



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

## May Newsletter

Vol. 32 No. 5, 2021

### May Gathering

Monday, May 10, 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, May 25 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.  
[newsletter@daytonemmaus.org](mailto:newsletter@daytonemmaus.org)



The Greater Dayton Emmaus community is a force of Love and Grace in the world. Each one of us have been called to share the good news of the gospel and welcome people into this community of believers. We mobilize into action in our homes, churches and communities despite the challenges. We are warriors for Christ who shine amidst adversity. We wipe the cobwebs from our eyes and don't allow ourselves to get comfortable or complacent in our walk with Christ.

Each day God gives us the opportunity for a fresh start with a new heart. We ask things like  
"What can \*I\* do?"  
"Who needs more Jesus in their life?"  
"Who is hurting and needing comfort?"

Did you know you can invite your friend who has not yet had their pilgrimage to your share group? What better way to hold them and show them some agape love?

Have you asked your pastor or priest what you can do in your church? Churches are working overtime to keep their congregation nourished and engaged.

Have you checked in with your neighbors to see how to support one another? Someone on your path needs the blessing of You today.

The Emmaus community, having had a personal walk with Jesus, understands the power of renewal, the power of giving, the power that one single deed can have to change the direction of a life. Be a change agent using the transformative power of the Holy Spirit to engage your friends and community.

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# HGTV FAITH



Who doesn't love to watch the shows on HGTV? Home Town, Good Bones, Love It or List It, Flip or Flop, Property Brothers, and Fixer-Upper—I love them all! I can't wait to see Joanna and Chip Gaines swing those sledgehammers and crow bars, tear those old kitchen cabinets off the wall, strip those walls down to the studs, and rip that old flooring up and toss it in the Dumpster. When all the work is done, what amazing transformation takes place! Miracles take place. Outdated, ugly and worn out becomes new and beautiful to behold. No house is too far gone to make it beautiful again. It's nothing less than renovation heaven!

And so, it is with you and me. This newsletter's theme is Romans 12:2 - *“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the **renewing** of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.”* (NRSV) I have highlighted the word, “renewing” for a reason. The Miriam-Webster dictionary defines it this way, “to make new, to reinvigorate, to revive.”

A quick look at my New Testament Greek lexicons reveals that a better English translation is “renovating”; i.e., “be transformed by the ‘renovating’ of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God...” Huh! We often think of God's sanctifying grace as a gentle and gradual process as we walk in Jesus' footsteps on our faith journeys where our rough edges are lovingly smoothed off. But the word Paul uses in this text better describes God using a sledgehammer and a crowbar on us as we strive each day, week, and year die to sin and rise into new life in his love through God's grace.

And, if we are honest, this is exactly what we need!

Slapping on a coat of fresh paint and placing some pretty plants and colorful throw pillows around won't make a difference in our lives. We need something much stronger to battle and overcome our sinfulness. My faith tradition states, “Sin is the corruption of the nature of every man and woman, that naturally is engendered of the offspring of Adam, whereby humankind is very far gone from original righteousness, and of his or her own nature inclined to evil, and that continually.” The good news is God is up to the task!

Yes, sanctifying grace isn't fun. We have to give up a lot — harmful behaviors and friends and so much more as we turn away from our sinful ways and turn back to God — and parts of our lives will end up in the Dumpster. Ephesians 4:21-24 says, *“Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lusts and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew (renovate) your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God — truly righteous and holy.”*

Yes, sanctifying grace is hard and often painful. But never doubt the power of God's love and mercy for our sin-sick, strife-torn, sorrow-worn world. May we never forget, no one is too dirty for God to cleanse, too broken for God to fix, too far away for God to find, too guilty for God to forgive, and too worthless for God to love! Transformation miracles happen. Renovation heaven is available to all!

De Colores,  
Pastor George Brewer  
Spiritual Director



God wants us to be in love, to live enveloped in His love, and witness with a heart of Love. And on the contrary, heart breaking challenges will always exist here on earth. There is an adage “This too shall pass” but I think it would be more appropriate to say “This too shall cycle through” because there is always a storm to walk through ... and there is always adjoining blessings.

During my “storms” the tide rolls in and with it comes a deep dredging from the depths of my psyche. It presents itself as anything that has a lock on my spirit keeping me from the heart of God. I trust in Him and pray (I’ve never prayed so hard and fast or with more fervor) and He is always there. Once my heart is broken all that is left is Him. This process frees me from the world’s grip on my perspective and gives me a new vantage point ... His perspective. As I turn to Him time and again, He blesses me with a deeper understanding of my oneness in Him. I crawl out of that grave as I fix my awe-filled gaze on only Him. The tide rolls back out, and to my delight, left on the clear shore are jewels. Treasures presented as people, answers, solutions, and my renewed heart and mind. I have walked through the hottest fires and darkest nights and He blesses me each morning with immeasurable treasures as proof of His Love.

