

# ALDERSGATE PILGRIM

Summer/Fall 2020



## Reflections from our Lay Director

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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! My name is Gary Brelsford, Aldersgate Emmaus Walk #133, Table of John, and I am your Community Lay Director. What a strange Spring and Summer we have had.

We managed to hold Aldersgate Walk #157 for the Women at Warren Willis. Then came the COVID-19 pandemic. Before we could make a decision on whether or not to hold Men's Walk #157, Warren Willis notified us that they were closing for the foreseeable future. They made up our minds for us. There would be no Men's Walk #157. Safer-at-Home and Shelter-in-Place orders were issued by our governments and churches closed. The months of March, April and May brought new challenges...Zoom meetings. Your Aldersgate Emmaus Board of Directors met several times via Zoom to work through the challenges of the Spring and Summer. As a computer repair tech, I'm appreciative of emerging technology like Zoom, but also as an older person, I like one-on-one interaction. I miss being in church. I miss Gatherings and the great food and fellowship. I miss everything that is part of an Emmaus weekend. I miss my community. I miss *you*.

Even that will have to wait for a bit longer as the Board voted to cancel Walks #158 in October of 2020. After several weeks of prayer and discernment, the Board felt that they could not take the chance with COVID-19 still running rampant throughout Florida and the nation. We weren't the only ones. Out of the eight communities in Florida, only two kept their Fall dates, the rest cancelled their Walks. Your Board was relieved, but devastated. Nobody could remember this happening before. We wondered what God was trying to tell us other than it was good being very careful with the lives of our Pilgrims.

So, now a little bright spot. We will be changing locations for 2021. Our next Spring Walks are the Men's #159 on March 4 and Women's #159 on March 11, 2021 at Camp Geneva in Fruitland Park, FL. I'll include a map as well as an address on an inside page, but I'm excited to have everyone in the Community come up on the weekends. Just a little insight into the new place...most everywhere is air conditioned and very clean! Other than that, you'll have to visit on the March weekends!

Please pray with me. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, and we shall be created. And you shall renew in face of the earth. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy Your consolations. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you!

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

## 2021 Walks

Men's Walk #159	March 4—8
Women's Walk #159	March 11—14
Men's Walk #160	October 7—10
Women's Walk #160	October 14—17

**There are no scheduled Gatherings  
through the end of 2020.**



The 3rd Annual Great Green Agape Challenge wrapped up at the end of December 2019. 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.

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](http://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!!**

## Where Two or Three are Gathered ...

### Virtually!!

by Cheryl Bollinger, Aldersgate #147

(Editor's Note— This was written directly after Women's Walk #157)

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.



## Face to Face

Face to Face has arrived!

Face to Face is an encounter...not a weekend. Based on the Emmaus model it is a full Emmaus Experience that is presented during the day once a week over a 4 to 8 week period. The target audience is anyone aged 60+ or medically not able to attend the full Emmaus weekend.

There is no sponsorship requirement (but could have a sponsor). This encounter is not just for church people. You can invite your friends, family, or neighbors. It is also coed, so couples can attend together, but tables are gender specific.

Face to Face is designed to be portable. It could even be brought to a nursing home or a senior center.

Since it is Emmaus...a lunch is included!

There are only 14 talks, videos, and an end of life/grief component. Handouts and power point presentations are welcomed. All to enhance the experience of encountering the risen Christ and not focus on the note taking.

Stay tuned more to come!

Risé Wilson



# 40<sup>for</sup>EMMAUS

Click the image for more information!

## 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: 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!!!





## **World-wide Emmaus Gathering – Saturday, Sept 19, 2020**

The two-hour virtual meeting was the first-ever technical event for the Emmaus team. First everyone had to log into a question of what time you were watching, which showed 65% were in the morning (mostly U.S. and Central/South America), 18% were at night (primarily Australia and Korea), and the rest were split between 'Mid-day and Evening', representing 21 countries.

Today there are 28 countries in the Emmaus Community, which have served 1.4 million members, with another several 100-thousand through Chrysalis and similar programs. The attempt this year by the Emmaus Ministries is to increase by 4%.

