



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

Seeking God in Time of Need

Is God aware of our needs? Does he care when we hurt? There is a good chance that each and every one of us are facing a situation that seems far beyond our control. We ponder how to handle it. We have prayed and diligently sought God’s help, but our need has remained unmet, at least from our perspective. How do we handle shattered dreams? Or how do we redirect the desires that fill and overflow our hearts emotions? Does God have an answer? Does he care when we hurt and struggle against the pressures of life? How should we handle times of spiritual silence when we feel as though God is standing at a distance and not answering our prayers according to our expectations? The best way to understand God’s mind and heart is to study the principles found in his word. Before we decide this will not work or that will not work for our situation, let us take a few minutes to think about and read the story of Mary, Martha and Lazarus. Each one of these people had definite needs for special situations. Lazarus needed a healing touch from God as he was deathly sick (John 11:1), and Jesus had the power to heal him. Mary and Martha also had tremendous needs—how would they be able to survive without Lazarus? You see, not only was he their brother, but their provider. He was the head of the household and because they were not married Lazarus took care of them—Jesus knew this! He was their close friend and a frequent guest in their home when he was in Jerusalem. They lived in Bethany which is near Jerusalem. Once Mary and Martha realized the seriousness of Lazarus’s illness and it could lead to his death, it only seemed right to send for Jesus. They know the power that God had given him—thus their appeal to Jesus was one of love and friendship—“Lord behold he whom you love is sick” (John 11:3). The issue in this story is not only one of healing, it is also one of need and how Jesus met that need.

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—Allison Dill
Newsletter—Connie McCabe
Social— Steve Price
FUMC Rep—Shirma Pence
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Historian—MaryAnne Furlong
Database—Heather Medve

Seeking God in Time of Need cont'd...

You see, God has the power to heal every disease! The issue that confronts us in situations like this one is God's will vs our will. We need to pray and ask God to meet our needs. There is something deep within this process that God wants us to learn—we begin to understand just how committed God is to meeting our needs when we learn to accept his will as perfect.

We also must acknowledge his timing is right, just as his strength is sufficient and his love is eternal. Up until now Mary and Martha did not understand how deeply Jesus was involved in their lives. More than likely we have failed to understand this at times as well. However, Jesus was determined to demonstrate his intimate care for these women and for his friend Lazarus. But first Mary and Martha would have to wait—their prayers though synchronized with God's will, would appear to go unanswered. Many times we choose the wrong way to respond to our (seemed) unmet needs. There are 6 ways in which we do this: 1. DENIAL—we tell ourselves there is not a problem. Denial is an initial defense we use to protect us from the reality of the situation. This is not a very healthy thing to do, we need to face reality with God, knowing he has a perfect solution for the problem we face. 2. AVOIDANCE—we distance ourselves from the problem in order to protect ourselves from further pain. This response works only for a short period of time. We can see how God used it in the lives of his saints to provide short periods of rest. However, just like denial, avoidance prevents us from dealing with the problem. The solution is to seek God for wisdom and a precise way to handle our circumstances, even if this includes waiting for him to lead us beyond this moment in time. We must be willing to wait for God's best. Jumping ahead of him only leads to more confusion. 3. PROJECTION—we use projection when we blame others like Mary & Martha, they were quick to tell Jesus "if you had been here, our brother would not have died." You see, God is not unaware of our situations. He knows exactly what we are facing, and he knows how we will react! We must accept responsibility for our lives and the problems we are facing. Lazarus's illness was a fact of life and not a form of punishment. God is not the author of disease or tragedy. We are card carrying members of the human race. He uses circumstances of life to mold our lives. 4. LYING—when we avoid telling the truth, we usually end up hurting others and ourselves. There is only one way to handle the trials of life and that is truthfully. This does not mean that we must disclose all that we know or feel. God wants us to be careful with the words that proceed from the lips. Lying and rationalization do not help solve the problem. These only hinder a final Godly resolve. 5. GIVING IN AND GIVING UP—usually when the trial of life come, we are faced with the temptation to quit. Discouragement is one of Satan's favorite forms of attack. He believes that if he can discourage us we will give up and turn away from God's will or plan for our lives. NEVER GIVE UP—TRUST GOD TO THE END—and you will see his goodness become a reality in your life. 6 CONFORMITY—rather than stand for what we know is true, we conform to the situation, for example, 'oh well, that's my lot in life' or maybe Murphy's Law—if it happens to anyone it will be me' or 'I knew it was going too good" we've all said these remarks! If we really think like this then our initiative and creativity drain away and we can sink into depression or despair. You see, Mary and Martha may have been tempted to fall into self pity and doubt, but they did not yield to either of these (John 11:21-22).

