



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

## March Newsletter

Vol. 32 No. 3, 2021

### March Gathering

Monday, March 8, 2021  
7:15pm IN PERSON  
at Sulphur Grove United  
Methodist Church  
(Observe Health Protocols)

Available on SGUMC  
[YouTube Channel](#)

### Walking with Emmaus

Our next walk will be 1pm  
Saturday, March 13, 2021

Taylorville MetroPark, East  
Park: 2101 U.S. 40,  
Vandalia, OH 45377

We'll be hiking the Yellow  
trail beginning at point 1 on  
the map.

[View Map](#)

### Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 23 at 7pm

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### Newsletter Published by:

Brenda Donnelly  
Communication Chair

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

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"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."  
Matthew 5:16

God wants to see YOU shine! This Ministry is made possible by the work of the hands and feet of willing servants. Each Walk is made possible by dozens of willing servants and made Beautiful by the heart of Christ.

As the Greater Dayton Emmaus community re-emerges after a long winter, our hearts shine for the Lord in tandem with the sun. As the Chairman of the Board of directors, I have witnessed God's brush strokes of beauty sweeping through our community. We are a colorful mosaic of God's handiwork where He transforms our iniquities for His glory. We move by the prompting of the Holy Spirit and let God work! The gem of our hearts is revealed through our faith and trust in Him, and in return He is faithful and trustworthy to us.

This year we are preparing our hearts, bodies, and minds for the upcoming events. Although we don't know exactly when God will expedite our Walks, we do know we can use this time to prepare. We will be hosting online events such as fellowship events, sponsorship training, leadership training. Stay tuned for ways to let your Light shine for Jesus! When the time comes we want to see Him shining through YOU like the colorful stained glass mosaic that you are!

Let your light shine for Greater Dayton Emmaus.

DeColores,  
Michele Cremeans  
Community Lay Director  
WW95, Table of Rebekah



# God Shines His Face

I have felt God and witnessed God in many situations during my life. I will try to write about a couple of them and maybe this will help you recognize God working in your life.

I have worked at United Theological Seminary for the past nine years with first year seminary students. One of the first homework assignments they are given is to write their "Spiritual Autobiography." Being the leader of the group, I had to sit down and write mine because, like them, I had never done this before. So, I started writing. To my amazement, I remembered so many people, places and situations that helped me see God shining a light in my life.

I had the privilege of traveling to Estes Park Colorado in 1968 with a group of youth from the EUB (Evangelical United Brethren) church to meet with youth from the Methodist church. This was the year the two denominations joined together to become the United Methodist Church. We had many worship experiences and time to learn about each other's denomination.

One morning we climbed a hill for morning devotions. There were three crosses on that hill. In that moment, I met Jesus there. It helped me remember his sacrifice for me on the cross. What a powerful time. I had never felt His presence like that before. I can remember talking to one of our counselors on the train ride home for hours wondering what this encounter meant and what was the Lord asking me

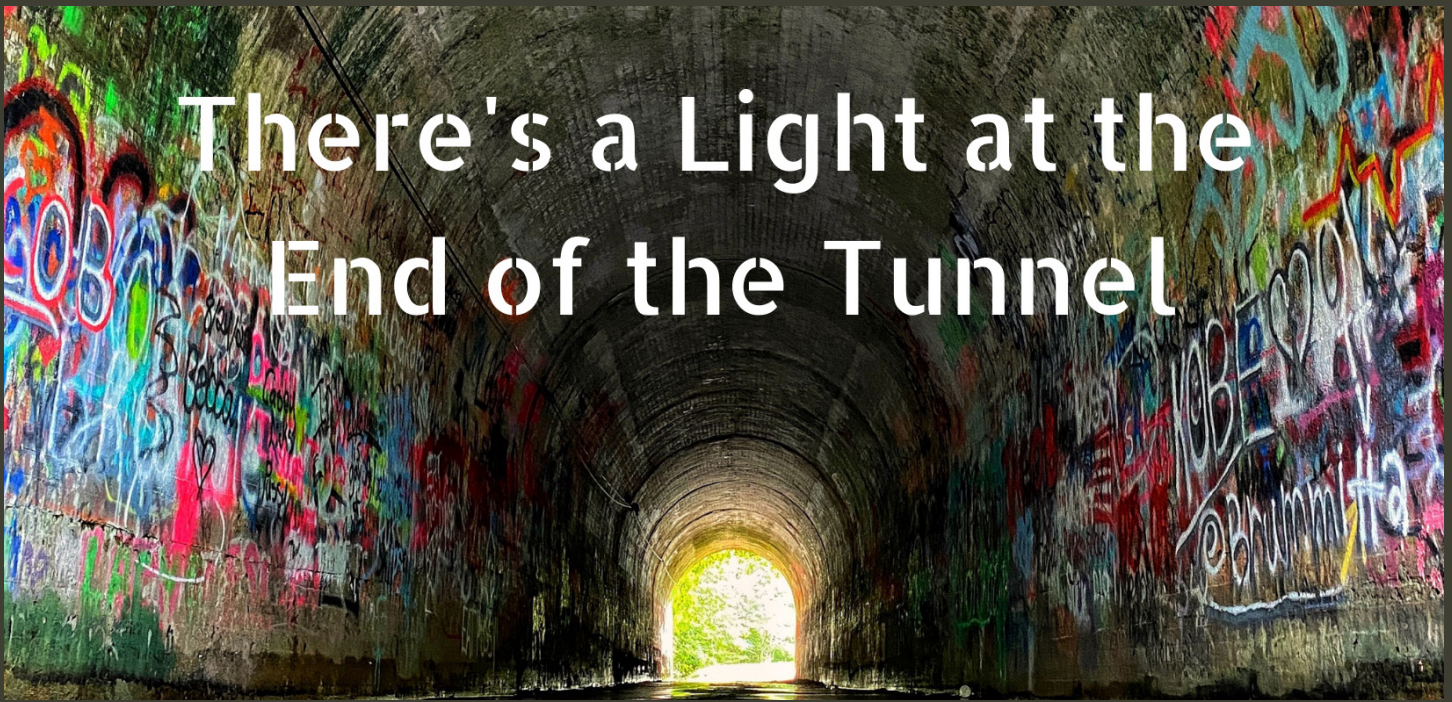
to do. That was over 42 years ago. Fast forward to 2011. That same counselor was the person that brought me to the Seminary. God is so good.

