



Darke County Emmaus Community Newsletter

From Our Community Lay Director—Gerald Miller

To the Darke County Area Emmaus Community,

Greetings, my desire and wish is for everyone to have a blessed Christmas and a very happy and prosperous New Year.

This article is in reference to much discussion of the Emmaus Board in regard to keeping the Darke County Area Emmaus Community active and the continuing of future walks in making disciples of Jesus Christ. Since the covid-19 pandemic, the activities have been put pretty much on hold with the closing of many churches.

With God still in the business of answering the prayers of his people. He has opened some doors for the community to continue to function in having future walks.

A few months ago, the board sought to seek other facilities to have future walk. While some facilities did not, or could not, want to commit to any obligations due to the unknown future regarding the pandemic conditions.

However, there was one facility that was willing to open its doors to the idea of a future home to the Community. Having walks as well as team meetings and that being the Ludlow Falls Camp located on State Route 48 in Ludlow Falls.

A committee, with the approval of the board, was set up to visit the camp and it was completed on November 25, 2020. The visit was very good and the facilities would very much meet the needs of the community for future walks. There would be no need for air mattresses as all beds are bunks with mattresses. Pilgrims and team members could sleep on the bottom bunk and use the top bunk for personal items. There are many showers and restroom facilities available. The kitchen is huge as well as the other areas that would be needed. Pictures may be viewed online at www.ludlowfallscamp.org for further interest, if desired. The cost would be kept in line with what the cost has been in the past at other facilities.

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*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

Board Members

Pastor Rick Gutheil—Spiritual Director

Community Lay Director—Gerald Miller

Asst. Community Lay Director—Betsy Berger

Leadership—Kevin Judy

Secretary—Chris Matthew

Treasurer—Melissa Werling

Kitchen—Chris Hammaker

*Logistics—

Agape—Deb Gutheil

Men’s Good Shepherd—Jeff Feitshans

*Women’s Good Shepherd—

Purchasing—Brittany Melton

Registration/Sponsorship—Carla Detling

*Worship—

Music—Todd Matthew

*Kairos Rep—

Chrysalis Rep—Allison Dill

Newsletter—Connie McCabe

*Social—

*FUMC Rep—

Web Servant—Allison Dill

Historian—

Database—Heather Medve

Letter to the Community —Gerald Miller

At the last board meeting on December 7, 2020, there was much discussion, with many questions answered by Keith Berger, who is the camp representative and also a member of our Community. And the board approved of this matter being referred to the Community at the December 13, 2020 gathering. With this approval, this matter was presented to the community with again, many questions to the visiting committee, and ultimately a motion being made and seconded to make the Ludlow Falls Camp the future home of DCAEC. After the motion with a second, the matter was discussed more at great length with an amendment to the motion and properly seconded to defer this approval or rejection until the January 10, 2020 gathering so the Community could be more informed of this activity and with the desire of more community members present. Again, there was much discussion with the amended motion approval by the community members in attendance.

So please as your Community Lay Director, pray, talk, and discuss this activity in a Christ like manner and come to the next gathering on January 10, 2020 at 6:00 pm at Radiant Lighthouse Church. We will be meeting in the UTurn building. Let's allow the Holy Spirit guide in this very important decision.

Thank you so much for all your support in this very important decision.

In the Service of the King,

Gerald Miller



A message from our CSD— Pastor Rick Gutheil

On to the New?

Throughout the past year I have heard often this statement: “I can’t wait till 2020 is over so we can be through with all of this.”

Do you know something I don’t? Is there a textbook that already has a new and better plan with proof there will be something different and better? Before you say “Rick, what about the Bible?” please hear me out.

Throughout our lifetimes we all have had those years where there were struggles that we faced whether it be financial, emotional, physical or spiritual battles. We have shed tears over stressful situations, loss of loved ones, loss of a job and financial security, ... etc., and possibly even uncertainty and doubt over whether God is still walking closely with us. Please know this: HE IS!

Believe me, I know that the year 2020 was a huge battleground in so many ways with the political unrest and constant crybaby name-calling and of course the devastation, worry and fear that the COVID-19 virus has caused; shutdowns of businesses causing financial difficulty, physical health being threatened or sadly even lost, families not being allowed to visit their infirmed loved ones, even curtailing pastors in their attempts to minister to those in need. The struggle is real!

