

# GREATER DAYTON EMMAUS



450 ALEX-BELL RD. CENTERVILLE, OH 45459

FEBRUARY 2026

# WELCOME

PILGRIMS OF MW #73  
TO THE  
GREATER DAYTON  
EMMAUS  
COMMUNITY



## WOMEN'S WALK #114

February 19-22, 2026

Community volunteers are needed to set up and move pilgrims in, and to help serve meals.

Sign up at **Gathering on February 9** or see **page 4 & 8** for info. See the WW #114 pilgrim/team list on **page 7**!



# A Word from Wendy

## Seek

*“God, so we are sometimes reminded, writes straight with crooked lines.”* – Margaret Silf

*“Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.”* – the Magi, Matthew 2:2

At the Emmaus Christmas Gathering, I shared the story of the Rainbow Fish. It seemed a well-suited illustration for a homily on the stories we tell with our lives and the new stories we live when we begin seeing things in a new way. But the rainbow fish has a special place in my heart for other reasons.

The rainbow parrotfish is native to the waters of the islands my spouse and I often visit on vacation and a frequent (beautiful) companion on snorkeling adventures. Like all God’s creatures, the parrotfish roams the created world seeking its heart’s desire, which in its case is the algae on the coral reefs.

And, because of its gift of enormously powerful jaws, when the parrotfish finds its meal of algae, it bites off whole lumps of coral reef and solid rock along with its food. You could say it eats the dinnerware along with the meal!

A mouthful of rock isn’t what most of us include in our wish list of deep desires. But God’s creativity is still at work. As the parrotfish swallows the coral along with the algae, in due course, the coral is excreted, now as fine white sand – the fine white sand that makes up the beaches of islands that are home to plants and birds and animals and, yes, humans. An additional piece of creation is possible because the parrotfish swallowed some rock with its meal.

Yes, “God writes straight with crooked lines.” And that includes in your life and in mine.

Perhaps as you look back in your story, how often has your search for your dreams cost you a few metaphorical broken teeth, as you’ve bitten on the hard rock concealed under some of life’s most attractive surfaces?



Failures, broken relationships, loss, sickness. isidoThe desire to find God and fulfill God’s dream for us often comes along with the bitterness of life.

Just as the magi followed a circuitous route to find the baby and then return home, they followed their dream just as the parrotfish pursues its algae. They had their share of hard rock (the interaction with Herod), but their return journey was the beginning of a whole new way of life.

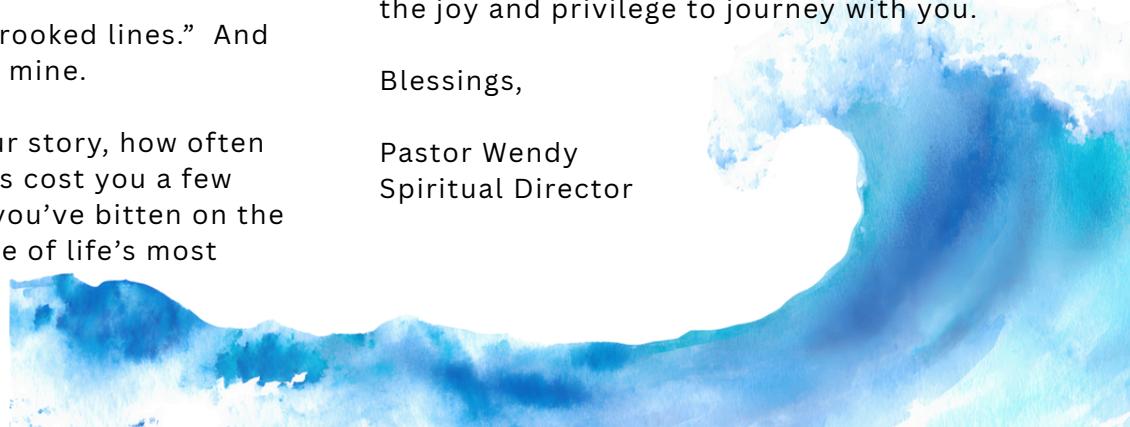
They brought the good news of Bethlehem to the Gentiles and we celebrate that each new year in the feast of the Epiphany – a new “island of faith” that was formed and would spread and grow as no one could have possibly imagined.

