

# ALDERSGATE PILGRIM

Spring 2021



## **Reflections from our Lay Director Beth Minks**

**2021 Aldersgate Community Lay Director**  
[davesgirl0800@gmail.com](mailto:davesgirl0800@gmail.com)

What an unprecedented 12 months this has been! As of this time last year, we had successfully completed our Women's Walk #157, but reluctantly had to cancel the Men's Walk due to COVID-19 precautions. And sadly, we have not been able to have another Walk since. But, do not lose hope! There is sunshine always on the horizon!! We have installed a Steering Committee specifically to address the issues of COVID-19 to better prepared for when we start "Walking" again. We ask for your prayers as we, the Board of Directors, consider Walks in October. Please know that our first and foremost priorities are for the safety and comfort of our pilgrims and our teams serving on the Walks. We will keep you advised as decisions made and protocols are adopted.

In other news, please be sure to stay active on our website for the most up-to-date information on gatherings and events (whether in-person or virtual) so that you can keep the fires burning for the Emmaus movement, which of course is to grow people closer to Christ so that they can become the hands and feet of Christ in the world. Also, if you have suggestions or ideas on how your community has combatted the limitations of COVID and kept your Emmaus fires burning, please be sure to share with our Aldersgate Pilgrim Newsletter crew by emailing [gbrelsford@gmail.com](mailto:gbrelsford@gmail.com).

Lastly, please continue to pray for our Emmaus Community, but also please pray for our local, state, and federal governments as well as for our country as a whole. Now, more than ever, we need Jesus Christ and His great and mighty hand to heal our land.

***Keeping strong in Christ,***

***Beth Minks***

***Aldersgate Emmaus Community Lay Director 2021***

All scheduled Emmaus Walks will  
be held at Camp Geneva in  
Leesburg/Fruitland Park, FL

## **2021 Walks**

**All Spring Walks have been postponed**

Men's Walk #160	October 7—10
Women's Walk #160	October 14—17

### **The next scheduled Gathering:**

**West Orange Cluster**

**May 22, 2021 @ 10:30AM**

**Bill Frederick Turkey Lake Park**

**3401 S Hiawasse Rd, Orlando, FL 32835**

**\$5.00 parking, bring your own picnic lunch!**

### **Editor's Note**

DeColores! I'm Gary Brelsford, your Aldersgate Pilgrim newsletter editor. You've probably noticed that last year was...um...non-normal. Everything came to a stop. No Gatherings, no in-person Reunion groups, no Walks. Let me tell you, it's been a very trying time. Your board is a working board so even though things have been very slow, the board has been busy. I've published the suggested guidelines from Upper Room on Page 3 for getting our walks and other activities going again, so please check out Page 3. The October leadership will be discussing those walks and what has to be accomplished in a meeting very soon. Page 5 has an example of a cleaning poster that will be prevalent at Camp Geneva. Look for a special issue of the newsletter soon!

## From the DeLand Emmaus Community

No need to even mention that things have been different – they have been for everyone! Our Emmaus community stills thrives with two Reunion Groups (Accountability) meeting weekly; and yet a third Group is on hiatus due to COVID. The women's Group meets socially distant following all the protocols, and now has a total of 10 each Monday morning. The men's Group meets virtually with 9 of us each Friday morning. . . one joining in weekly from North Carolina. Wow! Our North Carolina member has relocated to Durham, but is faithful to join in each week. ZOOM has its problems, but still makes life interesting and available for meetings.

A workshop for table Agape' is in the planning stage for the upcoming October Walks. Supplies have been ordered and lined up, and time/dates are proposed. This hopefully will bring all the community out to participate, but depends on the prevailing protocols in place. However, even bigger news is that 4 applications have been distributed, sponsors chosen, and are in the works for submission. Not having full Gatherings has somewhat hampered our progress in soliciting Pilgrims, but God continues to bless us even in these limitations.

Two items of special mention: Each week a team ministers to the homeless community at the City of DeLand's new outreach facility – "*The Bridge*." Of the team of 16 regulars, eleven have made a Walk to Emmaus or similar event. The other news is one of our community has been appointed as Lay Minister of the Lake Helen United Methodist Church. What exciting things are happening there since he and his wife are now in full-time service. "Serving" comes natural to those with Emmaus participation and training.

Even though it seems the COVID virus is spreading faster than the Emmaus interest, we keep plodding on. Oh, for the day when this all returns back to normal. . . whatever NORMAL will look like then. De Colores!

Steve Mauldin

DeLand Emmaus Community Board Rep.

## Face to Face

### Face to Face has come to Florida Aldersgate Emmaus!

F2F is an Emmaus type encounter for those who are age 60 and up and not able to attend a 4 day weekend. Designed as Four (4), one day events held during the weekday over four weeks. It will run typically from 8:30-3:30. This is a coed event for both team and pilgrims, but tables will be separated by gender. There will still be Emmaus talks, discussions, chapel time, and all the special times that a weekend has!

It is designed to be an outreach! So, in addition to your church family, it is open to your neighbors, family, and friends.

