

ALDERSGATE PILGRIM

Winter/Spring 2020

Reflections from our Lay Director



Gary Brelsford

**2020 Aldersgate Community
Lay Director**

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DeColores!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I'd like to welcome all of you to Aldersgate Emmaus! I am honored to have been elected as your Community Lay Director for 2020, taking over from Frank Pifer who now becomes Past Community Lay Director, or as we joked in our last meeting, Director Emeritus. My goal is to continue the great work Frank, and Terry before him, have done and set the stage for the next Community Lay Director. Both of these men, as well as Terry's wife Kathleen, are mentors and cherished friends.

2020 has already started out a little quirky. It started with the date change of the March Men's Walk to the week *after* the Women's Walk. The challenges that accompany changes like this are great. As we now know, the world changed during the Women's Walk and the Men's Walk was cancelled.

So here it is...Easter. Normally this is a time of celebration with church, family and friends. Not so this year. We are right in the middle of either a 'shelter-in-place' or 'safer-at-home' order depending on your community. places of worship are pretty much closed and we are under orders to not congregate in groups of 10 or more. But yet, this changes nothing. Easter still happened! Jesus arose from the grave! We still celebrate; just a little quieter and a little more alone. Just remember we are **not** alone! Jesus is with you!

Our next exciting challenge will be the first implementation of Face to Face at a location in The Villages. Face to Face "Encounters" are an adaptation of The Walk to Emmaus specifically designed to meet the needs and life-stages of older adults. This will include men and women 60 and over to experience Jesus through a 4 or 8 session journey with subjects including discipleship, mission, grief and end-of-life discussions. Face to Face gives seniors the opportunity to rediscover Christ in their lives and to gain fresh understanding of God's grace. Tim May will coordinate Face to Face for Aldersgate, so we will keep everyone up to date on when and where.

Luke 24:32 recounts the result of meeting Jesus on the road to Emmaus. It states, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked to us on the road and opened the Scriptures before us?" It is an amazing sight to see Pilgrims become Babe Chicks and radiate the fire that only the Walk can deliver. Keep your hearts "on fire" by participating in Fourth Day activities in your community and working on a Walk team.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you!

Men's Walk Date Cancelled for March 2020

A conflict with the availability of facilities at the Warren Willis Camp forced a change in dates for the Men's Walk #157. The Men's Walk was originally scheduled for March 19-22. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 Coronavirus outbreak led us to cancel the Men's Walk.

October Walk Dates

Men's Walk #158 - Oct. 1-4

Women's Walk #158 Oct. 8-11



The 3rd Annual Great Green Agape Challenge wrapped up at the end of December. The Challenge is our annual fundraiser to support scholarships and weekend overhead. Over the last two years the Aldersgate Emmaus community has contributed more than \$10,000. Thank you!

Our previous success had been due to several large donations. This year we were asking more community members to meet the challenge by making smaller donations. If 100 people in our Aldersgate Community would contribute just \$50, we would meet our \$5,000 goal.

Donations can be made through the website (aldersgateemmaus.org) and you can track how our four Cluster communities are faring. It's Tri-County Plus versus the West Coast versus Central Florida versus West Volusia. Tri-County won the Challenge in 2017 and Central Florida was victorious last year. This year the Aldie goes to...**West Volusia!!**

Upcoming Cluster Gatherings and 4th Day Trainings

Tri-County Plus - Postponed

Date and Location, TBA

*Fun, Fellowship, Food and 4th Day Talk
Bring a covered dish to share*

Central Florida - Postponed

Date and Location, TBA

4th Day Follow-up Training 4:00 pm

For new Babe Chicks and their sponsors. Learn how to get involved in the community as you serve out your 4th Days.

Cluster Gathering 5:00 pm

For the entire community, Babe Chicks and their sponsors. Dinner, Music, 4th Day Talk - Bring a covered dish to share.

West Coast - Postponed

Date and Location, TBA

4th Day Follow-up Training 4:00 pm

For new Babe Chicks and their sponsors. Learn how to get involved in the community as you serve out your 4th Days.

Cluster Gathering 5:00 pm

For the entire community, Babe Chicks and their sponsors. Dinner, Music, 4th Day Talk - Bring a covered dish to share.

Where Two or Three are Gathered Virtually!!

by Cheryl Bollinger, Aldersgate #147

In the past few weeks, we all have been thrust into a new world. A world which is strongly encouraging physical distancing and minimizing social interaction. The digital world which has allowed us to work from home and shop remotely for groceries, sundries and new found hobbies, has also provided an important way for us to stay connected in this new world. Thankfully, applications such as Zoom, Microsoft Team and Google Hangout, are allowing us to stay connected. Our humanness yearns for social interaction and connectedness. And the digital world is providing a crucial lifeline to our families, friends and social groups we so desperately need right now. One social group I am connected with is a Central Florida Aldersgate Emmaus Women's Reunion Group. Our group, Spiritual Sisters, has been meeting every Friday morning from 6:30am to 7:30am at one of the Spiritual Sister's homes for 2+ years. Our time together provides invaluable support, encouragement and never ending love for each Spiritual Sister. When we were faced with the reality of not being able to meet physically, we all rallied around the idea of utilizing one of the social media platforms to keep us connected. So, on March 20, 2020, we gathered in front of our laptops, smartphones, ipads, etc, to begin another chapter as Spiritual Sisters. As written in Matthew 18:20- "For where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them".

