



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

September Newsletter

Vol. 31 No. 9, 2020

September Gathering

Monday, September 14, 2020

7:15pm in person at
 Sulphur Grove UMC

or

Online [YouTube](#)

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, September 22

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



"And if we have so much misery in the world today, it is because we are forgetting how to love and to be loved until it hurts."

— Mother Teresa

Dearest Emmaus brothers and sisters, I knew we were at critical mass for Christian action when I had to referee an argument between a customer and Kroger employee. It was one of those moments when I saw the alignment of my journey with Christ and my perfect placement in that moment. They ultimately parted ways on good terms and I'm sure things would've worked out had I not been there, but I had the opportunity to impart peace on a personal level like Jesus would. I say, It's a win for Love! It matters what we have learned and how we've grown because it has prepared us to "stand in the gap" at a moment's notice. (All those weekend talks coming to life!)

At a time such as this, we are called to be Renegades of Love, Change agents, and Peacemakers by using the chain-breaking, soul-shaking power of our God to create heaven on earth. Every situation is an opportunity to bring us closer to Christ and deepen in His love. He works miracles through our obedience and continues to bless us immeasurably.

We have each been strengthened by our pilgrimage to Emmaus, and if we've been paying attention, will realize we've received resilience training ever since (especially this year!) Our "weekend" was chock full of inspiration and spiritual growth to upgrade our systems, enabling us to serve Christ a little better each day. In addition, we have the opportunity to be strengthened by serving in our Emmaus community on team, support roles, and the board of directors. During team formation we are given a book called "Sustaining the Spirit" which teaches us how to let God sustain our spirit through the challenges of our growth with Christ. Yes, growth in Christ can be the most

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challenging thing we ever do. We learn to lean into the discomfort and He in turn blesses us immeasurably. It takes all the fruits of the spirit to maintain obedience. He challenges us to step out with obedience over fear to answer the call. Through God's Grace and teachings, we are conditioned to let Him sustain us instead of starving in disconnectedness. I believe this is the lesson of our time.

God secured the bond of Love between all of us when Jesus was crucified for our sins. He died for every one of his children, and in that is the ineffable Truth that we are One in Christ our Lord. We dance together like flames, offshoots of the Great Son, celebrating His guidance and the gift of having His open heart!

We continue this journey into our forever Love with

Jesus Christ protected by His armor. His Love for you is forever and unbreakable. We praise you Jesus Christ!

I am grateful to be forged by God. To be a servant of the Utmost on high is my greatest joy. His love for me, my greatest treasure.

Stay strong in your walk with Christ. Things aren't getting any prettier in the world, except where He through us makes it.

Be blessed by His Love through your obedience — He will raise you up higher than you could ever expect!

I love you!
DeColores!

Michele Cremeans, WW#95
Community Lay Director



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.”

— Philipians 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.

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.





And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2 | NLT

One of the byproducts of the “new normal” of our shared pandemic season of work at home, social distancing, and virtual and/or altered worship experience is spending more time on social media. I know that I’m spending way more time on FaceBook than I used to. This is both good and bad. Good because it helps me stay connected to friends and family and enjoy others’ posts regarding their Christian faith journeys. Bad because of all the vitriolic, hate-filled, and demeaning political and cultural rants and attacks. What saddens me the most is that I see these types of nasty posts from people I know as sisters and brothers in Christ that I have served alongside in ministry.

There was a post on FB today that sums up the state of divisive and harmful discourse we live with today. It was posted by “Coach Tim”: “I got people who love me for being me. I got people who hate me for the exact same reason.” How sad.

My weekly clergy cluster is working through a book titled, *If God Is Love—Rediscovering Grace In An Ungracious World*. The author writes:

“What I mean by grace is a commitment to the most difficult and demanding of human acts—engaging and loving those who think and behave in ways we find unacceptable. Grace is the unfailing commitment to love all persons, regardless of their beliefs. We love one another as God loves us—graciously.”

The mission of the Walk to Emmaus is to raise up leaders of the local churches to be more effective witnesses for Jesus Christ. In these contentious times of ungraciousness, we need to challenge ourselves. What type of witness are we making? A witness based on the the behavior and customs of the divisive and vitriolic world around us or a witness based on the graciousness of God revealed in Jesus Christ who commands us to love as he loved—to love all—even our enemies, unconditionally and sacrificially.

Is grace yet alive in the midst of our toxic and ungracious world today? That depends, I believe on people like you and me.

I encourage us to listen to this great old hymn, “And Are We Yet Alive”. It reminds us who we are and the grace-filled people we are called to be—even in difficult days like these.

<https://youtu.be/pqPTDVRnDDg>

Yes! Our Risen Savior is alive, and so are we! May grace abound!

