

Messenger

A monthly newsletter of the Emmaus of the Midlands Community

Volume 20, Issue 10, October 2020



Upcoming Events:

Board Meeting:

October 12, 7:00 pm

Location to be determined.

October Gathering:

October 23, at 6:30 pm at

Mill Creek UMC,
Columbia, SC.

Board Meeting:

November 9, 7:00 pm

Location to be determined.

November Gathering:

Cancelled until further
notice due to pandemic

Board Meeting:

December 14, 7:00 pm

Location to be determined.

December Gathering:

Cancelled until further
notice due to pandemic

Board Meeting:

January 11, 7:00 pm

Location to be determined.

January Gathering:

Cancelled until further
notice due to pandemic

Board Meeting:

February 8, 7:00 pm

Location to be determined.

February Gathering:

Cancelled until further
notice due to pandemic

Spiritual Director's Message

During this long period of isolation, we sometimes feel we are useless and not accomplishing anything. I might suggest you might take this opportunity to reflect.

Being forced to slow down has a way of revealing things about our hearts. When we are without the crutch of normal routines, we discover what we lean on. Without the distracting hustle and bustle of everyday life, many of us are—for the first time in a long time—left with nothing but our thoughts.

Where does your mind go in moments of stillness?

When so much in our lives is run on autopilot, going from one routine to the next, we are rarely forced to examine the true state of our heart.

With health risks and economic uncertainty, and the sheer boredom of “sheltering in place,” anxiety can easily bubble to the surface.

But anxiety is not created; it is only revealed.

When the shelter of routine is disrupted, the inner state of our hearts is laid bare. How does God want to transform us in this time?

Philippians 4:6-7 tells us to “not be anxious about anything.” Instead, we are called to prayer. In the words of C.S. Lewis, “I pray because I can’t help myself. I pray because I’m helpless. I pray because the need flows out of me all the time, waking and sleeping. It doesn’t change God. It changes me.”

So what do we do?

Within a few months, most all of us will be “back to normal.” But how many around us will continue to experience isolation as normal? By coming to earth, by dying in our place, Christ has “preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near” (Ephesians 2:17, ESV). Who are the far off in your community?

I’ll leave you with the comforting words of Romans 8:28 (ESV):

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”

DeColores,
David Anderson

The Chairman's Corner

We will be having a special October Gathering on October 23, 2020 at 6:30 pm at Mill Creek United Methodist Church. The Emmaus Board has decided to hold a "drive-in" Gathering where each family will stay in their car. We will worship together, there will be a Fourth Day speaker and we will receive communion. There will not be a covered dish dinner, however, you may bring food for your family to consume inside your car.

An FM transmitter will be used so you'll be able to tune your radio to the designated station to hear the service. For those who don't feel comfortable attending in person, the Gathering will be streamed live on the Emmaus of the Midlands website (www.midlandsemmaus.com). More information will be provided as it becomes available.

The church address is:

Mill Creek United Methodist Church
1041 Old Garners Ferry Road
Columbia, SC 29209

We look forward to seeing everyone!

Upcoming Walks

The Camp Directors, Allen and Bonnie, have retired. The new camp director is Grip Lawson. The next Walks are scheduled for March 4-7, 2021 (Men) and March 11-14, 2021 (Women). We need pilgrims for these Walks. Please be diligent in identifying pilgrims for them. Get your pilgrim applications to Mary Brown as soon as you can. Let's pray for full Walks!

Gatherings

If you would like to host a gathering at your church once they have resumed, contact Thad Hinnant at 803-490-1202 (thinnant@sc.rr.com).

Prayers, Concerns and Praises

- Pray for upcoming Emmaus events: Walks, Gatherings, Board Meetings, etc.
- Pray for an end to the coronavirus and for healing for those that have it.

Sponsorship

Sponsorship training is held a few times per year about twenty minutes prior to a monthly Gathering. The next Sponsorship training session will be held before a future Gathering as the need arises. Please submit Pilgrim applications as soon as you can. Pilgrim applications should be mailed to:

Mary Brown (Registrar)
320 Blanding St.
Batesburg, SC 29006
803-447-0179 (cell) maryb1025@gmail.com

If you know of a community member that is not receiving the newsletter, either electronically (check your spam folder) or via hard copy, let me know.

¹⁴ if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. *2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)*

DeColores!

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