

# AUGUST 29, 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](http://www.crookedcreekcamp.org)

We are excited to announce we will be hosting another online auction, December 7-12. We are currently collecting NEW or LIKE NEW items as well as antiques. Food, experiences and meat bundles are some of the best sellers from last year. Please contact Saralyn ([saralyn@crookedcreekcamp.org](mailto:saralyn@crookedcreekcamp.org)) or Heather ([heather@crookedcreekcamp.org](mailto:heather@crookedcreekcamp.org)) or talk to your camp rep to donate an item. Thank you for supporting CCCC in this way.

**Crowded Closet:** Greetings from Crowded Closet Thrift Shop - your local MCC Thrift Shop! Crowded Closet thrives with the generosity of volunteers, donors, and shoppers. Our 2019 relocation to Pepperwood Plaza stimulates shop growth. We have already repaid 20% of our original building loan! Serve Mennonite Central Committee as a volunteer and find connection and purpose in our community. There are many openings for volunteers across all operations. Now is a great time to explore service at Crowded Closet! Contact Christine, [crowdedcloset.volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:crowdedcloset.volunteer@gmail.com) or 319-337-5924 to learn more or plan a tour anytime.

**Hillcrest:** Hillcrest Academy Theme! With hopefulness we began classes on Aug 23. This school year's theme is CommUNITY: Rooted in Jesus. We recognize there is much polarization in our nation, even in the Church. Our hope is to forge a path together based on Romans 15:5-6, "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Host Family Needed! Hillcrest Academy has a unique opportunity for a family to host a male foreign exchange student from Georgia with Cerebral Palsy. Multiple organizations across the country failed to find him a host family so the Dept of State has reached out to Worldlink to help place him. Our school would love to give this student a chance to be part of the Hillcrest family. We are URGENTLY looking for a host family to commit by Monday, August 30. We know this is very short notice but if you are interested in hosting and want to know what it would take to accommodate this student, please contact Rebecca Beachy Miller at (319) 631-2461 or [rbeachymiller@hillcrestravens.org](mailto:rbeachymiller@hillcrestravens.org).

Joetown Classic! We are thankful for the opportunity to host the Joetown Classic 5K run/walk in-person. This year's event will be on Sat, Oct 2. Make sure you sign-up by Sept 7 to get a cool, long sleeved t-shirt! Register now online at [getmeregistered.com/JoetownClassic5K](http://getmeregistered.com/JoetownClassic5K).

**MCC:** The Board of Iowa MCC Sale would like to THANK YOU as donors and volunteers for your efforts to meet the needs of those less fortunate, even in this unusual year for our sale. Due to your efforts, the Board was able to send a check for \$100,000 to MCC. There is no mistake that we could not have done this without you! Please raise the Board in prayer as we endeavor to begin on next year's sale. Thank you! - Don Patterson, Co-Chair on behalf of the Iowa MCC Sale Board.

**CPMC:** Central Plains Mennonite Women's Retreat is scheduled for September 18-19, 2021 at Swan Lake Christian Camp in Viborg, SD. We are delighted to have Kate Friesen from Sioux Falls, SD as our speaker and look forward to a weekend of reconnecting, relaxing and sharing some of the sweeter parts of life together. Register by September 13 at <https://myslcc.com/register/> or call Judy at the camp (605) 326-5690. Check out the Central Plains Mennonite Women Facebook page for updates.

Pray for those who are still affected by the Richard Spring wildfire in Montana. Pastor Willis Busenitz of White River Cheyenne Mennonite Church in Busby, MT writes, "I was at the gathering with Gov Greg Gianforte in Lame Deer. Progress is being made. My observation is that the Reservation is being inundated with clothes, food and hygiene donations, from all over. One of the bigger needs will be hay and fencing supplies for the ranchers, especially the smaller ranchers. The bigger ones probably have insurance. We really appreciated the prayers and support from Central Plains to our church here."

**MCUSA:** Michelle Armster was one of two women awarded the Mennonite Church USA #BringThePeace award in its inaugural year. Read about her journey as a peacebuilder in this interview transcript: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/interview-michelle-armster>.

MennoMedia, Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada recently partnered to create a two-part webinar that explored how to decenter whiteness, be more inclusive and promote anti-racism in worship, through the resources provided in Voices Together. Read more and find the links to the webinar in Katie Graber's blog, "Webinar to explore Voices Together, worship and anti-racism." <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/webinar-vt-antiracism>

Pastors Amy Yoder McGloughlin, of Frazer Mennonite Church, and Joanne Gallardo, of Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship, led a seminar, titled "Practical Steps To Becoming a Welcoming Congregation" at MennoCon21. Read more for tips on welcoming LGBTQ people into church fellowship: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/practical-welcoming-congregation>.

In her blog, "Celebration and Lament," Debbie Bledsoe celebrates the positive experiences that she has had as a queer woman in Mennonite Church USA. She also laments the fact that not all queer folks have had such a positive experience with the church. Read her blog here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/celebration-lament>

**Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship Annual Gathering:** Registration Open - Online: September 17-19, 2021  
Mennonite Health Fellowship (MHF) is hosting its virtual Annual Gathering in September. All with an interest in healthcare from a faith perspective are welcome to attend, and all MHF members are encouraged to attend at least part of the weekend. Registration and information are on the MHF website at [www.mennohealth.org](http://www.mennohealth.org). The theme for the weekend is Fostering Provider Resilience with a special 2-hour Introduction to Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience (STAR) in partnership with Minnesota Peacebuilding Leadership Institute. MHF is open to those serving in all areas of healthcare, including mental health, public health, health administration, and more. Register today! We look forward to connecting with you!

**Mennonite Mission Network:** Joseph and Rachel Givens, and their two sons, are preparing to serve in Calais, France, with Mennonite Mission Network. Pray that God will provide the necessary resources for them to join the team that offers shelter to African and Middle Eastern people who are seeking temporary refuge before entering the United Kingdom.