?”

Her answer was simple. “Don’t start something you don’t intend to finish, and if you don’t want to do something, simply say, “NO.” In other words, let your yes mean yes and your no mean no.”

My mother was a wise woman, and I took her advice to heart. I started playing tennis which I enjoyed for a time, but eventually wanted to quit. I wondered, “How long should I continue to play tennis since I had partners and teams who counted on me?” I decided on ten years! I know it seems like a long time, but I was done being a “flake!”

I started Bible Study Fellowship in 1996 and when I finished all eight studies after eight years, I quit. I had learned my yes meant YES! I felt like I had finally shaken the “flake” thing that had followed me around for years.

In 2017, I volunteered to fill the last year of a three-year Emmaus Board seat someone had vacated. Then in 2018, I decided to run for a new three-year term. I’m not going to say I have enjoyed every minute of my time serving as the Communications Chair, but I will say it has been an honor to serve God by keeping my commitment. As I start 2021, I will begin my final year serving as GDE Communications Chair, and I feel so blessed that God has allowed me to honor my commitment and let my yes be yes.

For 2021 my resolution is this: Be a truth-teller. Let your “yes” mean “yes” and your “no” mean “no.” Don’t tell half-truths, or “insincere-truths” or little white lies. When you make a promise to someone, live up to that promise. When you give your word, live your word. And then, after 30 or 40 years, perhaps you, too, can shake the “flake” reputation like I did. Even better, you will have built a reputation on being a truth-teller!

DeColores!

Brenda Donnelly
Communications Chair
Reynoldsburg WW #87, Table of Esther