

**August 23, 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!

**Hillcrest:** Back to School! Tomorrow we welcome back our students to campus for in-person classes. We are grateful for this opportunity and we take very seriously the challenge in front of us. 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.

**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](mailto:rbeachymiller@hillcrestravens.org) or (319) 656-2073 x20 with questions or if interested.

**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/>

**MDS:** The August edition of On the Level is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue, you can read how MDS volunteers with Early Response Teams are working in Iowa, engineers roll up their sleeves in West Virginia and help build bridges they designed, and you'll learn how MDS is cautiously planning for a few projects this fall.

Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/3gfccYK>

**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 today, Sunday, Aug. 23rd at 2:30pm. The Zoom link is: <https://forms.gle/9n3ujjUiViyp8Z9L9>

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.

**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.

**MCC:** Mennonite Central Committee is accepting donations to support people in need of food and other assistance in Beirut, Lebanon. A massive explosion on Aug. 4 destroyed the country's main port and silos filled with grain and worsened an existing economic crisis. You can donate online at [mcc.org/beirut-response](https://mcc.org/beirut-response), by calling (888) 563-4676 or by sending a check earmarked for "Beirut response" to MCC, 21 S. 12th St., Akron PA 17501.

MCC is in need of school kits to fulfill requests from our partners around the world! Complete kits and/or supplies (find a full list of items at [mcc.org/kits](https://mcc.org/kits)) can be shipped to MCC Central States (121 E. 30th St. North Newton, KS 67117) or dropped off in the 24-hour donation room at MCC. If you would like help unloading, please contact Kate at [katemast@mcc.org](mailto:katemast@mcc.org), (316) 804-8432 to schedule a drop off time. Thank you for your continued support of MCC!

Mennonite Central Committee is looking to fill several essential positions in the U.S. and around the world. We hope you'll consider applying or give encouragement to someone else who might be interested in serving with MCC.

**Canner Operator:** MCC is looking for new canner operators! This two year service term is unique and offers the opportunity to travel around the U.S. and Canada, working as a team while meeting new people! Check out <https://mcc.org/get-involved/canning> for details!

**Director of MCC U.S. National Advocacy and Program:** Are you a team leader ready to provide vision, develop strong relationships with diverse groups and engage in policy advocacy? MCC is currently looking for the Director of MCC U.S. National Advocacy and Program. The director is a senior management position in MCC U.S., responsible for the overall leadership and coordination of advocacy and national program. Find out more and apply at [mcc.org/get-involved/serve/openings/director-mcc-us-national-advocacy-program](https://mcc.org/get-involved/serve/openings/director-mcc-us-national-advocacy-program)

**UN Office Program and Communications Coordinator:** Are you, or someone you know, passionate about advocacy and raising the voice of the grassroots on a global level? MCC is currently searching for the UN Office Program and Communications Coordinator. The position carries significant advocacy, research, analysis, writing, speaking, networking, and event planning responsibilities, as well as office administration. Application deadline is Sept 7, 2020. For more information or to apply please visit [mcc.org/get-involved/serve/openings/mcc-un-office-program-communications-coordinator](https://mcc.org/get-involved/serve/openings/mcc-un-office-program-communications-coordinator)

**Seed Program:** Hola! Estas interesado(a) en aprender o practicar tu español? MCC is looking for young adults for its Seed programs in Colombia and Guatemala/El Salvador which offer experiential learning and formation focused on Reflection, Service and Peacebuilding. Application deadline is October 19, 2020. For more information or to apply, please visit <https://mcc.org/get-involved/serve/openings>

**CPMC:** Join the growing culture of discipleship in the church! Save your spot in the next Missional Discipleship Initiative cohort. Visit [MennoniteMission.net/MDI](https://MennoniteMission.net/MDI) and sign up for the next MDI cycle, starting Sept. 1.

Pray for your sister churches in the Quad Cities area cluster: Casa de Oracion Emanuel, Iglesia Cristiana El Balsamo, Iglesia Menonita Centro Cristiano, Iglesia Torre Fuerte, Templo Alabanza and the El Buen Pastor church plant..

**Mennonite Missions Network:** This is a month of change for Mennonite Mission Network's Mennonite Voluntary Service participants. Pray for those who are transitioning from their completed assignments to study or work. Pray also for those who are beginning to learn and serve in Alamosa (Colorado), San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.

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](mailto:SusanN@MennoniteMission.net) or apply online at [MennoniteMission.net/ServiceAdventure](https://MennoniteMission.net/ServiceAdventure)

