

# On the Via Dolorosa

#### MICHELE CREMEANS, COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR

"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" Luke 9:23

Have you ever had one of those days where you've Just Had Enough? Maybe one day turned into a series of events that has left you wondering just how strong God thinks you are. Thankfully, The One in question already lives in and through us. He wants to see us turn to Him in the hardest of times. "My heart says of you, 'Seek his face!' Your face, LORD, I will seek." (Psalm 27:8) God yearns to see His reflection in our hearts.

As He holds us we praise Him for forging our spirit through suffering. He understands what it's like to be in the crucible and turn passion into purpose. In our Fourth days as we pick up our cross and follow him on the Via Dolorosa, we die to our sins and are continuously reborn in Him.

"We bear the cross Jesus provides for us. This is precisely what Simon did and precisely what we must do too. As St. Paul wrote, we do this so that we may know Jesus "and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death" Philippians 3:10

We are so Blessed to know Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior! Walk your Fourth days looking to the Heavens in delight for He created this world and is the heart of this ministry. Looking to the coming season and upcoming holidays we reflect on the first of the Walk weekend talks... Priorities. Our priority is serving one another, our families and our friends with the heart of Jesus.

May you be healthy and blessed as you enjoy your precious families. May you be filled with the Love of God and strengthened in Christian community. I hope to see you at the Gathering on Monday September 13th at 7:15p at Normandy UMC.

#### September Gathering

Monday, September 13, 2021 7:15pm IN PERSON at Normandy United Methodist Church

#### **Upcoming Walks:**

Walks at Sulphur Grove UMC Men's Walk #68: June 23-26, 2022 Women's Walk #108: July 14-17, 2022

# **Board Meeting:**

Tuesday, September 28 at 7pm

#### **Inside this Issue:**

Spiritual Director 2
Tree of Life 3
Monthly Gathering 4
Upcoming Events & News 4

# Willing Servant Form Walking with Emmaus

Do you enjoy our monthly newsletter, website and social media? Learn how you can be part of the Communications team. Email Brenda Miller at <a href="mailto:newsletter@daytonemmaus.org">newsletter@daytonemmaus.org</a>



#### **Priorities: The Needs of Others**

PASTOR MAMIE JOHNSON, SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, Io, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen (Matthew 28:19-20)."

Since the theme for this month is priorities, I thought it a good opportunity to discuss priorities as it relates to the needs of others. During the month of August two horrific events occurred, the earthquake in Haiti and the evacuation of troops and American citizens from Afghanistan. As you may already be aware Haiti was ravaged by a 7.2 earthquake that killed more than 1,900 people and more than 6,900 more were injured with some still missing. And if that weren't enough, tropical storm Grace spilled over 10 inches of rain in an already hard to manage situation. In Afghanistan the Taliban has seized power and thousands were fleeing the country. These are both tragic and heart wrenching situations. With various religions practiced in both countries there is a need for something that can sustain them in uncertain times. It's not enough to just look and see devastation and not feel in some way compelled to help. They need a faith that can sustain them in uncertain times and people who will share that faith with them.

There are people right now living in these communities, in this devastation, in the field proclaiming the gospel. For them, proclaiming Christ is their greatest priority even at the threat of personal harm. So, considering these courageous individuals and their selfless service what should our priorities be? Should they be for our own sake, our own personal needs or for the needs of others? Are the two interdependent or should our priorities be solely independent? Missionaries all over the world in remote lands have set their priorities and their priorities are clear, to share Christ, "to make disciples". In some cases that means sacrificing personal needs and comforts for others. It is their lifelong mission to seek and save the lost. In contrast, we often think of our individual priorities but are they achieving God's will? Not everyone is called to the mission field but there are things we can do right now to facilitate those whose priorities and life mission is to help others. Finding organizations that are doing just that is one place to begin. You don't have to be an altruist, but your acts, deeds, and priorities should in some way demonstrate your faith and God's concern for all people.

Continued on Pg. 3

"Altruism or the unselfish care for others is echoed throughout the bible"





#### **Tree of Life**

JANIE DAVIES, WW#92, TABLE OF RACHEL

Our dear sister, Emily Adams was my Table Leader. That walk and Emily's Leadership is forever etched in my heart. God blessed me dearly. This all belongs to God not me. I am only the vessel. God be the Glory †

God created man in His image as a spirit, soul, and body. Man is made from dust from the earth and blew our spirit into the body as Genesis states. When we die, our body will return to dust. We have no control of any of this! Our spirit and soul separates from the body.