After opening with prayer and the Prayer to the Holy Spirit, there were praise songs led by groups from Zimbabwe, Singapore, mass singing from Hispanic communities from all over Central and South America, and then a Korean mass choir. Next a 4<sup>th</sup> day talk from Donna Higley of Wabash, Indiana, followed by various presentations of Rev. Stephane Brooks, the spiritual Director of Hq. Emmaus Ministries, and by Doc Hall, the Associate Director of Emmaus Ministries, and others.

We next had a break-out period of reflection with the questions: (1) What caught my attention?, and (2) How did it speak to my life or encourage me? Several of the National Emmaus Board were allowed to respond. *[from Steve: I must say that watching people enter the chat window of ZOOM just to say "Hello" from literally around the world caught my attention, and when we went to prayer and singing, I was brought to tears by the gentle Spirit of everyone's smiles and the singleness of worshipping the same God from so many places.]*

There was much more sharing, announcements from Emmaus Ministries, another break-out period of silence, and much to fill up the next hour or so.

For announcements, these were important:

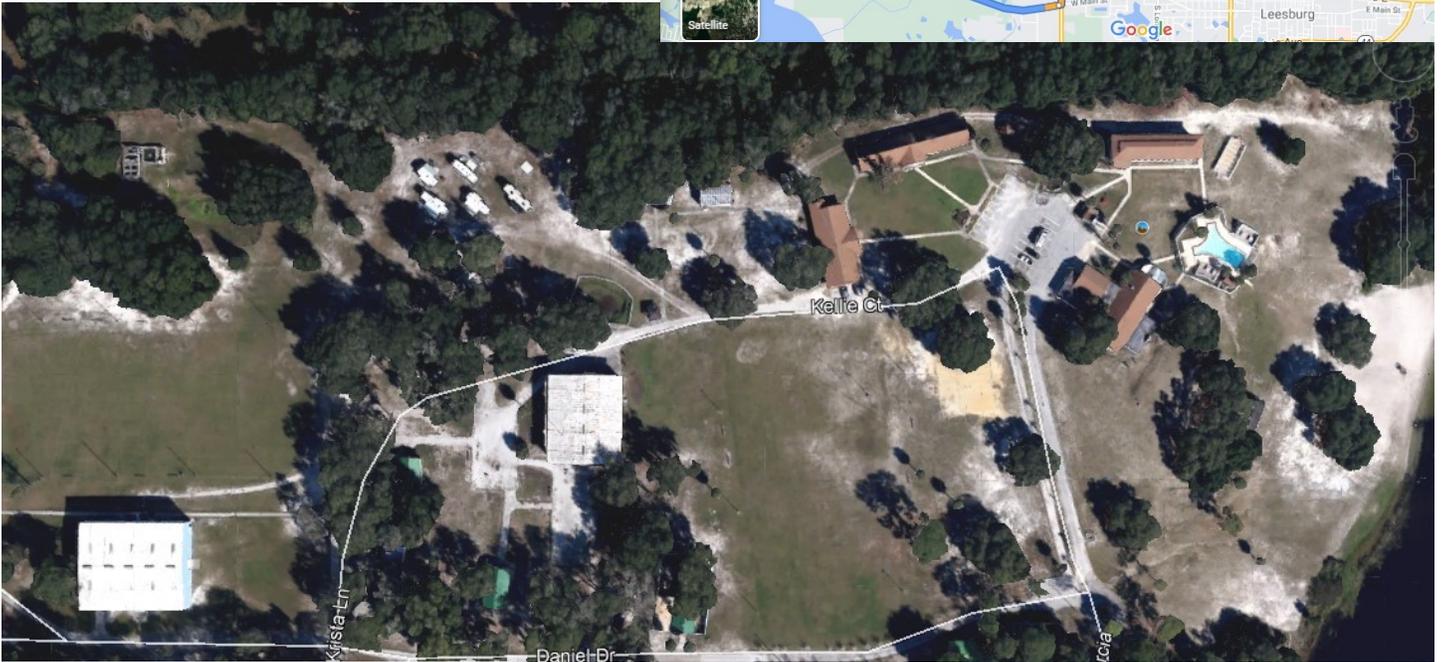
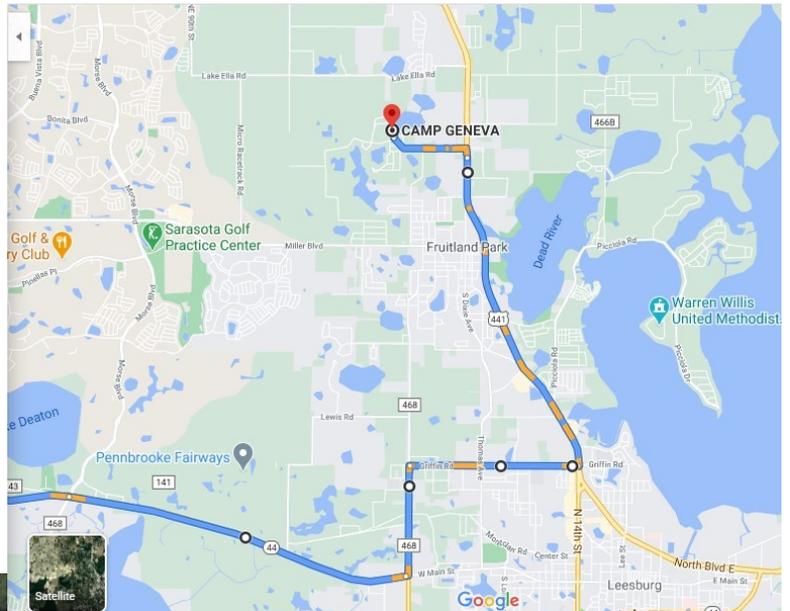
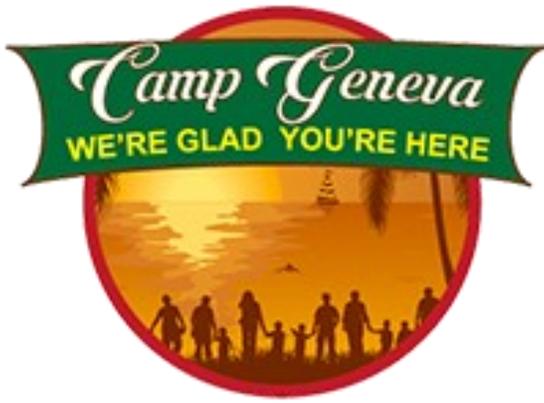
1. There is a 100-day Prayer Vigil which began on Sept 19, 2020. . . most of the time slots were already taken, but all were encouraged to join in by going to [emmaus.upperroom.org](http://emmaus.upperroom.org) for more particulars.
2. There's supposed to be a "Making a World of Difference" link to come from Hq. soon.
3. Emmaus Ministries hopes to have a virtual, on-line version of the Walk to Emmaus experience by the end of this year. Due to the Coronavirus, this from home virtual model will provide an alternative from the face-to-face event we all know.
4. All the particulars were not explained, but Emmaus Ministries hopes to get out information on a "Day to Restore" for service, growth, and renewal by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

All in all, it was a great experience, although there were some technical difficulties and sound problems, which were expected with this first-ever attempt. Later all of those signed in for the event had a follow-up survey to answer, etc. It was an experience I shall not forget.

Steve Mauldin

W. Volusia Community

To watch the video/YouTube link of the Gathering, go to the Emmaus web site [emmaus.upperroom.org](http://emmaus.upperroom.org) and there is a direct link posted there.



Welcome to Camp Geneva! In 2019, the board voted to move the Emmaus Walks from Warren Willis to this camp. The facilities are quite nice with almost everywhere we would be gathering completely air conditioned! The sleeping quarters are clean with thicker mattresses, the gymnasium is huge with no cobwebs hanging from the rafters, and the kitchen has a dedicated staff that handles everything! It's about 5 miles from Warren Willis, so not much more driving.





# 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