

NOVEMBER 22, 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.

CCCC: The Crooked Creek Christian Camp online auction fundraiser will be going LIVE December 1-6. All auction items will be ready to view on November 23rd at <https://mennoniteauctions.org/> We are so excited about all the great items up for bid, so we hope you will join us for this fundraising event!

Hillcrest: Open Gym dates of Nov. 22 and Dec. 6 have been cancelled. All students in grades 5-8 will have the opportunity to participate in Open Gym on Sunday, Dec. 20 from 3:00-4:30 p.m. This event will include a variety of activities like basketball, volleyball, matball, and more. Face masks 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 hillcrestravens.org/5-8events.

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/5-8events. Face masks will be required.

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: We pray for those in our conference who are taking classes in seminary and/or exploring calls to ministry. We give thanks for the nudgings of the Spirit, and pray for fortitude and courage for those who are studying, praying, and discerning the ministries to which God has called them.

Remember Tim Detweiler (former Conference Minister) in your prayers as he begins treatment for reoccurring cancer. The lung cancer has metastasized to a number of lymph nodes. Tim appreciates your ongoing prayer support.

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: Sunday, November 29, is the beginning of Advent. "We Wait for Jesus," this year's Advent At Home devotional from Mennonite Church USA for families and people of all ages, is available now at [mennoniteusa.org/resource/advent-at-home](https://www.mennoniteusa.org/resource/advent-at-home).

Organizers for MennoCon21 (Cincinnati, Ohio, July 6-10, 2021), the biennial gathering of Mennonite Church USA, are planning a hybrid event with in-person and online programming. Read the first convention newsletter: https://www.mennoniteusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/OCT_2020_Newsletter-Revised.pdf Receive future issues by subscribing here: <http://eepurl.com/gbyUCj>

Rodger Schmell, pastor of Deep Run Mennonite Church West, reflects on the role that camp played in his faith walk and call to ministry in his blog, "Reconnecting with God at camp." <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/reconnecting-with-god-at-camp/>

Heidi Regier Kreider, Western District Conference minister, offers self-care tips for pastors in her blog, "An open letter to ministers on the impact of trauma and loss exposure." Read more: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/ministers-trauma/>

Mennonite Missions Network: Mennonite Voluntary Service is accepting applications for the 2021-2022 service term. Two units are still accepting applications for this year! Serve, learn, and grow in faith with a community of your peers! Visit MennoniteMission.net/MVS to learn more!

In many North American Indigenous cultures, every day is Thanksgiving Day. For the Onondaga People around Lake Ontario, the morning begins with the Thanksgiving Address, known as the "Words that Come Before All Else." Join Mennonite Mission Network in thanking God for the good gifts that sustain us even in difficult times.