



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

November Newsletter

Vol. 31 No. 11, 2020

November Gathering

Monday, November 9, 2020

7:15pm in person at
Sulphur Grove UMC
or
Online YouTube

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, November 24
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



What a gift to be high enough to hear the flapping of the birds' wings, to be present enough to hear the smack of a kiss from a child, to be close enough to God to recognize it as fear in the condensation under her face shield.

It was the Santa Fe airport where she sat in near hysterics in her wheelchair, a bag on her lap, and a little doggy at her feet. Her breathing heavy, with condensation collecting under her face shield, she was explaining to the attendee she was not informed of the delay. I understood it was more than a flight delay to her; it was rocking her world. She was alone and searching for answers and comfort.

This scene was prophesied and conveyed to me a week prior by an Emmaus sister... "He showed me a lady sitting in an airport, but it wasn't the Dayton airport. She was sitting by herself. Her head was kind of down. There was a sadness, worry, concern about her. Michele, I'm not sure what your encounter with her will be or how it will affect each of your lives. Please be watching for her. He will guide you and let you know who she is. Listen for His guiding words."

So, I moved into Christian action, propelled by God's prompt and did what any one of us would do. I stepped into His Light to show her the Truth of His great Love for her in her moment of need. Nothing was more important than comforting her knowing we are One Body in Christ-and if she suffers, I suffer with her. We were, in fact, on the same flight, the same delay, and living the same story, just like all of us in this life. It touched me deeply to have been prepared for my encounter with her and to be put to work by Him. As she was wheeled through TSA I took my seat back on the floor and began writing to you.

I am full of thanks for YOU and our Emmaus community. I am full of thanks to be alive. I am full of thanks we are all in this together. I am

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full of thanks to have a community such as this dedicated to deepening in Christ through thought, word, and deed. To live *within* the presence of God in our world. To fly on His wings, carried by currents of Love.

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

John 14:6

May you be blessed exponentially in the coming

months. May you receive the gifts shared by our pastors and spiritual leaders in your churches and community. May you be enlivened by your beloved friends and families. May you know Love and support of your Emmaus family.

DeColores, forever!

Love,

Michele Cremeans, WW95

Community Lay Director



The November Gathering will be IN PERSON on Monday, November 9 at 7:15pm at Sulphur Grove UMC, 7505 Taylorsville Road, Huber Heights, OH 45424 (There will be a live simulcast available on YouTube on the Sulphur Grove UMC Live channel. To visit Sulphur Grove's YouTube Channel click [HERE](#))

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

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

To download a **Pilgrim Application** click [HERE](#) or visit <https://tinyurl.com/PilApp>

2021 Walk Information

Men's Walk #68 • June 10 - 13, 2021
at Sulphur Grove UMC

Women's Walk #108 July 15 - 18, 2021
at Sulphur Grove UMC





“Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name” Psalm 100:4

I’m sure every adult has that childhood memory of a parent or teacher or grandparent or uncle handing you a treat of some type (cookie, gum, peppermint) and just before they let it go they ask you the question. “Now what do you say...?” And of course the right answer was Thank You! Do you every wonder why God doesn’t hold onto the stuff He so freely gives us with one hand until we utter those words? What we were taught in childhood still holds true today; we need to say thank you, not only to one another, but more importantly to our God.

What could you add to this list if you just took the time to think about all that He has given us? Thank You for:

- Love of family and friends
- Sunshine
- Rain
- Shelter
- the Great Outdoors
- the Gift of Memory
- the Ability to Forget
- Spontaneity
- Time to Plan
- Youth
- Old Age
- Wisdom
- Foolishness
- Sobriety
- Intoxicated in the Spirit
- Weight loss
- Weight Gain
- Food
- Hunger
- Healing
- Dis(ease)
- Gathering
- Scattering
- Darkness
- Light
- Summer
- Winter
- Cold
- Heat
- Laughter
- Tears
- Joy
- Sorrow
- Giving
- Receiving
- Life/Death

The scriptures are full of reminders to give thanks.
“O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever.” Psalm 107:1
“In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” I Thess. 5:18
“Give thanks unto the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people.” 1 Chron 16:8

This year Thanksgiving will be different from times past. The dinner table may not have as many around it as we deal with the challenges of the pandemic. But one thing remains the same. “Now what do you say...?”

