

NOVEMBER 29, 2020 **AREA NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

WACO COMMUNITY C.R.O.P. DRIVE: The 2020 WACO CROP Drive has been completed and we are completely AMAZED at the out pouring of love and caring the people in this community continue to show for people around the world and this United States ESPECIALLY during the COVID 19 challenges we all face. Our goal this year was \$30,750.00. The amount we received was \$24,390.00 in cash and \$12,695.02 in commodities totaling \$37,085.02!! What a blessing! The 25% which comes back to the WACO community for families needing food is \$9,271.25. We appreciate all the work of the captains and canvassers, especially this year working through COVID restrictions. THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED!

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.

Hillcrest: The Open Gym scheduled for Dec. 6 has 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 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.

CPMC: Are you anticipating a Long Cold Winter? Then join us for a series of warm webinars for a cold season! Each month of this season, the Christian Formation Committee from CPMC is putting together a series of webinars to help us connect, learn, play and pray together. First up, "Building anticipation: Praying the Anabaptist Prayerbook in Advent," on Thursdays during December. For more information about this and the rest of the webinars in the series (and for the Zoom link), visit our website, centralplainsmc.org

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: Women in Leadership, a ministry of Mennonite Church USA, held three webinars and an online worship service this fall as an alternative to its annual Women Doing Theology conference. View all of the “What We Need Is Here” events at [mennoniteusa.org/wil](https://www.mennoniteusa.org/wil).

“Sometimes we overlook the importance of camps in faith formation and leadership development,” said Shana Peachey Boshart, Mennonite Church USA denominational minister for Faith Formation, in a recent article, “Mennonite camps get creative in response to COVID-19.” Read more: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/news/mennonite-camps/>

Mennonite Church USA Archives has completed its move of digital content to the Mennonite Archive Information Database, an online database representing 14 Anabaptist partners in the United States and Canada. Now, users can enjoy single-point web access to an expansive catalog of archival photographs and finding aids for faster and easier searching. Check it out: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/historical-archives/>

In her blog, “Love wasn’t meant to die,” Mennonite Church USA News Editor Cami Dager shares her first-hand experience with pregnancy loss and her revelation about the nature of God. Read more: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/love-wasnt-meant-to-die/>

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!

David and Sophie Lapp Jost of Mennonite Mission Network live in Germany but were on the Greek island of Lesbos to witness more than 12,000 people displaced by a fire that burned a migrant camp. Pray that God’s people throughout the world will open their hearts to welcome as neighbors those who without homes.