My Beloved is so good to me...you know He gave me a miracle? I claim my miracle in Jesus’ name, praise and glory to God! My “storms” were caused by an allergic reaction to almost all foods. God has healed my body and I am able to eat most foods without consequences! He placed “jewels” on my path that provided answers, safety, calm, and peace. He has renewed my heart, body, and mind and I am truly made new in Him.

I can’t say enough for your strength in facing all the things you think you’re not strong enough to face. The clearing on the other side of the storm is awe-inspiring. Ask Him to free you from the unreliable world perspective and pray to be filled with His.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, (don’t believe the world) but be transformed by the renewing of your mind (walk through that fire). Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is (to live in grace-filled Love)-his good, pleasing and perfect will (is the only Truth). Romans 12:2

Stand tall knowing God loves You, Jesus died for You, and He lives in us! Stay connected. Someone needs you today as their shining jewel on the sand!

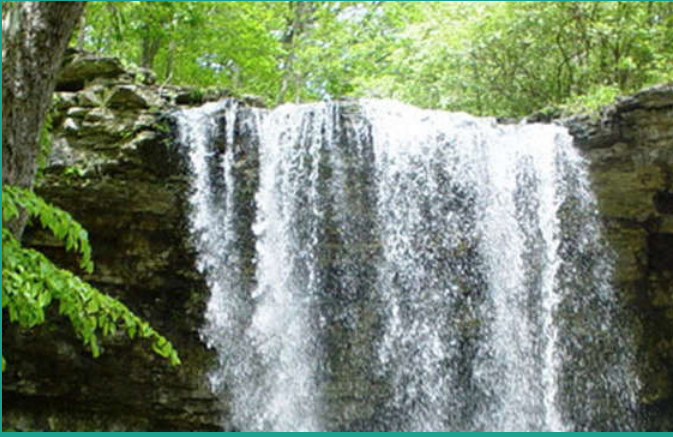
DeColores!  
Michele Cremeans, Community Lay Director

### Continued from front page

The God-given Walks to Emmaus are an outreach of a strong, well-anchored community. Our community doesn’t exist solely for the Walks. The Walks exist because of our amazing community.

Let! Your! Light! Shine!

DeColores,  
Michele Cremeans, Community Lay Director



## Walking with Emmaus

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

Join us for a monthly walking share group! Our next walk will be 3:00 PM Saturday, May 22, 2021. Pets, family and friends are welcome to join.

Charleston Falls 2535 Ross Road Tipp City, OH 45371 <https://www.miamicountyparks.com/parks/charleston>

## Visit our 30th Anniversary Emmaus Merchandise Store

[Online GDE Store](#)

To celebrate the Greater Dayton Walk to Emmaus 30-year anniversary, we have partnered with Teespring, Inc. to bring you a GDE Merchandise Store. All items are produced on-demand, so there is no stockpile of products. All proceeds are used to further God's mission through the Greater Dayton Emmaus Community. Be a walking testimony for GDE! It's quick and easy, so order what you like when you want.



## Gathering Update

Normandy UMC has re-opened for worship services and we are working on dates when we will have upcoming gatherings at Normandy. We will graciously accept both Sulphur Grove and Normandy's offer to host gatherings to accommodate our large community, North and South. Please stay tuned for the calendar of dates and locations for the year. We look forward to seeing your beautiful faces once again!

## Wanted: Men's Worship Chair

Have you ever dreamed about being a ROADIE for a band. Well now's your chance. The board is in search of a Men's Worship Chair to join the team of spiritually, tireless people. The position entails knowledge of how to setup the sound equipment (at Normandy Church only). This includes setting up/ tearing down mics, speakers, and instrument cords, etc. The position would include monitoring and running the sound board during Gatherings and Walks. The position also involves helping to recruit musicians for Gatherings and Walks, finding 4th Day Speakers and Community Prayer speakers, and possible knowledge of ProPresenter or PowerPoint. If God is tugging on your heart, contact:

Julia Crowl: [womensworship@daytonemmaus.org](mailto:womensworship@daytonemmaus.org)  
Michele Cremeans: [chairman@daytonemmaus.org](mailto:chairman@daytonemmaus.org)



Join the Agape Love movement! It's easy. Identify someone in the Greater Dayton Emmaus community you care about and reach out to him/her through a phone call, email, text message, social media post or video message and express your love and caring.

Remember how you were blessed on the Sunday of your Emmaus Walk as you read notes of encouragement from those you love. This is your opportunity to spread that same Agape Love to our community. These are difficult times for many and God asks us to encourage one another.

Contact Emmaus Good Shepherd, [Che McGowan](#) for a list of community members to contact.