

GREATER DAYTON EMMAUS

450 ALEX-BELL RD. CENTERVILLE, OH 45459



MARCH 2023



Join us at the March Gathering!
March 13 at 7:15 at
Normandy United Methodist Church

For behold, the winter is past;
the rain is over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth,
the time of singing has come.

Song of Solomon 2:11-12





A Longing for God

“But God demonstrates his love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8 New International Version

Well, the season of Lent has already begun and is an excellent time for a reset. It is a time of awakening as we usher in Springtime. The trees are being aroused from their sleep, and the flowers push away the dirt that nurtured and protected their seed until time for emergence. However, they aren't the only things that need to be awakened from their slumber.

As we remember the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion, we are fixated on something we can do to emulate the unbelievable sacrifice, the debt Jesus paid for our deliverance and freedom. His life for our life.

Forty days to remember, reflect, understand, and realize how much our salvation costs. You say it isn't fair; we aren't the ones who sinned; it was Adam from whom all creation evolved. This is true, and because of it, we, too, are guilty.

Our fleshly desires would seek to abort God's plan for us. However, God's love for humanity would not be thwarted by the devil. God is in charge and wants to know our commitment to Him. He gave His absolute best. He could have offered an animal sacrifice, but how would we have viewed it? Our human nature can't conceivably grasp the magnitude of God's love. It can only be understood and conceived in our spirit, His spirit that lives within all born-again believers. Yet God doesn't just want lip service. He wants us to live renewed lives, sincerely repent sin, and praise and worship Him.

Throughout the many Emmaus experiences, we have seen God work miraculously. Seeing spirits awakened to God's love, magnitude, and power warms our souls. During closings, we anxiously gaze upon each pilgrim after each walk as they share their experiences over three days. Imagine what can happen in forty days—hopefully, a longing for God and ways to serve Him continually.

In His Service,
Mamie Johnson
Spiritual Director

Greetings friends!

Wow!!! What a powerful Women's Walk # 109 in February! Thank you, Emmaus Community, once again for sponsoring so many pilgrims and for coming out to support the pilgrims in so many ways including preparing and serving meals, carrying luggage, writing and creating lots of agape, attending special services to show the pilgrims God's love through your presence and actions, coming early Sunday morning and afternoon to restore Normandy for morning church services, and on and on.

Walk to Emmaus would not be possible without the energy, enthusiasm and servanthood of the Community! You are a rich blessing to each of us and your efforts in deepening your faith by your participation in a Share Group and serving Him in so many ways through your local church and other ministries renews each of us and inspires each of us to seek God's will in all we do.

Spring is a reminder that God is all about making things new. Spring is a time for growth. For our spiritual lives, it comes from the right combination of time with God in His Word and time with other Christians in fellowship. *"That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither -- whatever they do prospers" (Ps 1:3).*

From Ramsey Solutions, *"The Christian life is a balancing act between working like everything depends on you and trusting like everything depends on God. He will send the rains you need, but you've also got to do your part by working the harvest."*

From Deu 11:14, *"I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and olive oil."*

God is in the renovation business. He takes what's old and transforms it into something incredible. If there is an area of your life that needs renewal, God will meet you right where you are.

From the Community Lay Director

"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me" (Ps 51:10). "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (2 Cor 5:17).

As Christians, we know we must spend time in His Word through our daily devotions and through Bible study. And we also know we need to spend time with other Christians in fellowship through weekly worship services. We know we gain many benefits from being in a Share Group with other believers to encourage us and pray with us through life's many challenges, to support us in our individual calls to discipleship and in our various ministry areas at home, at church, at work, and in our community.

My Share Group has always been there for me, for example, in my hospital stay when I had 7 blockages in my arteries around my heart including a 100% blockage in the "widow-maker" artery!

The only reason I am here today is because the Lord needed me to do some important things and He knew I would procrastinate. The Lord generated capillaries that enabled my heart to survive without a heart attack. My cardiologist told me that capillaries are only generated in about 15% of people, so I was very fortunate that the Lord to spare me. Riding to the hospital for my surgery I felt a tremendous calm and peace come over me as I believed that the Lord would not waste capillaries around my blockage only to have me die on the operating table.

