

# GREATER DAYTON EMMAUS

450 ALEX-BELL RD. CENTERVILLE, OH 45459



SEPTEMBER 2024



Let us not become weary from  
doing good, for at the  
proper time we will reap  
a harvest if we do not  
give up.

Galatians 6:9

## Gathering

September 9, 7:15 pm  
Normandy UMC  
Centerville, OH

Note  
location!



# Spiritual Director

*Thomas said to Him, "Master, we don't know where You are going. How can we know the way?" Yeshua said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life! No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you have come to know Me, you will know My Father also. From now on, you do know Him and have seen Him."*

*John 14:5-7 TLV*

In a handy little book called "52 Hebrew Words Every Christian Should Know," the author, Dave Adamson, shares the meaning of the Hebrew word, 'DEREK' which means 'way.'

Jesus uses this word in the above passage when he talks about himself being the way, the truth, and the life.

Adamson explains that the way refers to the path you are on or the way you are going. It's a spiritual metaphor for how we live our lives; every choice we make is a path or a DEREK that we take in our lives. Good decisions equal a way to good places. And, bad decisions equal a way that can lead to dangerous places.

The great news is that whatever decision or direction I am headed, by turning to God, He will gladly direct my way.

*In John 14:6, Jesus is telling the disciples that he will walk ahead of them showing them the way (the DEREK) to live life.*

In Genesis 3:24, DEREK is used for the first time in scripture. Jesus was showing them His connection to this passage. God said that He will guard the way or (DEREK) back to the Tree of Life. Yeshua. (Jesus) was revealing and connecting the scripture so they would know He is the way back to the Tree of Life, to fellowship and to eternal life with God!

We are called to be imitators of Jesus, not just followers. Our transformation becomes apparent to others when the way (DEREK) may not be easy and yet we choose His way (DEREK) anyway.

Let me share a true story about someone who chose the way, the truth and the life.

In the 1940's, a woman named Sabina Wurmbrand, was living in Nazi-occupied Romania. She was a Jew by birth, and she and her husband, Richard had met Jesus not long before World War II broke out. Sabina and her husband, who had become a Lutheran pastor, spent the war doing everything they could to help the oppressed, but also to evangelize.

Through their ministry, many came to Christ, including Jewish neighbors. However, the Wurmbrands couldn't save Sabina's family from the Nazis. Sabina's parents, sisters, and brother were taken to a concentration camp in the Soviet Ukraine and executed there.

Sometime later, one of the soldiers who carried out the executions of Sabina's family ended up living in their neighborhood. Realizing who this man was, Richard invited him over one evening and confronted him in front of Sabina. He revealed to his wife that this man helped murder her family.

In that moment, Sabina, picked a Derek. She chose THE WAY, put her arms around the man, kissed him and forgave him, then served him dinner. She chose to release (THE DEREK, the TRUTH, and the LIFE) forgiveness and shalom to a murderer. That man met and received Jesus' forgiveness and love that night. Why? Because a disciple of Christ was willing to follow Jesus, THE WAY (DEREK), to show a lost man, THE WAY to the TREE of LIFE.

*DeColores*

*Pam Wantz, Spiritual Director*



# FROM THE COMMUNITY CHAIR

## Greetings Community!

I hope this finds everyone doing well and beginning to prepare for a beautiful change of seasons.

As I write, I ask the Holy Spirit what He would like to share with you. Several scriptures came to mind, some familiar, some not.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 *“To every thing is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven”*

Daniel 2:21 *“He changeth the times and the seasons”*

Psalms 1:3 *“He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season.”*

I think of our walks as seasons. January and February find us needing warmth and comfort...which goes along with the seasonal effect of the dark winter season.

As June and July approach, we begin to gear up for new growth and harvests from the warmth of summer days. I am seeing a pattern develop of yearning for warmth....warmth, comfort and provisions of His Love.

