

The Emmaus News

Columbus Indiana Area Emmaus Community, Inc.

May 2020 volume 28 issue 5

From our Community Lay Director...



Hello Emmaus Community,

Another month has come and gone during much change, turmoil and uncertainty in our everyday work and home lives. Change is hard even when you have had a chance to plan and prepare, but, everyday change without a chance to think and prepare is usually not welcome.

Personally, I have found change the last several months has been constant and quick, meaning changing in the afternoon what was just put in place that morning. On one such day of what seemed like major changes every hour, with frustration building over another change, a co-worker had hung up this sign where everyone had to pass by:

“When you get to your wits end, you will find, God lives there.” ~ Author Unknown

God's word has the answer for us when we are up against it. Psalm 107 is written for people who are at their wits end. A Bible was open to Psalm 107 for anyone passing the area. Many stopped, read and prayed during the afternoon over that open Bible. What a blessing to see.

God has all power. All things are possible with our great God. God can and will rescue from the very worst circumstances. All we have to do is cry for help! And when it comes -- as it surely will -- we must give God the glory so that others may know where they can go in their time of trouble.

The month of May will continue to bring change. As we all wait to hear from our state and local leadership on the plan to slowly get back to daily living, the board will send information concerning Emmaus gatherings, activities and the Fall Walks.

Tell everyone who is discouraged, Be strong and don't be afraid! God is coming to your rescue..." Isaiah 35:4

Blessings,

Venetia Green, Community Lay Director



From Our Community Spiritual Director...



As we've faced this pandemic for weeks now, some have wanted to place blame for its spread. Some suggest that even God is the cause of this outbreak. While I'm not interested in assigning blame, I do believe it would be more helpful to ask this question — "What is God doing during this pandemic?" While many of us aren't doing as much as usual, I believe God has been extra busy!

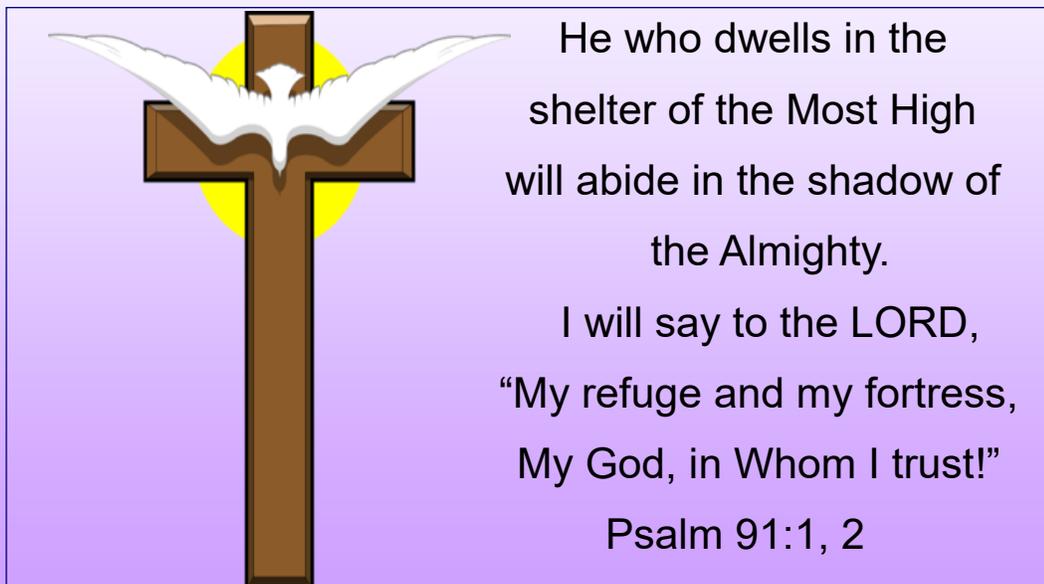
For instance, I see God turning these months into a type of "jubilee year" for creation. The loss of some typical human activity seems to be benefitting creation (i.e. dolphins now in the cleaner Venice canals). I'm also seeing special benefits to our communities. God's inspiring us to both search for new ways to be "together", and to rally behind those working so hard to keep us safe.

For individual families, I see God now awakening some couples to their financial vulnerability. After following the Dave Ramsey financial plan for years, I can imagine how scary life can seem without an emergency fund to cover times like these. And finally, perhaps God is forcing us to reclaim our homes as the sanctuaries they should have been all along. We can still pursue the piety, service and study of our Fourth Days, even if we can't enter a Church building to do so.

