

GREATER DAYTON EMMAUS

450 ALEX-BELL RD. CENTERVILLE, OH 45459

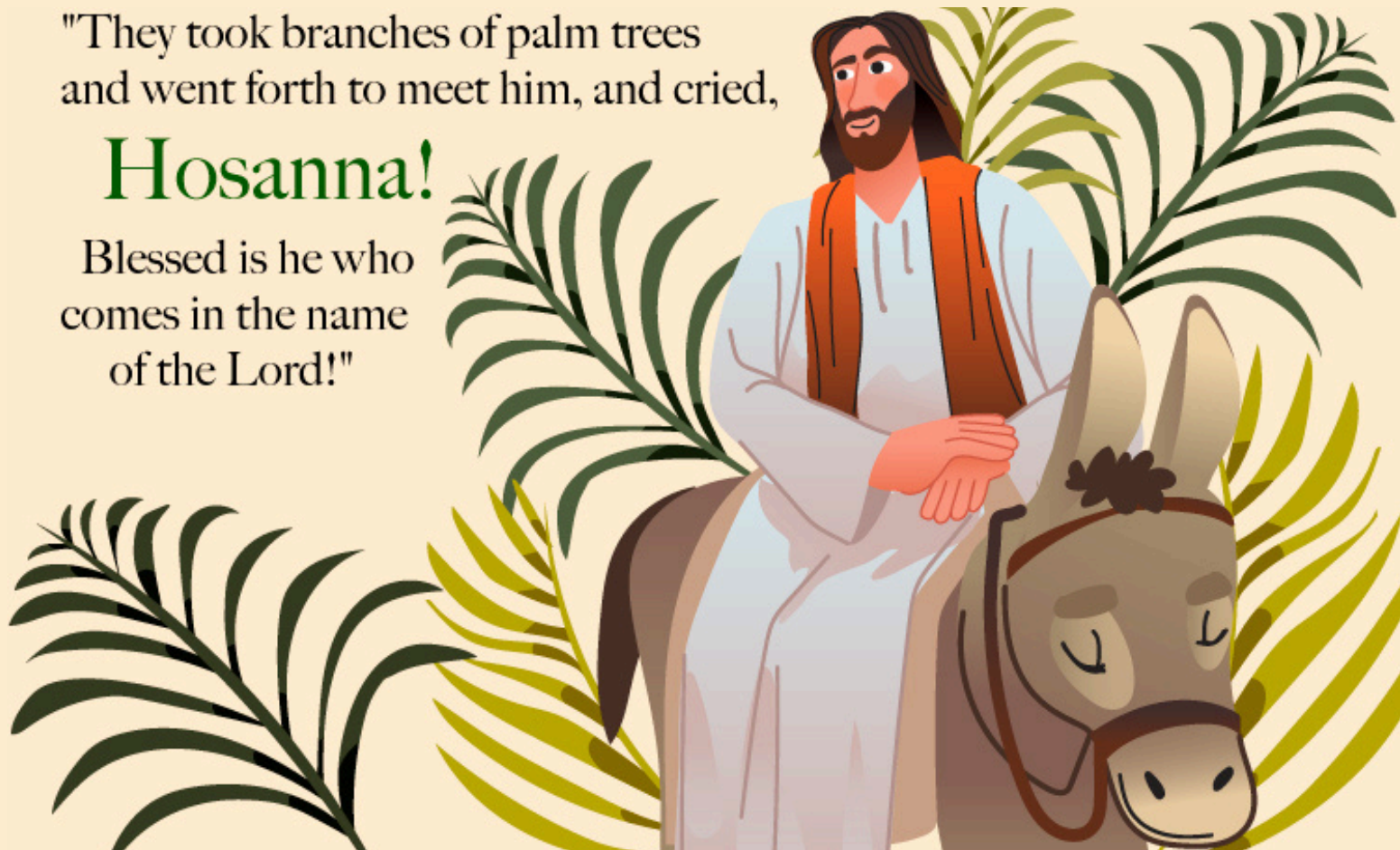


MARCH 2025

"They took branches of palm trees
and went forth to meet him, and cried,

Hosanna!

