

DECEMBER 20, 2020 **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.

CCCC: We would like to send a HUGE thank you to all of you for the support during our online auction fundraiser! Thanks to all of you, we raised \$25,913. We continue to be grateful for this community and the generosity you have shown us this year. We would not be who we are without your support and prayers.- CCCC Staff

Hillcrest: Hillcrest Academy Open Gym! The indoor gathering restrictions have been lifted. We will have Open Gym today (December 20)! 5th-8th graders plan on a participating in a variety of activities including basketball, volleyball, matball and more. Run with cross country coach Marty Gingerich from 3:00 - 3:30 p.m. The indoor activities will be from 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. 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 <https://tinyurl.com/msopengym>.

Visit Day! Mon, Jan 18 (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. To sign up go to hillcrestravens.org/5-8events. Face masks will be required.

MCC: Free resource from MCC - Learning about generosity! Help children learn about generosity with MCC printable worksheets including activities, a story, a craft to make and Christmas gift ideas that benefit global neighbors with colorable greeting cards, find it all at mcc.org/generosity. Explore the full list of Christmas giving options from MCC at mcc.org/christmas.

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: December 21 is the longest night of the year. As part of the webinar series, "Long Cold Winter: a series of warm webinars for a cold season," the Christian Formation Committee of CPMC invites you to seek comfort and healing as we worship together. Monday, December

21, 7:00pm. For more information about this and other webinar offerings, visit our website, centralplainsmc.org.

We invite you to give thanks for your brothers and sisters in Central Plains and for all the work of God that is being done through them in Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota, Montana, Nebraska, and Colorado.

MCUSA: “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests.” (Luke 2:14) Mennonite Church USA staff extends the peace of Christ to you this Christmas, as we work together to bring God's hope, love, joy and peace to the world around us.

Did you know that planning for MennoCon21 started five years ago? Take a behind-the-scenes look at planning for Mennonite Church USA's upcoming biennial convention on July 6-10, 2021 in Cincinnati, Ohio. mennoniteusa.org/news/behind-the-scenes-mennocon21/

Isaac S. Villegas, pastor of Chapel Hill Mennonite Fellowship in North Carolina, shared a powerful prayer resource for our time, “Some trust in governments and some in borders, but we trust in God.” mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/but-we-trust-in-god/

Mennonite Missions Network: Join Mennonite Mission Network in praying for the peace witness of the Meserete Kristos Church in Ethiopia amid the conflict between the government of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and the Northern Tigray region.