DeColores,
Palmer Jason, SD

Walking with Emmaus

Share groups are an extension of the Walk to Emmaus weekend experience. Join us for a monthly walking share group! All are welcome.

Our next walk will be Sunday, November 15, 2020 at 1:30pm at John Bryan State Park. Pets, family and friends are welcome to join.
For more information, please visit:
<https://thirddaydevotions.com/home/>



WE ARE NOT ALONE

My name is Jonathan Taulbee and I attended the Greater Dayton Walk to Emmaus #56 and sat at the table of Mark. (CLAP)

Like several friends reading this now I can say I had an AMAZING walk! God opened my eyes to several things and blessed me with his wonderful grace. When I came off my walk I was on fire for God, church and for Emmaus. I wanted to go on the next walk as a team member. Alas when I came off my walk, I learned we had to wait a year before we could serve on team. So for the next year or two, my wife and I volunteered to serve lunch on almost every walk except when I received my liver transplant. We wanted to do all we could to help other pilgrims receive God's blessings.

I wanted to serve on a team or in any position where I could be of assistance. During the waiting period before I could serve on a team, God was growing me in my Christian walk. I soon realized God would use me how He needed, and I should stop trying to be in the spotlight. That message just happened to be what I had laid at the cross during dying moments— my pride and always wanting people to “look at me.” With God's help, I have kept that in check.

I have wanted to be on the Emmaus board for a long time but was realizing it was more about my desires than God needing me there. So, I settled into my role of being a servant. That's when God revealed that He had other plans for me.

My brother, Chris Wissinger, was on the board as the Men's Worship chair. He had been called to step into leadership leaving a vacancy for his position. God laid it on his heart to ask me. With a few soft nudges from God and Chris I accepted the position and when the time came, I ran for a second term. And here I am!

I have been described as a “social butterfly” and someone who has never met a stranger. I love speaking to people — the larger the crowd, the more at ease I am. When the pandemic hit and life as we knew it changed, I began to struggle a bit with my mental state. I didn't lose my job nor have to work from home. I was one of those individuals deemed essential. Not only did I not get time off, my work increased, and I was promoted. I had the stress of more hours, more responsibility and of course, there

was this COVID-19 thing. As a transplant recipient, I am in the HIGH-RISK group! Now that I have given you all that background information, hopefully it will help you better understand where I am mentally.

Being on the Emmaus board, we were asked, if we felt led to write an article for the newsletter or share a video message at one of the online Gatherings to help spread joy and keep others connected. I think I am one of the only board members who hasn't shared until now. I spoke with our Lay Director, Michele Cremeans, and told her I needed time so whatever I wrote would be true and from my heart. I needed time to figure it out and God needed to prepare my heart. After much thought and meditation, I have come to this point and want to speak to our community (EVEN YOU) and tell you this...

It's okay to feel how you feel. None of us has ever gone through something like this! Those of us who have always been cheerful, perky people and see the silver lining are having trouble now. Well we don't know what to think — I don't know what to think. I have been through some hard times and am confused because I'm used to being scared most of the time, but this has been totally different! But there is something we need to remember about ourselves — we are not ALONE! This whole world is going through the same thing as you. Yes, we are all experiencing our lives, work, family, friends and those are quite unique. But this worldwide pandemic is just that, worldwide!

When you hit a wall or find yourself in a dark place; feel yourself sliding down a spiral of depression, PLEASE remember you're NOT ALONE! We, your friends, mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters are HERE! We are ALL HERE, and we are HERE for each other. If you are feeling alone and don't think anyone can help, reach out! I know there are people who want to help and want to be there for you!

If you don't think what I'm telling you is true; if you don't believe me; TEST ME! And if your PEOPLE don't respond, I would be glad to be there for you! I would LOVE to PRAY FOR YOU! Pray with you! Contact me!

DeColores,
Jonathan Taulbee
Men's Worship Chair

LEADERSHIP PROFILES: PASTOR PALMER JASON

Over the next few newsletter issues, we will bring you leadership profiles. Our goal is to give you insights into how God is using our Spiritual Directors and board members through the Emmaus community and other venues to further the Kingdom of God.



