

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. The 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.

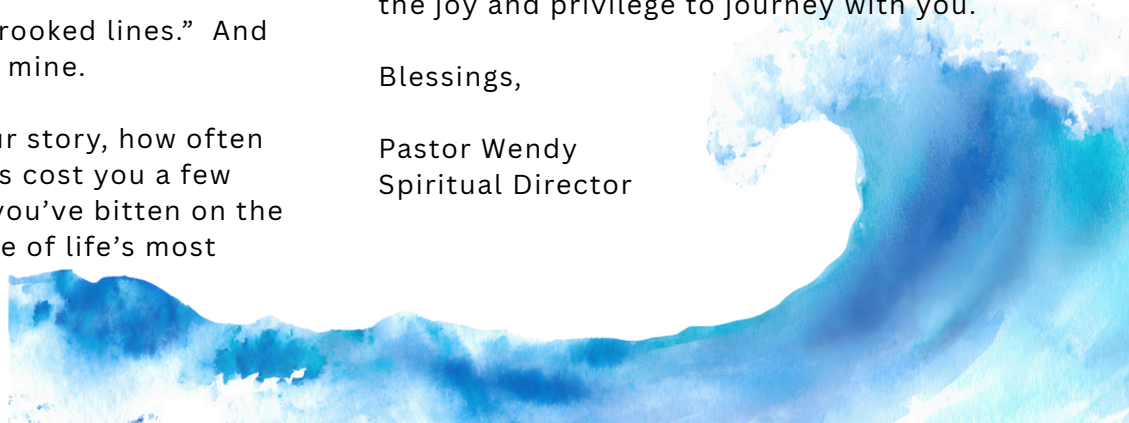
They brought the good news of Bethlehem to the Gentiles and we celebrate that each new year in the feast of the Epiphany – a new "island of faith" that was formed and would spread and grow as no one could have possibly imagined.

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 Shephard 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



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.

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

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, if you have any questions.



SPONSORS!
DON'T FORGET
THE AIR
MATTRESS!

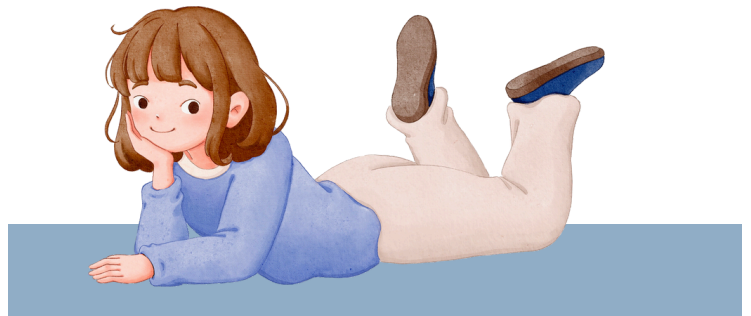
The bulky, sometimes hard-to-handle, and difficult-to-store sleeping mats are a thing of the past!

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





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 McDougale- Board Rep
Julia Crawl- 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

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?

Copyright The Upper Room.



FIND THE INFO YOU NEED:

DAYTONEMMAUS.ORG