

## **Greater Dayton Community**

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

### **May Newsletter**

Vol. 31 No. 5, 2020

# Monday, May 11 ONLINE GATHERING 7pm

# 2021 WINTER WALKS At Normandy UMC

Men's Walk #68 January 21-24, 2021

Women's Walk #108 February 18-21, 2021

#### **BOARD MEETING**

Tuesday, May 26 7pm

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#### **Newsletter Published by:**

Brenda Donnelly Communication Chair All newsletter articles must be submitted by the 15th of each month.

newsletter@daytonemmaus.org

#### From the Community Lay Director



"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." John 14:27

I am willing to drop the haughty fight and pride and let Jesus Christ MOVE! I am filled with His peace! My Omnipotent and omnipresent God has me in His hand, for whom the Universe and cosmos are easy to command. He holds me in high regard as His precious child whom He will never forsake! I would go to the reaches of the universe to find Him, and He finds me everywhere I am. I need only look within and there He is.

I put my hand on my chest, thumb resting on the cross, heart and lungs filled with precious God-given life. Like the expansion and contraction in my chest, through life's highs and the lows we always go back to Jesus to find peace. Jesus said, "I want you to have My Peace, my peace I give you". And He wants to weave it through every facet of your life. When we are filled with His flawless peace, we are unstoppable in the world. We are called forward as Disciples of Jesus to rise up and help each other through this challenging time. To continue strengthening one another is imminent. We are recognizing with acute awareness the needs of another. Through courage we act on the promptings of the Holy Spirit to express His loving messages. God is moving through our community, cities, homes, and hearts with great ferocity and through your efforts He is growing with great velocity.

During our walks to Emmaus we AWAKEN Christian leaders towards empowerment. During our Fourth Days we ACTIVATE through a

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# Community Lay Director Continued from front page

deepened connection with our share groups and other Christians.

Then we see God's miracles happen every day through Emmaus members ENGAGING in their homes with each other and in our communities. Emmaus members know intimately the power of Jesus Christ within them and through this gained understanding become a force of love in the world.

Our question to ourselves is in the abiding. Am I abiding in Jesus through prompting of the Holy Spirit? How does God want to move me towards His will today? We know how to tune in for the answers! We believe Emmaus is ACTIVATING and ENGAGING on a deeper level. We are enriching our Heart of Emmaus in each other through Agape Love. We will soon get back celebrating God's AWAKENING of Christian leaders through the Walks to Emmaus. In the meantime, let's celebrate one another in our community with Love and Adoration.

May you feel Kept by Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May you be filled with the particular variety of Peace that only God can give.

Stay tuned to the website, newsletter, emails, and Facebook for up-to-date information on events and ways to engage in our Emmaus community. Awaken, Activate, Engage! We are Emmaus strong!

Praise to Jesus Christ the only son of a God!

In His service, Michele Cremeans Community Lay Director

#### **Agape Love Movement**



My name is Linda Haller, Wilmington Area Women's Walk #7 and I sat at the table of Rachel. I am your new Agape Chair.

Our Emmaus community is engaging in the Agape Love movement where we are making a call or sending a letter to one or more members of the community that has impacted our walk with Christ. We encourage you to connect with someone today who may need to hear an encouraging word during this time of isolation. The community directory is listed on the website with addresses and phone numbers. Through a phone call, email, zoom, or Facebook you can share your favorite scripture passage or write to them a short message of love. Can you call someone to check on them today? Your words of love and caring might be just what they need. I have

several people I can think of that have enriched my walk through the years. What about your pastor. Let that person know the ways you have been blessed to worship with them. There are many other persons you might think of, so let's get those Agape Love letters mailed today!

A former Lay Director has the opportunity to connect with past Team members or Pilgrims...we know you have those rosters in your closet! Former Table leaders or Assistant table leaders can connect with past table mates. How about your table mates from your pilgrimage? Please don't forget those in our community that live alone or might be unable to get outside to take a walk. Consider taking food to an Emmaus sister or brother in need. Stay connected with your share groups as well.

Psalm 121 is one of my favorites. It begins:

"I look to the mountains--- does my help come from there? My help comes from the Lord, who made the heavens and the earth. He will not let you stumble and fall; the one who watches over you will not sleep. Indeed, he who watches over Israel never tires and never sleeps. The Lord himself watches over you! The Lord stands beside you as your protective shade. The sun will not hurt you by day, nor the moon at night. The Lord keeps you from all evil and preserves your life. The Lord keeps watch over you as you come and go, both now and forever."

Let Christ move through you to make a difference in a Sister or Brother's life, today. Christ is counting on us.

May the Lord bless you in ways you don't expect!

De Colores Linda Haller, Agape Chair

#### **April Gathering Review**



Our April Online Gathering gives testimony to our unstoppable God. Through technology, the April Gathering was pre-recorded and sent to our community through an email to be viewed on YouTube. The Gathering was watched 167 times.

The Gathering was also posted to our Dayton Emmaus Facebook page and we hosted a viewing party for the premiere of the video. The video received 511 views and the viewing party actively engaged our community with more than 200 comments shared. Here are some comments from our community.

"I'm watching from home. What a beautiful and meaningful gathering worship service, made me cry I am so touched and moved having prayed, worshipped and communed with you all! Thank you so much for all the time and effort each of you went through to pull this together this evening!. I am beyond BLESSED!!!" ~ Melanie Gleaves Morrett

"What a blessing. Got to spend an hour with my Emmaus family worshiping God. Thanks to all for putting this together. What a great gift of agape for the community. Love and miss you all." ~ Lesa Bame

"Thank you, loved the service awesome job, looking forward to us all being together. Be blessed love you all. ♥♥" ~ Pat Miller

"Love the scripture. Thank you Stephanie" ~ Victoria Janney Hubbard



Back for a command performance ... it's the May Online Gathering! That's right, from the safety of your own home you can enjoy worship, prayer, a Fourth Day testimony and inspirational messages. On **Monday, May 11 at 7pm**, you'll receive an email with a YouTube link to the May Gathering and/or you can

join us on our <u>Facebook</u> page to participate in a live premiere of the Gathering video. Watch with other community members and comment in real-time! Until we can be together again, your Greater Dayton Emmaus Community loves you and is here for you!