It all started with a simple conversation and then an invite to a Gathering. One day while meeting at my builders' office to sign off on the next bank draw, I met my soon-to-be sponsor to the Walk to Emmaus. Karen, the office manager mentioned that she was looking for a new place to worship and call her church home. I invited her to come and visit us at our new start church. Somewhere in the conversation Karen began to mention how the Walk changed her spiritual life. I noticed how excited she was, evening acknowledging that it "gave her goose bumps just talking about it."

So I inquired, "when did you attend?"

"About six years ago" was the reply, and "you should go, I think you would love it."

I said, "if you are still reacting this way after six years, it must be life-changing, sign me up."

I visited a Gathering before my walk and the Fourth Day speaker said something like, "before my walk I said I wanted to hear from God, see the face of Jesus and experience heaven on my walk...and that's just what happened." (Spoiler alert: "Candlelight")

That was over 24 years ago, (back when I still had hair) and I have been involved with the Greater Dayton Emmaus community ever since. When I joined the community there was only one Spiritual Director, Ricci Arthur and he was on a mission to recruit other clergy to assist with weekend talks. I attended GDEMW#16, Table of Mark (clap). My first

live-in team experience was GDEMW#18, just one year later! I was originally scheduled to serve as an ATL (assistant table leader), but during the first team meeting when they discovered I was a clergy my assignment was promptly changed to ASDL (assistant spiritual director live-in). What a joy it was to experience the Walk all over again, but this time from the Table of Arrears. I always say that on your original Walk the info comes to you like out of a fire hose, but the team experience is more like a soaker hose. You pick up on all the details and planning that goes into this ministry called Emmaus.

I still marvel at how God puts together the right spiritual gift mix on each team to serve the pilgrims. I have done numerous talks and live-in assignments as both ASDL and SD, training others. We are blessed now to have a deep bench of spiritual directors for walk weekends and four Spiritual Directors who share the responsibilities of serving on the board.

In my non-Emmaus life, I serve as the Founder/Pastor of [Jubilee Community Church](#) and also as Director of [Good Shepherd Academy](#) where I get to influence the next generation of the church as they grow and mature in Christ. My wife Lisa and I have been married for 34+ years and enjoy traveling (can't wait for COVID to be behind us), especially on the Smooth Jazz Cruise. We have a daughter, Ezzy, who is in her final year of studying to become a teacher and a son, Preston, who is a junior in high school and the Senior Patrol Leader of his scout troop.

HERE BE DRAGONS



I am one of those people that is thankful for all 2020 has handed us. Now, let me stop and say, I am not thankful for the virus, I am not thankful for unemployment and an unstable economy, I am not thankful for people getting sick, and I am certainly not thankful for people dying. I AM thankful for some of the opportunities that 2020 has offered. We have all faced things during this year that we never thought we would face, done things we never thought we would do, experienced situations we never thought we would experience. I recently watched a YouTube video from one of my favorite authors entitled “Here be Dragons.” He talks about how in the 1800s explorers would mark far off places on the map, places that were often unknown and seemingly scary, with a stamp that said “Here be Dragons.” This marked a place as off limits, places that seemed so scary that no sane person would travel to the location for fear of injury or worse, death. Sometimes, maps were covered in these dragon stamps. He then asks the question “how many dragon stamps do we have on our maps?” It made me think of my own life the last year and I was surprised at how many dragons were there:

Virtual Learning: Here be Dragons

Working from Home/ Job Security: Here be Dragons

Mental Health Care: Here be Dragons

Empty social schedule: Here be Dragons

Spending weeks on end at home with my husband and daughter: Here be Dragons

Being responsible for my own Spiritual Health:

Here be Dragons

And these are just the big ones. Your areas may look different. How many of you have virtual meetings on your dragon list, or online anything for that matter? What about being alone? The stay at home order forced many people to be alone with themselves as company for the first time ever. What dragons popped up during that time?

Two months into this pandemic, I realized I was a mess. I was struggling mentally, I was struggling professionally, and I was struggling relationally. On a rare day that I was working in my office, a friend/co-worker of mine stopped by and in conversation we started talking about mental health. She had started going to counseling. Both of us had been through a pretty rough patch the year before professionally that had spilled into our personal lives. Both of us were struggling with the after effects of this experience. Instead of continuing to be scared of her dragon, my friend decided to tackle it head on and get help. **I. Was. Convicted.** It wasn't immediate, but a few weeks later, I picked up the phone and scheduled my first appointment. I decided to tackle the dragon head on and not continue to let it win.

