



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

June Newsletter

Vol. 32 No. 6, 2021

June Gathering

Monday, June 14, 2021
7:15pm IN PERSON
at Sulphur Grove United
Methodist Church
(Observe Health Protocols)

Available on SGUMC
[YouTube Channel](#)

Stay Tuned:

Men's Walk #68 TBD
Women's Walk #108
TBD

Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 22 at 7pm

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Newsletter Published by:

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All newsletter articles must be
submitted by the 15th of each
month.
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What if we treated each other like the Souls we are? Recognize our own soul and tended to it as sacred. This month we are talking about the story of our scars and how God uses them for His glory. I was interested to learn that "passion" means suffering. The root of our suffering ultimately becomes our passion once we've allowed God to get His healing hands on it. Wound to scar, scar to healing, then the scar is used for His Glory. I believe we were born remembering the essence of God's Love and world experiences make us forget. As we begin to learn the world's way we pattern our behavior and anticipate outcomes based on a narrative rather than the Truth. As time passes, our path and our mind become narrower, and we end up with Christ amnesia.

Experiences such as the Walk to Emmaus are opportunities in which to take a deep dive in God's pool (rather than our own). We allow Him to fish us out, dry us off, and restore in us His spirit. All of this in one weekend except we all know it doesn't stop there. The Walk to Emmaus is many things to many people but we stand in solidarity knowing it is **one thing** to everyone — A New Beginning.

With fresh eyes and hearts, we have begun the restart strategy as a new beginning. We are deciding on suitable dates for the Men's and Women's walks and creating a plan that the community will carry forth. We can look at these past few years as a wounding or we can look at it as a renewal. We are committed to this ministry and the work it does in the world. Each of us has become more alive, more awake, and more active as a disciple because of our Walk to Emmaus. I am anticipating when I say I can't wait to be in a room full of pilgrims again serving

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souls. Please stay tuned for the ways you can serve this beautiful ministry, scars and all. Be well and know you are loved.

DeColores,
Michele Cremeans
Community Lay Director

Best News Ever!!



We are talking about Walks to Emmaus AGAIN!!!! Yay!!!! It's so hard to express in print how excited we all are!!! I'll be the first to admit that I kind of enjoyed my "Covid retirement" and wearing slippers all day and only having to look fancy from the waist up (tip: if you wear pearls, you can even pull off wearing a sweatshirt on Zoom), but I'm ready to come out from behind the curtain and have a BLAST at an Emmaus Walk.

I have missed seeing all of your beautiful faces. I've missed serving meals and gathering for Candlelight with all of you! I've missed seeing the glowing pilgrims' faces on Sunday evening at the end of a walk.

In reading the theme of the newsletter this month, Isaiah 53:5 - *"But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed,"* the word that resounds in my heart is *"healed"*.

That's how I felt after my walk. I was carrying a very heavy burden and I gave it to the Great Healer and I came away healed. I'm thinking about the friends I know who have not experienced an Emmaus Walk and how I wish I could give the gift of this healing to them too, and what a gift that is.

I know a lot of us are not back in our church homes still, and I'm praying that if we're not at a church building, we are at least online or in small groups. Now is a good time to encourage your friends and start planting the seeds about the Walk to Emmaus experience so they can enjoy that wonderful healing power!!!

De Colores!!!!!!
Lisa Keller
Women's Registrar

Upcoming Walks:

Your Dayton Emmaus Board of Directors is currently discussing upcoming Walk dates. Look for updates shortly. In the meantime, please take our 2021 **Walk Survey**.

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>



Our scars tell the stories of our lives, reminding us of a time when we were injured or harmed and not all of these scars are seen. Whether seen or unseen they represent pain and are also symbolic of our humanness.

I'm reminded of the Apostle Paul and the pain he suffered. In 2 Corinthians chapter 12, Paul first begins to talk about the futility of his boasting. He shares that boasting in himself will accomplish nothing in fact instead of boasting about his accomplishments he chose to boast about his weaknesses. Notice I said "weaknesses" because he recognized that he had many. He said to boast about himself would not necessarily make him a fool because the things he would boast about were true.

To prevent Paul from becoming conceited, he was given a thorn, a scar (a thorn) if you will, in the flesh and that thorn, that scar would be a reminder that the very thing that was meant to torment or destroy him allowed the power of Christ to rest on him.

Oh if we could only look at our scars and see the power of Jesus rise up in us helping us to recognize that we are stronger than what happened to us, stronger than what someone did to us, stronger than the world that seeks to suppress us, stronger than

any weapon Satan seeks to attack us.

Here in the Emmaus community many of you have shared your scars and it is because of your bravery and most of all your ability to see the power of God in the circumstance that you have become bolder in your witness about Christ; men and women who realize the strength of their testimonies. It encourages others to do the same.

So what message do your scars tell? Do they tell the story of a sinner who sought a Savior? Do they tell the story of how you persevered in darkness? Do they tell how you rose up in the midst of adversity? Do they tell the story of how God delivered you from the direst of circumstance? I hope they tell the story of perseverance, of confident trust in an Almighty God, of an irrepressible faith in the God who keeps His promises, and most of all I pray that your scars tell that you are alive and that what happened to you didn't define you but gave you a bolder witness and testimony of your confident faith in God.

Scars may tell us of our past but they don't tell us about our future!

Mamie Johnson
Spiritual Director



Walking with Emmaus

Share groups are an extension of the Walk to Emmaus weekend experience.

Our next walk will be 1:00 PM Sunday, June 27, 2021. Pets, family and friends are welcome to join.

Carriage Hill Metropark 7800 E. Shull Rd. Dayton, OH 45424 We'll meet at point 1 on the map and follow either the green or yellow trail. Come early and eat a packed lunch before the hike if you like.

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE

June Gathering

JUNE 14, 2021 | 7:15 PM | SULPHUR GROVE UMC



The June Gathering will be held in-person at Sulphur Grove United Methodist Church, 7505 Taylorsville Rd #6313, 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.

Illusion of Separation

While hiking I passed a live tree with the bark floating separately a few inches off the surface of its trunk. If I were the tree, I might have thoughts like "What the heck is happening to me? Why is my bark peeling off? Why me? What have I done to deserve this?" I for one would love to be a tree, and I also love being able to open doors ... so, that's a thing.

Anyway, my point is our woundings have a tremendous effect on us and the secondary reaction to every phase of the pain sustains emotional damage that long surpasses our physical healing. I take comfort in knowing God uses my scars to help me have deeper understanding, more compassion, clear discernment and stay in step with His will for my life.

We have all walked through fires. The point is not to willingly stand in the fire longer than necessary whether it's physically, mentally or emotionally.

I know what it is to be abandoned, so I stick around.

I know what it is to be abused, so I am careful what I say and do.

I know what it is to be beaten, so I hold people in Love.

I know what it is to be talked about, so I don't gossip.

I know what it is to be cast out, so I include everyone.

I know what it is to be hated, so I LOVE.

God is SO GOOD. Whenever you feel separated at times from His Love, just look around for the one who knows pain and is there to help. You'll find the Holy Spirit ready and waiting to put your pieces back together and return you to your natural state — LOVED.

"I love when people who have been through hell walk out of the flames carrying buckets of water for those still consumed by the fire." -S. Sparkles

In His Love,
Michele Cremeans
WW95, Table of Rebekah