I truly believe God is with us during our virtual time together, regardless of our lack of physical presence with one another. And we can participate in our jammies!

In closing, as we continue to work in this new world, the Spiritual Sisters will stay connected by the power of the Holy Spirit which does not rely on 4G or 5G, but on GOD. Peace My Friends.



CLICK THE NAME OF A WEEKEND TO SIGN UP FOR THAT WEEKEND'S PRAYER CLOCK.

Date	Name	Slots Filled
Mar 12-15, 2020	Women's Walk to Emmaus #157	9/144
Mar 19-22, 2020	Men's Walk to Emmaus #157	6/144

Choose one or more open slots *

- ☐ Thu, Mar 19, 2020 @ 6:30 pm
- ☐ Thu, Mar 19, 2020 @ 8:30 pm
- ☐ Thu, Mar 19, 2020 @ 9:00 pm
- ☐ Thu, Mar 19, 2020 @ 9:30 pm



All scheduled Emmaus Walks will be held at the Warren Willis United Methodist Camp in Leesburg, FL.

2020 Walks

Men's Walk #158

October 1 – 4, 2020

Women's Walk #158

October 8 – 11, 2020

Invite Pilgrims to attend and Sponsor them on their Walk

Please ask potential Pilgrims to attend and support them as a Sponsor!



Sign-Up for Prayer Clock Slot

As you know, our weekends are covered by 72-hours of Prayer. We are always in need of prayer warriors to fill those 30-minute slots around-the-clock. To reserve your prayer slot, [click here](#) to pull up an upcoming weekend at aldersgateemmaus.org. Select your desired walk number and select an available prayer slot. If you are logged in, your name will be automatically be added to your requested time(s).

Women's Walk #157 Goes Green

The March 2020 women's walk took a major leap forward in promoting earth friendly policies. From the first planning meeting, the leadership of the walk agreed to do all they could to reduce waste. "The leadership was on board immediately. We learned the Warren Willis Camp had both garbage and recycling bins," said Lay Director Kathleen McCorvie, "but we really wanted to promote their use to the Pilgrims and team."

While recycling was important, the leadership went a step further and greatly reduced single-use water bottles during the walk. Each Pilgrim and team member in the conference room was provided with a reusable glass on which they wrote their name and used throughout the weekend.

Debbie Snow, Outside Coordinator for the walk, said they were surprised at just how many water bottles are used during a typical weekend. "Hard to believe, but we have been using about 744 single use bottles," she said. "By using 2.5 gallon water jugs, refilling our reusable cups and reserving single use bottles for speakers and special requests, we saved 576 water bottles."

Reusable cups had another added benefit. McCorvie explained, "Because each cup had a participant's name on it, there was no confusion over whose bottle was whose when we did table rotations." Before, partially consumed water bottles would be pitched because of uncertainty over who it belonged to.

The efforts made on Walk #157 are a great start to developing policies for upcoming walks and ensuring we are good stewards for our Mother Earth.



One Experience

by Jaylene Garau

I had the joy of being a pilgrim on Emmaus Walk 157 last month. We completed our walk on Sunday, March 15th. The following day, I was thrust into a world that was very different from the one I had left behind on Thursday evening when I set out on the Walk. By Monday, the threat of COVID-19 dominated the headlines in our country. Disney and other theme parks had shut their doors and schools were closed as well. People were racing to grocery stores to grab essentials for their families. This frenzied pace was a stark contrast from the peaceful environment I had left behind on the Walk. It was jarring to say the least.

As I reflected, I realized that my pilgrimage actually prepared me for what I was encountering on this "fourth day." As a pilgrim on the Walk, you step out of your "comfort zone." You leave behind the things that give you a sense of control like your phone, your watch and your daily comforts including your home, your bed and even your family. You don't set your own schedule. In fact, on the Walk you are reminded not to anticipate. There's no connection to the outside world. Initially, when I realized that all of these things that gave me a sense of control and a source of comfort were no longer available to me, I began to feel uneasy.

Eventually, each time I felt uneasy on the Walk, I turned to God in prayer. As the days of the pilgrimage went on, I became more dependent on God for comfort. I realized that many of those things I looked to for comfort were idols that stood in the way of putting my entire trust in God. Women who were strangers to me on Thursday, were now becoming my sisters in Christ. I was assigned to the table of Martha and the Lord graced me with such beautiful friendships as a result. We shared with one another, confided in each other and prayed together. In fact, all of this has carried on after our Walk as we have all continued to stay in touch.