With that being said I just want to ask this question: Did we not have struggles, battles, illnesses, faith questions or any other myriad of problems in the years previous to 2020? Of course we did! But did any of those other year problems cause us to turn against other Christians or to hate someone else just because they had a different opinion than we do? Did anything that happened before the year 2020 create as much division as the events of this past year? Of course there were many things that caused us to stop loving one another. 2020 was just a year with it’s own unique circumstances. It was hard but was it really different than previous years? Different events, same struggles.

So this year I would like to encourage us all to stop focusing on the chaos and craziness and focus on the One thing that remains the same ... Jesus! Hebrews 13:8 tells us that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” He is still our source of hope, peace, joy and love. He is our refuge in times of trouble our stronghold in the time of controversy and fear. He is the perfect representation of God! And we know, thanks to the Bible, which is, and always will be our only textbook for direction and guidance, that “God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in Him (1 John 4:16). And we are made in His image so therefore we should be a representation of love to the world, not a reflection of the world and it’s hate, fear and doubt.

1John 4:7 tells us, “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.” This has been the truth and the plan of God since the beginning of time and since He is the same yesterday and today and forever shouldn’t we be doing the same since God lives in us?

On to the new? I think not. Let us return to the love that once captured our hearts and share it with all who comes across our path.

In Jesus’ Love,

Pastor Rick

MORE THAN CONQUERORS

As we close one year and open another, my mind is going in many directions. There is one verse that continually settles in my mind as I ponder the happenings of 2020. “In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.” -Romans 8:37. As we enter 2021, do you feel like a conqueror? How about MORE than a conqueror? 2020 did indeed hold many new things for us as individuals, communities, churches, and a nation. We have faced things that we never imagined that we would need to deal with. Many have dealt with sickness, death, and financial trials. Uncertainty has been a common reality to many of us. Nothing seems to be set in stone any longer. Life as we have as we have known and relied on in the past is constantly changing and we struggle to keep up with those changes. Fear lingers on the fringes of many of our minds, and sometimes even comes in and attempts to take up residence. We have no idea of how to wade through with all this uncharted territory. We know in our minds that, as Christians, we should be leading the way, with the banner of Christ held high, and yet, we feel so confused and lost. Going to Romans 8:35, we read a list of things that we are told cannot separate us from the love of God. How close does His love feel to you right now? Do you see the events of 2020 pulling you away from your relationship with Jesus? Is He still your focus? There are many voices around us tempting us to focus on the negative things that have happened in the last twelve months. We expect negativity to be heralded from the world, but how disappointing is it to find the same focus on Christian radio, in too many conversations, and even in numerous sermons, where we also find the focus on the negative events. I freely acknowledge that I have not been deeply affected by sickness, death, or financial trials in the last year like many have been (or are going) through. I do, however, have a deep burden in my heart that we do not lose our hope that is found in Jesus Christ alone. God has informed us that this life will not be easy (see 1 Peter 4:12, John 16:33, and 1 Peter 5:10). We follow the One who lived a very hard life while here on this earth. In Philippians 2:1-11, we find what His mind was set on as He went through trial after trial. Jesus has never promised us an easy life. Having His blessings does not mean that we have a perfect, trial-free life here. If that were true for us, would we long for Heaven? No, I dare say that we would be perfectly content here, in this life. God, our perfect Father, has placed each one of us in this time, for the purpose of sharing Him with a world that is instilling fear deep into the hearts of mankind. We, as American Christians, have had relatively easy lives. We have each had our individual trials. Our faith has been tested in various ways individually. We have, however, never been through an event that has challenged our corporate faith in the way this year has. How, then, can we be more than conquerors? How can we enter 2021 in victory? I believe one part of that can be found in verse 6 of Romans 8: “... For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.” We need to keep our focus on Jesus and His work through the Holy Spirit in us. While the world would have us focused on the things that are completely out of our control, Paul calls us here to make the choice to set our minds on the Holy Spirit.

