



# Faith Connections

United in Faith Helping  
People In Need

Volume 4, Issue 4

April 2021

**Our Mission:** Bringing together an ecumenical coalition of Quad City area churches to help feed the hungry, offer emergency assistance to those in crisis, and provide a transitional housing program for women and children who are victims of domestic violence or human trafficking.

## Because He Lives

As we approach the celebration of Resurrection Sunday, many may be wondering, “What do we have to celebrate?” After all, we have had to deal with a pandemic that has claimed many lives and separated us from the normal interaction with friends and relatives. We are affected by the mass shootings in Georgia and Colorado. We have witnessed the rise of hatred and division in our country and community. So, then why do we or perhaps why should we celebrate this Resurrection season?

The simple answer is “Because He Lives.”

**Because He lives, you and I have Peace.** When Jesus appeared to His disciples that first Resurrection Sunday, the first words out of His mouth were “Peace be with you!” (John 20:19). The peace that Jesus spoke of was more than just a sense of calmness or tranquility. It was the Hebrew word “shalom” and it was pregnant with meaning. It meant wholeness, completeness, serenity, and harmony of life. At the very center of this peace is peace with God, reconciliation with the One who breathed life into the universe.

**Because He lives, I have a Purpose.** The next words that Jesus uttered to His disciples were: “As the Father has sent me, I am sending you” (John 20:21). Where was He sending them? Everywhere. In other words, they were going to become ambassadors of Christ. Their mission, and ours, should we choose to accept it, was and is to spread the word about the cross and the empty tomb – to share the message of Jesus with friends, neighbors, and relatives. We are to use our love, lives, and lips to testify about the power of the cross and the promise of eternal life.

**Because He lives, I have a Promise.** At the end of this encounter with the risen Christ, John tells us, “these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name (John 20:31 NIV).

That’s the promise of John 3:16, too. All throughout His ministry, Jesus promised life everlasting to those who believe in Him. The promise of eternity is the heartbeat of hope. And the resurrection of Jesus insures that we too will be resurrected.

Resurrection Sunday is the cornerstone of the Christian faith; the celebration of Jesus rising from the grave conquering death and giving us peace with God, a purpose for life and the promise of heaven.

That’s what this day is all about: to share our peace, purpose and promise with others who are desperately searching for meaning in the midst of a chaotic world.

**Blessings,**

*Mel*

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## Churches United Staff

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**Our Board of Directors recently went through a thorough examination of our ministries. In the process, the board developed a new MISSION STATEMENT, VISION STATEMENT, STATEMENT OF VALUES, AND PURPOSE STATEMENT to guide our organization.**

**Mission Statement:**

Bringing together an ecumenical coalition of Quad City area churches to help feed the hungry, offer emergency assistance to those in crisis, and provide a transitional housing program for women and children who are victims of domestic violence or human trafficking.

**Vision Statement:**

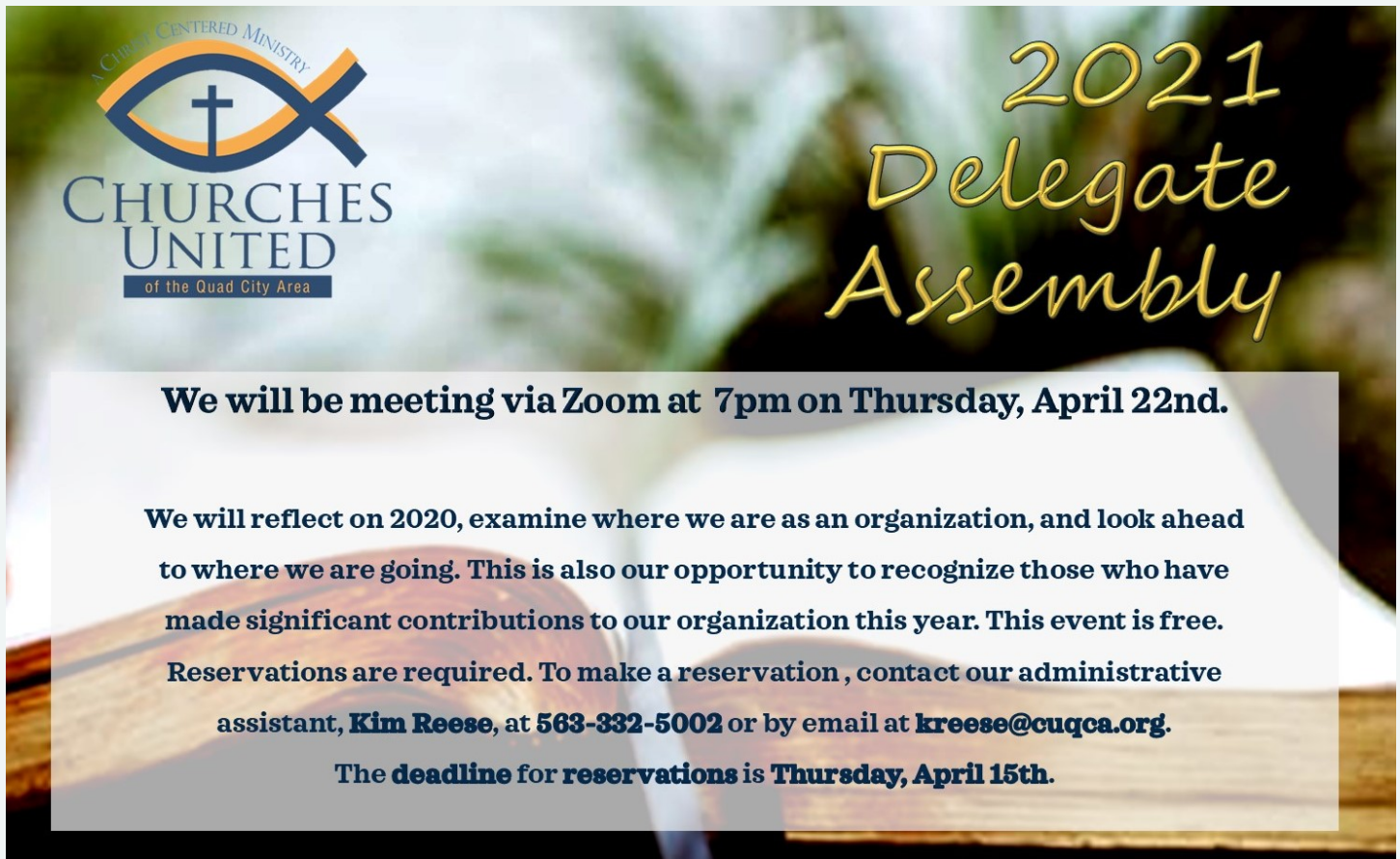
To build a community where all member churches work together in harmony in service to God by helping those in need.