DeColores,
Pastor George Brewer



Now is the time to step up and answer the call of Jesus upon your life. When the walk weekend finishes at closing, many pilgrims are ready to change the world. Monday morning the Fourth Day begins. As share groups are formed, sponsorship training is offered and attending Gatherings becomes a way to get involved with Emmaus. Willing servant forms are filled out and teams start to form.

We want to pass the fire of His love to everyone in our circle of influence. We learn by getting active in the community, the fourth day can become a lifestyle of love, grace and forgiveness. Our minds have been renewed. A deep hunger to study the scriptures is ignited. Carving out space to center one's self on God becomes a habit. A person becomes more attune to the gracious presence of God in daily life. By maintaining that awareness through reflection and conferencing with other Christians, our faith can grow. Spiritual alertness becomes part of our existence. Jesus is with you always.

Yet the fire to change the world becomes a slightly

glowing ember as we muddle through each day with the challenges we currently face. Has your fire for Jesus been extinguished? Are you taking advantage of online church services or found a church that is open if yours is shuttered? Have you sent a text, or email to a brother or sister from your Emmaus walk to do a wellness check on them? Have you sent an agape letter to your sponsor to thank them again for giving you the gift of a closer walk with Jesus because of your walk to Emmaus? Why not?

God is still on the throne and He has promised victory to each one of us thanks to the resurrection of His son, Jesus the Christ. Strengthening and empowering people to share Christ with others is still part of Emmaus' mission. To build church leaders for the local church is the goal. Talk to people about the opportunity provided by taking the Walk to Emmaus next summer. Spend more time with Jesus this month. Step up to His calling to walk a little closer beside Him.

DeColores.

Pam DeHart, Interim Leadership Chair

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

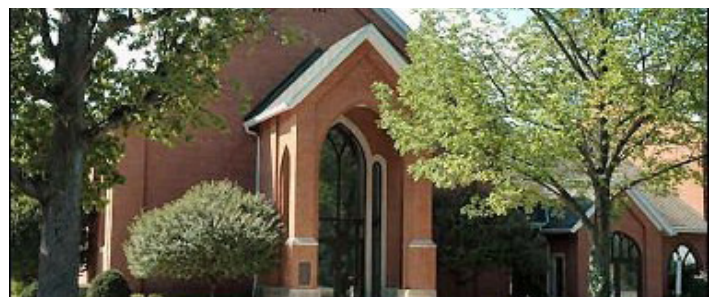
Men's Registrar: Jeff Adams,
mensregistrar@daytonemmaus.org

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





September Gathering

IS IN PERSON ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
AT SULPHUR GROVE UMC AT 7:15PM

WATCH ON YOUTUBE AT SULPHUR GROVE UMC LIVE

The September Gathering will be **IN PERSON** on Monday, September 14 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 Sulphure Grove UMC Live channel. To visit Sulphur Grove's YouTube Channel click [HERE](#))

Worship Needs

Music is such a powerful part of worship. Each month during the Gathering, we enjoy listening and participating with the music. God's messages can speak loudly through words in the songs we sing. For some, music is a way for them to express His Words and to hear His Word.

Another way we are enlightened during Gatherings is through the 4th Day Speaker talk. To hear how God has moved in the lives of our community is inspiring and renews our spirits.

Finally, we all know that prayer is a powerful tool that the enemy doesn't like. Jesus prayed even when He knew His death was near. We need prayer now more than ever.

Currently, we need help recruiting Musicians for gatherings, Fourth day speakers, and praying the Corporate prayer. Please contact:

Julia Crowl womensworship@daytonemmaus.org
Jonathan Taulbee menworship@daytonemmaus.org
if you are interested in helping the worship team.

Gathering Archive

Since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, Greater Dayton Emmaus has established an online Gathering Archive on our website. The Gathering Archive started in April 2020 and will be an ongoing benefit for our community. Understanding that Gathering attendance

is not always possible, the Gathering Archive allows community members to stay up to date with community news. We hope you enjoy this new service to the community.

<https://daytonemmaus.org/gatherings>

Gathering Offering

When you support Greater Dayton Emmaus, you are helping to renew Christians as faithful and committed disciples of Jesus Christ. Although our Walks have been postponed until Summer 2021, 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 daytonemmaus.org or you may make checks payable and mail to:

Greater Dayton Emmaus
PO Box 292224
Dayton, OH 45429



THE FARMER, THE PARABLE, YOU AND ME

Gary L. Pade MW67 Table of Mark

When we open our Bible to the book of Matthew in the first chapter, we read the ancestry of Jesus and find the name of Boaz. If you go back into the Old Testament you find the book of Ruth. Boaz was a distant relative to Joseph, the earthly father of our Lord Jesus. As you read Ruth you find that Boaz was a farmer. I grew up on my parents 80-acre farm so I can relate to being a old country farm boy. That up-raising made me always feel close to the parable that Jesus used concerning sowing the seed.

