

GREATER DAYTON EMMAUS

450 ALEX-BELL RD. CENTERVILLE, OH 45459



DECEMBER 2024

*Celebrate the birth of Jesus
in story and song*

Emmaus Gathering
Dec 9, 7:15 p.m.
Normandy UMC

**PILGRIMS
ARE NEEDED**

For the
Men's & Women's
Emmaus Walks in
Jan. & Feb.
at Normandy UMC

HERE'S AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE - IMPORTANT! PLEASE READ!



Have you ever felt the
nudge to be a part of
Emmaus Leadership and
decision making?

Have you ever thought about serving on
the Emmaus Board of Directors?

**We have a unique opportunity for you to
consider.**

As you know, it is time to nominate new Board
members, **but we also have some other
opportunities if you are not ready to commit
to a three-year assignment.**

We have had some folks step aside before their
term was completed. **Would you consider
serving in a position till the end of their
term?**

Take a look at the positions listed. If
something stands out to you, let us know and
we will send the job description to you for
your review and consideration. It is important
that you be fully informed before accepting a
position on the Board.

And don't worry, you WILL receive training!

The Board meets the fourth Tuesday of each
month, starting with Chapel at 6:30pm;
meeting at 7pm, at Normandy UMC.

We do ask that you attend Gatherings as much
as you can, attend all Board Meetings, and
serve during the weekends as needed.

Board service is a great opportunity to be a
part of an amazing group of people who care
about the well-being of the Greater Dayton
Emmaus Community.

**Board Positions to complete to term
- **Begin immediately****

***Good Shephard** - term ends 3/31/26*

***Women's Registrar** - term ends 3/31/26*

***Documentation** - term ends 3/31/26*

***Housing** - term ends 3/31/25*

Full 3-Year Term Positions

- Beginning April 1, 2025

Communications - Web page, newsletter
and Social Media

Men's Registrar - Doug Pelfrey is
running for this position

Supply - Debbie Hayes is completing a
term and will run for a new term this year.

All these positions need to be filled by the
end of 2024. The Upper Room requires that
we notify them of the new members and
have our Covenant signed by each person by
January 1.

If we do not have this accomplished, we will
be delayed in being able to place any order
for supplies and conduct a weekend.

If you are interested in learning more, please
contact a member of the Nominating
Committee. **Jeff Adams, Nominations Chair**
- jdadams8412@gmail.com, **Michele
Donaldson (Current Communications Chair)**
- mruff1536@gmail.com or **Tony Ammon** -
tone861@gmail.com. Please put **EMMAUS** in
the subject line.

**Thank you for your consideration of this
important matter.**

From Christmas Blues, to the Christmas News

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress... The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:1-2,6

You may be surprised to hear that not everyone agrees with the songwriter who said, “It’s the most wonderful time of the year. There will be kids jingle belling and everyone telling you to be of good cheer.”

But what if your kids are not doing so well, or perhaps you are estranged from them for some reason or another, or what if you are not in a place or space of good cheer? The song goes on to say “it’s the hap-happiest season of all, with holiday greetings and gay happy meetings when friends come to call.”

But what if no friends come to call and there are no meetings? “There’ll be parties for hosting and marshmallows for toasting and caroling out in the snow. There’ll be scary ghost stories and tales of the glories of Christmases long, long, ago.”

But what if it doesn’t snow, or you don’t get invited to the party? And what if the stories of Christmases long, long ago make you sad?

“There’ll be much mistletoe-ing and hearts will be glowing when loved ones are near. It’s the most wonderful time of the year.”

But what if you don’t have anyone to mistletoe with, or if your loved ones are no longer near? Sometimes the things that make it the most wonderful time of the year are also the things that make it NOT the most wonderful time of the year.

To go from the Christmas blues to the Christmas news requires us to change our focus. Let’s stop focusing on what we don’t have and begin to embrace what we do have. The promise of Isaiah is that there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress.



Why? Because the people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. When was the last time you set an alarm and made yourself an appointment to get up and see a sunrise?

There is something magical and beautiful about seeing the sunrise. We have the unlimited opportunity to embrace it every 24 hours. When light shines in the darkness it has a way of lifting our burdens and lightening our loads. But we not only have the sunshine, we have the SON who shines in our lives and came to give us life to the fullest.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. Stop fretting about this world’s government system because our citizenship is not of this world. We are but pilgrims in this land and our citizenship is out of this world. We serve a King who will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

So, when you feel the Christmas blues coming on, remind yourself of the Christmas News. We have a God who cares about us, so much so, that He came to see about us, to live among us and to be with us. He promised to never leave us or forsake us. He came to rescue us out of the darkness and bring us into the marvelous Light.