**Statement of Values:**

- Conduct the ministries of Churches United with integrity and transparency at all times.
  - Assist those in need with the compassion and dignity they deserve.
- Foster a culture of cooperation, communication and team work between member churches, the Churches United staff and the Board of Directors.
- Recognize the importance of each member church to the Churches United ministries.
- Be open to new ideas, partnerships and relationships including collaborations with other agencies, organizations and ministries.

**Focus Points:**

- Emergency Assistance – Providing assistance for rent and utilities to persons in an urgent crisis situation. Providing counseling and access to other agencies if the client so needs.
- Hunger – Finding the most effective and efficient way to provide food to those who are hungry.
- Shelter – Collaborating with Project NOW to provide a transitional housing program for women and children who are victims of domestic violence or human trafficking.



**A CHURCH-CENTERED MINISTRY**

**CHURCHES UNITED**  
of the Quad City Area

**2021 Delegate Assembly**

**We will be meeting via Zoom at 7pm on Thursday, April 22nd.**

**We will reflect on 2020, examine where we are as an organization, and look ahead to where we are going. This is also our opportunity to recognize those who have made significant contributions to our organization this year. This event is free. Reservations are required. To make a reservation, contact our administrative assistant, **Kim Reese**, at **563-332-5002** or by email at **kreese@cuqca.org**.**

**The deadline for reservations is Thursday, April 15th.**

## Quarterly Meetings Resume Via Zoom



On March 23rd, Churches United hosted a quarterly meeting via Zoom. The meeting was led by our Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Melvin L. Grimes. Mel provided a summary of Churches United's ministries for 2020. He also discussed what Churches United is focused on in 2021. Rev. Damon Colvin, Churches United's Treasurer, provided an explanation of where the organization was financially in 2020 and changes that have improved the organization's financial position in 2021. Board President, Darlos Stroud, elaborated and clarified issues presented by Mel and Damon. Associate Director, Betsy Vanausdeln gave an update about the successes of the hunger ministries in 2020. Throughout the pandemic, pantries remained open and Churches United provided more food than ever before. Participants were encouraged to ask questions and reminded to attend the Delegate Assembly meeting on April 22nd.





## Churches United of the Quad City Area

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## Give Today to Churches United

Online at <http://www.cuqca.org/donate.php>

Call us at (563) 332-5002

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Thanksgiving in July is back and we need your help. Our annual food collection drive and fundraiser to support our hunger ministries needs sponsors. We encourage churches and area businesses to participate. There is no fee for sponsorship. Sponsors are asked to host a collection box during the month of July. Sponsor logos will be featured prominently on collection boxes, in our newsletter, and on social media. All proceeds from the food drive will remain in the Quad Cities area.

For more information, contact Betsy Vanausdeln at 563-332-5002 or by email at [bvanausdeln@cuqca.org](mailto:bvanausdeln@cuqca.org).



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