

AUGUST 15, 2021

AREA NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CCCC: Crooked Creek Christian Camp has so much happening this fall!

- September 12, 4:00 pm Annual Sing 'N S'mores at Sunset Shelter. Enjoy a hymn sing and s'mores over a campfire.
- October 9, 3:00 pm. New Event! Harvest Fest! An event for all ages with fall themed activities, food and live music.
- October 14 Lunch and Lecture (Senior Day) starting at 9:30am Tony Brown coming to present and a soup lunch to enjoy.
- October 15-17: Fall craft retreat at the Lodge.

Lots more information on our website at www.crookedcreekcamp.org

Hillcrest: Pray For Us! The Hillcrest Academy Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) invites you to pray on campus with them during the final board meeting of the summer on Mon, Aug 16 at 7:00 PM. The group will meet in the foyer. Please join us as we lift our students, staff, board and the new school year (which begins on Aug 23) up in prayer.

MCC: New curriculum now available from MCC! Conflict is a normal part of life. It arises in our workplaces, in our churches and with our families. To help people to learn to work through divisive issues, Mennonite Central Committee has produced a new adult Sunday school curriculum, Peaceful Practices: A guide to healthy communication in conflict. It invites churchgoers to follow Jesus' call to peacemaking through dialogue with each other in nine sessions. The curriculum is available to download for free, or in print for a suggested \$5 donation. Please direct questions to karinkaufmanwall@mcc.org 316.283.2720 or curriculum author Jes Stoltzfus Buller at peacefulpractices@mcc.org.

CPMC: We pray for students, teachers and staff who are preparing to begin school. May God bless their learning and may they both receive and reflect the love of God in their school settings. We pray also for our church-related schools, Freeman Academy and Iowa Mennonite.

Please pray for people living on and near the Northern Cheyenne reservation in Montana. A wildfire is threatening the towns of Lame Deer, Ashland, and Colstrip, along with rural areas. The fire has already burned 200,000 acres and is expected to continue growing due to high winds and temperatures. Shelters are open in Busby and Broadus for those who have had to evacuate. There are three Central Plains congregations in the area -- Lame Deer Mennonite Church, Ashland Christian Fellowship, and White River Cheyenne Mennonite Church in Busby.

MCUSA: Mennonite Church USA awarded its first ever #BringThePeace award to Dona Park and Michelle Armster. This award honors peacebuilders and is sponsored by the Church Peace Tax Fund. Read more about the recipients and watch a short video about the award here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/bringthepeace-honorees>

Regina Shands Stoltzfus was one of the women responsible for putting Mennonite Church USA's "Laboring Toward Wholeness" anti-patriarchy curriculum together. In her blog, she describes what it was like to be part of this team and why she thinks the curriculum is important. Read more here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/working-on-ltw>.

In his blog, "The Bible and Christian nationalism," Drew Strait discusses how to identify Christian nationalism and some of its root causes. He also provides four ways to begin moving past it. Read more here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/bible-christian-nationalism>.

Iris de León-Hartshorn, associate executive director of Mennonite Church USA, shares her reflection on this biennium's theme — Be Transformed — in her blog "Transforming as becoming." Read how she views transformation as a continual movement here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/transforming-as-becoming>.

Mennonite Mission Network: Laura Schlabach, of Mennonite Mission Network, has had a steep learning curve during the past year in the JCS International office, as she learned new administrative skills for responding to the crises caused by COVID-19 in Mongolia. She requests prayer to improve her communication skills, especially in the Mongolian language.

