

Greater Fredericksburg Emmaus Community Newsletter

September 2024

A Message from Pam Hiller, one of our board members:

My name is Pam Hiller, I worship at New Hope UMC in Fredericksburg, I walked on FE-96 and I sat at the table of Sarah. I walked ten years ago as a pilgrim and my fourth day has and is still a blessing. I would like to talk with you about all the blessings this Emmaus community provides.

After your walk, I would encourage you to join a reunion group. It's a group that has benefits for fellowship and continued growth with your spiritual walk. If you don't have a group, contact someone on the Fredericksburg Emmaus Board and we can help you find a group, or even better, help you start a group.

Second, I know volunteering for a governing board seems like a lot of work and time. It is but think about running for a position on the Fredericksburg Emmaus Community Board. It is a three-year commitment but personally, I have learned and grown so much with this experience. And bonus points, you might even find you have a gift for serving this way and take this experience and share it with your church.

Third, volunteer to Team. Whether it is with the weekend walk or the Face-to-Face Encounter. Either way, you will grow while helping others begin their walk. If you are unable to walk, sponsor someone from your church to walk so that they may grow with Jesus.

Last but not least, attend a monthly gathering. Last month Joanne Wilson explained why you should attend. It is a way to fellowship and share your testimony and journey with others.

There are still more opportunities, volunteer for a couple of hours to serve the pilgrims' meals during their walks. Signing up to pray during the walks or if you are musically gifted, serve on a music team.

Again, this community has many places where you can serve and grow during your fourth day walk. So, as in Isaiah 6:8, "The I heard the Lord's voice saying, 'Whom should I send, and who will go for us?' I said, 'I'm here; send me.'"

Let's walk together!

DeColores!

Community events

Upcoming Walks

FE-122 and FE-123

We are fully immersed in preparations for our upcoming walks! 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 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). [You can get an application by clicking here.](#) 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
- Sign up to pray during the walk: [Please sign up for the prayer vigil for FE-122 and FE-123.](#)
- 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, September 14th at New Hope UMC in Stafford, VA! Fellowship begins at 3:30 and our gathering begins at 4:00. Come early and bring a snack to share for fellowship time. We will be praying over our FE-122 and FE-123 teams and pilgrims!

Future gatherings will be:

- October 12th—Camp Happyland, Richardsville, VA

- November 9th—Peace UMC, Fredericksburg, VA
- December 14th—Fredericksburg UMC, Fredericksburg, VA

We have currently scheduled locations through April of 2024 but if you are interested in hosting a gathering at your church, please reach out to Mike Wilson at wilsoninfred@gmail.com or 540-226-2259.

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

Reunion Groups

If you are looking for a reunion group or would like to start one and need guidance, please reach out to Patricia Sjöberg at patricia.sjoberg@imperialnavy.net .

Newsletter information

If you have information you would like to see included in the newsletter, please contact Joanne Wilson at wilsoninfred@verizon.net or 540-220-1299.