

Emmaus Community,

Hello everyone, I hope this email finds you staying strong and well.

The current outbreak of COVID – 19 has left many leaders in our communities with concerns about the spread of this new disease. Opening back up the state and communities brings hesitation and maybe a little fear with the unknown.

Currently, churches remain closed and have a plan to reopen slowly throughout our communities over the next weeks to several months. Even as the churches start to open, distancing will be in place for the health and safety of their congregations. Each church will need to decide what works the best for their congregations.

Because of this, the Emmaus Board has made the decision to cancel the monthly Gatherings until further notice. The next gathering was scheduled for this coming Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>.

It is a disappointment to cancel the Gatherings, just like the disappointment when we cancelled the Spring walks, but it is the right thing to do for the wellbeing of our community. The Emmaus community is missing our time together to gather and worship. During this difficult time the board would like to encourage the community to meet with your reunion groups. This is the perfect time for small reunion groups to meet to stay in touch, support each other and praise the Lord.

If you do not belong to a reunion group, please reach out to your local church or Emmaus community. Please feel free to contact me and I will be glad to reach out into the community to help find a group. If anyone belongs to a reunion group that has room for others to join or anyone wanting to start a group, please let me know and I will make the community aware.

In the weeks ahead, as we slowly start to open our communities more information will be shared in the monthly newsletter to keep everyone informed as we try to move forward into the new normal.

Joshua 1:9 states

*Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.*

Blessings

Venetia Green, Community Lay Director