In Matthew 13:4-8 Jesus tells us that some the sown seed fell on a path, some fell on rocky ground, some fell among the weeds, but some fell on good soil. I can relate to that too as we had all of those conditions on the farm. For a number of years my dad's income was from selling milk to the local cheese factory. During my preteen years it was my job to go get the cows that had to be milked. They seemed to have a number of paths to the barn but each one was bare of vegetation and was firmly packed dirt. With the hoofs of twenty cows walking the path not much got to grow on that path. There were a lot of rocks on the farm and much of what dad was able to clear was not good for anything but growing hay. Between the rocks and the red clay soil not much could be done to raise a good crop of anything. Dad was always spreading the manure from the cows as they stayed in the barn from early December thru March. But then there was a swath of land that was sandy loam soil and that was where my parents had their vegetable garden. As soon as the soil had thawed out enough to be worked Dad was out putting manure on the soil first and then hooking on the two-bottom plow turned the soil over. This buried the manure and got it worked into the

ground. He then took the disc and broke up the soil into smaller pieces that would accept new growth. It was on that ground I learned the art of gardening.

Since my Emmaus walk in January 2020, I fell in love with this parable even more. You and I are the sowers in this parable. Some of the insights I now hold dear were because of why my beautiful late wife taught me over the 38 years we had together. What we do and what we say affect how the seeds react. If we are cold and indifferent to others our words fall on hard soil, deaf ears, and does not take hold, If we do not match our words and walk the seed falls on place where it is received but nothing is there to give it stability in times of trial. We then find our words falling on the heart of someone who we prayed for, walked along side of to encourage them, and to see them through their hard times. They receive the words of God with joy and soon are doing the same for others. If you work with plants, you must take the time to make the plant as healthy as you can. Loosen the soil around your plant so the moisture of friendship and fellowship can get to its roots and allow it to drink in the goodness of the soil. Pull that weed that will rob them of the joy in knowing who they are and where they are. And at the time of harvest help them ease into the one who gave them hope and growth. So, the question remains for me as well as you, what kind of farmer are you? I do not hold all the answers, but I know who holds the cards in my deck.

You are welcome to call or email me anytime.

Gary L Pade
MW67 table of Mark

LEADERSHIP PROFILES:

PASTOR GEORGE BREWER

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.



Pastor George took a long and winding road to ministry: college, study in the Soviet Union, and a brief stint in graduate school that was preparing him to be a college professor in Russian history. Money for school was running low so he took a break and somehow got a job as an assistant men's buyer at Gimbel's department store in Philadelphia. He loved it so much he never went back to school to be a historian. Twenty-three years in retailing later with his wife and three children in tow in 1997 he travelled from Naples, FL where he was serving as general manager of the Burdines store and enrolled in United Theological Seminary in Dayton, earning a Master of Divinity degree in 2001. He served a church while attending seminary and once had a course co-taught by a pastor named Palmer Jason! He was ordained as an elder in the United Methodist Church in 2005. This year marks his twenty third year in ministry.

Raised as a Presbyterian, George admits he was one of those Christmas Eve/Easter Christians from his teen years until twenty years later when a neighbor knocked on his door in Davie, Florida and invited George and his family to attend their church with them the following Sunday. "We'll pick you up!", they told him. George says he really didn't want to go but couldn't figure a way out of it. They went and when he walked through the doors of that wonderful, loving United Methodist church, the loving arms of Jesus reached out and grabbed hold of him and haven't let go since! That's how Pastor George became a United Methodist—kind of accidentally, he says.

After graduating seminary George was engaged in three grueling years of "Probationary" status before ordination in the Methodist system. During this time, Pastor Keith Weller, a clergy friend, and a community SD at the time offered to sponsor George on Men's Walk 36. "What's that all about?", asked George. "Don't worry," Keith replied, "you'll love it!" George went and God touched him in a powerful way, affirming his call and giving him encouragement on the long road to ordained ministry. He said when he walked into the Normandy sanctuary for Candlelight he felt God's love hit him as a physical force. He said he cried through the whole thing!

Shortly after the walk, Pastor George was invited to give clergy talks on a number of walks. And, shortly after that was invited to be a community SD where he still serves all these years later. He loves to see all the ways God works through the good and faithful people of the Dayton Emmaus community—lives healed and transformed—leaders lifted up and empowered and sent out into their churches to be Christ's hands, feet, and new life-giving presence. It has been an honor and a privilege for him to serve.