My Share Group came to the hospital before my surgery and stayed and prayed with my wife Susan and family throughout my surgery, and brought meals during my stay to my family and 6-month recovery and rehabilitation time.

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Share Groups are a true blessing and I encourage each of you to ask your sponsor or your tablemates from your Walk to help you or maybe start a new one with them. You can also contact our Good Shepherd Che McGowan at 216- 857-8109 or goodshepherd@daytonemmaus.org for assistance in finding or starting a Share Group.

Being in a Share Group helps you to keep growing in Christ and keep your personal Emmaus Walk alive in your life.

This is my last newsletter article as your Community Lay Director. It has been a humbling experience and a joy to be part of a great team of believers in helping to reignite the Greater Dayton Emmaus Community.

I encourage new pilgrims to become active in the community, attending and participating in the monthly Gatherings held the second Monday at 7:15 pm at Normandy or Sulphur Grove UMC.

Actively support future Walks by serving meals, carrying luggage, helping with the Big Move from Normandy UMC to Sulphur Grove UMC for the summer walks and back again, setting up and tearing down for each Walk, reading and contributing to the monthly Newsletters, etc.

I will now serve a year as Past Community Lay Director, and I want you to welcome Jeff Adams as your new Community Lay Director on April 1.

Jeff has been Men's Registrar for three years, is our current Vice Chair and Chair of the Team Selection Committee, has been part of an Emmaus team on many, many walks as Assistant Table Leader, Table Leader, Assistant Lay Director, and Board Representative.

He is an Eagle Scout, and has been involved in the Kairos Ministry for many years serving on teams there as well.

Please wish Jeff well and continue to pray for him, your Board of Directors and our community as we serve our Lord by enabling many more Walks to Emmaus.

Christ is Counting on You!

DeColores,
Kirk Lehneis
GDE Men's Walk #14, Table of Peter
Community Lay Director

Wonder no more...

www.daytonemmaus.org

Have you ever wondered what our vision is for Greater Dayton Emmaus?

Have you wanted to give a talk in your church about your Walk to Emmaus experience to encourage others to attend a Walk and needed some basic information?

Have you ever wondered how Emmaus was started?

Have you wondered what happens in a Share Group, what are the benefits and how to find one to join?

Have you wondered what is meant by Progressive Servanthood?

These and other topics are discussed on our website at daytonemmaus.org under "Explore Emmaus" under the tab "Vision and Strategy" at Vision and Strategy | Greater Dayton Emmaus

Get Ready for SUMMER WALKS at Sulphur Grove UMC

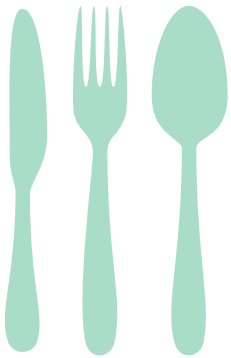
Men's Walk #70, June 22-25, 2023

Men's Registrar:

Steve Holmes, phone 937-681-1986, or email mensregistrar@daytonemmaus.org

Women's Walk #110, July 20-23, 2023

Women's Registrar: email womensregistrar@daytonemmaus.org



A note from our new kitchen chair

In preparing for my new responsibilities as the Kitchen Chair, I worked most of the recent Men's and Women's Walk weekends and it was an amazing experience.

I met a great crew of Kitchen meal leaders and many truly dedicated and hardworking volunteers. We all worked closely together, complained quietly about things that maybe did not go so well, laughed and smiled frequently, prayed, ate together and cleaned up our mess after each meal.

I took time to try to talk with most of the volunteers about any suggestions or feedback they had for the kitchen operations and as a result may have some ideas on how to streamline some things and make us more efficient and cost conscious.

Nevertheless, we have been in great hands the past few years under the leadership of Brenda Baker, who is a marvelous coach. I am looking forward to a new challenge and our fellowship together in the kitchen; serving the Lord.

Decolores,
Mike Baughman

Find us on

Greater
Dayton
Emmaus



APRIL GATHERING:

APRIL 10 @7:15PM
NORMANDY UMC
DAYTON, OH

MAY GATHERING

MAY 8 @7:15 PM
NORMANDY UMC
DAYTON, OH