Could this become a "jubilee year" for creation, our communities, and our families? By God's grace, we could leave behind these days of quarantine much stronger than ever before!

De Colores,

Mike Seaney,
Community Spiritual Director



He who dwells in the
shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of
the Almighty.

I will say to the LORD,
"My refuge and my fortress,
My God, in Whom I trust!"

Psalm 91:1, 2

A note from Sponsorship/Reunion Groups...

If you have had your usual work/home schedule interrupted over these last weeks, you know how important are relationships. We need others in our lives. God made us this way. **He has planned for us to be relational.** People have gotten creatively inventive in how to stay in touch with each other. We thrive on being with others, even if on a screen or through glass doors and windows. We had to cancel the Spring Walks; that's OK. That was necessary. But now it is time to look toward and gear up for the Fall Walks. Who are you prayerfully considering? Will your pilgrim from the Spring Walk go on the Fall Walk? Will it be someone else? OR are the Fall Walks your turn to be creatively inventive in inviting a God-called pilgrim that He has put on your heart?

"While most church related functions take a 'ya'll come!' approach to participation, Emmaus relies on a method that is more consistent with the message of the Walk: sponsorship. The personal character of sponsorship underlines God's personal care and commitment to each pilgrim. The fact that the Emmaus experience passes from person to person reflects the **relational nature of God and the manner in which God reaches out to people through people.** Sponsorship is integral to some of the unique features and strengths of the Emmaus experience--a discerning approach to recruitment, personal agape, and prayer for the pilgrims, sponsors' presence at Candlelight and Closing, and follow-up.... **Sponsors help make Emmaus an act of sacrificial love from beginning to end** something more than the usual retreat or religious education function." (quoted from Emmaus Handbook)

God Bless you,
Marsha Rodenberger

From our Chrysalis Community Lay Director...



Hello!

I want to announce with great pleasure that Mark and Trish Kelly have agreed to be lay directors for the Fall Chrysalis flights #77 and #78, and plan to continue with their already formed team with adjustments being made as needed for those unable to serve in the Fall. We will plan to hold applications for the Spring walk as first priority for the Fall. The Fall Flights will take place on September 5-7, 2020 at Camp Hilltop. We look forward to full flights with all of the excitement we have saved from the canceled Spring flights. We thank you for all of your continued support as we work to navigate a new normal.

Stay Well, everyone!
Shelley McAlister

The Caterpillar and Emmaus Applications are posted on the website.

You may download one at:

[Columbus IN Area Chrysalis Flight Application](#)

[Columbus IN Area Emmaus Walk Application](#)





40 for Emmaus

The worldwide decisions to postpone Walk to Emmaus and Chrysalis weekends, along with Face to Face Encounters and Journey to the Table events, is a situation none of us could ever have imagined. While many facilities have been extremely grace-filled and flexible with cancellations, we are all still figuring out the financial implications this will have on our communities and ministries. The International Emmaus Ministries Office is also evaluating the impact the absence of pilgrim fees will have on our ability to continue our present level of support for our local communities.

But you can help! We know that many individuals are struggling with being out of work right now. The 40 for Emmaus program gives us all the ability to support these ministries without breaking our own banks. Forty dollars a year – that’s all, \$40 a year – can make a huge difference in the support we are able to give to all of our ministries.

This plan is based on the amazing numbers of people who have experienced the life-changing grace of God through Emmaus ministries over the last 40 years. Over one million people have experienced God’s agape love through The Walk to Emmaus alone. If only 10% of these people donated \$40, it would eliminate our budget shortfall that The Upper Room has carried since 2008.

We need your help. Please go to emmausgift.org/40-for-emmaus for more information. With your help, and with your donations to these ministries that have changed all our lives, we will continue to change lives even beyond the next 40 years! Thank you for your consideration.

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Community Gatherings...

May - (If held) Friday, May 15, 7:00 to 9:00 pm

First Baptist Church, 3300 Fairlawn Dr., Columbus

A—M please bring snacks



Fall 2020 Flight & Walk Dates

Chrysalis Flights ~ Sept 5 — 7

Emmaus Men's Walk ~ Oct 22 — 25

Emmaus Women's Walk ~ Oct 29 — Nov 1

Board Meetings

Chrysalis - No meeting in May

Emmaus - Saturday, May 9th, 9:00 am ~ Meeting via Zoom



We are on
Facebook!



Columbus Indiana Area Emmaus Community, Inc.

www.columbusareaemmaus.community

Emmaus Information Page (for community members)

Username: columbus password: 4thday!