



# Faith Connections

United in Faith Helping  
People In Need

Volume 5, Issue 11  
November 2022

**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.

## Life in the Overflow



Would you consider yourself a grateful person? With the Thanksgiving season upon us, we would do well to ponder that question. After all, we are called to emulate Jesus, and His life was characterized by gratitude. Throughout His ministry, He regularly expressed his thanks to the Father. Before breaking the bread and fish to feed thousands of people, He paused to give thanks (Matt. 15:36). Prior to raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus stood at the tomb and thanked the Father for hearing the prayer that was about to be answered. (John 11:41) And just hours before His own death, Jesus expressed gratitude as He blessed the bread and wine of the new covenant (Mark 14:22-23).

How about you? Are you communicating gratitude on a regular basis? The Christian's life should be characterized by it. However, becoming a thankful person is not a matter of self-effort. Genuine thankfulness flows from a grateful heart, and a grateful heart comes from Christ's life expressed through us. It's not simply about choosing to try and be more grateful. Rather, it's a daily choice to surrender control of our life to the Lord. That's when he/she is free to demonstrate His character through us.

So, what does it look like when Christ transforms us into grateful people? First, we'll be filled with confidence in the Lord and His word. Knowing that He's working everything out for our good (Rom. 8:28) and developing within us the priceless treasure of faith, we can respond with gratitude, even in painful trials (1 Peter 1:6-7)

Next, we will recognize Him as the source of all good things. Contentment and peace will be evident in our life because we will understand that whatever God chooses for us is best, whether much or little. In fact, our appreciation will be based not on externals but on the joy of our relationship with Christ.

*Continued on page 2*

## Inside this issue:

Year-End Appeal	2
Birdies for Charity	3
CP Holiday Train	3
Volunteers Needed	3
Soup Dinner	4
Needs List	4



## Churches United Staff

• **Executive Director**  
Rev. Dr. Melvin L. Grimes

• **Associate Director**  
Betsy Vanausdeln  
[bvanausdeln@cuqca.org](mailto:bvanausdeln@cuqca.org)

• **Administrative  
Assistant**  
Laronda Bennett  
[lbennett@cuqca.org](mailto:lbennett@cuqca.org)

Finally, a grateful person is generous. God wants His children, like flowing streams, to pass blessings on to others. Selfishness always stifles gratitude, but giving increases it.

For Thanksgiving 2022, don't let Thanksgiving Day be your only expression of gratitude. Choose to surrender your life to Christ, asking Him to give you a grateful heart. Then thank Him for His faithfulness in both good and hard times.

Happy Thanksgiving from the board of directors and staff of Churches United of the Quad City Area.

Blessings,  
*Mel*

## Year-End Appeal

Have you given to our year-end appeal? Your donation will go to supporting our food pantries, hot meal site, CareLINK program, and Winnie's Transitional Housing.

We have encountered numerous challenges at Winnie's Transitional Housing. Due to the cold weather that we had in February 2022, the pipes burst in Winnie's Transitional Housing causing damage to all six units. All units need renovations. We have updated the emergency shut-off valves in all of the units, but there is still quite a bit more to do in order for us to start taking in clients.

Another Churches United ministry to consider in your decision to give is our food pantries. During the last two years due to the pandemic, we have seen a drastic drop in donations both in monetary and through perishable and non-perishable food items. The food banks, as well as our food pantries, are struggling to get food on the shelves to feed the many families in need.



We are also hosting a hot meal site at Zion Lutheran Church in Davenport Monday through Friday providing a meal from our area churches. At our meal site, we are feeding over 100 people each evening. We are serving a lot of desperate families. Our meal site and food pantries have consistently served over a million meals annually and we hope to be able to continue to serve our community at this level. The expenses are real and are not letting up anytime soon.

Churches United is a Christ centered ministry and we assist those in need with dignity, compassion, and patience, just as God has shown us to do for others. We are a staff of three, yet we still get as much ministry done as we can. Please prayerfully consider making a contribution to our organization.

**Donations may be mailed to:  
Churches United of the Quad City Area  
2535 Tech Drive - Suite 205  
Bettendorf, IA 52722**

## Thank You



Thank you, John Deere Classic and the Birdies for Charity program.

Thank you to everyone who supported our organization by giving through the Birdies for Charity program.

We are grateful for the donations that we received. It enables us to continue to serve those most in need in our community.

## The CP Holiday Train is Returning to the Quad Cities

The 2022 Holiday Train is scheduled to arrive in Davenport at approximately 5:45pm on Saturday, December 3rd. The festivities will take place at Freight House Farmers' Market, 421 W River Drive in Davenport.

This is major event for Churches United because proceeds go toward the support we provide for our member food pantries. Non-perishable food items and monetary donations will be accepted at the event.



## Meal Site Volunteers Needed



We need volunteers to help at our meal site at Zion Lutheran Church in Davenport on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Volunteers will assist with bussing tables, maintaining a peaceful atmosphere, and cleanup. Volunteers will serve from 5:30pm – 7pm (or whenever cleanup is done). For more information, contact Betsy Vanausdeln at 563-332-5002 or by email at [bvanausdeln@cuqca.org](mailto:bvanausdeln@cuqca.org).





## Churches United of the Quad City Area

2535 Tech Drive Suite 205  
Bettendorf, IA 52722

Phone: 563-332-5002  
Fax: 563-332-5035  
E-mail: info@cuqca.org

For newsletter submissions, contact Susan Schwartz, our communications director at shstennis08@gmail.com



## 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:



<https://www.facebook.com/ChurchesUnitedoftheQuadCityArea/>



Support CUQCA by designating us as your charity and by purchasing items from our Wish List.

[https://smile.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/19QO2R6L5908/ref=nav\\_wishlist\\_lists\\_4?\\_encoding=UTF8&type=wishlist](https://smile.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/19QO2R6L5908/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_4?_encoding=UTF8&type=wishlist)

## Needs List for Winnie's Transitional Housing Clients



Our clients at Winnie's Transitional Housing often leave domestic abuse situations with very few possessions and no money. We are also seeing an increasing need for basic goods from those in the community coming to us for help through our meal site and pantries. Donations of gift cards, household items, and food help those who are struggling tremendously.

Our job seeking clients can benefit from office supplies and the children who live in our shelter often need school supplies

If you would like to donate, please drop off your donations at our office or mail them to us.

Family First Foundation presents

# 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Soup Dinner


A Fundraiser Benefiting Local Food Pantries

*\* Dinner by Donation \**

Raffle Baskets Silent Auction 50/50

Saturday November 12, 2022 @ 5:00PM

Enjoy an evening out with a variety of homemade soups  
THE ROCK \* 302 1<sup>st</sup> St, Coal Valley, IL 61240

\*\* Donations accepted via cash, check, venmo → 

To RSVP text/call 309-781-3484