Life is a circuitous, crooked journey. Each of us seeking, on our unique journey of discovery, following the desires God plants in our hearts, eating our fair share of rock along the way. Yet all the while God is growing something amazing out of the trail we leave behind as we search and seek.

As we continue in this begin the new year, full of resolutions and best intentions, I give thanks for the joy and privilege to journey with you.

Blessings,

Pastor Wendy  
Spiritual Director





## A WORD FROM THE COMMUNITY CHAIR

Happy Winter!

Please help me welcome the men from Men's Walk #73 to the Community! We are so excited to have you join us and we look forward to serving with you. We hope to see you at our February 9th Gathering.

Our Good Shepherd will be inviting you to a meeting before the Gathering so please be sure to attend that.

This weekend was one for the records. Never have I ever thought we would have to do the weekend in two parts due to snow, but we did it. Great job team!

Community, I am so happy to see how you came out to support the Men's walk. Sponsors, thank you for being so responsive to my call to come early. I am not surprised at the number of people who came to candlelight--90 people weathered the storm to show these men some love, that is what we do--love, love, love. I am so very happy to serve with all of you.

Now we are preparing for the Women's Walk which I am praying will not be affected by weather but if it is, we have experience now!!

Please get excited to serve Women's Walk #114 February 19-22 at Sulphur Grove UMC.

You can sign-up to serve at the February Gathering.

I am thrilled that we have 30 pilgrims ready to go on their weekend. See the roster of names and prepare some Agape for them.

We still have some positions on the Board that need to be filled. Please, let us start the new year with a full board!

I am happy to talk to you about the position you are interested in, as are the outgoing board members. It is an honor and a privilege to serve our community in this capacity.

Be sure you have prayed for God's discernment and wisdom. You need to come as a willing and obedient servant who is there to serve the Lord with the gifts he has given you.

We must be humble servants for the Lord to work through. The Lord gets the glory for the work that is done, we do not. We support each other and work together and will help you as you learn. I know there are some folks who are being called, please let us know who you are.

Brothers and Sisters, we have work to do. Colossians 3:23 – Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

DeColores,  
Brenda Baker  
Community Lay Director

*Fourth Day Feast*  
An Emmaus Ministries International Virtual Gathering

April 24, 2026  
[Zoom link to the virtual gathering](#)

# KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED



**Volunteers are needed to prepare and serve food and clean up after meals for WW 114.**

Be sure to sign up early and not just show up, so we are assured of a full, but not over-staffed shift.

## **Thursday, Feb 19**

Weekend Prep	9:00 a.m. to noon
Brownie Drop-off	5:00 p.m.
Send off Dinner	5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

## **Friday, Feb 20**

Breakfast	6:30 to 11:00 a.m.
Lunch	11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Dinner	3:00 to 7:30 p.m.

## **Saturday, Feb 21**

Breakfast	6:30 to 11:00 a.m.
Lunch	11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Dinner	3:00 to 7:30 p.m.
Ice Cream Social after candlelight to 10:30 p.m.	

## **Sunday, Feb 22**

Breakfast	6:00 to 10:30 a.m.
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**Also needed:** Someone to do a load of towels and aprons each of the four days.

