



Darke County Emmaus Community Newsletter

*They asked each other,
"Were not our hearts
burning within us while he
talked with us on the
road and opened the
Scriptures to us?"*

Luke 24:32

From Our Community Lay Director—Gerald Miller

The happenings of the past several weeks have had a great influence (ordained by the God of love) in the writing of this article.

Have you hugged or told that or rather those persons in your life that you love them? That loved one who just irritates the devil out of you, or the mom or dad that you think are the dumbest people on this earth or that brother or sister who you think they think are just a little bit better than you, or that prodigal son or daughter that you do not understand their logic or ways of doing things?

I would bet we have all been in one or all those situations or similar circumstances. I would like to encourage everyone to pause for a moment and ponder what is really happening, is it really that bad? Or better yet what am I missing out on? So please before it is too late, give that hug or better yet tell that person in your life that is unlikeable that you still love them! We are really one breath, one wink of an eye away from it being forever too late!

Thanks to everyone of the Emmaus Community for all the love, support, cards, hugs, prayers that were extended to the family of Kimra Skelton.

Board Members

Pastor Rick Gutheil—Spiritual Director

Community Lay Director—Gerald Miller

Asst. Community Lay Director—Betsy Garber

Leadership—Kevin Judy

Secretary—Chris Matthew

Treasurer—Melissa Werling

Kitchen—Chris Hammaker

Logistics—Aubrey Rock

Agape—Deb Gutheil

Men's Good Shepherd—Jeff Feitshans

Women's Good Shepherd—

Purchasing—Brittany Melton

Registration/Sponsorship—Carla Detling

Worship—Jim Thompson

Music—Todd Matthew

Kairos Rep—

Chrysalis Rep—Angie Hill

Newsletter—Connie McCabe

Social—Steve Price

FUMC Rep—Shirma Pence

Web Servant—Allison Dill

Historian—MaryAnne Furlong

Database—Heather Medve

Upside Down Kingdom

Recently the word sacrificial has been on my mind. Over the last weekend, it came up in two conversations and was in several Scriptures that I read. What does it mean? How does it apply to our lives as followers of Jesus Christ? When recurring instances like this happen, I've learned to stop and listen to what God is saying to me. I am going to just share a few thoughts that He has given to me.

Here in our current time and geographical setting, in our culture and society, we have been given the opportunity to live independently and plentifully. Even when we don't have the money to "keep up with the Jones'" we can borrow it and make it appear as though we can afford to live that way. We are trained from very young ages to not need one another. We are taught to live for ourselves, look out for ourselves, get all we can for ourselves, be as happy as we can, and embrace every opportunity to better ourselves. Sadly, these things have intruded upon the Church, as well as being found in the world around us. And in all this pursuit of self, we have lost the knowledge of and ability to live sacrificially.

My heart has long heard the call of Romans 12:1.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

A living sacrifice. Continual sacrificial living. Always giving myself up. Never promoting myself. Not living beyond what God has given. Interacting and being interdependent. Living for others. Putting others' needs before our own. Giving as much or more than we have received. Realizing that happiness is not our highest priority. Surrendering opportunities to allow others to advance. This is upside down, the complete opposite of what we have been taught, what our hearts naturally reach for. It is, on the other hand, what we have been called to live. It is what Jesus Christ modeled for us. It is what He expects from us. This, then, warrants some questions.

Am I living sacrificially? If the answer is no, what do I need to change so that my life looks more like the life of Christ? How am I going to make those changes? Am I able to make those changes on my own, or do I need help? Do I long to be like Jesus more than I want to live for myself?

Upside down. The way the Lord calls us to live is upside down- the complete opposite of the world and our own sin-prone hearts. Let's all choose to live in His upside down Kingdom.

-Betsy Garber, Community Assistant Lay Director

Servant Opportunities:

Are you looking for a way to serve in our Emmaus Community?

We have a few board positions open that need a servant heart to fill. (A board position is a 3 year term)

We need:

*Women's Good Shepherd—This person helps women get into a share group if they cannot find one.

*Kairos representative

Or you could.....

*Fill out a Willing Servant form and be a team member

*Come and serve in the kitchen prepping and serving meals.

