

**September 13, 2020**

**AREA NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Wayland Youth Center:** The Wayland Youth Center is opening back up on Tuesdays from 5:30 until 7:30pm. Would you be willing to provide a simple meal for a week? Meal ideas could be frozen pizza, sandwiches, hot dogs, fruits, vegetables, chips, cookies and homemade goodies. Please let Tamara Zechin know if you would be willing to provide a meal on the first, second, third or fourth Tuesday of each month? Food should be ready for about 15 people and dropped off around 5:30pm. Thank you for serving our community!

**Crowded Closet:** Crowded Closet Thrift Shop serves the community and supports Mennonite Central Committee. We need you! Join as a volunteer, shopper, or donor. Now scheduling small groups for safe service events together. Volunteer openings for Cashier, Retail Assistant, Fabric & Craft, Donation Receiving, and Adult Clothing teams. Come for a visit to experience how we are staying safe at the Closet. Contact Christine at [crowdedcloset.volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:crowdedcloset.volunteer@gmail.com) to schedule your visit.

**CCCC:** During this time of uncertainty, we have had many cancellations of guest groups and this has resulted in a substantial income loss for the camp, over \$104,000. To offset these losses we received many donations and had a breakfast casserole bake sale. We have seen the generosity of many and we are grateful.

Even after these fundraisers, the camp still feels the impact from the loss of funds. We are very excited to announce for the first time, the camp will be hosting an online auction. Do you have something you would be interested in donating? We would be thrilled to receive it! The auction will go live in December in a virtual event. Send an email to Saralyn at [saralyn@crookedcreekcamp.org](mailto:saralyn@crookedcreekcamp.org) or Heather at [heather@crookedcreekcamp.org](mailto:heather@crookedcreekcamp.org) with any questions or to let us know of items or services you would like to donate! We look forward to you joining us for this exciting new event.

**Everence:** Everence is hiring! We are looking for an energetic, customer service-oriented person to join the Kalona office as a Client Services Representative, as we seek to help people integrate their faith with their finances. This position provides administrative assistance and marketing support for Financial/Stewardship Consultants, giving excellent service to clients and staff. It includes a particular focus on education and support for senior adult and those approaching retirement. For more information or to apply, visit <https://www.everence.com/about-everence/careers/current-positions> or call 656-4242.

In addition, we would welcome your tapping the shoulder of persons you believe would fit well with the mission of Everence and the church. Feel free to also provide referral names to either Kent Blossom or me. Thanks in advance for your assistance in spreading the word. We appreciate your support for our mission! Joyfully -Lyle

**Hillcrest:** Shuttle Drivers Needed! Even though classes have begun, Hillcrest Academy is still in need of shuttle drivers. 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.

Homecoming Weekend & 75 Year Anniversary Celebration | Events associated with this year's Homecoming Weekend and 75 Year Anniversary Celebration, originally scheduled for October 16-18, have been significantly cut back or cancelled due to ongoing risks and limitations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Please see [hillcrestravens.org/homecoming2020](http://hillcrestravens.org/homecoming2020) for all the details.

**MDS:** Please pray for those impacted by Hurricane Laura. This storm has created widespread damage throughout Western Louisiana, Eastern Texas, and other parts of the south. MDS is closely monitoring the situation and is preparing a response. We anticipate sending an assessment team to the area when it is safe. The team will determine the short and long-term responses.

MDS is accepting financial donations for Hurricane Laura recovery efforts. You can give online or by check and make payable to: Mennonite Disaster Service, 583 Airport Road, Lititz, PA 17543. Designate "Hurricane Laura" on the memo line.

**MCUSA:** Anti-racism training for congregations is more affordable, thanks to a new partnership between Mennonite Church USA and Widerstand Consulting. For more information on this research-based, field-tested online training, visit <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/news/anti-racism-training-accessible/>

Iglesia Menonita Hispana, a racial/ethnic group of Mennonite Church USA, has launched the Grace Fund. This mutual aid fund will support the denomination's Hispanic congregations and ministries directly impacted by COVID-19 and natural disasters, such as Hurricane Hanna. To learn more, <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/imh-gracefund>

What makes our Mennonite educational institutions unique? Read about how our Anabaptist schools and colleges found hope during the first few months of the pandemic.  
<https://www.mennoniteusa.org/news/mennonite-education-pandemic/>

Have you attended a MennoCon Equipping Seminar that made an impact on your faith journey? Do you have an Equipping Seminar to offer at MennoCon21 (Cincinnati, Ohio, July 6-10, 2021)? Mennonite Church USA convention planners invite you to submit a proposal by October 10, 2020.  
<https://www.mennoniteusa.org/equipping-seminars>

**MCC:** Celebrate with us! Mennonite Central Committee invites you join Celebration 2020: MCC at 100, a livestreamed event commemorating a century of MCC's ministry on Saturday, Oct. 17, starting at 6:50 p.m. (EDT). The event will feature photos, videos and storytelling that highlight MCC's work over the years. Former MCC leader and pastor Leonard Dow of Philadelphia will inspire participants to walk boldly into the next century of MCC's ministry while talented musicians will lead in prayer and thanksgiving. You can find more information about MCC's centennial and log in for the livestreamed event at [mcc.org/celebration-2020](http://mcc.org/celebration-2020).

Register NOW for the MCC Flatlander Bicycle Ride! Due to COVID-19, the ride is a "virtual" event this year and open to EVERYONE. Riders may register any time until September 29. Register online at [Bikereg.com](http://Bikereg.com). Join us in raising money for MCC to fund the construction of new wells and repair existing water and sanitary systems at schools in Nicaragua. With these improvements, students will have safe water to drink and wash their hands. In this global pandemic, access to clean water is more essential than ever. Donations from non-riders are welcome! Checks to MCC Flatlander Bike Ride may be sent to MCC Central States, PO Box 235, North Newton, KS 67117.

Executive Director job opportunity: Ten Thousand Villages Iowa City is seeking an Executive Director. This person will be in charge of the retail store on the downtown Ped Mall. Responsibilities include staffing, purchasing inventory, and management duties. The desire is for applicants to be strong supporters of fair trade and the Village's mission. Submit resumes to Wendell Miller at [wendellm1951@gmail.com](mailto:wendellm1951@gmail.com).

**Word Alive Christian Outreach Center:** Building Bridges will be back in session this Fall in Wayland. If you are interested in attending the class, or in helping us by providing home cooked meals or tender loving child care... please contact Crystal Boulton at (913) 620-0947.

Class will begin on September 14th with supper at 5:30pm. We request a light meal for 9 people. Class will meet every Monday evening for approximately 16 weeks.

**CPMC:** Pray for Central Plains congregations that are in the midst of pastoral searches. Pray for search committees and for candidates looking for churches, that God may guide the search process according to God's will.

**Mennonite Missions Network:** Join Mennonite Mission Network in praising God that no students, staff, or faculty of the Near East School of Theology were injured when last month's explosion rocked Beirut, Lebanon. Pray for wisdom for George Sabra, the school's president, and for the necessary resources to repair the extensive damage done to the eight-floor building. Pray also for all who have lost loved ones and homes.