

Houston North Emmaus Community

Pilgrim's Journey

Volume XVI Issue I May 2020

FROM THE COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR

We're All in This Together

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Hebrews 13:14 NIV



The month of May is upon us. Typically, by now, HNEC has already completed two Spring Walks and celebrated together at one Gathering. By May, Summer Walk leadership is busy calling potential team members and making plans for their team meetings. Usually prayers for cooler weather for the Summer Walk have begun by many on the team. This year, May 2020, things are definitely different. Today, the world and life as we know it has been disrupted by the COVID-19 virus. News reports say the heat will kill this virus so now we are praying for the Texas Summer heat to arrive. Certainly interesting times! Turn on the news and the alarm sounds - encouraging the use of face masks, social distancing, stay at home orders, business closures, and meat and toilet paper shortages throughout the country. Some have experienced the death of a loved one, loss of a job or financial distress.

The feelings of fear and being overwhelmed can easily distract us from more positive outcomes of this crisis. The world is coming together in community through random acts of kindness which display the power of caring to those having difficulty coping. Daily we hear, but sometimes overlook, stories about parades through neighborhoods to celebrate birthdays, schools organizing send-offs for Seniors, non-profits coming together to host food drives and people holding prayer and praise vigils for medical staff coming to and from work at hospitals.

Through these times of great uncertainty and darkness, there is light, happiness, encouragement, and the lifting up of one another. In Galatians 5:22-26, we are reminded through the apostle Paul of the "fruits of the Spirit; characteristics of the Holy Spirit manifested in people's attitudes and behavior. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control are avenues through which we can channel our thoughts, words, actions and deeds and thus be a source of encouragement to others. It is these Christ-like characteristics that will guide us through these times of uncertainty and be an example to others.

By keeping our focus on Jesus Christ and sharing His GOOD NEWS with others, we will get through this. The HNEC Board truly appreciates your support and understanding. As we move forward, continue to pray for His guidance and wisdom for us and for our Community.

De Colores!

Tammie

Tammie Walterbach, Community Lay Director



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COPING WITH COVID

Where have the last 60 days gone? Are you enjoying the extra time with your family, or somehow wanting to be back at work? Regardless of where you are right now, have you found ways of coping with your new (ab)normal?

Here are some monotony-breakers some of us have found along the way:



These rocks were spotted along some walking paths in Cypress. Good messages to carry into our tomorrows.

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Communities are participating enthusiastically in the teddy bear scavenger hunts that have popped up all over the world in recent days, providing a social-distancing-safe activity for children stuck at home during the coronavirus pandemic. People put stuffed animals in their windows and kids go for walks or drives with their parents, keeping count along the way.

Words of Wisdom from Max Lucado:

Quiet heroes dot the landscape of our society. They don't make the headlines, but they do sew the hemlines and check the outlines and stand on the sidelines. You won't find their names on the Nobel Prize short list, but you'll find their names on the carpool, and Bible teacher lists. They are parents! Heroes! Their kids call them mom. Dad. And these moms and dads, more valuable than all the executives and lawmakers, quietly hold the world together.

Be numbered among them. Read books to your kids. Play ball while you can and they want you to. Make it your aim to watch every game they play, read every story they write, hear every recital in which they perform. Children spell love with four letters: T-I-M-E. Not just quality time, but hang time, downtime, anytime, all the time! Cherish the children who share your name. Succeed at home first!

COMING SOON: NEW DIGITAL FORMAT FOR SPONSOR TRAINING

HNEC will soon offer its Sponsorship Training through an online webcast to fulfill requirements for Pilgrim sponsorship. The webcast will provide a helpful overview on the roles and responsibilities of sponsorship to help give Pilgrims a meaningful and memorable weekend experience. We will still offer a live session of Sponsorship Training after Walk follow-ups at Gathering events to share personally with our newest Fourth Day members.

Keep watch for an update in upcoming announcements.

If you have additional questions about Pilgrim sponsorship, contact salana.yarger@att.net

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SOMEWHERE A FLOWER BLOOMS



By Rhonda Fronk

Somewhere a flower blooms
From what looked dead and dying.
A cat looks up in wonder
At birds so swiftly flying.
Amidst the whole world's chaos
One hears a baby crying
A new life, come to tell us,
"Don't fear, though times are trying."
Relationships may end
Our next step new, unknowing,
Uncertainties abound
With fears and anguish growing.
'Twould be a natural thing
To give into despairing
But what's the comfort there?
Quit dreaming, smiling, daring?
In dark, in times of trying
In death and pain and crying
In sadness and in glooming
Somewhere ... a flower's blooming.