*Help the LOGS clean the church—this is a big place!

*Come on Wednesday for set-up, Thursday for send off (help carry luggage and get pilgrims settled), or Monday for tear down.

If you are interested in being on a team please fill out a willing servant form and turn it in to a current board member or mail it to: Darke County Area Emmaus Community P.O. Box 482 Greenville, OH 45331 so the selection committee will have an updated list of who has been on teams and what position they have filled. You can also email it to Chris Matthew at secretary@dcaec.org and she will forward it on. You can also download one from the website www.dcaec.org

A Few Reminders:

We are now holding our Weekends and Gatherings at:

First United Methodist Church
202 W. 4th St.
Greenville, OH 45331

The next Gathering will be: Sunday February 9th

Gatherings begin at 6:00 pm with fellowship afterward.

We would love for you to bring a snack to share and get to know your Emmaus community.

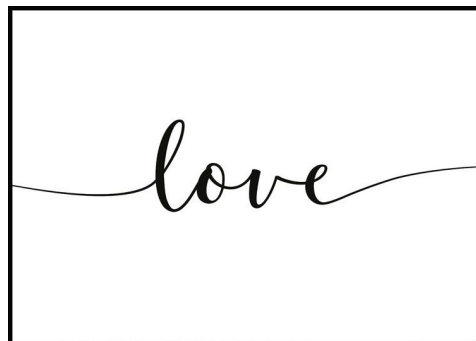
***If you would like to receive our newsletter, please send your email address to: dcaecnewsletter@gmail.com**

Family and friends are always welcome at Praise Gatherings

No child care is provided for the Community during Praise Gathering.

Walk Weekend activities are open to Emmaus and Chrysalis members only.

Please No Children.





Date completed _____

WILLING SERVANT FORM

*Please mark with an * any new information of which we should be aware.*

Name: _____

Address: _____ City & State _____ Zip _____

Phone #: _____ E-mail _____

Walk you attended and where: _____

Date of your walk: _____

Day and time my Share Group meets: _____

I am interested in being considered as a live-in team member. Yes ___ No ___

I have done:

Please list Talks you have given:

_____ Assistant Table Leader

_____ Table Leader

_____ Logistics

_____ Assistant Lay Director

_____ Lay Director

_____ Assistant Music Director

_____ Music Director

_____ Assistant Spiritual Director

_____ Spiritual Director

If you have participated in any of these areas in a different Emmaus Community, please list the Community or Communities: _____

Church I am active in _____

Pastor _____ Telephone _____

Ministries of this church I am active in (list):

Role/responsibility in each ministry:

Mail to: Darke County Area Emmaus, P.O. Box 482, Greenville, OH 45331

6/2004

A message from our GOOD SHEPHERD—Jeff Feitshans and our SPONSORSHIP/REGISTRAR—Carla Detling

Sponsorship

Being an Instrument of Prevenient Grace

The “Why” of Good Sponsorship

It would be difficult to overstate why the role of good sponsorship in the Emmaus Community is significant. The reason undergirding the value of good sponsorship can be shown in at least 3 ways:

Good sponsorship is the first act of agape for the pilgrim before a Walk ever begins.

Good sponsorship undergirds the whole weekend with sacrificial love on behalf of the pilgrim.

Good sponsorship is foundational for growing a healthy, effective Emmaus Movement that is fulfilling its true purpose.

The “How” of Good Sponsorship

Understanding how to properly sponsor a pilgrim is our next task. Below are the 10-Steps of sponsorship. The Upper Room’s guidelines provide instructions that ensure you can be a good and effective sponsor (if you prefer a fuller treatment, see the booklet *Day Four: The Pilgrim’s Continued Journey. Then locate the chapter – The Next Generation: Sponsorship*).

Pray for the pilgrim’s openness to God’s call to discipleship.

Set up a time to meet with the pilgrim (and their family, if they so desire) and explain what it means to participate in an Emmaus Weekend.

Be invitational. Share with the pilgrim how the Emmaus Community is part of the larger family of faith. Explain the basic elements of the Walk and take the attitude that you are offering the pilgrim a wonderful gift rather than an obligation to attend.

