

MARCH 29, 2020

AREA NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parkview Home: wants to keep the residents safe and healthy; therefore, they will not be allowing visitors at this time. Thank you for your understanding.

The Cradle of Hope: is holding a banquet to raise support and awareness of their ministry. It will take place on April 4 at 5:30pm in Mount Pleasant. Tamara Zechin is hosting a table. If you would like to join her, please contact her at 319-217-2456.

Throughout March, the Extension Committee, invites you to collect change in a baby bottle. If you have not picked up one, you can today in the foyer. When your bottle is full of coins, cash or check, you can help us fill the baby bath tub in the foyer. Fill your baby bottle by March 29 and bring them back to church. All of these donations will support Cradle of Hope Pregnancy Resource Center, which provides free classes to parents in Fairfield, Mount Pleasant, Burlington and Fort Madison areas.

Wow! After just one week, we have already raised \$148.87! Please keep your bottles and keep collecting coins, cash or checks for Cradle of Hope. We will receive these donations when we are able to gather for worship again. Thank you for supporting this valuable ministry in our community!

Crowded Closet: Is temporarily closed as of noon on March 16, 2020. We continue to monitor the effects of COVID-19 in our community, and we will reopen when it is safe to do so.

MDS: has canceled all schedules summer projects due to health and safety concerns related to COVID-19.

The Lighthouse Center needs: They serve as a crisis shelter and short-term housing for as many as 27 or so residents every single night in Washington, IA. These are men, women and children, including infants, who are homeless for a variety of reasons. When they arrive at the Lighthouse, they receive love, food, and warm and safe place to stay, and they also receive life giving words of hope through the message of Christ.

To help sustain the great demands of the center, Darren as worked with others to open The Master's Hand Thrift Store. Praise God that the store is doing very well -- BUT that has created a new demand. They need support staff to help operate the store. They need volunteers from churches to sign up and jump in. Stocking shelves, sorting donations, and more is needed. To get details on what you can do at the store, call the Lighthouse at (319) 653-5871.

MCUSA: Voices Together is a new worship and song collection coming fall 2020 from MennoMedia, in partnership with Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada. Learn more about it in Sarah Kathleen Johnson's blog, "Three good reasons NOT to get Voices Together (and three bad ones)." <http://mennoniteusa.org/voicesreasons>

Hillcrest Academy: Host Families Needed | Hillcrest Academy is looking for families to host 4 potential international students for the 2020-21 school year. If you are interested in being a host family, please contact Rebecca Beachy Miller at rbeachymiller@hillcrestravens.org or (319) 656-2073 x20 for more information.

MMN: 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. An opening is available at the Service Adventure unit in Jackson, Miss. This is a two-year term beginning in July 2020. Learn more by contacting SusanN@MennoniteMission.net.

CCCC: With the unknown circumstances of COVID-19 we at Crooked Creek are also making changes. All of our guest groups for the month of March have been cancelled and we are working with them to reschedule. We will monitor the situation and let our April groups know if any changes need to occur. Unfortunately, due to the number of cancellations we've also taken a hit financially and of course welcome donations.

Crooked Creek Wild, originally scheduled for May 2, 2020 has been postponed. A future date is being worked out and we are looking forward to the run.

We are still excited for summer camp and hope you'll take the time to register your campers!

If you're looking for great places to practice social distancing, we have plenty of trails and wooded space to walk and a prayer labyrinth to enjoy.

Central Plains: Pray for our new Executive Conference Minister Nathan Luitjens. Nathan began his position .25 FTE in March and will be full time in September. We give thanks for Nathan's vision and leadership.

Mennonite Mission Network: Faith Manickam, serving through Mennonite Mission Network, is assisting medical personnel in hospitals and mobile clinics in India. Pray that God would guide her as she helps provide marginalized people with care and dignity, and as she discerns how God is leading her into the future.