Pastor George now lives outside of Miamisburg with his wife, Paula. They celebrated their 45th anniversary this year. Their three children are grown and doing well. They have been blessed with two grandsons, aged ten months and almost four. He has been serving Southern Hills United Methodist Church in Kettering for the past five years.

Let's Make AGAPE!

Have you ever thought about making an agape gift for a walk but didn't know how to start? Here are a few ideas for you to consider.

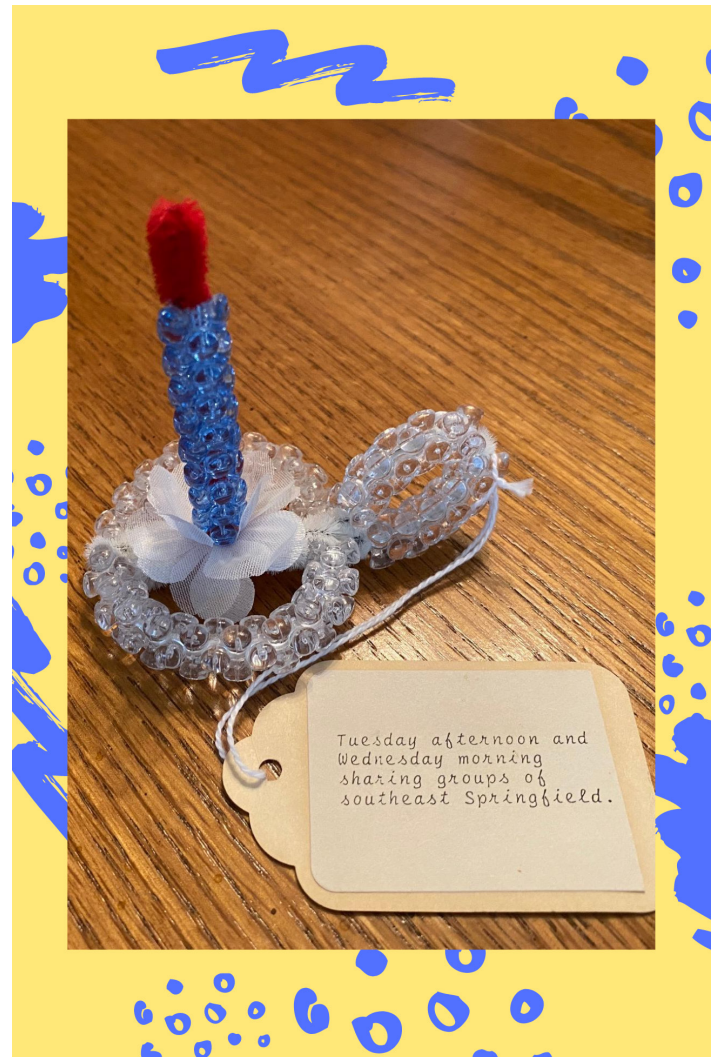
Find a scripture that would be appropriate for a women's or men's walk. Within that scripture, you may find a word or phrase that you can use to create a gift that would be a play on words. For example, for my original walk, the scripture was 1Cor. 13:7 Love BEARS all things. We each received a bear that was painted on a small tin. Our name tags also had a bear on them.

Another idea would be to use the scripture Matt.5:16 "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and give glory to your father in heaven." This scripture might inspire you to draw a candle giving off its light.

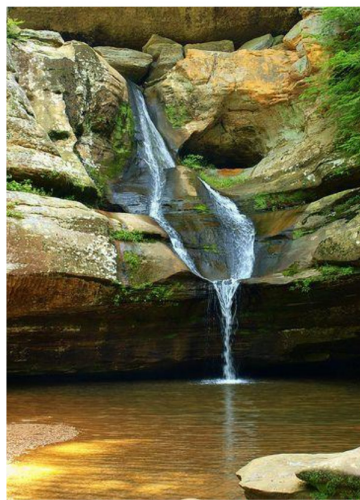
You may want to think about using the scripture for the walk weekend and how you can bring those words to life for the pilgrims. Finally, you might want to use an idea based on one of the grace talks given by the clergy during the weekend. For example, you might want to remind the pilgrims and the team that "Grace is a gift paid for by the life of Jesus" and then wrap a small box as a gift for each of them...

I know you all have great ideas, and this is a perfect time to be making agape for the 2021 walks.

DeColores,
Linda Haller



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 11:00 AM Sunday,
September 27, 2020

Pets, family and friends are welcome to join.

Hocking Hills State Park beginning at Cedar Falls and hiking to Ash Cave which is about a 3 mile hike. For those interested in a longer hike, you can do the return loop back to Cedar Falls for about a 6 mile journey.

21724 Ohio 374 Scenic, Logan, OH 43138

https://www.hockinghills.com/cedar_falls.html

https://www.hockinghills.com/ash_cave.html