As a believer in Jesus Christ and His works, the believer goes to heaven. The spirit connected to His "Tree of Life" as stated in Genesis, which is Christ, represents Wisdom, Communion and Conscious. The soul represents God given Intellect, Will and Emotion. The God given Body represents Flesh, Bone and Blood.

Jesus came as Son of Man, God Himself in a form of a body but by the Holy Spirit, Mary became pregnant. God, the Father, cannot not look on a sinful man so "Immanuel" or Jesus came to this world to "save us" from all sin. He as a Son of Man, could look upon sinful flesh or sinful man. He in His death, burial Resurrection by the Holy Spirit cleansed us of sin through the works of Our Savior's cleansing pure blood by the Holy Spirit in the works of the cross. In Christ, we are restored in our spirit to God the Father by His Holy Spirit to be able to return to "The Tree of Life".

God's original plan of the Garden of Eden. Earth will be restored in God's plan of redemption in the Book of Revelation. He reveals His plan. It is getting closer every second that goes by on this earthly clock!

All who believe in Christ, as Jesus stated Himself, "The meek shall inherit the earth." The earth was destroyed by water in the flood. God will cleanse the earth by fire the second time in Book of Revelation. Fire represents judgement. God gives a choice due to our God given soul to be with Him or not...our will.

As the song states, "It is well, it is well with my soul!" Is your soul well? Do you know Christ in spirit, soul, and body? By His stripes and His works, all who believe in Christ, are healed.

We can do nothing in ourselves. We can't even control death. May the Lord Bless you and yours.

# **Priorities: continued from pg. 2**

Altruism or the unselfish care for others is echoed throughout the bible and sometimes it came with great personal sacrifice and risks. From beginning to end the bible is about mission. It is about God's mission to redeem a fallen world, a fallen people and so He sent His Son Jesus Christ. From beginning to end we see His mission and desire of reconciling us back to Him. That was His priority and as followers of Christ it should be ours as well.

You may not be called to a foreign land; however, you can serve Christ right here right now. There are many opportunities to share your gifts and talents and who knows how your willingness to give of yourself can change someone else's world. Serving in the Emmaus community is one way you can disciple and carry out God's mission. You will never know the impact you can make in someone's life simply by sharing God's love and I must say that is what Emmaus does quite well!

### MONTHLY GATHERING

#### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021 AT 7PM AT NORMANDY UMC

- Please note gathering will be held at Normandy UMC September-May.
- Sponsor hour will be held at 6:30 in Loggia and Share group orientation will be held in the Chapel at 6:15.
- Gathering is held every second Monday of the month
- Musicians, Fourth Day speakers, and willing servants to pray a Community prayer are needed at Gatherings. Please contact Julia Crowl at <u>Womensworship@daytonemmaus.org</u>

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

SAVE THE DATES

#### CHRISTMAS GATHERING

 Bring your family and friends and celebrate the Holidays Emmaus style. December 13th at 7:15p at Normandy UMC.

#### SPRING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

 Join us for a time of renewal and fellowship celebrating over 30 years of The Greater Dayton Walk to Emmaus. Date and Time-TBD.

#### SUMMER WALKS

- Men's Walk #68 June 23-26, 2022 mensregistrar@daytonemmaus.org
- Women's Walk #109 July 14-17, 2022 womensregistrar@daytonemmaus.org

PILGRIM REGISTRATION FORM <a href="https://tinyurl.com/28smk9mk">https://tinyurl.com/28smk9mk</a>



# **WALK POSTERS**

Promotional posters now available for  $\underline{\mathsf{DOWNLOAD}}$  or at Gatherings.

Contact Che McGowan at <a href="mailto:Goodshepherd@daytonemmaus.org">Goodshepherd@daytonemmaus.org</a> to schedule a speaking engagement in your home church to enliven interested pilgrims.

# **BECOME AN AMBASSADOR**

Would you like to become an Emmaus ambassador in your church? Please contact Michele Cremeans at <a href="mailto:Chairman@daytonemmaus.org">Chairman@daytonemmaus.org</a>

# **OPEN BOARD POSITION**

Currently seeking an inspired community member to fill the Mens Worship chair. Candidate does not need to be a musician, needs to have served on at least one team, be in an active Share Group and able to lift equipment. Training is available for this position.