Blessed is he who
comes in the name
of the Lord!"

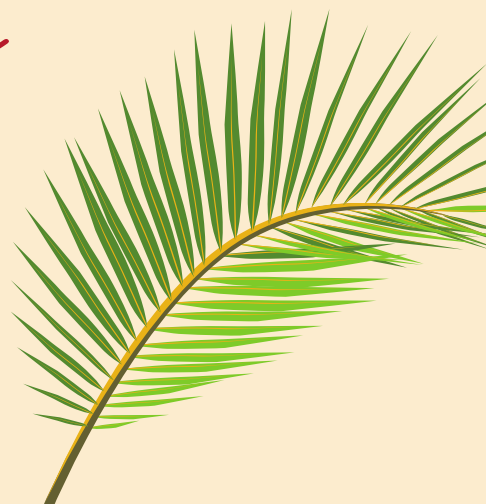


Meet the Pilgrims
FROM WOMEN'S WALK #113

GATHERING

March 10 @ 7:15pm

Normandy UMC, Centerville



Message from the Spiritual Director

“The Best Thing That Ever Happened to Me”

How many times have you heard a pilgrim say about their Walk to Emmaus, “That was the best thing that ever happened to me!”? It might be at Closing or at a Gathering, Share Group, or in simple, ordinary conversation.

Is it an exaggeration to say such a thing? I don’t think so. We may look back on a special birthday (maybe our 16th) or our wedding day or the day our child was born as great days, and it is well that we should.

But when you think about all that a Walk to Emmaus brings into the life of a pilgrim: incredible teaching, visible demonstration of the love of God and others, and of course the luxurious accommodations; it is easy to see how pilgrims would feel that their weekend was “the best thing that ever happened to me.”

Hear me on this point: the experience of the Walk to Emmaus is more than the text of the talks and the flow of the Weekend. It is how the Holy Spirit uses each and every team member, behind-the-scenes volunteers, and the community.

When a pilgrim says that their Walk experience was “the best thing that ever happened to me,” every Community member should first thank God, then be encouraged that all the preparation and hard work has made a difference in the life of a pilgrim.

In other words, “the best thing that ever happened to me” is also a “thank you” and an encouragement for faithful service to the Kingdom of God.

As Paul begins his letter to the church at Philippi this way: *“Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.”* (Philippians 1:3-6, NLT)

I too want to say “thank you” for your loving service to the Greater Dayton Emmaus Community. May God continue His work.

Gary Wheeler
Spiritual Director

Best
DAY
ever!



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Greater Dayton Emmaus



Agape love.

It's not too soon to start working on AGAPE for the summer walks. Pilgrims love to see your little gifts of love on the tables at meals. It's a great activity to do with your share group!

A WORD FROM THE COMMUNITY CHAIR

Happy March, Community

I would like to welcome our newest women's walk pilgrims into our community. It is a joy to see how God is working in your life, and I look forward to hearing more about it at our next Gathering which is March 10, 7:15 at Normandy United Methodist Church.

As for the Board, we have welcomed new board members for a full three term, as well as new members who are completing a term for another member. I want to thank all our Board Members who will be leaving the Board. It has been a blessing to serve with each of you and you have made a difference in our community.

As we look at the new year, we will be participating in our annual Board Retreat where we will discuss the usual procedures, By Laws, Upper Room Covenant and Memorandum of Understanding along with some new objectives I would like to see us accomplish this year.

I plan to revamp our sponsorship training and start providing training before Gatherings again. Even if you have sponsored people for many years, you will need to attend a new one. There is so much new information that will further enhance your pilgrim's experience.

