



April 3, 2020

Dear Friends,

I hope this email finds all of you well, as comfortable as you can be while we ride out the Covid-19 crisis that has reshaped our world. The last time you received a message from me I had attached our March newsletter, which was filled with exciting updates about our progress with the Emmaus Creative Arts & Innovation Center. So much has changed since then that I decided to write to you instead.

Like all nonprofits in our area, we are abiding by the state government's orders to close "non-essential" businesses to the public. However, now more than ever we also realize how very essential our work is to people's lives. We exist to provide a way for people to connect through creative experiences. By sharing the collective power of imagination, we shape our future.

Though our building is unavailable at the moment, our vibrant community continues to grow, and our leadership team meets regularly via video conference calls. I'm writing to you today to let you know how we're using this valuable time to forge ahead with some important plans. What does that mean exactly?

- While we've suspended our popular Friday tours to the public for now, we are also working on a video tour of the building that we'll share with you as soon as possible.

- Our “Creative Entrepreneurs” group has started to hold weekly Zoom sessions instead of meeting at the facility. You can learn more about this group through our Facebook page.
- We’ve also launched another social media group on Facebook, “Emmaus Creates.” This group provides a place for people to gather and share what they’re making. Think of it as an open stage/gallery space where you can post photos and videos of your work ... whether it's a maker creation that you've built in your workshop, an art piece or a new tune that you wrote during your Covid-19 confinement. We are excited to offer people a place to share their creative passions with the world.
- And we’ve updated our website ([emmauscreates.org](http://emmauscreates.org)). Though it is still a work in progress, I hope you’ll take a look. The new content better reflects the excitement of our mission and makes it easier for you to get involved.

As I reflect on all the work that has happened over the last few weeks, it’s clear now more than ever how much we truly need one another – and an organization like ours that can help bring us together. Though we find ourselves temporarily isolated in our homes, we have still ways to forge deeper connections with the people around us. By sharing our creative potential, I am confident we will continue to connect, share, and grow.

So in the meantime, please take care of yourself. Read, write, paint, build, muse, bake and explore your creative side. Follow us on Facebook to stay informed about our efforts, and we’ll keep moving ahead with the plans to create a physical space where all of this great work together will continue to flourish. We look forward to seeing you in person as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Jim Baker

President, *Emmaus Creative Arts & Innovation Center*