What season of your walk are you in? Have you changed over the years from your walk? Has it been a change that brings you closer to Christ?

For some, the season has become kind of crunchy...like walking on the dry leaves of fall.

I have an opportunity that I will be sharing with you in the near future. I feel like some folks who took their walks many years ago may be ready for a refresher...a renewal. What did your walk mean to you? Do you remember? Stay tuned for more information on this.

As we begin to prepare for the months ahead, see how you can bring light into your world--light into others' world.

The days will begin to get shorter but use this time to nestle into a new book you have been wanting to read, opportunities to serve at your church, and opportunities to share the love of Christ with others.

Let's grow in this season and be ready to emerge into brighter days ahead.

Christ is counting on you!

DeColores,

Brenda Baker  
Community Lay Director



# LAY DIRECTOR TRAINING CLASS

## *Help spread the word!*

The Greater Dayton Emmaus Community will be hosting a lay director training class on Saturday, September 28th from 9am-noon at Normandy United Methodist Church.

This is a required course for anyone wishing to serve as lay director for an upcoming walk weekend. If you have already served as the experienced ALD on a walk weekend then you are eligible to serve as a future lay director and we hope you will join us! All needed materials will be provided and a light breakfast snack will be served.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Kathy Kitchel via text or email by Friday, September 20th. 937-684-1446/kkitchel169@gmail.com

## **WORSHIP & GATHERING HELP NEEDED (INCLUDING CHRISTMAS!)**

There is a need for help at Gatherings to serve communion, take up the offering, give a Fourth Day talk, pass out and distribute prayer cards, provide music, and set up and clean up communion.

Christmas will be here before you know it! If you sing, play an instrument, or like to do readings, your help is needed to make the special Christmas Gathering a blessing for all who attend.

If you are interested in lending a hand, please contact the Worship Chair Linda Haller or for offering, contact Tonya McDougle.

Contact information is on the website:  
<https://daytonemmaus.org/board-of-directors>

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### SEPTEMBER GATHERING:

SEPTEMBER 9 @7:15 PM  
NORMANDY UMC  
CENTERVILLE, OH

### LAY DIRECTOR TRAINING

SEPTEMBER 28  
9 AM - NOON  
NORMANDY UMC  
CENTERVILLE, OH

### OCTOBER GATHERING:

OCTOBER 14 @7:15 PM  
NORMANDY UMC  
CENTERVILLE, OH

### NOVEMBER GATHERING:

NOVEMBER 14 @7:15 PM  
NORMANDY UMC  
CENTERVILLE, OH

### CHRISTMAS GATHERING:

DECEMBER 9 @7:15 PM  
NORMANDY UMC  
CENTERVILLE, OH

## SHARE GROUPS

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

# Nominations for NEW Board Members Needed



**Position needed filled immediately:** Housing Chair

**Nominations needed for board members beginning April 2025**

- Communications Chair (newsletter, website, etc.)

Please contact the Nominations Chair, Jeff Adams, or feel free to contact the individuals currently serving in the positions to hear more about the job and see if you would be a good fit. Elections are at the November Gathering

<https://daytonemmaus.org/board-of-directors>

## Time to update your Willing Servant form

- Haven't been called in a while to serve on a team?
- Want to get the latest newsletter in your email?
- Have you moved or changed your phone or even your name in the past few years?



If any of those situations apply, you probably need to submit an updated Willing Servant form so our database administrators have the latest contact information and know what areas in which you might wish to serve. It's easy to update. The form is located at the bottom of the forms page:

<https://daytonemmaus.org/downloads%2Fforms%2Flinks>



## Agape

It's not too early to start thinking about the next walks in January and February. We can always use more table agape. There are many ideas online, Pinterest etc.

## Pet Tending?



We have a few community members who would like to serve on live-in teams, but have no one to tend to their fur babies. If you may be interested in helping someone in that capacity, please email the registrars.

Contact information is on the website: