

**MAY 24, 2020**

**AREA NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Crowded Closet Thrift Shop plans for safe re-opening!** Tuesday, May 26, donation receiving opens for limited hours, 9:30-2, Mon-Fri, only. Prepare donations in closed bags or boxes. Shopping begins on Monday, June 1, 9:30-2, Mon-Fri, only. Refer to our website and Facebook for instructions and information on safety measures. If you have questions or concerns, or if you are interested in summer volunteering, contact Christine Maust Beachy, Volunteer Coordinator, crowdedcloset.volunteer@gmail.com or 319-337-5924.

**CCCC:** After many discussions and prayers, the staff alongside the board of directors have made the very tough decision to cancel our 2020 summer camp programming. This was not a decision we made lightly as we tried to think through how we could safely carry out camp, but couldn't find a way that could ensure the health and safety of our campers and staff which is of utmost importance to us.

We are disappointed and saddened that we won't get to celebrate our 40th anniversary with regular summer programming, our ministry and the reason we began 40 years ago, but we know this is for the best. If you have already registered your child for summer camp, you will be refunded in full. Though we're saddened by this decision, please know we are working on a NEW way to experience and enjoy camp this summer. More information and details to come.

**Iowa Mennonite Relief Sale:** Thank you for your continued support of MCC as we strive to share God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ, especially during these uncertain times. Due to COVID-19, MCC has seen the cancellation of multiple relief sales and temporary closures of nearly all its thrift stores in North America, losing hundreds of thousands of dollars in annual revenue. If you have the means to help ensure the work of MCC for the next 100 years, please donate. Our goal is to raise \$65,000 for MCC this year - so far, we have only raised approximately \$17,000. Please also continue to collect your coins for My Coins Count! Donations can be mailed to Iowa Mennonite Relief Sale at PO Box 234, Kalona, IA 52247 or through the PayPal account on our website <http://www.iamccreliefsale.org>.

**YOUR PACE. YOUR PLACE.** Join the Iowa Mennonite Relief Sale in supporting Mennonite Central Committee with a SOCIALLY-DISTANT 5K RUN or WALK! We invite you to walk, jog, or run a 5K for MCC with us on, or near, June 6! Simply go to [www.iamccreliefsale.org/5k-trail-runwalk.html](http://www.iamccreliefsale.org/5k-trail-runwalk.html) to register and begin finding friends to sponsor you! Cost to register is \$25, finding sponsors is optional. A special limited edition t-shirt will be sent to anyone who raises over \$500 in sponsorships.

**100 Quilts for 100 Years of MCC.** The New Hamburg (Ontario) Mennonite Relief Sale quilt auction is going virtual! Join them on May 30 at 10 AM to watch and bid. The NHMRS quilt committee has curated the 2020 quilt donations and chosen 100 that will be auctioned online. This collection is a beautiful variety of quilting techniques, types, sizes and from an assortment of quilters. See to the collection, click here: <https://hibid.com/.../new-hamburg-mennonite-relief-sale-quil.../>

**MDS:** Mennonite Disaster Service has launched On the Level, a monthly online newsletter to inform and inspire you! In our current issue, you'll read how MDS volunteers helped a victim of multiple disasters return home even after closing down the project. You can also learn how special funds are helping Mennonite churches in the U.S. and Canada keep their doors open. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/2LGvidw>.

**Pleasantview Home**, we love our community and would love to have Kalona-area CNAs, LPNs, and RNs join our team! Go to [www.pvhome.org](http://www.pvhome.org) to apply.

**Hillcrest Academy:** It's time to start registering for Hillcrest Academy Summer Camps! We have a great lineup this year including art, culinary, drama, volleyball, basketball, soccer and writing camps. Visit our Summer Camps page for more information about each camp and to get registered. New this year! Registration and payment for all camps will be done online! Check out our registration page where you can register one student for multiple camps.

We will continue to monitor the risks and safety guidelines surrounding COVID-19 and will keep you updated with any changes to the camp schedule. If any camps are canceled after payment has been received, full refunds will be provided.

**MCUSA:** Get the latest news and information from our denomination, Mennonite Church USA, and its five agencies in PeaceMail, a colorful, e-news digest. Subscribe today at <http://mennoniteusa.org/peacemail>

Learn, Pray, Join “People of faith are well-positioned to respond to climate change injustices. We can carry the candle of hope in a world longing for light,” says Luke Gascho, executive director of Goshen College’s Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center. Read more: <http://mennoniteusa.org/climate-justice-pursuit>

Menno Snapshots: What if a loved one or I get sick and have to go to the hospital? Iris de León-Hartshorn, associate executive director for operations for Mennonite Church USA and a former chaplain, shares her views on how difficult end-of-life decisions can be “a time to love and honor our loved ones.” Read her blog here: <http://mennoniteusa.org/honor-loved-ones>

**CPMC:** Did you know? Central Plains Annual Meeting will be online this year—which means that YOU can attend without making pesky travel or hotel arrangements! Visit our website to learn more and to register (for free)! [www.centralplainsmc.org/annual-meeting-2020](http://www.centralplainsmc.org/annual-meeting-2020)

We pray for those who are most vulnerable in our communities in this strange time, as in all times. May our eyes be opened to the possibilities for love and the protection of the least of these among us.

**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. An opening is available at the Service Adventure unit in Jackson, MS. This is a two-year term beginning in July 2020. Learn more by contacting [SusanN@MennoniteMission.net](mailto:SusanN@MennoniteMission.net).

Service Adventure is still happening in the fall and there are plenty of openings! Check out [MennoniteMission.net/ServiceAdventure](http://MennoniteMission.net/ServiceAdventure) to learn more and sign up!

We are still taking MVS applications for the 2020-2021 year. Please visit [MennoniteMission.net/MVS](http://MennoniteMission.net/MVS) for the most up to date unit and placement information

Dee and Mark Landes and their three children, serving through Mennonite Mission Network, left their home in Colombia two months early due to the coronavirus pandemic. Pray for the family as they grieve the early loss of relationships and as they begin to adapt to life in Kansas.

