



Faith Connections

United in Faith Helping
People In Need

Volume 6, Issue 1

February 2023

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.

Making Beauty



In 1864, Follitt S. Pierpoint penned the classic hymn “For the Beauty of the Earth.” The hymnist lists dozens of reasons, from the minute to the majestic, for the “sacrifice of praise” being offered to God. The first two verses specifically focus on beautiful things God has created: earth and sky; hill and vale; tree and flower; sun, moon, and stars.

About fourteen centuries earlier, Augustine wrote “The Beauty of Creation Bears Witness to God,” a poem that challenges the reader to “question the beauty” of the things God created and listen for the reply. Augustine writes, “They will answer you: ‘Behold and see, we are beautiful.’ Their beauty is their confession of God.”

A number of modern Christian songs, however, seem to reflect a shift in perspective. Whereas worship used to focus on expressing believers’ love for God and their awe at His glory, many songs now talk about our own worth and the Father’s love for us as individuals (instead of His broader love for mankind). Lyrics affirming our beauty in God’s eyes may not be theologically unsound, but have we become too self-absorbed? What happens when we become preoccupied with feeling beautiful instead of looking for – and creating – beauty in the world around us?

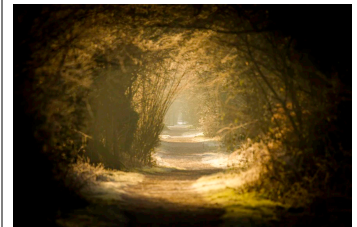
The mythological King Midas wished he could turn everything he touched into gold. This proved to be a foolish desire as, ultimately, his greed changed his own daughter into a golden statue. In Ecclesiastes 3:11, King Solomon (who, incidentally, yearned for something much better – wisdom) observed a somewhat analogous spiritual truth. But instead of gaining monetary value, what ever God touches is transformed into a thing of beauty – a thing we can’t attach a price tag to, a thing we may not even notice is beautiful until He opens our eyes to see.

In the Genesis 1 account of creation, we see that at the end of each day, God declared His handiwork “good.” However, after forming man and breathing His life into him, He looked at what He had made and pronounced it “very good.” Was the human form the most beautiful or did God delight in something deeper than physical beauty?

Blessings,
Mel

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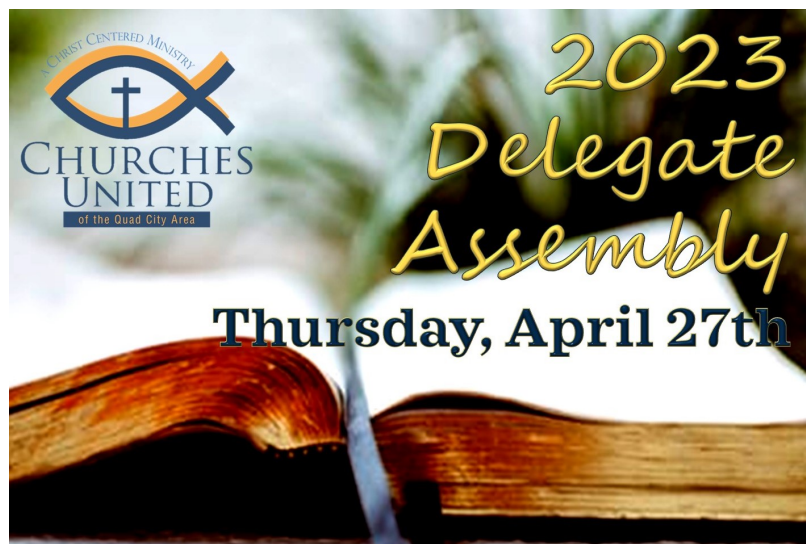
Save the Date for Delegate Assembly

This year's Delegate Assembly is on Thursday, April 27th.

Be on the lookout for more information. We will be sending Delegate Assembly materials via mail and e-mail.

If your church address or contact information has changed, please contact our office immediately.

We want you to attend this event that serves as our annual meeting.



Board Members Needed



We need new members to join our board of directors.

Expectations:

Must be a member of one of our 148 member churches.

Attend monthly meetings. (Meetings are in the evening on the 4th Thursday of each month).

Participate in at least one event.

Give personal financial support to Churches United.
Be a part of an ad hoc committee.

If you would like to join our board of directors, please contact our Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Melvin L. Grimes at mgrimes@cuqca.org or by phone at 563-332-5002.

Volunteer Opportunities



Do you know a teen who needs service hours or simply likes to volunteer?

We have projects. Miriam (pictured) spent several hours of her break cleaning and organizing our pantry.

We are also in need of assistance at our Zion Lutheran Church meal site.

Individuals or groups are welcome to help. Meals are served at the site Monday through Friday. Volunteers are asked to help from 5:15pm - 6:30pm.

For more information and to volunteer, contact Betsy Vanausdeln at bvanausdeln@cuqca.org or by phone at 563-332-5002.

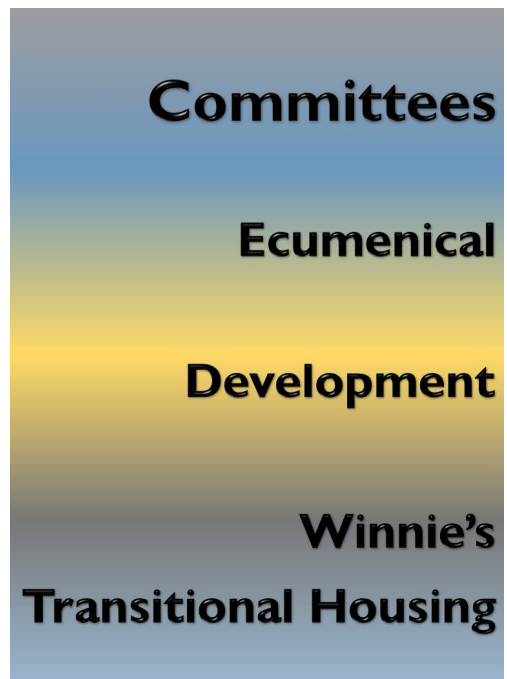
Committee Reinvigoration

Are you willing to help us breathe new life into our committees?

We are in the process of reinvigorating our ecumenical committee, development committee, and Winnie's Transitional Housing committee. These committees are essential to the success of our organization's mission.

We are looking for individuals who have a heart to serve and are willing to help us by volunteering to join one and/or all of those committees. No prior committee experience is necessary.

For more information or to join, contact our Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Melvin L. Grimes at 563-332-5002 or by email at mgrimes@cuqca.org.





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Give Today to Churches United

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

Call us at (563) 332-5002

Mail or drop off your gift:
Churches United of the Quad City Area
2535 Tech Drive, Suite 205
Bettendorf, IA 52722

Thank You!

Donate, keep up-to-date, and check out daily reflections by following us on Facebook at:



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Bettendorf, Davenport, & Moline

Gift Cards



Our clients often leave domestic abuse situations with very few possessions. Donations of gift cards allow our clients to get what they need for themselves as they rebuild their lives. If you would like to donate a gift card, please drop it off or mail it to our office.

