

August 16, 2020

AREA NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CCCC: You're invited to: "I Sing for Ice Cream" (previously known as "Sing and S'mores") September 13 at 4pm. Bring your lawn chairs and singing voices. Face masks/coverings will be required. Instead of standing around a fire close together to make s'mores, we will be enjoying homemade ice cream sandwiches while keeping our distance. We really look forward to connecting with you all in this way! Contact the camp office with any questions!

Crowded Closet Thrift Shop is open! Join over 100 volunteers who are serving this summer. Shop, donate, and volunteer locally to support Mennonite Central Committee. Volunteer team is needed to serve customers on Saturday, August 1st. Ready to join us? Call 319-337-5924 or email Christine at crowdedcloset.volunteer@gmail.com.

Hillcrest: Back to School! We will begin the 2020-21 school year with in-person classes on August 24. As we strive to engage our students and nurture our community in safe and meaningful ways, we ask for prayers of guidance as we work together to navigate our situation in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. Check out our Back to School Guide to see how we plan to provide a safe space for our students.

Shuttle Drivers Needed! Hillcrest Academy is in need of shuttle drivers for the 2020-21 school year. We are still looking for someone to drive our Iowa City route PM Mon-Fri. This shuttle is essential in providing transportation for students to and from school. Please prayerfully consider if you are able to help in this mission. Contact Rebecca Beachy Miller at rbeachymiller@hillcrestravens.org or (319) 656-2073 x20 with questions or if interested.

Iowa Mennonite Relief Sale: Many thanks to everyone who donated to the Iowa Mennonite Relief Sale and Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) despite the lack of a live sale. Your generosity resulted in gifts of \$5,076.98 from the 5K Socially-Distant Run; \$4,927.20 for My Coins Count and \$49,803.65 in donations after May 1st. This allows the Iowa Mennonite Relief Sale board to send \$50,000 to MCC for 2020.

Mennonite Museum: The Iowa Mennonite Museum at the Kalona Historical Village is now open afternoons. Because of decreased museum attendance and the cancellation of the Kalona Fall Festival a significant amount of our typical fundraising has been lost. We do have several cases of apple butter made at last year's Fall Festival to sell. By the pint or by the case, our apple butter makes a nice gift for family and friends. Stop by the museum afternoons to review stories of our area Mennonite-Amish History and pick up some apple butter for friends.

MCC: Support MCC and celebrate MCC's centennial with a new shirt, hoodie, tea towel, bag or hat! Check out this online store set up by the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale to place your order today (pssst, it's never too early to start Christmas shopping!). Visit wearatomic.com/product-category/mcc/ and start shopping to support MCC!

MCUSA: Support Mennonite congregations that are actively involved in dismantling racism, addressing police brutality, reimagining policing and combating poverty through Mennonite Church USA's mutual aid Justice Fund. To donate, visit <http://mennoniteusa.org/give/>

In "A note to people who are white, like me," Mississippi pastor Hugh Hollowell Jr. blogs about his call to return to his home state and the importance of facing discomfort in confronting white supremacy in our communities and ourselves. Read more: <http://mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/to-people-who-are-white-like-me/>

In his blog, "Green spiritual direction," retired pastor Ruben Chupp looks to nature and Scripture for spiritual direction. Read more: <http://mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/green-spiritual-direction/>

Word Alive Christian Outreach Center: Racial Healing and Unity Forum -- Pastor Rick Zickefoose of Brighton Community Church and myself have partnered to set up a series of Forums that provide intentional times of conversation with Christian leadership and laity within the African American community. YOU and your congregations are invited to participate in the next Racial Healing and Unity Forum coming up on Sunday, August 23rd at 2:30pm. Those scheduled to share will be:

Ken Brown – Director of The Fellowship Cup, Mt Pleasant

Parnell Davis – SE Iowa Regional Director of Youth For Christ

Pastor Tony Campbell – Pastor of Second Baptist Ministries, Mt Pleasant

Along with myself and Pastor Rick

Please note the attached Flier regarding the Forum that you are invited to post online and at your church or facility.

Getting Ahead, our Bridges Out of Poverty is now receiving applications for this coming season of learning. Attached, I have provided applications which they will need to submit. We WILL operate with a reduced group size to insure the ability to provide social distancing so signing up as soon as possible is important. Who should attend Getting Ahead? Those struggling with generational poverty or financial instability and those who have a burden for those who struggle with such battles. Learning where they are coming from helps us know better how to help make a difference. Deadline for Applications is August 31, 2020. First session will be Monday, September 14, 2020.

Financial Support is critical to the success of Getting Ahead. We estimate that we will need \$4500 to meet all the budget needs for this year's Getting Ahead. If you wish to support this year's initiative again, or for the first time, please send your check to Word Alive Ministries at PO BOX 236, Wayland, IA 52654

Word Alive Ministries is seeking a House Advocate to serve part-time at the Refuge House. This man shall be mature in his faith walk and will serve to encourage and challenge the House residents to seek after and meet the life goals to experience self-sufficiency and healthy living. If interested, contact Pastor Ryan Dexter or Pastor Curt Kuhns at 319-931-6483 or 970-396-4656 respectfully.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our local ministries! Together, united in Christ -- our community sees God at work within us

Word Alive Ministries are also in need of a few individuals, or a Sunday School class or such to come to The Refuge and conduct a deep cleaning to Apartment A so we can prepare to move residents in. If you have folks who wish to help prepare the apartment for men in recovery, please let me know! Ryan Dexter: 319-931-6483.

CPMC: Due to the pandemic, Mission Network's Donor Relations team is not traveling to visit with our wonderful donors, but we are on the phone and writing notes! Please know you are appreciated, valued, and prayed for. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Pray for the CPMC Council of Committees, happening virtually this week. We pray for the generative and fruitful work of our various conference committees as they meet to dream and plan for the next year of our shared work.

Mennonite Missions Network: Nemi Chigoji provides leadership for the Nigerian Anabaptist Resource Center, a Mennonite Mission Network partner. Pray for Rev. Chigoji as he works in California and Nigeria, training Anabaptist pastors in peacebuilding, mediation, and holistic ministry.

Service Adventure has open spots for the 2020-2021 term beginning this fall. If you are interested in taking a gap year to serve, live in community, and grow spiritually, contact SusanN@MennoniteMission.net or apply online at MennoniteMission.net/ServiceAdventure