Assist the pilgrim in completing the registration form. If the pilgrim is married, encourage them both to remain committed as they await the upcoming Emmaus Walk. Many distractions will attempt to dissuade them from following through.

Begin conversations with the pilgrim’s extended family members, their pastor, friends and so forth, to provide letters of agape.

Remember to pray for your pilgrim daily, filling a slot in the 72-hour prayer vigil, being present at Send-Off, Sponsor’s Hour, Candlelight, and Closing. Be ready to support your pilgrim’s family over the weekend if necessary (i.e. picking up mail, house-sitting, feeding pets, checking in with a spouse, etc.).

Following the Walk, help your pilgrim find a share group to join, bring them to the 4th-Day Reunion, and be a willing listener.

Keep in contact with your pilgrim as they reenter their church family, encouraging them to discover new possibilities of service.

Let your pilgrim know of the variety of ways they can serve in the Emmaus Community.

Finally, be available to help your pilgrim sponsor others.

Sponsorship continued...

If you have participated on an Emmaus Walk, you can sponsor another person. In addition, because sponsorship is so important and vital to the overall flourishing of an Emmaus Community, the Board asks that those desiring to sponsor someone be willing to attend a sponsorship training session. Sponsorship is a sacred role that allows a person the privileged opportunity to be Christ's ambassador to a prospective pilgrim. It is our goal to help the Sponsor be an example of God's marvelous grace and love, assisting the pilgrim in their journey as they experience an authentic encounter with the risen Christ.

De Colores!

Carla Detling, Registration/Sponsorship

Jeff Feitshans, Good Shepherd

PILGRIMS WANTED!

The next Men's walk is #36—Steve Price is Men's walk #36 Lay Director

It will be held March 26-29, 2020

Please pray about who you would like to ask to be on the upcoming walk and pray for that person.

Application deadline is 2 weeks before the walk.

Sponsors please make sure applications are completed in full before they are mailed in.

Thank You.

Carla Detling

Registrar/Sponsorship

A message from our CSD— Pastor Rick Gutheil

Back on the Road?

Happy New Year Emmaus brothers and sisters! I pray you experienced God in new and exciting ways during the Seasons of Advent and Christmas and are ready and anxious to see what God will do in the Year of our Lord 2020!

It is a new year and a time for new things for many of us. As I was praying over what to share in this edition of the newsletter the story of the original walk to Emmaus, after Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, came to mind and what I felt God nudging me to share was the location of this encounter that Cleopas and the other gentleman had with Jesus. It didn't happen in a church, or a home, or a shopping mall; it happened *on the road!*

As the two were heading back home, Jesus came and joined them and spoke with them while they were walking on the road. Which led me to think, "How often, when we are out on the road during our every day comings and goings, do we share the story of what Jesus has done for us? How often do we talk about our Darke County Area Emmaus weekends or gatherings when we are out in public?"

Too often we seem to only share the excitement with those who have already been on a walk, or during our monthly gatherings. What if we, as a community, made the decision to put into action what we learned and how we grew as Christian followers and believers with those we connect with on a daily basis? How much more excitement could we build for a walk weekend if we did something OUTSIDE of our monthly meetings? What if we set up a booth at a festival or fair and shared our excitement for the ministry that has blessed so many of us? What if we had bake sales or garage sales to help raise funds for the ministry so we could prayerfully reach others for the Kingdom of God? What if we actually follow Jesus' command to "Go and make disciples of all nations."

How much could we bless the Emmaus community and our towns, cities, villages, and the residents thereof if we got "back on the road" and loved the people that Jesus came to save? Go out and tell somebody about the love of Jesus and our Walk to Emmaus Weekends!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Rick Gutheil

A message from your AGAPE Chair—Deb Gutheil



Thank you so much for the response to the Women's walk, the agape was wonderful!

Men's Walk #36 will be here before you know it. March 26-29, 2020.

Get your creative juices flowing, there are lots of ideas for table or bedtime agape.

Here are a few guidelines to follow for writing and making agape:

#1 Please put your name on your agape and on agape containers/bags, leftovers will be available to pick up at the closing of the weekend and for 2 gatherings afterward. Whatever hasn't been claimed after that will be donated to the Chrysalis community.