We had planned to have our first Face to Face in April 2020. However, since the encounter targets the most vulnerable of our population, we needed to postpone until early 2022 due to COVID. The first Face to Face is scheduled to be held at Lake Deaton UMC in Leesburg. We have our leadership and some team members in place.

This encounter is designed to be portable and could be held at a community center, retirement community, as well as a church. We will be moving the Encounter to different areas within the Aldersgate Emmaus Area. If you are age 60+, willing to serve in your area, and have served on an Emmaus Weekend, or if you think that your church (Emmaus Community) would be willing to host not only the team meetings, but also the Encounters please e-mail Risé Wilson at [rise5594@yahoo.com](mailto:rise5594@yahoo.com).

DeColores!

*Face 2 Face Coordinator*

*Risé Wilson*



## Guidance for Emmaus Ministries Communities in a Post-COVID World

As the vaccine for COVID-19 has begun to be available, Emmaus Ministries communities continue to reach out to the International Office for guidance.

As a basis for conversation, we want to inform you that The Upper Room as a whole continues to exercise, and to invite its constituents to exercise, prudence and caution. In 2020 Discipleship Ministries and The Upper Room took bold measures to ensure the health and wellbeing of not only its employees, but also all our partners in ministry by having all staff begin a work-from-home plan and to close our building to visitors and staff. This has since become a permanent work-from-home scenario and reduction in use of our building. There is also a halt on all travel until mid-2021 to assist as well.

At this time, with global infection numbers approaching 100 million and death numbers in the United States alone over 400,000, we want to again advise great caution and discernment in plans to begin offering full 4th Day experiences as we have in the past. As the vaccine becomes more widely available the ability to return to a new normal will be more accessible. But, until that time, we will continue to advise following the Wisconsin Council of Churches release in the midst of the pandemic; *"The way forward will not be a matter of following a timetable, but of faithfully discerning the signs of the times, and responding accordingly."*

Therefore, as local Emmaus Ministries Communities deliberate, we want to encourage you to:

- **be sensitive to the above-mentioned concerns.**

- prayerfully seek divine guidance on the most appropriate season, location, and conditions in which events will be held.

- to keep **the physical, mental, and spiritual wellbeing of potential team members and participants at the forefront of any decision.** The last thing any community wants is to have an event be forever known as "the COVID Walk (Flight, Encounter, etc.)."

- **Check with your Insurance carrier.** We have not heard of any carriers who are offering a COVID rider on Liability policies. However, we have heard of communities who have hosted events in the last year and have become "super-spreaders" of the virus. These communities have no insurance to fall back on as the carriers are saying these events are not covered due to the community going against Federal, State, and Community mandates.

- **form a Task Force** of both Lay and Clergy who are familiar with the environment in which the community hosts events. This Task Force will look at event schedules with the facility in mind and find where problems could possibly occur (bottlenecks, limit of numbers of participants to maintain safe distances, increase in sanitization policies, etc.) and recommend changes.

- ensure that team members will be in the best possible position to contribute to the development of an environment of grace in which participants will experience God's amazing love and grace in new and life changing ways. o Some excellent information is available from the CDC website. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/index.html>

Where the decision is taken to continue to host events, local Emmaus Ministries Communities will need:

A- To adhere to Federal recommendations for gatherings.

o <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/governorsoffice-documents/House%20of%20Worship%20Guidance%20FBCI.pdf>

o <https://www.asafenashville.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Fifth-Amended-and-Restated-Order-12-FINAL-SIGNED-30-Dec-20-1.pdf>

B- To follow YOUR States recommendations for gatherings – A TN example is provided below.

C- To abide to Local recommendations for gatherings – A Nashville example is provided below.

D- **Respect the facility's (retreat center, camp ...) policies.**

There are some wonderful resources for spiritual wellness in anxious times available from The Upper Room at the link - <https://www.upperroom.org/COVID-19>

As God's people, more than ever, we are confident that the things we hope for will become reality. To this end, in our effort to honor God, team members and participants, together with our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world, will continue to seek divine guidance for the work that lies ahead of us.

Much grace and peace going forward.

De Colores!





## Future Walks and What They Will Look Like

Kelley McLeister, Safety Protocol Chair

I know many of you are asking when will Aldersgate Emmaus Walks resume and what will they look like after COVID19? The Board took this matter very seriously and developed a Steering Team to create COVID19 Safety Protocols for our weekend Walks. The Board approved the protocols and they are now being reviewed by legal and medical professionals to make sure all safety risks have been addressed to the best of our capability. Our goal is to have Walks resume in October 2021 in a safe sanitized environment so we can focus on the spiritual side of the walks with a peace of mind for our team members, pilgrims, and communities.

A special publication will be released in the near future that will outline the changes and what a walk will look like and what to expect. Our goal is to communicate and train prior to the October walks.

Brian Sanders saw this on his sales route through the Orlando area. Note the name of the bar/grill and the Rooster on the roof. It serves Latin Cuisine and is located on S. Semoran Blvd. in Orlando. I'm not advertising for the Pio Pio, but thought it was cute and a reminder of the 'De Colores' song.