**Call, text or email Samantha Hoang**

**Cell phone/Text:**  
**937-287-5850**

**Email:** [samantha.hoang82@gmail.com](mailto:samantha.hoang82@gmail.com)

**Or click**

**[Kitchen Signup - Women's Walk #114](#)**

SAVE THE

*date*

## **FEBRUARY GATHERING:**

**FEBRUARY 9 @7:15 PM**  
Sponsors' Hour and  
Share Group Orientation- 6:15pm  
**NORMANDY UMC; CENTERVILLE, OH**

## **WOMEN'S WALK #114**

**FEBRUARY 19-22**  
**SULPHUR GROVE UMC**  
**HUBER HEIGHTS, OH**

**SEND-OFF**  
**FEBRUARY 19 - 5PM**

**CANDLELIGHT**  
**FEBRUARY 21 - 8PM**

**MARCH GATHERING:**  
**MARCH 9 @7:15 PM;**  
**NORMANDY UMC, CENTERVILLE, OH**

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
**APRIL 5**

**APRIL GATHERING:**  
**APRIL 13 @7:15 PM**  
**NORMANDY UMC; CENTERVILLE, OH**



# Is God calling you to shop?

Some board positions are still open and **supply chairman** is one of them! If you love to shop, enjoy finding bargains and pride yourself on knowing where to get what – this might be the calling you've been looking for!

With the Women's Walk coming up this month, it's the perfect time to shadow the current Supply Chair to see how it's done!

Besides Supply Chair, **Board Secretary** and **Board Treasurer** are also in need of nominees.

Feel free to contact current board members for more information. Positions on the Emmaus Board begin April 1, 2026 for a 3-year term. **Qualifications:** You must have been on at least one live-in team and be active in a Share Group and in your local church. (that's it!)

Pray on this opportunity and contact any current board member! [\*\*Click here\*\*](#) for board member contact info.



## Let's shower our pilgrims with love. Agape love.

Please remember that if you are doing table agape, you need to have 60 pieces, enough for team and pilgrims. If you want to make bedtime agape for team, you will need to make 30. Pinterest is full of ideas if you don't know what to make.

We ask that you don't put names on your agape -- this is about love, not recognition.

Please feel free to contact Shelly Crabtree at [kidnurse75@gmail.com](mailto:kidnurse75@gmail.com), if you have any questions.



**SPONSORS!  
DON'T FORGET  
THE AIR  
MATTRESS!**

The bulky, sometimes hard-to-handle, and difficult-to-store sleeping mats are a thing of the past!

Sponsors/pilgrims and team now must provide their own cot or air mattress.

**PLEASE ONLY TWIN SIZE - SPACE IS LIMITED.**



FIND THE INFO YOU NEED:  
[.DAYTONEMMAUS.ORG](http://DAYTONEMMAUS.ORG)



# Good Shepherd's Corner

Dear Dayton Emmaus Community,

We are grateful for the continued faithfulness and commitment of this community as we journey together in Christ. As we prepare for our upcoming gathering on February 9th, we want to share some important information—especially for our new pilgrims and their sponsors.

We will be offering our first **Share Group Orientation** prior to Gathering, beginning at 6:15 p.m. prior to our monthly Gathering at Normandy which starts at 7:15. All new pilgrims should plan to arrive in time to participate in this Share Group Orientation.

It is an essential part of helping pilgrims understand the heart of Emmaus, the purpose of share groups, and how we continue to walk together after the Walk. We also want to lovingly remind sponsors of their important role.

Sponsors are responsible for bringing their pilgrims to both the Share Group Orientation and the Gathering.

Walking alongside your pilgrim—physically and spiritually—sets the foundation for a meaningful Emmaus experience, and your presence and guidance are a vital part of that journey.

Remember to help them to find the sign up sheets as there are many ways to serve others in this community. Hopefully you can find time to serve together on this upcoming February walk.

As we look ahead, we are filled with excitement for the Women's Walk coming up in February! There will be many opportunities for the community to serve and support the pilgrims through:

- Kitchen help
- Housing help
- Agape—letters, prayers, and tangible reminders of God's love

There will be sign up sheets in the Narthex prior to the gathering. There are also opportunities to serve at the gatherings. We encourage everyone to prayerfully consider how they might serve.

Remember to fill out your willing servant forms: <https://daytonemmaus.org/willing-servant-form>

Thank you for your continued prayers, service, and love for this ministry. We look forward to gathering together and witnessing how God continues to work through the Dayton Emmaus Community.

Walk with Christ,  
Your Good Shepherd

Emily Adams



# GDE WOMEN'S WALK #114

## Pilgrim

## Home Town

Megan Anderson - Xenia  
Brienne Blair - Springdale  
Katrena Bodley - Dayton  
Jordan Copeland - Fairborn  
LeeAnne Daniel - Huber Heights  
Julie Desorcy - Beavercreek  
Brittany DeWeese - Dayton  
Gayla Ford - Germantown  
Alli Gehle - Dayton  
Shalonda Harden - Dayton  
Jennifer Klontz - Dayton  
Jessica Kyne - Moraine  
Bev Logan - Eaton  
Jenn McDonald - Dayton  
Cora Moore - Dayton  
Donna Newsone - Dayton  
Erin Payne - Beavercreek  
Lacey Pike - Dayton  
Shannon Pruett - Springboro  
Michaela Schwinn - Dayton  
Missy Schuler - Dayton  
Serenity Rhayne Sizemore - Dayton  
Erin Syron - Springboro  
Traci Thomas - Tipp City  
Krissy Trosper - Dayton  
Diane Vitas - Dayton  
Cindi Watts - Huber Heights  
Carly Ward - Kettering  
Tiffanie Williams - Xenia  
Taylor Young - Dayton

## Team Member - Position

Jean Keillor- Lay Director  
Alix Litton - Asst Lay Dir  
Cathy Berry - Asst Lay Dir  
Michele Cremeans - Asst Lay Dir  
Palmer Jason - Spiritual Director  
Mamie Johnson - Asst SD Live In  
Rich Fitzwater - Asst SD  
Michael Malcosky - Asst SD  
Sandy Pappenfus - Asst SD  
Tanya McDougle- Board Rep  
Julia Crowl- Music Director  
Allyssa Miller- Asst MD  
Michele Donaldson- Table Leader  
Susan Lehneis - Table Leader  
AJ Puderbaugh - Table Leader  
Kathy Kruse - Table Leader  
Shirley Gallagher - Table Leader  
Pam DeHart - Table Leader  
DeJaNay Caffey - Asst TL  
Eden McDonald - Asst TL  
Michelle Brown Gordon - Asst TL  
Dona Speakman - Asst TL  
Chantel West - Asst TL  
Barb Courtice - Asst TL  
Pam Walker - Prayer Servant  
Carol Dondero - Prayer Servant  
Lynn Compton - LOG  
Diane Marcott - LOG  
Dawn Hedrick - LOG



# MUSCLES (AND JUST HELPFUL PEOPLE) NEEDED FOR WW #114

*Be sure to sign up early so we know we have a full team!*

**Wednesday, Feb 18 - 7-8pm**  
*Help set up the church for the walk*

**Thursday, Feb 19 5:30-7:30**  
*Greet pilgrims and carry luggage*

**Sunday, Feb 22. 5:30-8 am**  
*Get church back to normal for worship*

**Monday, Feb 23**  
*Help to pack the pod to return Emmaus supplies to storage unit*

*Call, text or email Tom Donaldson*  
**Cell phone/Text:**  
**937-470-9114**  
**Email: [tdonald557@hotmail.com](mailto:tdonald557@hotmail.com)**  
**Or click**  
**[Housing Signup - WW #114](#)**



## What is Emmaus?

The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. The program's approach seriously considers the model of Christ's servanthood and encourages Christ's disciples to act in ways appropriate to being "a servant of all."

The Walk to Emmaus experience begins with a 72-hour short course in Christianity, comprised of fifteen talks by lay and clergy on the themes of God's grace, disciplines of Christian discipleship, and what it means to be the church. The course is wrapped in prayer and meditation, special times of worship and daily celebration of Holy Communion.

The "Emmaus community," made up of those who have attended an Emmaus weekend, support the 72-hour experience with a prayer vigil, by preparing and serving meals, and other acts of love and self-giving. The Emmaus Walk begins Thursday evening and concludes Sunday evening.

Men and women attend separate weekends. During and after the three days, Emmaus leaders encourage participants to meet regularly in small groups. The members of the small groups challenge and support one another in faithful living.

— from What Is Emmaus?  
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FIND THE INFO YOU NEED:  
[.DAYTONEMMAUS.ORG](http://DAYTONEMMAUS.ORG)