#2 NO PERSONAL AGAPE for pilgrims until Sunday for their packets. This can be only letters, notes and cards, or whatever will fit into an envelope. No large agape will be accepted such as mugs, t-shirts, framed pictures or books, please give these items to them after their walk. Agape can be no larger than what will fit into a 9"x12" manila envelope.

#3 Team and pilgrim agape must have first and last name on the front of the envelope. And for team agape it also must have the day you want them to receive it or it will be put in the Sunday packet. There have been times when we have had more than one person with the same first name and your agape could go to the wrong person.

Lets show these women what agape love is all about!

Thank You, Deb

PERSONAL AGAPE ENVELOPES

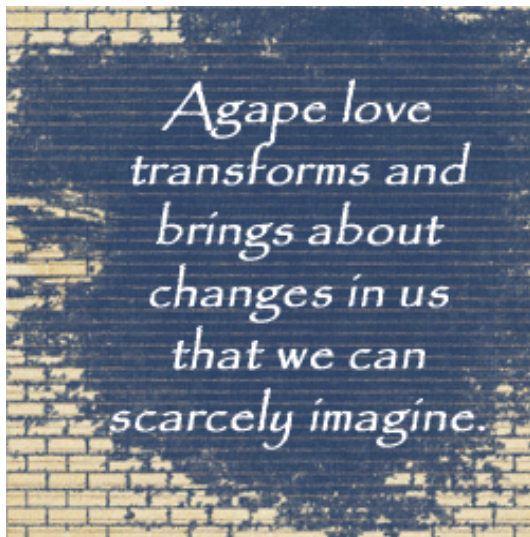
Write Pilgrim name here

"Pilgrim" here

Write team member name here

When to be received here

PLEASE REMEMBER TO WRITE FIRST AND LAST
NAMES ON AGAPE ENVELOPES.





New Every Morning

God loved us so much that He gave His Son as a sacrifice for our sin that, through faith, we might be brought back into a full and intimate relationship with our Heavenly Father for all eternity. I think we often forget the magnitude of this love: we were dead and He provided us a way to live!

Lamentations 3:22-23

"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness."

God has expressed His absolute love and compassion through the forgiveness found in Jesus Christ. This forgiveness is total and complete for those who believe. When we place our trust in Jesus, we are washed clean - we become "a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17). We were washed clean at the moment of salvation, and we continue to be washed clean "every morning."

We all have days when our sinful nature wins a battle and we stumble. We have a day when our anger, pride, fear, or lust is brought to the surface and we "do what we do not want to do" (Romans 7:16). We may need to seek forgiveness and earn back trust from those we have hurt, but God's forgiveness and love is free for the asking; "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins" (1 John 1:9). We may lose some of the battles, but through Jesus, the war has been won!

Since we have been washed clean, and continue to be washed clean, we must stop walking as though we are still soiled. We are children of God and in the process of being conformed to the likeness of His Son. This process of growth and maturity - the process of victorious transformation - must continue each and every morning. We must shed the heavy burdens of past failures, and the fear of future disappointments, and walk in the freshness of His forgiveness.

Is our relationship with God fresh and new? Do we still comprehend the magnitude of love encompassed in the gift of forgiveness? Or have we grown complacent and cold? When was the last time our love for God was so fresh on our heart that we couldn't help but say THANK YOU!?

We are invited into a relationship with our Heavenly Father; an intimate relationship which involves loving and being loved; a relationship which allows us to walk in victory for His glory and to be guided by the power of His Spirit. Let's give Him our all and receive His all in return. Let's rise up in His strength and determine to make our relationship of love new every morning.

Have a Christ Centered Day!

Steve Troxel
God's Daily Word Ministries

Darke County Area Emmaus
Community P.O. Box 482
Greenville, OH 45331



A PROGRAM OF THE UPPER ROOM

Darke County Area Emmaus Community
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DeColores In The Darke

www.dcaec.org

Change of Mailing Address? New Email Address?

Please contact Connie McCabe at:
dcaecnewsletter@gmail.com

Reminder:

***The Thursday potluck dinner,
Candlelight and Closing Service
are for members of the Emmaus
Community only.***

Childcare is not provided