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The result of that is life and peace. We can have peace as the world writhes in chaos and confusion around us. We do not have to let the things of this life control our thoughts and actions. Jesus' death and resurrection has delivered us from that power, and gives us peace, despite the unknown territory that He leads us into. The Holy Spirit in us gives us power that is stronger than death (Romans 8:11) and in this we are more than conquerors. Jesus gave us victory. The Holy Spirit is the power in us which the world cannot overcome. We can live from that victory and in that power. We are not under the power of the world. We are free to walk in freedom, sharing the way to freedom with each person we come into contact with in this life. My prayer for each of you for 2021 is that you will come closer to Jesus, be surrendered to the Holy Spirit, and be one who spreads hope in the chaos of this world.

Submitted in the love and hope of Jesus Christ,
Betsy Berger, Community Assistant Lay Director

Some thoughts from Leadership Chair—Kevin Judy

Greetings DCAEC Community!

By the time you read this, the Christmas season will have passed, and a new year will be under way.

I want to address something that has been bothering me for quite some time now. Although our Community continues to survive, it is not flourishing. Attendance at our monthly Gatherings remains low, and willing servants seem to be less "willing" to serve. The current world situation with mandates and lockdowns does not help the situation, but it is not an adequate reason to withhold our fellowship and servitude. God and the brethren need those things now as much as any time in human history.

Now I realize that not everyone that has been through an Emmaus walk is called to serve Emmaus. Each person's calling is unique to their life. However, we should be willing to fellowship with and support each other in our callings.

1 Thessalonians 5:11—"Therefore, encourage one another and build up one another, just as you are also doing."

Unfortunately, another circumstance exists that is hindering individuals from supporting our Community. They do not happen to like or agree with certain sitting members of the Board and/or other Community members. The next statement is going to hurt for those who feel this way: it is petty and foolish. No one agrees with others all the time, but we still need to come together and work it out, not give up like the enemy wants us to.

Just pretend for the moment that the individual members of our physical bodies have free will. How would you respond to the right leg that says, "I do not like how the left forefinger behaves, so I am going to stop working until it goes away?" Are you really going to cripple the whole body because you have a personal beef with one small part of it? Be part of the solution, not the problem.

"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." Psalm 51:10

The Holy Spirit is still strongly present at our Gatherings. I urge you to come experience it once again. Please...give any pride or hurt feelings to God, and be courageous enough to overcome feelings of hurt or doubt. It is the devil that wishes to keep us apart, and does so through deception and fear. Let love, mercy and forgiveness through the Lord guide your thoughts, and shut out the lies of the devil.

"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." James 4:7

This year, allow Jesus to continue renewing your heart, and help us repair this Community and bring it to the full blessing it is meant to be to others, for God's Glory and their sanctification.

Blessings to all,

Kevin M. Judy

A Note from Registrar/Sponsorship—Carla Detling

PILGRIMS WANTED!

Even though we are currently not having walk weekends because of what is happening in our world, you can still invite your friends and loved ones to attend a future walk to Emmaus. When we are all clear to again hold walk weekends we will have pilgrims waiting to come and spend an entire weekend feeling and seeing the love of Jesus! How amazing would it be to have a waiting list again?

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

Application deadline is 2 weeks before the walk. Dates TBD

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

Thank You.

Carla Detling, Registrar/Sponsorship



If you have a Facebook account, go like the Darke County Emmaus page and keep an eye out for updates. The newsletter will be posted on it and any news about when gatherings will start again or updates about the Women's Walk scheduled for this fall will be posted.

Also, check out our website at www.dcaec.org it will also have updated information as well as the newsletter.



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 *Kairos representative *Logistics *Worship *1st UMC Board Rep *Social, *Historian

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 download one from the website www.dcaec.org

Thank You

A Few Reminders:

We are now holding our Weekends and Gatherings at:

*Temporary change of venue:

We will be holding monthly gatherings at:

Radiant Lighthouse Church
5256 Sebring Warner Rd.
Greenville, OH 45331

The next Gathering will be: January 10, 2021

Gatherings begin at 6:00 pm with fellowship afterward.

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

We are bringing back the meal and fellowship after the gathering!

WHEN EMMAUS MEETS, EMMAUS EATS!

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.



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

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