On the Walk, we learn to live without many of the comforts we are accustomed to. We relinquish control but we receive so much in return from God and from our Christian community. Agape love being one of the most significant. As we all face the uncertainty that COVID-19 brings, we are learning to go without much of the things and activities that brought us comfort and gave us a sense of control. With all of that pushed aside, we must rely on our one true source of strength, joy, peace and love which is God.

May we find comfort in these words... "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear." Psalm 46: 1-2

Write YOUR story!

By Mary Holloway

YOU are the perfect person to write the story of YOU! You are unique, made in God's special way. You have experiences that no one else has, sees the world as no one else does, and has a relationship with God that is different from every other individual. Many people are choosing to write short stories about experiences in their life. Some do it as a part of a family history, others write it as a gift for their children, grandchildren or other relatives and others write it as a way to reflect upon their life.

Regardless of the reason for writing, this is something you may want to do - especially if you are homebound due to the COVID-19 virus! There are many ways to approach this. The writing group I am in has gone to Zoom meetings! Actually, the structure of our meetings has changed very little. We meet (via the internet) to discuss our stories from the last meeting and discuss potential subjects, called prompts, to write about for the next 30-45 minutes. When meeting as a group, physically, we write and then reconvene to discuss our writing experience and share stories. Now that we are meeting via the internet, we reconvene 2-3 nights later for our follow-up session. The stories are always interesting, revealing, often thought-provoking and humorous.

The basics I suggest when writing your story:

1. Begin writing! Don't worry about how it sounds. Don't work on style. Just write whatever comes into your head. You can revise the story later.
2. Be yourself! Write the way you talk. Don't worry about grammar.
3. Be honest. Write about situations and events as you remember them.
4. Include the who, what, where, when and how.....plus your thoughts and feelings!
5. Describe scenes with each story by describing the setting.
6. Include humor when appropriate.
7. Throughout your day, think of other topics and make notes so you can write about them later.

After writing:

1. Edit, revise and print.
2. Title the story.
3. Add your name.
4. Date the story.

When writing in this way, your story is NOT a chronological review of your life, but snippets of your life! Many of the prompts given in a recent series of classes related to our spiritual journeys. Such as these: What influenced you to become a Christian? Write about a Sunday School teacher or minister or youth director or other Christian who was important to your spiritual formation. Did you ever leave the church or question your faith? When was your faith tested? Who are your favorite Christian authors and why? Write about Christian music that you especially like. Today might be the perfect time to pick up a pen/pencil, or sit at the computer and begin writing YOUR story. Guess what, Gary (your editor) may ask to read your stories and then publish one in a future newsletter! That's one way to become a Published Christian Author! Write on!!!





Women's Walk #157 - March 12 - 15, 2020

<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Church</i>
Bresenhan	Melanie	Hal & Diane Klopfer	UCUMC
Clisby	Holly	Stephen Kolesar	Mariner UMC
Crawford	Lisa	Carol Barnett	St Luke's UMC
Domas	Tracy	Juanita Applegate	Bellevue UMC
Doss	Karen	Lorraine Zimmerman	Wildwood UMC
Driskill	Linda	Fred Driskill	Senoia UMC
Fair	Betty	June Masters	Trinity UMC
Garau	Jaylene	Tom Vanis	St Luke's UMC
Graves	Carla	Harvey Koeske	New Covenant Lake Deaton
Grieve	Cheryl	Judy Newport	New Covenant Lake Deaton
Harmon	Betty	Chuck Dambrose	FUMC of Eustis
Hart	Cyndi	Keith Stanton	The Refuge
Heistand	Mana	Tom Vanis	St Luke's UMC
Hoyt	Sandy	Susan Tracy	Bellevue UMC
Hull	Madeline	Josephine Spallino	FUMC Spring Hill
Huy	Barbara	Lorraine Zimmerman	Wildwood UMC
Irwin	Penny	Jan Bildstein	Lady Lake UMC
Kindle	Eunice	Cindy Taylor	Grace UMC Lake Mary
King	Linda	Pat McClendon	New Hope UMC
Kozak	Linda	Sandra Simpson	Wildwood UMC
LaTorella	Marion	Kathy Langley	Hope Lutheran
Love	Sheryl	Heather Harding	Tuskawilla UMC
Mangus	Lisa	Marti Pacheco	Lakeside UMC
Martin	Melissa	Lu Ann Harrell	Tuskawilla UMC
Metcalf	Cindy	Marti Haminitte	New Covenant Lake Deaton
Miller	Kathy	Marilyn Walls	Lakeside UMC
Page	Jan	David Gibbs	Bellevue UMC
Schmidt	Jayne	Lloyd Fisk	Dunnellon FUMC
Schmidt Snyder	Beverly	Lloyd Fisk	Dunnellon FUMC
Search	Debbie	Judy Stuart	New Covenant
Shipley	Fran	Jan Gracley	New Covenant Lake Deaton
Silva	Carmen	Becky Vonada	Mariner UMC
Strack	Muriel	Gracia Luoma	Hope Lutheran
Twaddle	Carolyn	Linda Dambrose	FUMC of Eustis
Vitcusky	Jann	Nancy Casto	New Covenant