

NOVEMBER 8, 2020 **AREA NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

CCCC: Please join us for our annual Wood Cutting Day at Crooked Creek Christian Camp on Saturday, November 14th. Meet at the Pavilion at 8:00 am with your chainsaw to help cut fallen trees. You get some wood and we keep the rest. Sack lunch provided. Please call the office at 319-653-3611 to RSVP.

Celebrate Recovery: Is celebrating their 3rd anniversary party to be held, November 12th at BCC in Brighton. You are invited for a meal at 6pm followed by Christian karaoke, skits, and more.

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 8 - running outside (3:00-4:00 PM), 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. The first open gym will take place outdoors and will have a running focus. It is for anyone who likes to run and/or is interested in learning more about running; no experience required. Cross Country coach, Marty Gingerich will lead it. 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, Sarah Miller, and Elizabeth Slater. These will be presented in a virtual format and released in November. Watch our website and social media channels for details.

FFA Fruit Sales! Fruit can be ordered through November 12 from any FFA member or by calling the school office at 319-656-2073. Fruit will be delivered the second week of December.

Kalona Chocolates! From now through Nov 12, 9th and 10th grade Hillcrest Academy students are teaming up to sell Kalona Chocolates. Several options and varieties are available, so talk to one of these students or call the Hillcrest Academy office to place your order. You can pay with cash, check (made out to Hillcrest Academy), or with a credit card at hillcrestravens.org/kalona-chocolates.

CPMC: 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 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: Join Women in Leadership, a ministry of Mennonite Church USA, on Nov. 21 at 7 p.m. ET / 6 p.m. CT / 5 p.m. MT / 4 p.m. PT for "What We Need Is Here," a time of worship featuring a message by Rev. Addie Banks, founder and CEO of the Groundswell Group and elder at

Manhattan Mennonite Fellowship. The worship service is the fourth and final event in the 2020 Women Doing Theology conference. Learn more at mennoniteusa.org/wil.

Parents and caregivers, Mennonite Church USA invites you to join Talashia Keim Yoder, writer of this year's "Advent at Home" devotional, for a free webinar on "Advent with Children," Sunday, November 22 at 3 p.m. ET / 2 p.m. CT / 1 p.m. MT / noon PT. The author will share simple ways to celebrate Advent as a family, as well as various ways to use the devotional. Register by Thursday, November 19: <https://bit.ly/37Lttbo>

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada (MCEC) recently announced the termination of John D. Rempel's ministerial credentials due to ministerial sexual misconduct and ministerial misconduct. Read MCEC's announcement and Mennonite Church USA's response: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/news/a-response-to-mcec-ministerial-misconduct/>

In her blog, "Encircling prayer for a pandemic," spiritual director Wendy Jantzen encourages us to embrace the practice of an encircling prayer while we cope with the ongoing physical distancing necessitated by COVID-19. <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/encircling-prayer/>

Mennonite Missions Network: Looking for a non-traditional pastoral role? Become a unit leader in Service Adventure, a gap-year program for ages 17–20 from Mennonite Mission Network. Unit leaders, at least 24 years of age, serve as mentors to the young adults in the household. Learn more by contacting SusanN@MennoniteMission.net.

Janie and Neal Blough have retired in France after 45 years of ministry there through Mennonite Mission Network. Pray for them as they continue to serve by teaching and providing worship resources to congregations throughout Europe and beyond.