



Greater Dayton Community

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

July Newsletter

Vol. 32 No. 7, 2021

July Gathering

Monday, July 12, 2021
7:15pm IN PERSON
at Sulphur Grove United
Methodist Church
(Observe Health Protocols)

Available on SGUMC
[YouTube Channel](#)

Upcoming Walks:

Men's Walk #68: June
23-26, 2022 and Women's
Walk #108: July 14-17, at
Sulphur Grove UMC.

Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 27 at 7pm

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[Willing Servant Form](#)

Newsletter Published by:

Brenda Donnelly

Communication Chair

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

newsletter@daytonemmaus.org

My Heart, His House

I look in the mirror and I see myself; I see God and I see my neighbors. I believe God desires for us a deep understanding of Oneness in Him. We get to share His boundless love between us! When I did my Emmaus walk, I felt the love Of Christ in human form. I needed to experience that embodiment and my spirit needed to feel like it was "all about me." Have you ever felt jealous of another person? I have. Where you see someone getting attention or love and you think "I want that!" The truth is, we NEED that! The key is to keep the love of Christ moving as a noun and a verb.

Acts 20:35 states, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." When we give, we are activating God within and share in the inherent understanding we are personally and collectively one in Christ Jesus. Through action in Christ, we naturally share our love of Him with our neighbor. Our devotion drives our actions, and we are blessed immeasurably by them. The question is, "How can you better feel the love of God in your own spirit?"

We search our hearts daily for how we are not surrendering to His love, overcome those obstacles and attune to the higher purpose He puts on our life. When I choose God, He is there for me. He cannot come in if I don't open the door. Once He's in *my* house I can then make it a sanctuary where I host my fellow neighbors.

My fellow disciples and neighbors — We have decided the dates for our next Walks to Emmaus. A time to host our neighbors at the table and serve them from our hearts. I am excited to continue to follow the glow of the Holy Spirit emanating from this ministry. Have a wonderful and safe holiday!

In His Love,

Michele Cremeans

Community Lay Director



SUMMER WALKS 2022

We are excited to share the OFFICIAL DATES for the next Greater Dayton Walks to Emmaus! Men’s Walk #68: June 23-26, 2022 and Women’s Walk #108: July 14-17, 2022 both at Sulphur Grove UMC. Email Jeff Adams at mensregistrar@daytonemmaus.org and/ or Lisa Keller at womensregistrar@daytonemmaus.org for more information. Download a Pilgrim Registration Form at <https://tinyurl.com/28smk9mk>.

Walking with Emmaus

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 hike will be 9:00 AM Saturday, July 10, 2021. Pets, family and friends are welcome to join.

Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark
1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave., Dayton, OH 45414
We'll meet at the entrance to the gardens.



Smile

One of the best things about the end of the pandemic is seeing people smile! I have missed those big, toothy smiles and grins. For me, God has used this time to put a giant exclamation point on how much we need each other.

What’s that old saying, “No man is an island?” That is so true. Cocooned inside my mask, I felt isolated. People somehow seemed so far away and out of reach (at least 6’).

God designed us to live in community and that’s my favorite thing about Emmaus—COMMUNITY! As part of the Greater Dayton Emmaus Community, we have a chance to bring others into community. By sharing our Walk experience with a family member, neighbor, or co-worker we can invite them into the family! I hope you will use the 4th of July celebration to talk to others about the Walk to Emmaus.

DeColores,
Brenda Donnelly
Reynoldsburg WW #86, Table of Esther





Neighbors

Cindy Cultice, Supply Chair

When I think about our interactions with my neighbors, my mind immediately goes to those who live around me. I laugh about the unspoken weekly race we seem to be in with our neighbors about who can keep their grass the shortest. I think about the man across the street who paints water towers for a living and is gone every other week, but when he is home, he is always in his front yard playing catch or riding bikes with his young daughter. There are those that walk the same path walking their dogs each day and my only interaction with them is the brief head nod and wave. I know the habits of these people as I continue to work from home and see them go about their daily lives as I sit in my home office. But I have come to realize those aren't my only neighbors. Our neighbors are all around us, at home, work, church, the grocery, etc.