Now you may be wondering, how does this make me thankful for 2020? I could have done this during any year, even one not containing a pandemic. Part of that counseling was choosing to look at the past situations in a different light and of course that spilled over into daily life. So now my list looks a little like this:

Virtual Learning (now full homeschooling): I am
(Continued on pg. 7)

**(Here Be Dragons
Continued from pg. 6)**

thankful I get to be more invested in my daughter's education and be an active part in this area of her life.

Working from Home/ Job Security: I am thankful I am still working and I am thankful this time has offered me the opportunity to grow and learn new skills for my job.

Mental Health Care: I am thankful I picked up that phone. I am thankful God provided me with a counselor that I connect with and is helping me heal and grow.

Empty Social Calendar/ Spending time at home: I am thankful for time to reconnect with my family in a whole new way. I am learning new things every day!

Spiritual Health: I am thankful that I have had this time to reflect and find new ways to stay connected with God during this time.

That list looks a little different.

Part of my job is to help train some of our groups on how to use Zoom and to set up and sometimes facilitate Zoom meetings. The first time one of our groups met, this group is made up of some of our more seasoned members, it was the first time that

many of them had seen each other in months. The joy on their faces at being able to see one another was something I will never forget. They chose to tackle that dragon and try something new. They have met consistently every week since that morning. They are thankful for that time together, even though they are apart.

At the end of the day, it's all about perspective. I chose to be thankful. I chose to tackle the dragons stamped all over my 2020 map with a new stamp, a thankful stamp. So as we move into this holiday season, a season that we often reflect on what we are thankful for, I encourage you, look at this year, look at those dragons on your map, which ones can you re-stamp with a thankful stamp, where can your perspective change? Had 2020 not happened the way it did, I am not sure I would have been able to slow down and look at those stamps on my map and I certainly wouldn't have had the courage to make any changes. I am thankful for 2020.

De Colores,
Cindy Cultice
Supply Chair

You can watch Jon Acuff's video on "Here Be Dragons" here: <https://youtu.be/zqwQsz1yNH8>



Blessings to all my Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

I pray that you are all well and are staying safe during these uncertain times. Way back in the May Newsletter, Linda Haller wrote a wonderful article about making Care Calls for Christ to reach out to our brothers and sisters to check in and share the love of Christ and pray for or with them during these trying times. In order to reach out to everyone, we need updated contact information from everyone to published in our Community Phone Directory.

As IT Administrator, it is my job to compile all of your new addresses, phone numbers and/or email addresses to update our database and publish an accurate phone directory. The easiest way to send me your updated information is to go to our website, www.daytonemmaus.org, and fill out and submit a new [Willing Servant Form](#). While doing that, you can also update your volunteer selections to let us know if you are interested in serving on a Team or helping out during a Walk. Also, please let us know which church you attend. Once you hit submit, the Willing Servant Form will be automatically emailed to my Emmaus inbox. Thank you for your help.

May God Bless you and keep you healthy and safe until we can meet again.
DeColores.
Gregg Hayes



EMMAUS BOARD ELECTION

Elections for the Greater Dayton Emmaus board positions below will be held at the November 9, 2020 Gathering. In addition to those listed below, nominations will be accepted from the floor, (nominee must be present).

POSITION	NOMINEE(S)
Good Shepherd/Outreach	Che McGowan
Housing	Randy Barty
Kitchen	Stephanie Looney
Supply	Cindy Cultice
Men's Registrar	Jeff Adams

To be placed on the ballot or to find out more information about the position of ministry, please email: pastchairman@daytonemmaus.org.

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.



Send A Prayer Request

Through our Greater Dayton Emmaus Prayer Chain, your prayers will be prayed over by more than 50 community members.

visit our website: <https://daytonemmaus.org/prayer>. Complete the online form and click SEND. All prayer requests are shared only with the prayer team. We ask that you limit your requests to a serious, urgent nature and to the needs of either a member of the Emmaus Community or your immediate family.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

— Philippians 4:6



Need an Address?

Did you know Greater Dayton Emmaus has a Community Directory on its website? When you are preparing to send a note of caring or love to a community member, find his/her contact information by visiting www.daytonemmaus.org.

In the drop down menu labeled, "Explore Emmaus" click "Downloads/Forms/Links" You can view or download the GDE Community Directory.

Click [HERE](#) to view the directory now.