

## **NOVEMBER 15, 2020** **AREA NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Community Thanksgiving Meal Update:** Due to COVID precautions the WACO Ministerial will not be sponsoring a community Thanksgiving meal this year.

**The Sharing Christmas Program:** is back again this year! 2020 has been a challenging year for all of us. If you would like to brighten someone's Christmas by purchasing gifts for their family please contact Chris Conrad at [conradsec@gmail.com](mailto:conradsec@gmail.com).

**Mt. Pleasant Thanksgiving Dinner:** Due to COVID this year, Mt. Pleasant Community will be hosting a carryout only Thanksgiving Dinner. Call in orders are required by November 20<sup>th</sup> and pickup will be held on Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am-1:30pm. You may call RuthAnn at 319-931-2287 or use the Facebook page, Grace Community Friends Church. Orders will be available for pickup at the, Fellowship Cup, 203 N. Jefferson St. If we need to cancel due to COVID, it will be announced on KILJ radio by November 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Hillcrest:** Hillcrest Academy Open Gym! All students in grades 5-8 will have the opportunity to participate in Open Gym events during November and December. Open Gym dates: Nov 15 & 22 and Dec 6 & 20. These events will include a variety of activities like basketball, volleyball, matball, and more. The indoor activities will be on Sundays from 3:00-4:30 PM. Face coverings will be required. Please bring your own water bottle. Contact Rebecca Beachy Miller or Chris Nachtigall for more information. To register for one or more of the open gym dates, visit <https://tinyurl.com/msopengym>.

**Fall Production!** This year's fall production will be a series of monologues directed by Michael Swartzendruber and performed by Meredith Blossom, Ivana Ebersole, and Sarah Miller. Their performances will be presented in a virtual format and premiere on Fri, Nov 20 at 7:00 PM CST on our website.

**Fall Visit Days!** On Wed, Nov 25 (8:00 AM -1:55 PM) or Mon, Nov 30 (8:00 AM-3:15 PM) 8th graders and transfer students, 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 and feel free to stop by to chat with our administrative team when you drop off your student in the morning. If neither of these dates work for you, contact Rebecca Beachy Miller to set up a visit that fits your schedule! To sign up go to [hillcrestravens.org/admissions/5-8events/](https://hillcrestravens.org/admissions/5-8events/).

**MCC:** A memorable, meaningful and unique MCC gift to give this Christmas! Grab a piece of MCC history to use in a modern day Mennonite feeding station - your home! Get one for yourself and order more for family and friends. Hang it on the wall in your kitchen or dining room, display it on a shelf or use it as a serving tray! Remember the kitchen at your church, too. Each tray was uniquely handcrafted by an artisan in Siberia using Siberian hardwood. The tray is 16" in diameter and 2" deep. Suggested donation per tray is \$150. Full details and pictures are available at <https://mcc.org/feeding-station-tray>.

**CPMC:** Pray for the chaplains who are a part of CPMC. We give thanks for their flexibility during this difficult time of COVID, and for the myriad of ways in which they are present in people's lives, listening and sharing God's love.

**Best Practices for Children's Storytime,** webinar, Monday, Nov. 16, 2020, 7pm. If you are in charge of or occasionally present the children's story during worship services, join others in CPMC to learn and share best practices. Now with Zoom, prerecorded and live-streamed

services, we have new opportunities for creativity. Stan Harder, chair of the Christian Formation Committee, will host this Zoom event to inspire your imagination and provide suggestions on making your children's times memorable and relevant. Find the Zoom link at [centralplainsmc.org](http://centralplainsmc.org) under "upcoming events."

**Max and Gloria Villatoro:** are now pastoring and working as tent makers in Ensenada, Mexico. Due to COVID their finances have been impacted greatly, and because of this, their support team and Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference are asking for help in supporting the Villatoros. Please see the letter that was put in your mailbox for more information.

**MCUSA:** Mennonite Church USA has partnered with Mennonite Mission Network's Peace and Justice Support Network and Mennonite Central Committee in Mennonites Against Militarism, an initiative to provide new resources to reinvigorate our collective voice against the destructive powers of militarism. Read more: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/news/mennonites-against-militarism/>

For "Voices Together," Shannon Dycus, Bradley Kauffman, and Katie Graber look at the critical role of intercultural competency in the development of the new hymnal in their essay, "Voices Together #801, 'I'm gonna eat at the welcome table.'" <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/voices-together-welcome-table/>

Immigration Justice: Radical Hospitality "I hope that you can slow things down just enough to listen...to see the Friday night lights, smell the BBQ and worship in one of our churches," writes Felipe Hinojosa, associate professor and author, in his blog, "Shake loose your misconceptions about borderland communities." <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/shake-loose/>

When a major league baseball player refused to "take a knee" on Opening Day because he was a Christian, Gulf States Mennonite Conference Moderator Mike Clymer reflected on his own faith and motivation for kneeling. Read his blog, "I kneel," at <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/i-kneel/>

**Mennonite Missions Network:** Service Adventure is accepting applications for the 2021-2022 service term! Grow in leadership and faith as you spend a year serving and living in community with others your age and with unit leaders. Visit [MennoniteMission.net/ServiceAdventure](http://MennoniteMission.net/ServiceAdventure) to learn more!

Mennonite Mission Network's Colorado Springs Service Adventure unit helps extend the ministry of Beth-El Mennonite Church through building relationships in the community. Pray for Elyse Burton as she helps families who are homeless and for Makenzie Shelman as she works with people with disabilities. Pray also for unit leader Cindy Headings.