

JANUARY 10, 2021

AREA NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Word Alive Ministries: We are also seeking drivers to put on a call list so when people in our community need a ride to Dr. visits, appointments, etc. we can call you when needed. If you can be available or have questions, please call the Word Alive number at 319-201-9630 and give us your name and number. Or you may call Arlene Wenger (our Transportation Director) at 319-931-0011. Thanks and God Bless You. Sue Freyenberger, Word Alive Administrator

CCCC: Crowded Closet Thrift Shop has immediate openings for Part-time Donation Receiving Assistant! Crowded Closet's caring community, purposeful service, and culture of sustainability make it a great place to work! Interested applicants should apply through Indeed or pick up an application at the shop. Email crowdedcloset.volunteer@gmail.com for more information.

Hillcrest: Open Gym! Starting Sun, Jan. 17 5th-8th graders can plan on participating in a variety of activities including basketball, volleyball, matball and more. Run with cross country coach Marty Gingerich from 3:00 – 3:30 p.m. And, if there is snow, we'll go sledding! The indoor activities will be from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. Face masks will be required. Please bring your own water bottle. Check out the flyer here and sign up here!

Visit Day! On Jan. 18 from 8:00 AM to 3:15 PM, come shadow a Hillcrest student and see what we're all about! You'll get to sit in on a variety of classes, experience chapel and eat lunch in our cafeteria. Parents, we'll pay for your student's lunch. You can stop by to chat with our administrative team when you drop off your student in the morning. Sign up at hillcrestravens.org/5-8events.

Prospective Family Night! On Jan. 18 from 6:30-8:30 PM, 8th graders, transfer students and families can come tour our school, meet the teachers and talk with our administrative team about financial aid and class schedules. Sign up at hillcrestravens.org/5-8events.

Halftime Basketball! On Fri, Jan. 22 and Tue, Feb. 2 beginning at 6:00 PM, 5th-8th graders are invited to play basketball during halftime of the Hillcrest boys games. If you like basketball be sure to sign up! Light refreshments will be served in the cafeteria between the games for participants and their families. For more information and sign up go to hillcrestravens.org/5-8events.

MCC Webinars on Service Opportunities: Are you ready to step out and into service? To spend a year serving abroad or the summer serving your church or a local community organization? Check out the webinars happening this winter that will introduce these MCC service opportunities to you! Learn more at mcc.org/mcc-me-webinar-series-service-opportunities.

CPMC: We all have a story to tell. Learn how to tell yours well by attending a series of webinars called "Remembering your story: creating your own spiritual autobiography," starting January 12 at 7:00pm. For more information about this and other upcoming webinars (and the zoom link), visit our website, centralplainsmc.org

We continue to pray for those who are most vulnerable in our communities in this strange time, as in all times. May God open our eyes to the possibilities for love and for protection of the least of these among us--and may we be willing to heed God's call.

MCUSA: Join Mennonites across Mennonite Church USA in a "Common Read," a shared reading experience focused on specific books written to nurture Christian faith in this cultural moment. The featured book for January is "I Am Not Your Enemy: Stories to Transform a

Divided World" by Michael T. McRay. Learn more here: <https://heraldpress.com/books/i-am-not-your-enemy>

Save the date for MennoCon21, the biennial gathering of Mennonite Church USA, July 6-10, in Cincinnati, Ohio. To learn more, including what a hybrid convention might look like, visit <https://convention.mennoniteusa.org/>

Mennonite Missions Network: Seeking the Beloved Community: From Racism to Reconciliation. As part of God's reconciling work, we are called to dismantle racism and build relationships across racial divides. On Saturday, January 23, 2021 from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. EST, Mennonite Men will be hosting a meeting, open to all genders, with members of Seeking the Beloved Community, a group of Black and White men in Elkhart, Indiana, who have been engaged in this work for seven years. A number of these are pastors and members of Mennonite congregations. To register, go to: <https://seekingthebelovedcommunity.netlify.app/>

Mary Raber of Mennonite Mission Network has not been able to return to Odessa Theological Seminary in Ukraine because of COVID-19 restrictions. Pray for her as she continues her translation and editing work from the United States.