Steve Mauldin



# Six Steps for Properly Cleaning and Disinfecting Your School

## Protect Your School Against COVID-19

Properly cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and objects can help safely and effectively reduce the spread of disease in your school or facility. Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

- ✓ **Always wear gloves and other personal protective equipment (PPE)** appropriate for the chemicals being used. The PPE may include eye protection
- ✓ **Cleaning and disinfection products should not be used by or near students.**
- ✓ **Make sure that there is adequate ventilation (air flow) when using chemical products** to prevent yourself or others from inhaling toxic vapors.



### Step 1:

Visit [epa.gov/listn](https://www.epa.gov/listn) or scan the QR code with your smart phone to see EPA's list of approved disinfectants.



### Step 2:

Follow the directions on the label carefully.



### Step 3:

Clean surfaces and determine how areas will be disinfected.



### Step 4:

Follow the contact time shown on the label.



### Step 5:

After cleaning and disinfection, wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



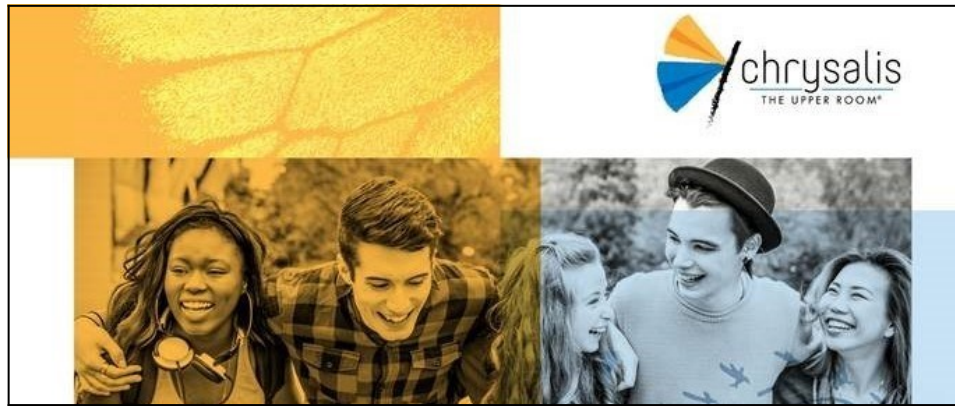
### Step 6:

Store chemicals in a secure location away from students' reach and sight.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)





## Hello, Chrysalis leaders!

We hope that this finds you well as we very quickly approach the release date for the new materials! Below, you will find info for Discovery Weekend from our April training session, as well as a registration link for our Virtual Celebration following the release of the new materials.

### **VIRTUAL CELEBRATION**

#### **PLEASE SHARE THIS INFO WITH YOUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY!**

The new materials will be available in May. To celebrate, mark your calendars for **Saturday, May 15, 2021, 12-3 p.m. CST** for our [VIRTUAL CELEBRATION](#)! Although we cannot be together due to precautions related to COVID-19, we will spend this day in celebration, worship, training, small group time, and more. All are invited! **Please share this with your entire Community!**

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THE VIRTUAL CELEBRATION!](#)**

Does an individual or group in your Community have a recording of a hymn or other worship song that we could include as a part of worship during the Virtual Celebration? Please reply to this email to let us know.

### **APRIL TRAINING SESSION**

The recording of our last session from April 8th can be found on our [YouTube channel](#). This meeting focused on [Discovery Weekend](#), and how your community could use it as a two-day option, or even include it in addition to Chrysalis. Chelsea is the contact on the Chrysalis Advisory Team for info and discernment regarding Discovery Weekend. You can contact her at [chrysalis2@upperroom.com](mailto:chrysalis2@upperroom.com). As well, feel free to contact Mike Ratliff at N2Discovery: [mike@n2discovery.org](mailto:mike@n2discovery.org).

### **REGIONAL GATHERING**

Also mark your calendars for an Emmaus Ministries Regional Gathering to be held in Missoula, Montana, October 8-10, 2021. We will have a special Chrysalis focus during this time beginning the morning of October 8th, and encourage representation from at least every Chrysalis community in the United States at this gathering. It will be so good to gather in-person! Stay tuned for more details in the months ahead.

### **COMMUNITY COVENANT REMINDER**

Please remember that your signed Covenant letter (found [HERE](#)) should be returned before April 30, 2021. This can be completed 100% digitally. If you need assistance with this or have questions, please let us know, or contact your Communicator.

### **GOOGLE DRIVE & YOUTUBE**

All documents and files that we have previously sent or that we have used in a training session have been uploaded to a Google Drive that can be found [HERE](#). We hope that this Drive and the new [YouTube](#) channel help you find the resources that you need when you need them. You can also subscribe to the YouTube page to see training videos shortly after they happen.

We look forward to being in conversation with you again at our next session!

Chrysalis Advisory Team Leaders:

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Chelsea Spyres ([chrysalis2@upperroom.com](mailto:chrysalis2@upperroom.com))