Over the past year, we have had to think about our neighbors in all new ways. Early in the pandemic, we couldn't even interact with those that lived right next door, but we found neighbors in every nook and cranny as we began to learn to interact with family and friends in all new ways. Our neighbors no longer were right next door, but maybe the next city, state, or even country over. Our neighbors brought us groceries when we couldn't leave our homes. Our neighbors stood at the end of our driveways and chatted from a safe distance. Our neighbors encouraged us through windows, letters, phone calls, and video chats.

Now that we are emerging back into social interactions, how are we staying connected to those new neighbors we found? What have we learned from them? For my family, we have not only met brand new neighbors as we settle into our new home, but we are meeting new neighbors as we settle into a new church. We also continue to love those far away neighbors through texts, phone calls, and letters.

We have two sets of neighbors that have recently made an impact on our lives. The first set of neighbors is a group of people, who unexpectedly, embraced me as I began the transition out of my old job and into my current job. These people, without my even asking, began lifting me up in prayer, encouraging me, welcoming me into their fold, and all without my saying

a word. These people showed me a love that one can only describe as Jesus like love. They are people that I love seeing every week as I continue to wrap things up from my old job. Their smiles and greetings warm my heart. I have decided when I grow up one day, I want to be just like them! They radiate the love of Christ, brightly. They have shown me what it looks like to be the church both inside and outside the physical church building. Their love has healed a hurt I wasn't sure could be healed. When Jesus said, "love your neighbor," these folks took it to heart and put it into action.

The second neighbor that comes to mind is a friend of my husband from work. They may work together, but whether he knows it or not, he has become more than a work mate, he has become a true friend. He continues to support my husband as he makes positive changes in his life. He isn't afraid to call him out when he slips up, but he is quick to encourage when things are going well. One afternoon he said words that put my comfort zone to the test, in a big way. If I am being honest, it is still stretching my comfort zone, but I am learning to adapt. He said, "why don't you try out my church." Seven words. That is all it took to plant that seed. The funny thing is, he voiced words that God has been trying to tell me for several years. Divine intervention? Maybe. Probably. Seriously, sometimes God just has to yell louder because I am sitting in the furthest seat in the back. But really, I do not think God yells, I think he just sent someone to sit down next to me (dare I say in the neighboring seat?) and gently say the words. Like a gentle, it's okay to move forward. I have watched this man interact with my husband and at times myself, when Jesus said, "love your neighbor," he listened and acted.

If I have learned anything from these two sets of neighbors, it would be our neighbors come in all shapes, sizes, colors, and levels of assembly, but all that matters is how they love. We do not need to fix or change our neighbors; we need to love them. It doesn't matter if they live next door, across town, or across the country, we just need to love them. When all is said and done, I just want to be known as someone that loved their neighbor, like Jesus commanded.

YOU ARE STILL GOOD

It was the Monday of the June Gathering and my day started like any other. I was getting ready to walk out the door and head out to work. The sun was exceptionally bright that day. The temperature had also dropped to about fifty degrees, and so my windows had fogged up. The weather was a much-welcomed break from the heatwave we had been experiencing the prior weeks.

What I had not anticipated is that while the beautiful, sunny morning was a sight to behold, trouble loomed for me around the corner. The sun was so glaring that morning, I could not see on my drive to work. That was one of a few obstacles that day that made me completely stop in my tracks, whether I liked it or not (and believe me when I say, I truly did not). I got in my car to start it and noticed my car windows needed to defrost, so I turned on the heat to defrost them ... NO HEAT CAME OUT! Only cold air!! I was terrified, angry, and then scared. I went through such a wide range of emotions in about two seconds.

I tried to see if I could make the heat work anyway. THAT WAS A HARD NO! I quickly realized that I could not see because the sun was so bright and impeded my vision. If I kept driving, I was going to kill myself or someone else. I prayed to God to please help me get somewhere safe. He landed me safely in an abandoned parking lot where I sat for the next hour.

