

# GREATER DAYTON EMMAUS

450 ALEX-BELL RD. CENTERVILLE, OH 45459  
WWW.DAYTONEMMAUS.ORG



MAY 2024

## MAY GATHERING

MAY 13, 7:15 PM

NORMANDY UMC, CENTERVILLE



*"But the word  
of God grew  
and multiplied."*

Acts 12:24 KJV





# Mat Sale

**Saturday, May 18th  
1-3 p.m.**

Guardian West Self-Storage, 2701 Lyons Road, Unit 67  
Miamisburg OH 45342

GDE is eliminating the mattresses used in the sleeping areas. If anyone is interested in purchasing a mattress for a donation, the storage unit will be open on May 18 from 1 to 3 for pickup. Mattresses not claimed at this sale will be donated to homeless shelters.

The community is switching from mats to blowup mattresses supplied by pilgrims, sponsors, and community members. The blowup mattresses are more comfortable and hygienic and will save on storage costs.

Contact Community Chair Brenda Baker if you have questions: [brenda1smith@aol.com](mailto:brenda1smith@aol.com)



## COULD IT BE YOU?

**A new treasurer and a mens' registrar  
are needed immediately**

The GDE Board of Directors currently has openings for treasurer and men's registrar.

The treasurer keeps the board informed of the budget and handles the checking account. Someone with some accounting experience is preferred.

The registrar is the link between prospective pilgrims, sponsors and walk lay directors. He answers questions and ensures all paperwork is submitted prior to the summer and winter men's walks.

Contact the Nominations Chair Steve Holmes if you would like to learn more about these important positions:  
[sbh0914@live.com](mailto:sbh0914@live.com)



**GREATER DAYTON EMMAUS  
IS ON FACEBOOK**



# *A message from the Spiritual Director*

***“Now you are no longer a slave but God’s own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.” Galatians 4:7 NLT***

Paul says - life before you gave it over to Jesus was like being in slavery.

Look at the definition of slavery:

\*The condition in which one person is owned as property by another and is under the owner's control, especially in involuntary servitude.

\*The practice of owning slaves.

\*A mode of production in which slaves constitute the principal workforce.

Have you ever looked at your life before a relationship with Jesus as slavery? People often say I was a sinner saved by grace and that’s true! However, I rarely, if ever, have heard someone call themselves a ‘slave’ before believing in Christ.

Yet, that’s what we are without the redeeming love of Christ living inside of our hearts. Christ did for us what we could not do for ourselves - break the chains of sin and slavery!

I and three ladies from my church recently returned from a two-week missionary trip to Bangkok, Thailand. We were there to learn about and minister with Nightlight, a 16-year-old ministry in the ‘Red Light District of Bangkok’. This ministry has helped many Thai and African women get free from sex trafficking (slavery) and safely back to their homes.

A woman named Victoria, approximately 30 years old, was one of five women baptized while we were serving there! She was half Thai and half Indian, born into slavery with no identity or birth certificate. She was someone’s property.

Thailand is mostly Buddhist and also worships many other gods.

Today, I give thanks to the Lord for working through NightLight Ministries, Victoria is no longer a slave, physically or spiritually! She has a job and an apartment of her own!

Victoria was introduced to Jesus and over time has realized He is the real deal! To witness her baptism was amazing! She is free from the darkness of her past and now knows she’s an HEIR to King Jesus!!



How about you and me? Are we done with willful sin which makes us slaves to darkness?

Do we SEEK TO LIVE and obey our Heavenly Father like an HEIR in Christ’s Kingdom of Light?

I pray that daily we remember the Cross of Christ, then pick up OUR cross and FOLLOW HIM.

***“Do you not know that to whatever you yield yourselves as slaves for obedience, you are slaves to what you obey—whether to sin resulting in death, or to obedience resulting in righteousness?” Romans 6:16 TLV***

DeColores

Pamela Wantz, Spiritual Director

# FROM THE COMMUNITY CHAIR

## Hello and Happy May!

As I write, the April showers are promising May flowers, and I love the beautiful spring flowers. Another thing I look forward to is Saturdays when the weather is perfect. In my area, we all go out and work in our yards, mowing, weeding, sweating and working to make our space beautiful and inviting. When it gets too hot, it's pool time. As the evening nears, out comes the grills for the evening meal. My goodness, the smells in the air are magical. I also love to camp, so even later in the evening, the smell of campfires waft in the warm summer breeze.

Summer Breeze, makes me feel fine.....I will let you finish that 😊.

Recently, I was down in Ashville, NC at a Christian Meeting Planners conference. The Blue Ridge Mountains can be quite the sight, but at that time of year they were brown.

However, on the last morning, as I was having my coffee, I started to journal and that is when it happened. God took over my thoughts and here is what he said. "As you look out your window, you the notice the brown mountains but look close, hints of green reveal that they are awakening to a new season, so are you. They will grow and become all that God created them to be, and so will you. You will help others as they navigate climbing their mountain and help them see the beauty in their journey. You will help them find joy in the accession and descension of life and what is to come. You have been taught the way; this is your hour to begin your climb. Holy Spirit will be your guide. It is His job to remind you where to take each step and remind you of the tools God has equipped you with. Today is not the end; it's just the beginning."