Focus on the Christmas News and then you will be able to say, like the songwriter, *It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year.*

**DeColores,
Palmer Jason, Spiritual Director**



HOLIDAY GREETINGS TO THIS AMAZING GREATER DAYTON EMMAUS COMMUNITY

It has been an honor and privilege to be a part of this community for soon to be 25 years. I hope to see you at our Christmas Gathering on December 9, 7:15p at Normandy UMC.

Our Worship Team has been hard at work, planning a Gathering that you won't want to miss. At the same time, we are also gearing up for the January and February Walks so there will be ample opportunities to sign up to serve.

Speaking of serving, please be sure to read the article regarding nominations for the coming year. It is critical that we get these positions filled by the end of the year. Reach out to the contacts listed or to me, and we will be sure to get all that you need to make a decision to join us in Leadership.

Due to some recent changes, I will also continue to be your Community Lay Director for another year.

As a reminder, the purpose of Emmaus is to inspire, challenge, and equip church members for Christian action, in their home's, churches, places of work, in the world community, and throughout the community itself through the Emmaus Experience.

We are currently accepting pilgrims for the January and February Walks. If you have someone in your church that would like to grow in leadership, ask them if you can sponsor them on a weekend.

If you have attended a weekend, it is important to come back for Gatherings. When we come back together, we rekindle friendships, worship together and encourage each other.

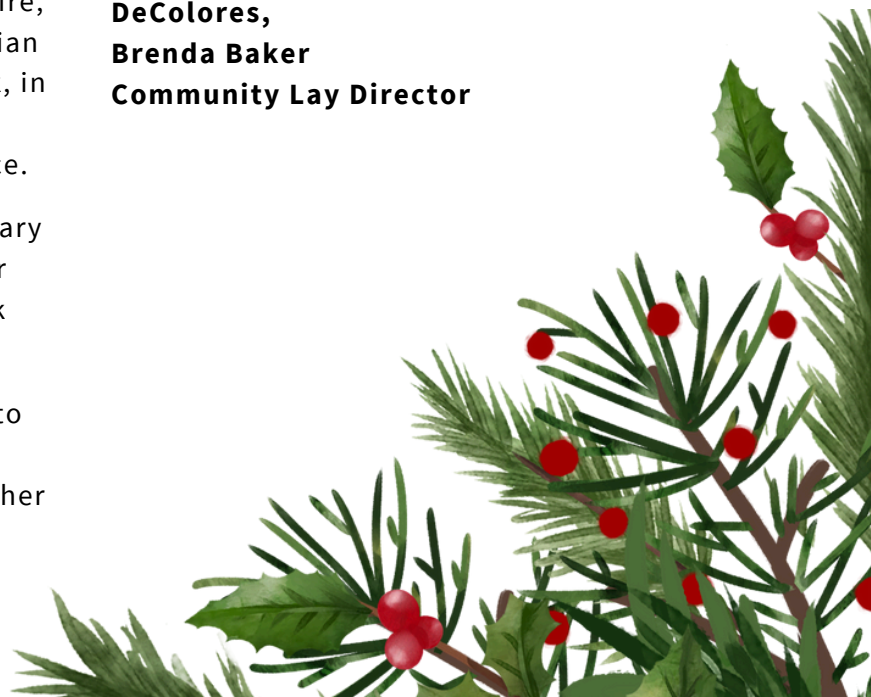
I have noticed our attendance is very high right after a weekend but soon dwindles as the months go by. Let's work to rebuild monthly gathering attendance and practice Christian Action by serving through serving communion, assisting with offering, even joining the music team.

In closing, I pray for your Season to be filled with hope, love and people who will lift you up and support you if this is a difficult season.

Perhaps you can be the joy bringer, the one who will deliver love in unexpected ways. Let your light shine for all the world to see. Who will you show the love of Jesus to during this season?

May you and your family have a Merry Christmas. I look forward to seeing you at our Christmas Gathering.

**DeColores,
Brenda Baker
Community Lay Director**



It's not too early to start preparing agape for the next walks in January and February.

We can always use more table agape. There are many ideas online, Pinterest etc.

Agape



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>



PILGRIMS NEEDED!

SAVE THE date

CHRISTMAS GATHERING:

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

JANUARY GATHERING:

JANUARY 13 @7:15 PM
NORMANDY UMC
CENTERVILLE, OH

MEN'S WALK #72

JANUARY 23-26
NORMANDY UMC

FEBRUARY GATHERING:

FEBRUARY 13 @7:15 PM
NORMANDY UMC
CENTERVILLE, OH

WOMEN'S WALK #113

FEBRUARY 13-16
NORMANDY UMC

A minimum number pilgrims is needed for a walk to be conducted. More are still needed to meet that minimum for the winter walks.

If you know of a person who is ready for a life-changing weekend, contact the registrars today! See contact information at:

www.daytonemmaus.org/board-of-directors