

**MAY 31, 2020**

**AREA NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Crowded Closet Thrift Shop plans for safe re-opening!** 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:** Crooked Creek is excited to announce Social-Distant Camp Getaway! Though we were bummed to cancel our summer camp programming, we're excited to open our campgrounds and cabins to young and old, families and friends who are looking for the camp experience this summer season! For more information and to register, please visit our website: <http://www.crookedcreekcamp.org/> Hurry as space is very limited!

**Iowa Mennonite Relief Sale:** Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Iowa Mennonite Relief Sale and Mennonite Central Committee this month. In lieu of this year's sale, our goal is to raise \$65,000 for MCC - WE ARE NOT THERE YET! In honor of this weekend and the sale that could not happen, please donate. Donations (including totals from My Coins Count) can be mailed to Iowa Mennonite Relief Sale at PO Box 234, Kalona, IA 52247, deposited directly to Hills Bank, or given through the PayPal account on our website <http://www.iamccreliefsale.org>. Please designate if the gift is for My Coins Count.

Next Saturday, June 6 is the Iowa Mennonite Relief Sale SOCIALLY-DISTANT 5K RUN/WALK. Join the Iowa Mennonite Relief Sale board and friends from across the country as we come together as one community to run, walk, jog, bike, or stroll for MCC. How long is a 5K, you ask? 3.1 miles. 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

**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>.

**Hillcrest Academy:** Commencement Announcement! Due to the lifting of restrictions, Hillcrest Academy has made the decision to hold an in-person, traditional commencement in Celebration Hall on Sun, June 14 at 4:00 PM. More details to come.

**MCUSA:** has joined the recently expanded Mennonite Archival Information Database (MAID), which features thousands of historic photos, one-of-a-kind letters, diaries, meeting minutes, travel documents, biographies, audio and video recordings and more – all accessible to the public. Read more: <http://mennoniteusa.org/archives-maid>

Menno Snapshots: "I'm not sure that I've ever felt more on the edge of potential blasphemy!" said Melanie A. Howard, about the weight of responsibility she felt when choosing, translating and adapting biblical texts for Voices Together, the new Mennonite hymnal that will be published this fall. Read more: <http://mennoniteusa.org/working-biblical-texts>

**MCC:** Increasingly, it appears as if all of the relief sales across North America will be cancelling this year. Combined with many of the thrift shops closing for periods of time, the financial result is forcing a number of program changes for our work both internationally and nationally. Last year, relief sales contributed \$4.6 million to MCC.

We recognize that some of our supporters are struggling financially, and that others have not been as affected financially by the situation. We give thanks for ALL who continue to contribute to the work of MCC in any way they can. Partners of MCC have been responding to the pandemic in their communities with the assistance of MCC, thanks to the generosity of our supporters. Here is a video offering thanks to you all - You are a bright light:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_EujEajgCYc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_EujEajgCYc)

Other resources: Lament and action in the face of COVID-19; <https://mcc.org/stories/lament-action-face-covid-19>

MCC announces program changes due to COVID-19; <https://mcc.org/stories/mcc-announces-program-changes-due-covid-19>

**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)

Pray for all of our congregations who had hoped to have VBS and are having to find new and creative ways to share the love of Jesus safely with children and families in our communities.

**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

Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for Meserete Kristos College which trains leaders for the Anabaptist churches in Ethiopia. Pray that the faculty, staff and students will shine with God's light in their communities as the college has had to send students home due to the coronavirus pandemic.