*I share this with you because it could be for you, too. It really reminds me of the transformation through a weekend. I pray it gives you Hope for your fourth days.*

*So, you have heard about me; you have heard from God. Now, I want to update you on what's to come in our community. We are breathing life back into LD Training. If you have been a Table Leader twice, you are up for Assistant Lay Director next, and after you have done that twice, it will be your season to be Lay Director for a walk weekend.*

*We want to equip you with all the tools you will need to be successful and fruitful as you develop the team and prepare yourself. We want to set you up for success. Stay tuned for the specific date, but as for now, we are looking at a Saturday in mid-July.*

*I am thrilled that our Board is anointed and prepared to serve you and the Lord in a mighty way. Please get connected in the community by serving...sign up to help with housing, kitchen, worship and so much more.*

*Christ is counting on you and I am counting on Christ – are you?*

*In Christ's Love,*

*Brenda Baker  
Community Lay Director  
Greater Dayton Emmaus*

# SHARE GROUPS



## **New community members!**

Don't forget to attend the Share Group Orientation at 6:15pm  
before the Gathering on May 13!

If your share group is looking for new members please reach out to the Good Shepherd,  
**Stephen Cultice**  
937-823-9262 or [scultice424@gmail.com](mailto:scultice424@gmail.com)



**www**

**daytonemmaus.org**



## ***NEW way to sign up for Prayer Vigils!!***



Our new Prayer Vigil Tool will  
be accessible to community  
members for special prayers,  
including Emmaus Walk Vigils.  
Bookmark this link for  
upcoming vigil registrations.

<https://www.prayervigils.net/vigil.php?pvId=1598>

# Agape



Now is the time to start making table agape for the June and July walks! Here are a few FAQ's:

**How much Agape should I make?** Make at least 60 pieces—enough for the pilgrims and the team. It is a good idea to make extra in case of breakage.

**How should I package my Agape?** Label your container/package with the number of pieces. Don't put your name on agape as these gifts are to represent God's love and therefore we should remain anonymous (this does not include letters).

**Can I determine where/when Agape will be used?**

The Agape Chair will accept your suggestions, but please understand that they have the final say as to where and when your Agape is used. Be sure to label your container/package for the walk, day, or time you have in mind to have this Agape.

**What should I make?** Make it colorful and keep it light and inexpensive. Useful is nice.

**What happens to leftover Agape?** Any leftovers are taken to the next Gathering for the makers to pick up.

**What about a special Agape for a pilgrim I am sponsoring?** Personal letters for Sunday are wonderful, but save books and other gifts for the ride home from the walk.

**What about food Agape?** If you pilgrim has special dietary needs, your help in meeting those needs is appreciated, but not required.

**Where do I leave Agape?** You may leave it at Sponsor's Hour, with any Agape team member, or in the Agape room at Sulphur Grove (signs will be posted).

Check here for ideas or look on Pinterest:  
<https://daytonemmaus.org/agape>

## SAVE THE DATE

### **MAY GATHERING:**

MAY 13 @7:15 PM  
NORMANDY UMC  
CENTERVILLE, OH

### **JUNE GATHERING:**

JUNE 10 @7:15 PM  
SULPHUR GROVE UMC  
HUBER HEIGHTS, OH

### **MEN'S WALK #71**

JUNE 27-30  
SULPHUR GROVE UMC  
HUBER HEIGHTS, OH

### **JULY GATHERING:**

JULY 10 @7:15 PM  
SULPHUR GROVE UMC  
HUBER HEIGHTS, OH

### **WOMEN'S WALK #112**

JULY 18-21  
SULPHUR GROVE UMC  
HUBER HEIGHTS, OH



# WALK REMINDERS

**FROM STEVE HOLMES  
VICE CHAIR/MEN'S REGISTRAR**

## **Greetings Greater Dayton Emmaus Community!**

We of GDE are one body in Christ, with many parts and many different talents. Since we are one body; a walk weekend is a community event not just a team event.

Therefore, I would like to share a few reminders as we prepare for the upcoming summer walks and the big move to Sulphur Grove UMC.

**Last date for pilgrim applications.** We will take pilgrim applications any time, but the cutoff date for Men's Walk 71 is June 6. This is to give proper time for sponsors, supply, kitchen, and housing to prepare.

**Sponsorship training** is offered prior to each Gathering at 6:30.

**Serving during the weekends.** It takes the entire community to put on a weekend. Please see the sign-up sheets at Gathering or online (see next newsletter or Facebook) to sign-up to serve with housing needs, kitchen help, and the agape room.

**Prayer Vigil.** Our walk weekends are bathed in prayer, before, during, and after. I would encourage everyone who is able, to sign up for a spot on the prayer vigil.

**Fees.** Beginning with the women's walk in July, fees are being increased. Team fees will increase from \$65 to \$90 and pilgrim fees will increase from \$85 to \$125.

**Bedding.** GDE no longer provides foam pads for sleeping from housing. We are asking pilgrims and/or their sponsors to provide a twin-size air mattress. If a pilgrim cannot provide one, we have a few to share. Contact the registrars.



## *Gathering Volunteers Needed*

Communion servers and offering collectors are needed for Gathering. There will be sign-up sheets in the lobby at the next gatherings.



There is a need for 4 servers at the May gathering and 8 servers for the June gathering. (Team members cover July and August.) If you would like to serve communion, please contact Linda Haller, Worship Chair - [Lmusicteach@aol.com](mailto:Lmusicteach@aol.com)

If you would like to pass the plate, contact Tanya McDougle at [gdeww104.secnews@gmail.com](mailto:gdeww104.secnews@gmail.com)