2020 REMAINING WALK DATES

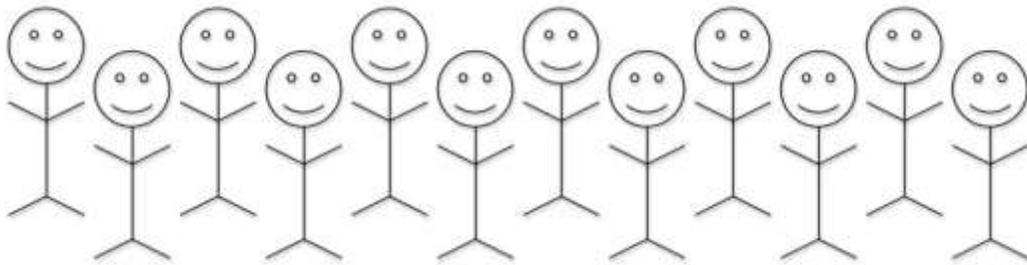
Men's [Walk #110](#)

September 24-27

Women's [Walk #111](#)

October 1-4

The Pilgrims are coming! The Pilgrims are coming!



All HNEC Emmaus Walks are held at the beautiful Kaiserhof Retreat Center.
<http://www.kaiserhofretreatcenter.comm/>





Pilgrim Applications

Please make sure you are using the 2016+ forms for pilgrim applications.

Application forms should always be submitted in a timely manner and keeping the following in mind:

- The maximum number of Pilgrims per walk is 36.
- Walk registrations can be accepted up until the beginning Walk date provided openings are still available.
- Applications are considered received in the order of their postmark or email date.
- For questions about pilgrim applications, status, etc., contact registrar at: registrar@hnec.org
- For financial assistance on Walk fees, please indicate this need on the Sponsor's form. Partial payments are appreciated if possible.

Go to the "Applications and Documents" link on the web at www.hnec.org.



"Worry is like a rocking chair: It gives you something to do but never gets you anywhere."



Houston North Emmaus Board Meetings

Due to the social distancing mandates from our state and national government, the monthly HNEC board meetings are being held on the Zoom meeting platform.

Normally, board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at Klein United Methodist Church from 7:00-9:00 pm. Fourth Day members are welcome to attend as guests, once we are able to meet again. If you have concerns that you would like to address with the HNEC Board, you may contact Tammie Walterbach, Community Lay Director at CommunityLayDirector@HNEC.org at least 48 hours prior to the meeting, and you will be added to the meeting agenda.





“That best portion of a man’s life, his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and love.”
William Wordsworth, poet

Agape !!!

Hello my wonderful Agape suppliers! We love, appreciate and miss you during this time of quarantine!

If you are looking for things to do while you are home, please continue to make those Book Covers, Butterflies, Doves, Lanyards for Doves and Crosses, Caterpillars and Halos!

This is also a perfect time to make regular Walk agape for both Men’s and Women’s Walks. For internal/table and pillow agape, here are a few reminders:

50 pieces	Pilgrims and Table Leaders
60 pieces	Pilgrims and Conference room teams
75 pieces	Pilgrims, Servant teams and Conference Room teams

(Please make a few extra in case of misplaced or broken items)

Also, please label your agape as follows:
of pieces and intended recipients
Preferred time to distribute
Label for Men’s or Women’s Walk or either one

Praying that before too long we will be back to holding Walks and at that time our inventories will be WELL-STOCKED ... thanks to YOU – our wonderful 4th Day community.

Prayers and God’s Blessings on each one of you!!!

Donna Drabek

HNEC Agape Board Rep

Questions? Text or Call me at 713-398-3028

Email me at donnadrabek@sbcglobal.net



Wanting to Work a Walk? Wondering How?

Dear Fourth Day,

Team Selection again thanks you so much for your willingness to serve. If you would like to serve on a team, please let us know - if you have not already done so. You may register your desire to serve on a team by going to the HNEC website, and selecting "Team Service" under Fourth Day Community on the Left side. Read through if you have any questions and then look for the "[Team Service Interest](#)" link which will take you to the page where you notify Team Selection of your interest.

Names submitted through the website or from any Fourth Day activity are brought to each Team Selection meeting to be considered for appropriate positions.

Please help us honor your offering of service if you presented your name this year but did not get a call to work a walk. Please re-submit your name and give us a note that you submitted your name but did not receive a call. We will try and give you priority for next year.

Please also help us to spread the word among our clergy! Remind them how the walk to Emmaus has deepened your faith and prompted you to serve in your local church. Encourage them to talk to their congregation about the Walk to Emmaus opportunity and, if appropriate, ask if they would be willing to serve as a clergy for a day or for the weekend.

Remember, Christ is counting on each of us! DeColores!!

Corey Worthen and Scotty Scott

serve@h nec.org



*****A Special Note from Communications*****

HNEC is using a third-party email system (iContact) during the changeover to The Upper Room's new membership management system, which does not currently have email capability. So...**anything you see about HNEC from iContact is not spam**...it is the only way for now that we can communicate with the entire community.

If you did not receive an email from The Upper Room or have misplaced yours before verifying your information in the Ministry Manager, please do so as it will be the method used for communications and membership management once the full system is online. Having your correct information will ensure that you can remain an active and informed part of our community in the future.

Go to this URL: <https://ministrymanager.upperroom.org/> and click the **Sign Up** button. Fill out the form that is presented and if you get in, please verify your personal information (Home phone and birthdate are mandatory fields and must be entered or all other changes will be rejected) and click **Save** in the lower right corner. If you are told that your email is already taken, it is probably because both you and your spouse used the same email in our old iNet system. Ministry Manager requires a discrete email address for every member, so if you had a common email address, one of you was automatically assigned a "dummy" Ministry Manager email address to satisfy this need. Please have the other spouse log in and complete their registration and then contact communications@h nec.org to obtain your "dummy" email address so you then can use that to register and then log in and change it to a real email address.