We've been discussing some of the wrong ways we choose to respond to our unmet needs, now let's think about the right ways to respond. At some point Mary and Martha had to deal with the sovereignty of God—they had to come to a point where they accepted God's will over their own wills. There are times when we may wonder why, on the surface of life, it appears God has not met our needs. Yet down in our hearts we know that God never leaves us hopeless (Deut 31:8, Jos1:5). He has a plan and a design for our lives that is well-fitted for every trial, heartache, sorrow or problem we face. Jesus knew that Lazarus had died (John 11:11) and that he would raise him from the dead but he wanted to do it in such a way that he alone would be glorified. He would also accomplish his will in the lives of Mary and Martha. He also knew they would come to a point of acceptance. How do we handle our unmet, or seemingly unmet, needs?

WE NEED TO BEGIN WITH PRAYER—let our needs be made known to God. (Phil 4:6). Prayer is a lifestyle not just an activity in which we participate. When we feel overwhelmed by the circumstances of life, prayer is one style of life that changes the direction of one's mind and heart. It also places our focus on God who is the only source of hope and truth.

Seeking God in Time of Need cont'd...

We must also **ACKNOWLEDGE OUR NEEDS AND BURDENS**—like that old familiar hymn says “not a burden we bear—trust and obey” it is in the Christian service song book #136. this is our hope—Jesus never fails, his mercies are new every morning. He is a God of second chances. His grace is specifically designed to help us bear up under the pressure that comes from trial, tragedy and sorrow. **CLAIM GOD’S PROMISES**—God’s word is our greatest source of encouragement. We don’t need to run to our friends seeking what they would do—after all they don’t know the whole story. Claiming God’s promises and remain committed to the course he has given us is a powerful way to face any kind of trials or any storm of life. **SEEK GOD’S DIRECTION AND BE WILLING TO WAIT**—this is another right way to respond to our needs. This can be done through study of his word and prayer. It is crucial! Mary and Martha had to wait—their hope even faded, their brother was dead. Jesus did not come immediately when they sent for him—you see God had a greater purpose than just meeting their expectations. This way he was able to demonstrate his power to bring new life to a dead man! He is still doing the very act today in bringing new life to sinners! After all what is the greater miracle—bringing Lazarus back to life after he had been dead for four days or just healing him from his illness? Of course it was the resurrection of Lazarus. This miracle also pints to the future resurrection of Christ. God always has the greater good in mind. He has a plan and if we are wise we will wait for him to reveal it to us. Lastly, **THANK GOD IN ADVANCE FOR HIS PROVISION**—Positive confession is a powerful force in the life of a believer. This does not mean talking boastfully or claiming God’s deliverance apart from his expressed will for our lives. Thanking God for his faithfulness and provision is an indication of our submission to his will and not our expectations.

TRUST HIM—give him your burden to carry and you will witness a tremendous miracle. He will resurrect your hope and give you the breath of new life you so desperately need.

The seasons of life may not turn out the way we thought they should. We may struggle like Mary and Martha as they watched Lazarus die. However, because we serve a Risen Christ, we know that no matter what we face in this life, ultimately God will deliver us! He will bless us as we seek him intimately. He will guard, protect, and lead us into a place of great blessing and hope.

Have you trusted the Savior with your need? Or are you still focused on meeting your needs your way?

Only God can completely meet all your needs.

Hi, This is Steve Price, I'm the lay director for the next men's walk # 36. I would like to take this time to thank everyone that has and will be involved with making this walk what God has planned for the new pilgrims that will be joining the Emmaus community. Let us make God our 2020 vision.

All prayers welcome. Matthew 23:12.

Steve Price

MEN'S EMMAUS WALK #36

TEAM ROSTER

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>POSITION</u> | <u>TALK</u> |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Steve Price | Lay Director | Perseverance |
| Rick Gutheil | Spiritual Director | Means of Grace |
| Brad Mink | Experienced ALD | Fourth Day Example |
| Mike Orians | Assistant Lay Director | Priorities |
| Jerry Chrisman | Assistant Lay Director | Fourth Day |
| Todd Matthew | Experienced Logistics | |
| Dennis Riffell | Logistics | |
| John Wion | Logistics | |
| Kermit Flory | Logistics | |
| Jeff Feitshans | Music Director | |
| Donovan Brown | Assistant Music Director | |
| Kevin Judy | Board Representative | |
| Jamie Mead | Table Leader | Priesthood of All Believers |
| Nick Crafton | Table Leader | Changing Our World |
| Joel Sprinkle | Table Leader | Christian Action |
| Scott Eickhoff | Table Leader | Growth Through Study |
| Everett Garland | Table Leader | Life in Piety |
| Keith Berger | Table Leader | Discipleship |
| John Strawser | Table Leader | Body of Christ |
| Lewis Rock | Assistant Table Leader | |
| Tyler Melton | Assistant Table Leader | |
| Eric Fee | Assistant Table Leader | |
| Mark Lutz | Assistant Table Leader | |
| Chad Bunger | Assistant Table Leader | |
| Scott Peele | Assistant Table Leader | |
| Bill Stock | Assistant Table Leader | |
| Mimi Ault | Assistant SD | Prevenient Grace |
| Keith Smallenbarger | Assistant SD | Justifying Grace |
| Jacque Collins | Assistant SD | Sanctifying Grace |
| Ken Oren | Assistant SD | Obstacles to Grace |

*Please check the website for pilgrim list. Updates will be made as they are received.