Another time, I can remember sitting in my car at the Cleveland Clinic crying out to God asking Him not to take my husband from me this way. You see, he had Acute Myeloid Leukemia. He was bleeding internally and there was nothing they could do. On Sunday, I received a call from the church here in Dayton where I directed the choir. They said they would lift him and the situation up in prayer. The church that I was attending in Cleveland would do the same. By Friday of that week, my husband was out of the Cleveland Clinic and staying at Hope Lodge (which is a place for caregivers and cancer patients to stay while receiving treatment.) He recovered enough to leave the Cleveland Clinic and return to Dayton one month early. He never spiked a fever or had any of the other side effects most cancer patients have. What a miracle. God is in the miracle business.

I encourage each of you to sit down and write your Spiritual Autobiography. Look back to see how God has blessed you through people, nature, worship, music, places, and the Word.

DeColores,  
Linda Haller  
Agape Chair





# There's a Light at the End of the Tunnel

*"The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid? ... For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion; in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me... When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek."*  
Psalm 27:1, 5, 8 KJV

I love that the daylight hours are getting longer with each passing day. I love that we wake to the sounds of birds chirping. Soon we will have to set our clocks forward one hour. These are all signs that spring is just around the corner. We have weathered some dark days this past year as a community, as a nation and as a world. The pandemic has altered our collective lives and upended our plans and routines.

For months now, we have watched charts and graphs tracking the number of positive COVID cases, the number of hospitalizations, and sadly the number of deaths due to this virus steadily climb to record heights. We have endured the economic fallout from businesses closing and people working from home, while children attend school virtually or on modified hybrid schedules. We have watched as churches moved services and bible studies online and sports teams and dinner theaters and restaurants have had to shut down seasons and reduce spectators and participants to 25% -50% capacities. We watched as everything from funerals to weddings to baby showers to college courses had to be conducted virtually or either cancelled all together (like our entire year of live-in Walks).

But in spite of all that we have endured there's light at the end of the tunnel. In fact there's light in that tunnel with us. "The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear?" One of the themes that is reinforced over and over again on our Walk weekend, is that we are not doing life alone. God uses the body of Christ to show us his agape love all weekend. They cook and clean and write letters and sing and share their heartfelt talks and show up with candlelight and gifts of agape--all to move us closer to the realization that God loves us. That whole weekend we get to practice being in His presence. From morning chapel to the evening examination of conscience, we get to shelter in place with Him. As we pray for our churches and for the one who needs this weekend the most and especially for the one who thinks they need it the least something happens. That dark winter begins to lift and spring begins to call. "When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek."

DeColores,  
Palmer Jason,  
Spiritual Director



# This Little Light of Mine I'm gonna let it shine ...

The Lord God almighty put me to work as a disciple at a young age. I was to be the light in the darkness, and I imagine some of you can relate. I loved music boxes, the London bridge, and my dollhouse. I appreciated my flowered wallpaper and was determined to “Teach the world to sing in perfect harmony ...” Despite the circumstances, my heart sparkled, and God’s love shined through me.

One year during trick or treat in our neighborhood something happened and it is profound for the lesson it recently revealed. While departing from one of the houses I turned to see a porch full of kids. Instead of making a B-line to the stairs, I chose instead to yield in the corner of the porch. In doing so I fell off into the space between the rail and the house. Until recently, I thought I was a victim of having been “pushed off the porch.” I now realize it had been my choice to yield unnecessarily and cause myself to fall through the cracks.

How many times have you yielded yourself to the point of no return? To the point you feel ignored, abandoned, or invisible. As God calls us forward to serve Him, we are asked to stand firm and yield only to the command of the Holy Spirit. We are not to yield to our human will, others’ opinions, or skewed visions of the “unaligned.”

I believe we as Fourth Day members are being called

to go on a communal Walk to Emmaus. God has extended the “weekend” and sends an invitation for us to collectively go on a very special pilgrimage with Him. Breaking us from the limitations of a solitary weekend broadens our view and widens the platforms from which He teaches us. He is taking us deeper in Him. At this point in our Fourth Days, we know Jesus walks with us every step and we shine His love on the world. We are being given this opportunity to walk together, talk with Him, and receive these lessons as a community. We are called to keep shining and to yield only to Him as He guides this Ministry on its very own Walk to Emmaus. Are you up for the challenge of walking together with Jesus, not yielding to anything but God? Lord Jesus, we want the Greater Dayton Emmaus Ministry to shine by the light Holy Spirit!

Can we recommit to this Ministry and accept His continuous offer to Walk with Him as One in Christ? I can “taste and see” His goodness in this unique time. What is the Lord revealing to you right now? The lessons we glean will be passed on to pilgrims in future Walk weekends. What an opportunity!

One thing I know for sure. No one is going to “push (this Ministry) off the porch!” We are here to stay!

In His Love,

Michele Cremeans  
WW95, Table of Rebekah