

**APRIL 4, 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:** Some of you have brought back your bottles. This week, we took another donation of \$189.03 to Cradle of Hope. Since we will probably not be gathering together this month, Tamara will come every week to collect the bottles that are returned to the baby bathtub in the foyer. Cradle of Hope was required to postpone their annual banquet until October 3, which supplies a huge amount of their funding. For this reason, now more than ever, they need donations and every penny counts. If you would rather write a check, please make it out to "Cradle of Hope." Thank you for being so generous!

**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:** "Staying healthy and hopeful" is the theme of Mennonite Church USA's resource website for responding to COVID-19. The continually updated site includes COVID-19 prevention tips and information, resources for at-home worship and a video message from Executive Director Glen Guyton. Select content provided in Spanish and Indonesian. <http://mennoniteusa.org/resources-covid19> (Download a PPT slide for congregational display.)

Mennonite Church USA is calling congregations to unite in prayer around COVID-19. We invite you to speak and share this intentional prayer. <http://mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/a-prayer-for-covid-19/>

Lent is a time of purposeful turning toward God. Remember God's faithful, loving presence and connect with the Rock of our salvation using the free, downloadable Lent At-Home 2020 Worship Guide. <http://mennoniteusa.org/resource/lent-at-home-2020/>

**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](mailto:rbeachymiller@hillcrestravens.org) or (319) 656-2073 x20 for more information.

**Pleasantview Home:** Thank you for your 6+years of service Amy Skelton!! Amy, DON, since July 2013 has resigned. Amy's last day is April 17, 2020. Among her many accomplishments \*\*obtaining and maintaining a 5-star QM rating.\*\* (Amy is quick to say she did not achieve this on her own.) Due to the social distancing policy we will not be having the usual open house to celebrate Amy's accomplishments. On April 17, treats will be available for residents and staff in Amy's honor. Personal notes to Amy are encouraged askelton@pvhome.org or can be mailed to Pleasantview, Amy Skelton 811 3rd Street, Kalona IA 52247. We are in the process of looking for a new director of nursing. If you are interested in the DON position please contact Karen Schrock 319-656-2421 EXT. 121 or kschrock@pvhome.org.

**MCC:** The executive committee of the Iowa Mennonite Relief Sale has come to do the difficult decision to cancel this year's sale. In lieu of a sale, other plans are being made and will be announced in the coming weeks. Please continue to pray for Mennonite Central Committee in this uncertain time of event cancellations and thrift store closures. Visit [mcc.org](http://mcc.org) for more information on how you can celebrate the 100th anniversary of MCC.

**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](mailto: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.

**Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship (MHF):** is seeking a half-time Executive Director to start between May and September 2020 who is committed to Anabaptist values and the mission of MHF, has proven skills in administration, communication, and networking, and has an intergenerational compelling vision for MHF. Interested persons are invited to send a resume and statement of intent, including the broad strokes of your vision and thoughts about a strategic plan, to [president@mennohealth.org](mailto:president@mennohealth.org). More information at [www.mennohealth.org](http://www.mennohealth.org).

**Central Plains:** Pray for your sister churches in South Dakota: Sermon on the Mount in Sioux Falls and Bethany, Hutterthal, Salem, and Salem-Zion in Freeman.