

JUNE 20, 2021

AREA NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Life House: Interested in the message of Christ? The Christian arts is a lasting way of getting the Gospel to the world. There is an opportunity to be in a World Premier dramatization of a C.S. Lewis short story (he wrote the 'Chronicles of Narnia', 'Mere Christianity' and much more AND J.R.R. Tolkien- author of 'The Hobbit' etc.- was a long time Christian friend of his). Two other short pieces based on stories by Calvin Miller (Christian author of over 30 books and a pastor in Omaha) and Walter Wangerin, Jr. (Christian author of youth and children's books) are part of this production.

Actors, crew and visual artists are invited to contact the New Life House (they're producing this as a benefit towards their Christian mission of helping women in need throughout our area) at newlifehouseia@outlook.com by June 15th. The show is titled "Three 2 See" and will be held at the Heatilator Performing Arts Center in Mt Pleasant on July 15, 16, 17 at 7 pm. The three plays have the Christian themes of "Light" and "Reality". Please keep this in your prayers, too!

You may find the latest newsletter posted on the north bulletin wall.

Parkview: Parkview Home, a non-profit Nursing Home in Wayland, Iowa is holding a BBQ Fundraiser, June 19th 2021 from 4:30-7 pm. Fundraiser is being held to assist Parkview in building a Maintenance Building

Event Details: June 19th 4:30-7 pm drive-through or pick up your meal & eat on campus. Meal: BBQ pork loin or BBQ turkey breast filet, baked beans, hash brown casserole, Hawaiian roll and brownie bar. Bottled water is available as well as hot dogs for kids. Free will donation-suggested amount =>\$20 per meal. Come hungry! Come support Parkview home!!

Hillcrest: Class Trip! Please keep the Hillcrest Academy junior and senior students in prayer as they travel to Washington DC on class trip. Even as many aspects of life still don't seem 'normal', may this trip be a safe and valuable learning experience and a time for them to grow in their relationships with one another.

Pray For Us! We know there are many of you who already pray for our school regularly and we are so grateful for that! The Hillcrest Academy PTO would like to extend an invitation to participate in a Summer Prayer Vigil for the particular needs of this summer. Specifically, we would like to cover the Administrative Team and Operating Board in prayer as they will be interviewing and hiring teaching candidates. We know that there is so much power in prayer and we want to join together as a community asking for God's will to be done here on earth as it is in Heaven. For more details and to sign up to pray, go to this link. In addition to this, the PTO also invites you to pray on campus with them during the next board meeting on Monday, June 14 at 7:00 PM. There's something extra powerful about praying on site!

Kids Night at the Ballpark! On Fri, June 18 at 5:30 PM, come cheer on the Hillcrest Ravens softball & baseball teams as they take on Central Lee. 5th-8th graders get into the game for free with their passes, along with one adult. 5th-8th graders can also enter a drawing for larger prizes and we'll have freebies for kids of all ages. Go Ravens!

First Mennonite Church of Iowa City: Everyone is invited to an OUTDOOR CONCERT, July 6 at 7 PM featuring GIRL NAMED TOM, a band of siblings from Archbold, OH. The trio is known primarily for exquisite three-part harmony, using their unique voices together to make their originals and covers stand out. Bekah, Joshua, & Caleb grew up surrounded by the a cappella singing of the Mennonite community. Check out their website to learn more about them! Bring your own lawn chairs, drinks and snacks to the parking lot of First Mennonite Church, 405 Myrtle Ave., Iowa City to enjoy this event. A freewill offering will be collected to help support their summer tour. Covid-19 guidelines will be honored.

In case of rain, the event will be cancelled. Check the First Mennonite Church website for cancellation notice.

MDS: The June edition of On the Level is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: MDS and the Brethren Church formalize a partnership of caring, the last houses in the Land of Hope are dedicated, bringing to completion a three year effort, and youth across the U.S. are packing their bags to embark on MDS Summer Youth programs. You can go to this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/3gsx0PZ>

MCC: June 22 at 7 p.m. CDT join James Wheeler & Linda Herr, Area Directors for Europe & Middle East, to hear The Gift of Love: Doing our part for healing and wholeness in the world. Register for the webinar at mcc.org/mcc-webinar-series.

The MCC Alumni Gathering is July 9-11 and all MCC alumni and their families are invited to join us at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp. Please sign up by June 25!

Current openings at MCC can be found at mcc.org. Current open positions include Canning & Trucking Manager, Multimedia Producer, Meat Canner and many international service opportunities.

Virtual Borderlands Learning Tour, June 28 - July 2 from 2-5 p.m. CDT each day via Zoom Engage with the reality of immigration from a different perspective. Through virtual conversations, participants will hear first-hand from folks on the ground about the complexities of the U.S. immigration system, U.S. immigration policies that have worked to dismantle the asylum-seeking process, and the human factor on various sides of the spectrum. For more information and to register: mcc.org/gl-virtual-borderlands.

And one specifically for churches in Kansas (although it can be shared in any church):

Bring dark colored hand towels for hygiene kits, or money for relief kits to the MCC booth at the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale (July 2 & 3 in Hutchinson), to help replenish our supplies. Both of these kits have been used for COVID-19 relief efforts around the world and MCC needs more to fulfill requests from partners! You'll find us in Sunflower North, where the General Auction takes place. See you at the sale!

As you know, our Iowa MCC Relief Sale has weathered through COVID-19. We thank each of you who have helped make this year a success even though it was not the sale that we are used to having. With that in the background, we are planning an Annual MCC Relief Sale Meeting on July 13, at 7:00 pm at the Kalona Mennonite Church open to all who are interested in the future of the sale. Please take time in advance of this meeting to ask the Lord how we can do our part in meeting the needs of others less fortunate than we.

CPMC: On this Sunday when we share a virtual Worship Service and Communion across the conference as part of our Annual Meeting, we give thanks for all of our brothers and sisters in CPMC, and for the work of each of our conference churches in their various contexts!

MCUSA: Iris de León-Hartshorn, associate executive director of Mennonite Church USA, offers a response to the hatred and brutality that continues against the Asian American and Pacific Islander population in the United States. Read her call to action here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/respond-to-hatred>

In "Reclaiming my Indonesian Heritage," Syerafina Himawan, an Indonesian-American teenager, shares some of her experiences dealing with racism in high school. Himawan explores how her friends' racist actions caused her to abandon her heritage, only to later have her love of her Indonesian culture reinvigorated. <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/reclaiming-indonesian-heritage>

Have you heard that MennoCon21, Mennonite Church USA's biennium convention, will be offering a Bible study each morning, led by Safwat Marzouk? Marzouk reflects on the themes that will be covered each morning, in his blog, "Peace and Justice Amid the Pandemics of COVID-19 and Racism." <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/peace-justice-amid-covid-racism>

Make the most of your Voices Together experience by exploring the depths of the Voices Together website. Read Katie Graber's blog, "Best-kept Secrets of the Voices Together Website," to ensure you don't miss anything! <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/secrets-voices-together-website>

Want to know more about the exciting things happening across our denomination? Subscribe to PeaceMail, Mennonite Church USA's weekly news digest: mennoniteusa.org/peacemail

Mennonite Mission Network: On this Father's Day, pray with Mennonite Mission Network that God, who makes all the people of world into one family, will bless the fathers in our world with the resources to help provide for their children, so they will have the joy of seeing their children blossom physically, mentally, socially and spiritually.

