

January 3, 2021

AREA NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Word Alive Ministries: A newsletter with updates on the ministries that have been started in our community to help people in need is posted on the south bulletin board.

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

The Refuge House: in Olds is in need of your help. This ministry cannot survive without you. If you can give a onetime donation or give on a monthly basis, please contact the Word Alive Office at 319-201-9630 with donation info or questions you may have. Thank you and God Bless You! Sue Freyenberger, Word Alive Administrator.

NEEDED: We are in need of a full size bed and frame as soon as possible for a man who just left the Men's Refuge House and is trying to make it on his own now. Please contact the Word Alive Office if you know where we can get one... call or text 319-201-9630. You may also contact Dana Oswald at 641-660-1221.

Hillcrest: 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.

CPMC: Now that the carols are sung, the cookies digested, and the pine branches wilted, are you looking forward and thinking, "What a long, cold winter we have ahead of us?" Don't fret! The Christian Formation Committee of CPMC is here to help! We've planned a series of webinars to help us connect, learn, play and pray together across our conference during this long cold winter. Join us for:

Remembering Your Story: Creating your own spiritual autobiography, Tuesdays, Jan. 12, 19, 26, Feb. 2, 9.

Creating Together: imaginative art as a spiritual practice, Third Thursday of January (21), February (18), and March (18)

Lenten Spiritual Practices, Tuesday, February 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

For more information about each of these webinars and the zoom links, visit our website, centralplainsmc.org

We give thanks for the year that is gone (hard as it was!), and pray for a new year of spiritual growth, deeper love, and greater discipleship in each of our lives and in our congregations.

MCUSA: Glen Guyton, executive director of Mennonite Church USA, reflects on 2020 and looks ahead with hope in his year-end blog. Read it here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/request-blessing-2020>

In his blog, "The inexorable darkness: A reflection for this season of longest nights," Chaplain Eric Massanari offers words of hope for us in a season that is "shadowed by unrest, uncertainty and great possibility." <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/longest-nights>

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/>

Mike Sherrill, Mennonite Mission Network's executive director, begins each week with an all-staff worship and prayer time. During this time, he prays for each one of Mission Network's employees by name. Ask for God's wisdom and strength for Mike as he leads the church in mission.