I turned off the car and turned it back on what seemed like five times. I then realized I really needed to get serious about prayer. So, I did just that. Afterward, I turned the car off and then on again. Nothing happened. What was I doing wrong? I knew the prayers to pray, I knew the scriptures and I knew that God could get me out of this, and I could not do it alone. So, I sat there another twenty minutes.

It then hit me like a lightning bolt. I DID NOT PRAISE HIM. Whether He fixed the car or not, He is STILL worthy of my praise ALWAYS! So, I closed my eyes and said this, "Father God, I am so sorry that I did not humble myself before you. I am sorry that I didn't thank you for who You are! Even though I feel alone, YOU ARE WITH ME. Right here in this place I know You are here. I know You can fix this for me, but

whether you chose to or not, I will praise you because You are still my Redeemer and You, Father God, are still good. You are still my God who is with me in the valley, and You are still the God who is with me on the mountaintop. You are still good and worthy of my praise forever God. I love you Father.

If You fix this, You are still good. If You don't fix this, Father, I will keep praising You Father because You are still good. You save me from what is not good for me. I will continue to sing Your praises forever Father God. I love you.

As I opened my eyes and still praising God, He didn't change the air from cool to heat, but He did clear my windows that morning right before my eyes. He showed me who He is, and I am being so grateful that He never leaves me even when I do not deserve His mercy and His grace. Remember, regardless of where you are in your life, He is still with you. He loves you and He will never leave you. He is always worthy of our praise.

Update on my car:

I did not know in that moment that I needed coolant. I only knew that something was wrong, and I needed to completely rely on my Heavenly Father.

Thankfully, God matched me with a man who loves God first and then me. It doesn't hurt that he also knows a lot about cars and was able to troubleshoot the problem later that day.

God never leaves His children and His love and care for us never stops. He wants good things for us. He is our Heavenly Father. We also serve a Mighty God who scripture tells us promises to never leave us. He is worthy of our praise not just in good times but in all times.

"... give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

1Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

De Colores,

Stephanie Looney
Greater Sidney Area Emmaus
Women's Walk #31, Table of Anna



The July Gathering will be held on Monday, July 12 at 7:15pm in-person at Sulphur Grove United Methodist Church, 7505 Taylorsville Rd, Dayton, OH 45424. If you are fully vaccinated from the Corona Virus, you may attend without a mask at your personal discretion. If you are partially vaccinated or not at all,

please wear a mask. We will still be social distancing, hand sanitizing and contact tracing.

If you would like to join us online, please visit Sulphur Grove's [YouTube channel](#) or watch the broadcast later on our daytonemmaus.org website.

GOOD NEW MORNING, FRIEND!



I spent the past week at Scout summer camp. I've had a great time and met lots of interesting people. Walking up to the dining hall the first morning I exchanged pleasantries with a gentleman named Chris. We stopped to chat and in under 10 minutes we were both weeping. He told me about his arthritis in his hips and how he "doesn't do this for a paycheck." He's been a part of Scouting for many years and still has the passion for Scouts and God continues to show up. With his voice shaky, he shared he doesn't have much to give. He knows how he's been blessed and "determines the best thing to do is pass it along." He quoted Acts 20:35:

"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

He invited me to see his paper cutting "if ever I was interested." We made an intentional effort to meet,

and he cut paper into strips to make words like "Hell" and "Love" explaining that Love is the only thing that has the power to transform evil and sin. We wept together and he said, "When we meet through tears He is here." The final unfolding of the paper revealed a cross.

Chris, birth name Lowell, I am not sure if I'll ever see him again. But we met in Christ and agreed that the transformation in each of us will forever remain. One last piece of wisdom he passed along:

"Merge the head and the heart and you can't go wrong."

It is always a Good new morning in my heart when I meet a new friend in Christ.

DeColores,

Michele Cremeans
WW95, table of Rebekah