

Greater Fredericksburg Emmaus Community Newsletter

August 2024

A Message from Joanne Wilson, one of our board members:

My name is Joanne Wilson, I worship at Fredericksburg United Methodist Church, walked on FE-112 and sat at the table of Tabitha. I wanted to talk this month about our monthly Emmaus Gatherings. Our gatherings are held on the second Saturday of each month and hosted by churches from around our community.

The board has intentionally sought to hold our gatherings in different areas around our community to encourage greater participation from our full community. Sometimes the gathering may be close by and other times it may be a little bit longer trek. However, by spreading out the locations, we hope to see more folks that we don't always get to see when we center the gatherings so close to Fredericksburg. We hope this has been beneficial. We encourage you to review the schedule, put the dates and locations on your calendar and attend whenever you can. The schedule has been posted through the end of 2024 and we will soon publish locations for the first quarter of 2025.

Why are gatherings so important? They allow you to stay connected to others within the community who can offer support and encouragement as you continue through your 4th day journey. Gatherings are an opportunity to hear about the what the weekend has meant to others, what they plan to do as a result of their Emmaus experience and how others are supporting their local churches. You'll enjoy wonderful music and fellowship with Christian brothers and sisters. You will hear about the power and persistence of God in the lives of those who have walked and have opportunities to engage in intercessory prayer for the needs of those in our community. In many ways, it's like a family reunion. In addition, you stay up to date with the happenings in the community and opportunities to serve or share the Emmaus experience with others.

We also encourage clergy to attend our monthly Emmaus Gatherings. For those who have walked, it allows you to continue your involvement in the community. Even if you haven't walked, it gives clergy an opportunity to see the spirit of Emmaus in action. We encourage our lay community to invite their pastors to attend and see what Emmaus is all about, especially if they have not participated in a walk themselves.

We hope to see you soon at one of our gatherings. Dates and locations are listed below!

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Community events

Upcoming Walks

FE-122 and FE-123

Praise God! As a reminder, we have confirmed that FE-122 and FE-123 will be at Camp Rappahannock (formerly known as Camp Happyland) from October 10th-13th. If you are interested in participating in or sponsoring a pilgrim, check out the walk page on our website. <http://fredwalk.org/walks.asp>

Applications are available for those interested in teaming ([Team Application](#)) or sponsoring ([Pilgrim Application](#) and [Pilgrim Sponsor Kit](#)) are available on the website (or use the links here). We would love more folks willing to assist the servant team. Walk leaders are Jenn Bumbrey (FE-122) and Chris Wells (FE-123). Both groups have started preparing for the walks and covet your prayers.

Please prayerfully consider ways you can support the upcoming walks through things such as:

- Agape for the pilgrims (and team)—We've included some info on Agape below
- Serving on our servant team, either for the weekend or part of the weekend
- Sponsor a pilgrim (or donate to help sponsor). This is a great opportunity for a small group or Sunday school class.
- Come out to the camp for Sponsor's Hour, Candlelight and/or Closing
- There are lots of other ways to support and we will be featuring those in our newsletters until the walk dates!

Face to Face Encounter #5

We are excited to announce that our next Face to Face Encounter is scheduled! The Encounter Lay Director will be Bob Pickett. Dates are included here for your reference. If you are interested in participating on the team, sponsoring a pilgrim or supporting the Encounter in any way, please note we are holding this event in the Northern Neck next year.

- April 22, 24, 29 and May 1, 2025 for training at Carmel Church UMC on the Northern Neck of Virginia
- May 13, 15, 20, 22, 2025 for Encounter at Carmel Church UMC

Upcoming Community Gatherings:

Our next gathering is this Saturday, August 10th at Rehoboth United Methodist Church in Beaverdam! The address is 18580 Partlow Rd., Beaverdam, VA 23015. Fellowship begins at 3:30 and our gathering begins at 4:00.

Future gatherings will be:

- September 14th—New Hope UMC, Fredericksburg, VA
- October 12th—Camp Happyland, Richardsville, VA
- November 9th—Peace UMC, Fredericksburg, VA
- December 14th—Fredericksburg UMC, Fredericksburg, VA

Agape guidelines and suggestions:

Sometimes, Emmaus weekends go by in a blur for both the Pilgrims and the Team, but there is one tangible piece of evidence to remind us of great memories and lessons of the weekend . . .

The abundant Agape Letters, Notes, and Gifts! Here is some helpful information on Agape for the walk!

General Agape

- Agape should be the same, or as close to the same as possible and be given to everyone (at least to the Pilgrims)
- Do not sign your Agape
 - It is best if the Pilgrims don't know specifically who Agape comes from so they don't thank one Team member but not others
 - Agape is about service to the Pilgrims and not about glorifying the Team
- You can get Christian items like . . .
 - Pins, buttons, book marks, key chains, small books, crosses and other "stuff" . . . but remember . . .
 - It's not about the fanciest or most expensive gifts
 - It's about acts of love done out of a Christian heart for service
 - Remember that not all Team members can afford fancy or expensive gifts and we're not in competition with one another
 - Some of the best gifts are the simple ones done by hand, out of love for one another
 - One of the highest and most important forms of Agape is Prayer, before, during, and after the Walk