

JULY 4, 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 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.

Hillcrest: THANK YOU! Our fiscal year has ended and Hillcrest Academy would like to thank all of our supporting churches, those who support our school through their congregations, and especially those who have chosen to go beyond this commitment and give directly to Hillcrest Academy. You have shown that you are truly behind us and we are so grateful! With your collective dedication to our mission, we will move Hillcrest Academy forward even stronger! We truly appreciate the significant level of support we receive year after year from our generous community. You continue to show us that your heart for Hillcrest Academy remains full.

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.

First Mennonite Church of Iowa City: Due to unforeseen events involving the band, the July 6 outdoor concert at FMC featuring Girl Named Tom is canceled.

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: The MCC Central States office in North Newton, KS will be open to the public starting Tuesday, July 6. Regular office hours are Monday-Friday, 8am-12pm and 1pm-5pm. Masks are respected but not required for fully vaccinated adults. We look forward to welcoming you back to MCC! Contact us at 316-283-2720 or centralstates@mcc.org.

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.

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: Pray for all those Central Plains Mennonite Conference volunteers who were affirmed to new committees and task groups at our Annual Meeting in June. May the mission and witness of the Kingdom of God through CPMC be enlivened by the energy and wisdom of those willing to serve.

MCUSA: The MennoCon21 safety protocols have been updated to reflect the recommendations made by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Masks will be optional at the convention, but those who still wish to wear a mask and practice social distancing will be accommodated.
<https://www.mennoniteusa.org/mennocon21-safety-protocols>

As the world reopens, Duncan Smith of Mennonite Church USA's The Corinthian Plan explores what it means to care for each other at this point in the pandemic. Read his blog, "Caring for each other during COVID-19, Part II." <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/caring-during-covid19-part-2>

God is a God of peace — a God who created a world of peace. So, where is the peace now and how do we get back to it? Dr. Lesley Francisco McClendon of C3 explores the Tuesday evening worship topic for MennoCon21, "The root of peace," in this blog: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/root-of-peace>.

In his blog, "So, What's Your Spiritual Type," Brian Martin Burkholder of Eastern Mennonite University provides a sneak-peak into his MennoCon21 seminar that will look at the Discover Your Spiritual Type personality test. Knowing your spiritual type can help you understand how you worship, and knowing others' spiritual types can help your church grow spiritually. Read more: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/your-spiritual-type>.

Mennonite Mission Network: Arloa Bontrager of Mennonite Mission Network has been the servant project coordinator for Mennonite Church USA conventions since 2003! Thank God for her faithful ministry and for the 23,533 volunteers who have contributed to the ministry of 420 local agencies during the past 18 years. Pray that Jesus' love will be shown through this year's Service in a Box projects.