#### **Gathering Offering**

When you support Greater Dayton Emmaus, you are helping to renew Christians as faithful and committed disciples of Jesus Christ. Although our Summer Walks have been cancelled, the administrative costs such as insurance, music licensing and communication expenses continue to serve our community. If you are

in a position to make an offering, your gift is appreciated. Online giving is available at <u>daytonemmaus.org</u> or you may make checks payable and mail to:

Greater Dayton Emmaus PO Box 292224 Dayton, OH 45429



# Invite a friend to the Walk to Emmaus

#### **Normandy UMC**

Men's Walk #68 January 14-17, 2021 Women's Walk #108 February 18-21, 2021

#### Message from Your Men's Registrar

Over the Last few month's our Greater Dayton Emmaus Board and our Emmaus community have gone through a lot. We as a board and community have grown through these rough times in our country. I am thankful for the technology we have today to be able to communicate to each other through text message, Facetime, Facebook, email and phone calls. I know our schools, churches and many of our workplaces are closed at this time. I know the buildings may be closed but we are still learning and communicating through different online resources and reaching out to each other.

I was disappointed that our summer walks and other events were canceled, but it is understood that it was in the best interest of everyone involved for our health and safety. Men's Walk #68 will be moved to January 21-24, 2021 and Women's Walk #108 will be February 18-21, 2021. I have faith in what God has planned for our Greater Dayton Emmaus Community.

I encourage you to continue to reach out to your church family, friends, co-workers, neighbors and talk with them; open the door to find someone to sponsor to go on our next men's walk.

Matthew 7: 7-8 encouraged me. "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

I know it is frustrating not to be able to see our friends and family while under the stay at home order. I am asking you to pray for someone to sponsor and send the applications in to me by email <a href="mailto:mensregistar@daytonemmaus.org">mensregistar@daytonemmaus.org</a>, mail to P.O Box 292224, Dayton, OH 45459 or call me at (937) 269-6023 to schedule a meeting location where I can meet you to pick it up.

Your Brother in Christ, Jeff Adams Men's Registrar

Women's Registrar: Lisa Keller, womensregistar@daytonemmaus.org

Men's Registrar: Jeff Adams, mensregistar@daytonemmaus.org

To download a Pilgrim Application click HERE or visit https://tinyurl.com/PilApp

#### Summer Gatherings

Although the Summer Walks have been cancelled, we are still excited to host the July and August Gatherings at Sulphur Grove UMC contingent on our ability to meet based on safety regulations. We are forming a Summer Gathering Planning Committee to promote and make these Gatherings extra special. If you would like to serve on the Planning Committee, please contact the Women's or Men's Worship Chairs Julia Crowl <a href="www.womensworship@daytonemmaus.org">www.womensworship@daytonemmaus.org</a> or Jonathan Taulbee <a href="mensworshipdaytonemmaus.org">mensworshipdaytonemmaus.org</a>.



#### Save the Dates!

The Gathering will be at Sulphur Grove UMC

July 13 and August 10



I just saw a news article that stopped me in my tracks and say, "Oh, no. They can't be. Not yet!"

What did I see? A headline from a Cincinnati news organization: "Cicadas will emerge in Greater Cincinnati this year."

I was living in Cincy the last time these critters emerged from their 16-year slumber, and frankly, I had never experienced anything like it. At the time, I was single dad (yep, before Myra), serving a church, and working on my doctoral studies. It was so unbelievably loud as I was trying to read and study. I was so shocked and amazed, I made a recording of it. Click HERE... and be afraid!

Now, I don't know if you will have Cicadas this year, but judging the way 2020 is going, you can probably count on it!

The devil is like the Cicadas — really! (Can you tell I hate those things?!) He tries to bring things back into our lives that once affected us. It might be a past addiction that you once overcame, but now is quite alluring again. It might be past attitudes and stereotypes that are creeping back into our minds. It might be old habits of not reading your Bible or praying or meeting in share group. It might be insecurity, self-doubt, self-loathing that once was settled, but is gnawing at you again. As one meme says, "The devil calls us by our sin."

It is easy for the "redeemed" life to slip back to a "returned" life, a life dominated by old ways.

It happened to the disciples as well. Look at John 21.

Later, Jesus appeared again to the disciples beside the Sea of Galilee. This is how it happened. Several of the disciples were there—Simon Peter, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples. Simon Peter said, "I'm going fishing." "We'll come, too," they all said. So they went out in the boat, but they caught nothing all night. At dawn Jesus was standing on the beach, but the disciples couldn't see who he was. He called out, "Fellows, have you caught any fish?" "No," they replied. Then he said, "Throw out your net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you'll get some!" So they did, and they couldn't haul in the net because there were so many fish in it. Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, "It's the Lord!" (John 21:1-7a, NLT2)

In my opinion, the entire encounter happens because the disciples left their "fishers of men" ministry and went back to "fishers of fish" jobs. Jesus had to restore not only Peter, but all of them, to the higher life of the called.

Jesus always calls us higher, above the noise of the world, to His greater and more perfect will. Follow that call!

Gary Wheeler Community Spiritual Director

Greater Dayton Emmaus is on Facebook AND Instagram!
@daytonemmaus



