

**JUNE 27, 2021**

**AREA NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**New Life House:** You have heard of the Christian author and lecturer C S Lewis from his “Chronicles of Narnia”, “Screw tape Letters” “The Four Loves” etc. You are invited to the World Premier of “Born Blind” – a play based a short story of his and to see two short additional live Christian theater pieces AND see visual art for display and sale! The plays carry the Christian themes of ‘Light’, ‘reality’ and ‘healing’ through metaphor and drama.

The New Life House – a Christian home in South-East Iowa for blessing and mentoring women in life transitions- will be celebrating its 5th anniversary this summer. New Life House has helped over 25 women from Henry County and throughout the area since its beginning. It is presenting a visual art and live theatre show as its first major fundraiser- titled “Three 2 See” - held on July 15th, 16th and 17th at 7 pm at the Heatilator Performing Arts Center in Mt Pleasant (located on East Monroe in the old high school). Tickets are \$10 at the ticket booth or pre-sale. Contact [newlifehouseia@outlook.com](mailto:newlifehouseia@outlook.com) for early tickets and get added to the list before the limited reserved seating fills up! Participants from 11 local churches are involved in this project.

**Parkview:** A HUGE Thank You for the SUPPORT you gave us last Saturday for our BBQ Fundraiser event! We are so blessed you came and gave to our cause! Your efforts and your dedication and commitment to Parkview did not go unnoticed. We raised \$11,407.00 at the event, with more promise checks coming in! We are now able to build our Maintenance Building, providing space for maintenance vehicles and tools. Again, Thank you! This event would not have been a success without you!

**Hillcrest:** Hillcrest Academy Golf Benefit! This year's golf benefit is on Saturday, July 17 at the Kalona Golf Club. For details, to register, or to be a sponsor check out [hillcrestravens.org/golfbenefit](http://hillcrestravens.org/golfbenefit).

**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.

**JPOG (Just Peace Outreach Group):** invites you to view the drama “VANG,” meaning “garden” or “farm” in the Hmong language. “VANG” captures the struggles of Hmong, Mexican, Sudanese, and Dutch immigrants to the USA, along with their survival skills, and their intense desire to return to the land. Special guests for this presentation include a group of bicyclists from Mennonite colleges passing through Iowa on a cross country environmental education tour. Come meet them during the potluck and hear their story! This event is planned for WEDNESDAY, July 7, 2021, and will be hosted by the Land Alliance Folk School at Dave and Anna Geyer’s farm, 1259 Rohret Rd SW, Oxford, Iowa. Join us at 6 pm for a Finger Food Potluck or at 7 pm to view the VANG drama.

**MCC:** Alumni Gathering, July 9-11 at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp! All MCC alumni are invited to Colorado to relax in the cool mountain air this summer. We realize there is still uncertainty about summer activities due to COVID-19. At this point, we are planning to have this gathering, all registrations will be refunded if the event gets cancelled. We ask that you still go ahead and register if you plan to attend. Find all the details, including COVID-19 protocols that the camp is following and REGISTER at [mcc.org/alumni-gathering](http://mcc.org/alumni-gathering).

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](http://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:** Today Kelsey Guckenberger, pastor at Christ Community Church in Des Moines, IA, is being ordained. Pray for God's blessing on the ministry that Kelsey and Christ Community share.

**MCUSA:** Iglesia Buenas Nuevas, a Mennonite Church USA congregation in San Juan, Texas, has a long-standing history of being a welcoming, multicultural community, with Black, Latino and white congregants. Learn more about this dynamic church here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/profile-iglesia-buenas-nuevas> En español: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/menoticias/iglesia-buenas-nuevas>

Sarah Augustine, author of "The Land is Not Empty: Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery," discussed her new book in a webinar presented by Mennonite Church USA and MennoMedia. Watch the webinar recording here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/webinars/>

What does peace have to do with Jesus? Or, maybe, what does Jesus have to do with peace? Dr. Meghan Larissa Good explores these questions in her blog, "Jesus and the Work of Peace," and will speak on this during the July 7 worship service at MennoCon21. <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/jesus-work-of-peace>

When Maribel Ramírez Hinojosa's parents took her, as an infant, to be baptized, they found out that the priest would not baptize Maribel unless her parents changed her name to María. Read the story of how she and her family have dealt with the repercussions of this priest's abuse of power here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/the-story-behind-my-name/>

Spiritual Director Jane Roeschley began this year by starting a journey with a spiritual practice called "word of the year." In her blog, "Give Me a Word," Roeschley opens up about this journey and how she moved from being skeptical to embracing and recommending the practice. Read more here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/give-me-a-word/>

**Mennonite Mission Network:** Pray for Anicka Fast and John Clark, who are serving as country co-directors for Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) in Burkina Faso. Anicka, in her half-time assignment with Mission Network, also teaches missiology and church history, in addition to mentoring Africans who are doing archival work for their churches' stories.