I will also be focusing on our Community Growth. We see the church full on walk weekends but where do you all go after that? How can we encourage you to start coming back to Gatherings? What is missing or what needs to change? I want to know. I am giving you my personal email. Let's chat.



I am also working on developing a program to reignite your spark...rekindle your spirit. I feel like perhaps if we can bring folks back who we haven't seen for a long time, and spend a weekend with them, perhaps, this will also help our community grow. This weekend will not be for people we see all the time or even new pilgrims. This is for people who have gone on a walk possibly 5 or more years ago and we haven't seen since.

Brothers and Sisters, it is my prayer to see you grow in your walk with Christ, to help you learn to serve Christ and to grow in Fellowship with each other. You remain in my prayers.

Blessings and DeColores,

Brenda Baker
Community Lay Director
Brenda1smith@aol.com



IT'S COMING!... AT LAST! ONLINE GIVING!

TRY IT ON THE WEBSITE!

WWW.DAYTONEMMAUS.ORG





GOOD SPONSORS ARE KEY TO EMMAUS SUCCESS

There is one key element for each pilgrim to begin their journey on the road to Emmaus- the sponsor!

For some, being a sponsor is "old hat"-- they have sponsored many pilgrims. For others, being a sponsor is a new task. Whether old or new, each sponsor has a responsibility to both the pilgrim and to the Emmaus community.

When sponsoring someone, please make sure your pilgrim is established in a church. A stated purpose of Emmaus is to grow leaders for our churches.

Sponsoring a pilgrim because you think it would be good for the person is not a reason to attend Emmaus. Sponsors need to be looking at their congregation, their Sunday School classes, small groups, service groups to ascertain folks who are desiring a deeper walk with God and a more active role in the church.

Sponsors talk with the potential pilgrim about the weekend. Please, explain and describe the weekend! At every closing, we are instructed to tell folks about the talks, the table discussions, the singing, communion, even about the opportunity to lay a burden at the foot of the cross. Emmaus is not a secret!

Once you have shared the information with the pilgrim and gained their agreement, sponsors then need to make sure all paperwork is completed and submitted.

Collecting agape letters, driving the pilgrim to the church, attending the sponsor hour before the walk, making beds and serving meals (including helping with special food needs for specific pilgrims) all follow that initial, important step of discernment and application.

Your responsibility does not end at the door!

THE 3R'S OF LENT

Lent is a 40-day period of preparation for Easter when Christians reflect on their faith and prepare for renewal.

It's a time of self-examination and forgiveness, and a time to learn or relearn the story of salvation and to reflect on the suffering and death of Christ.

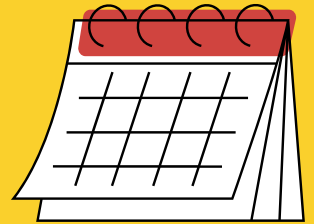
Remember the three R's of Lent:

Reflection: A time of self-examination to identify faults and areas for improvement.

Repentance: A time of acknowledging sins and seeking forgiveness.

Reconciliation: A time of seeking to be reconciled with God and others.

Save the date



MARCH GATHERING:

MARCH 10 @7:15 PM
NORMANDY UMC, OH

APRIL GATHERING:

APRIL 14 @7:15 PM
NORMANDY UMC

MAY GATHERING

MAY 12 @7:15 PM
NORMANDY UMC

JUNE GATHERING

JUNE 9 @7:15 PM
SULPHUR GROVE UMC

THE BIG MOVE

DATE TBA
FROM NORMANDY TO SULPHUR GROVE

MEN'S WALK #73

JUNE 19-22
SULPHUR GROVE UMC

JULY GATHERING

JULY 14 @7:15 PM
SULPHUR GROVE UMC

WOMEN'S WALK #114

JULY 17-20
SULPHUR GROVE UMC

AUGUST GATHERING

AUGUST 11 @ 7:15 PM
SULPHUR GROVE UMC