Although it is inconvenient, it is important that you keep your email address up to date in both the Ministry Manager system and in iContact so you will receive HNEC communications now (via iContact) and in the future (when bulk email is enabled in Ministry Manager).

Thank you, and we apologize for the inconvenience,
HNEC Communications



Other Ways to Serve

We still need help! Looking for a way to participate on a Walk Weekend without serving on a team or even as a day servant? Consider volunteering for 1 of the 6/7 options which fall under the "**Community Servanthood**" area! These are the "behind the scenes" activities that add another special layer to the pilgrims' Walk experience . . .

Remember yours?!

Snack Supper

Requirement: 6-8 people

Arrival time: 5:00 pm

Task: Provide light supper for team and arriving pilgrims and sponsors

Agape Dinner

Requirement: 6-12 people

Arrival time: 3:30 for decorations; 4:30 for food preparation, serving, and cleanup

Task: Provide special Agape Dinner for pilgrims and team. Fourth Day persons from multiple churches can join together. If you want to serve, let us know and we will put you together with others.

Candlelight Luminary Team

Requirement: 6-8 people

Arrival time: 7:00 pm

Task: Set up luminaries for pilgrim arrival and take down after Candlelight is finished.

Candlelight Parking Attendants

Requirement: 4-6 people

Arrival time: 7:15 pm

Task: Direct traffic to designated parking areas.

Community Servanthood Continued

Candlelight Service Team

Requirement: 6-8 people

Arrival time: 6:30 pm

Tasks: Set up the Fourth Day service area in the Dining Hall; serve as ushers; hand out candles and then collect them; assist in taking down chairs in the Dining Hall after the Fourth Day service.

Moving Cleanup

Requirement: 4-5 people

Arrival time: 1:30 pm

Task: Move furniture from cabins to the conference room; move kitchen supplies from the dining hall to the property room; move agape supplies from the inn to property room; and to assist the servant team in the cleanup of Kaiserhof.

Rose Providers

Requirement: Individual or small group Task: Bring 4 dozen (48) roses to Kaiserhof to be handed out to pilgrims, table leaders, and assistant table leaders in their rooms prior to breakfast on Sunday morning.



To volunteer for any area of service or if you have any questions, contact HNEC Board members:

Mike Allen – 713.857.8775 / mike.allen99@yahoo.com

or

Rhonda Fronk - 346.337.7836 / arbie4good@gmail.com

DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN FIND AND FILL OUT

All of the forms below on the website?

HNEC Pilgrim Application
HNEC Sponsor Form
HNEC – Sponsor Checklist
HNEC - Sponsor Request for Pilgrim Letters
HNEC - Information Sheet for Sponsors
HNEC Team Service Interest Form
HNEC Day Servant Application

And... we now offer the capability to pay for walk fees for Team Members, Pilgrims, and Day Servants online via **PayPal!**

Community Related Sites

Houston West Emmaus Community
Houston Bay Area Emmaus Community
Cradle of Texas Emmaus Community
Cradle of Texas Chrysalis Community
Kairos Prison Ministry
Texas Epiphany Ministry



Is Your 4th Day Reunion Group Listing Up-to-Date?

HNEC strives to maintain a comprehensive listing of [Reunion Groups on our web site](#) (**Reunion Groups** is the first item listed in the **Stay Connected** section of the menu). This information includes the day, time, and place when/where the group meets as well as contact information.

We need your help to keep this information current!

If you are a member of an active 4th day group, please check our [Reunion Groups page](#) for the accuracy of the information about your group. If your group isn't listed, please forward the information about your group as seen on the page for other groups to communications@h nec.org and your group will be immediately added to the page.



Closing Comments from our Clergy

Greetings to all my brothers and sisters in the Houston North Emmaus Community! I hope and pray you are doing well. This has been an interesting time for all of us. When 2020 began, I don't think any of us would have believed that we would be in the situation we're in today. While it has been different and sometimes uncertain, the one thing I know for sure is that God is in middle of this and is in control.

Jeremiah 29:11 For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

It is this hope that all my life is built on. Since I fully accepted Christ as my Savior, I have had to learn to put my hope in Him alone. I know that many of you, or someone you love, is suffering either from the disease, a loss of a loved one, depression, isolation, job loss, or any other number of difficulties. Christ never promised it would be easy. He told the prisoner on the cross next to him in Luke 39:43, And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise." Jesus did not spare him from his fate, but did promise him his reward in heaven.

Some good things have come out of this storm. For me personally, I have reached out to old friends with whom I have not spoken in years. We have started to have zoom meetings with family and friends. We have adapted in our daily lives and I truly believe this will make us stronger.

Know that I love each and every one of you and am here to talk with you, if you feel the need. Stay positive, keep looking to the cross and when we meet again, expect a big hug from me!

De Colores!

Karl

Rev Karl H. Decker, HNEC Community Spiritual Director