*Contact Kim Klipstine to sign up for the prayer vigil.

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:

*Assistant Community Spiritual Director

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

*Kairos representative

*Registration/Sponsorship—Carla is looking for someone to train to take over her position when the time comes. If you are interested please contact Carla Detling at registrar@dcaec.org

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

Thank You

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 March 8th.

*There will be no April Gathering

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*

Women's walk #52 will be held October 8-11, 2020

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

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.

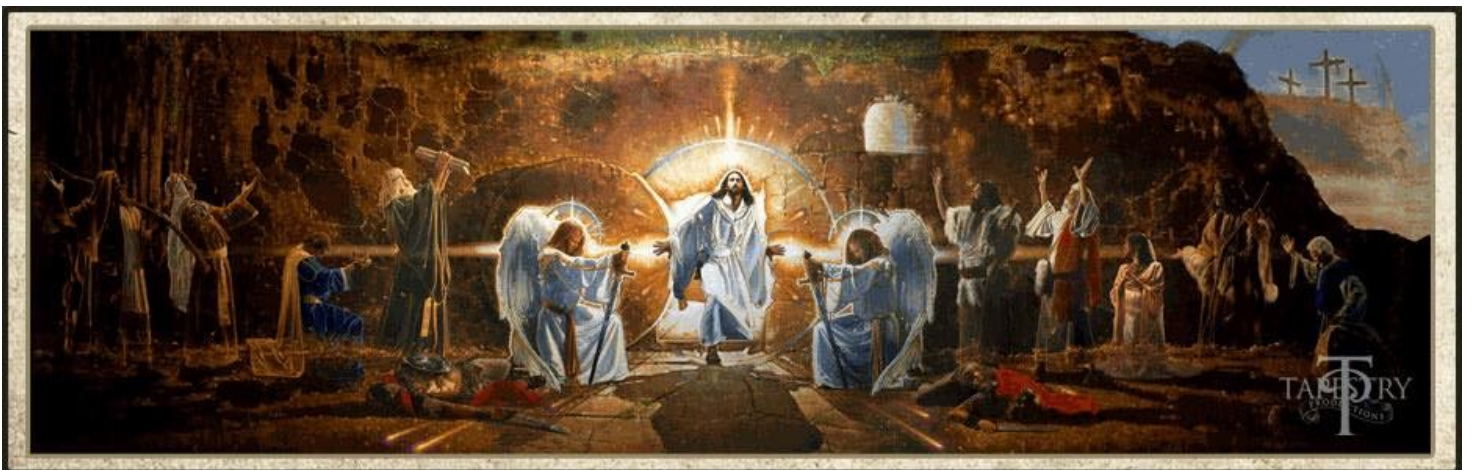
Application deadline is 2 weeks before the walk.

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

Giving Up/Giving Out?

As we enter the Lenten/Easter season many of us take this time to do a little soul searching; a bit of a self-examination, to take inventory of who we truly are and what we really believe. As we delve into this time of personal evaluation with the purpose of sacrificing or eliminating something that may not be crucial to our physical life, we realize how hard it is to give up even the most trivial things, like our favorite food or snacks, a favorite television show, a hobby that takes up a lot of time ... you know, the IMPORTANT stuff! Lol

As we do this, though, we often say that we do this to strengthen our Spiritual walk, but do we really commit to that? Is our main goal during the Lenten season to draw closer to Christ so we can understand and feel the love and passion He has for us by the sacrifice He made so that we could be purified from our sin and be worthy of eternal life with Him? Or is it to just “keep up with the Joneses?” Do we do it to fit in and be a part of the rest of the Church crowd? My prayer is that we are giving up our comforts and wants to become more like Christ who gave up everything for others.

One way we could all benefit from this is to give up our time and energy to focus on giving out freely the love of God to those who need it. How many blessings could you receive if you gave up your time that you use for catching up on your favorite TV show and gave out God’s love for the homeless or homebound by checking on them, feeding them, making sure they have warmth for the cold weather? You know, building a relationship with them! Think of the joy and blessing they may receive just by knowing someone cared about them and their need. What if they learned what true Godly love looks like because you gave up your time to give out the love they need or desire. What if they saw Jesus in you? Do they? Will they?

It’s up to you. You have been called by God, as His disciple, to give up so you can give out the same love He has for you! What are you going to do?

In Christ,

Pastor Rick Gutheil

Community Spiritual Director

A message from your AGAPE Chair—Deb Gutheil



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 pilgrims 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.



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



A PROGRAM OF THE UPPER ROOM

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

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