

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.

When Plans Go to Ashes



Some people think that God's refusal to grant them some cherished wish would be the worst thing that could ever happen to them. They believe they will be truly disappointed and devastated if that deep desire continues unmet.

So they pursue their desire, either in opposition to God's will or in disregard of it—and end up truly disappointed, even if they get what they thought they wanted. They are like the

Israelites in Moses' day, who complained to God and insisted on having meat; Scripture tells us, "He gave them their request, but sent a wasting disease among them." The desire becomes a curse.

G. K. Chesterton said, "There are two ways to get enough: One is to accumulate more and more, the other is to desire less." While you can always collect additional possessions, relationships, success, etc.—there will always be room for more. And when there's room for more, there's room for wanting more. The cycle never ends.

If you choose the second route of Chesterton's advice, "to desire less," the likelihood of living a fulfilling life increases. But how does one want less?

By going back to the deepest desire present in every human heart—the one thing we're truly longing for: to know God. Once we satisfy ourselves with His presence, we require far less of what the world has to offer.

You may not understand the longing within you to be a desire for God—in fact, you may simply feel dissatisfaction with your life. Maybe the relationship you wanted and attained isn't everything you thought it would be. Perhaps you have everything you'd ever wanted and yet still go through periods of longing, sadness, and loneliness.

Dissatisfaction, unfulfilled expectations, and feelings of dejection and isolation originate from the same place: a raging hunger for God. Centuries ago, Augustine wrote, "You made us for Yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in You."

There is always more we can learn about God—we will never fully know Him while we live here on earth (1 Corinthians 13:12). But once we enter into a relationship with the Lord, He promises to reveal more of Himself to us as we fellowship with Him. Hosea 2:19-20 says, "I will betroth you to Me forever; yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice, in lovingkindness and in compassion, and I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness. Then you will know the Lord."

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To fellowship with God—to talk to Him and listen to Him as you study the Bible, pray, and worship Him—is to get to know Him better. He has “betrothed” (or engaged) His people to Himself for one reason: to let Himself be known.

When you develop your relationship with God and discover more about His holy character, He illuminates your heart and mind, giving you a greater desire to know Him more intimately—leaving your fleshly desires behind in the process. Your worldly desires simply cannot compare to the deep comfort, joy, and fulfillment that God offers you. Rather, you see the things that you acquire outside of His will turning to ashes, while the blessings He gives you endure and satisfy your soul.

Blessings!
Mel

Women in Clergy Recap



Our annual Women in Clergy Luncheon took place on Thursday, July 20th at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Moline.

This year’s luncheon was organized by Administrative Assistant, Laronda Bennett. Opening comments and prayers were provided by Rev. Dr. Melvin L. Grimes and Rev. Dr. Cyrus Burns.



Reverend Carmen Ausborn, Senior Assistant to the Pastor of Second Baptist Church in Rock Island and Director of the SBC Outreach Music and Arts Academy, was the main speaker. Reverend Ausborn spoke on the topic “Stay FAT: Faithful, Available, and Teachable.” She encouraged audience members to be open to the voice of the Lord and to accept the role of co-laborers in Christ. She also discussed the challenges our churches are facing, and she concluded her talk by providing a list of encouraging scriptures.

Rev. Ausborn was presented with a gift from Churches United by our Board of Director’s President, Rev. Dr. Cyrus Burns.

The Canadian Pacific Holiday Train is Returning to the Quad Cities

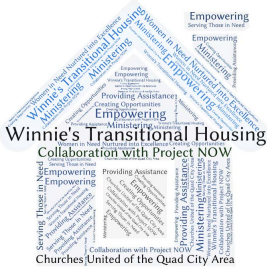
The Canadian Pacific Holiday Train is returning to the Quad Cities on Saturday, December 2nd.

As a beneficiary of the funds and food donations collected at this event, we are beginning preparations. We need your help. We need a volunteer Santa, Mrs. Claus, and some worker elves to help collect donations.

For more information, contact our associate director, Betsy Vanausdeln at 563-332-5002 or by email at bvanausdeln@cuqca.org.



Testimonials



One of our Winnie’s Transitional Housing clients, Sara, shared how our ministry helped her. Sara struggled with a difficult childhood. As an adult, she battled addictions to alcohol and drugs, as well as an eating disorder. For a while, Sara was trafficked. Today, Sara is a survivor, and she shares her story with others. In describing the difference that Winnie’s made in Sara’s life, she explained, “When you’ve given up on yourself, they don’t. They see the potential and do everything they can to help you see that as well and give you the tools and resources to overcome trauma and be successful.”

Our food pantries are a lifeline to those in need in our area. Gina, a former corporate trainer, struggled with an undiagnosed illness for two decades. Her disease, Cushings, is cyclical so she would get seriously ill for a while, make every effort to maintain employment, and the disease would go into remission without a diagnosis. This prevented Gina from being able to remain employed. Eventually, her disease became florid, meaning that it stayed activated and no longer went into remission. It was at this point that Gina was able to be diagnosed. It would still be another three years before Gina would be approved for disability. Gina wiped out her savings and had to take out additional loans. Gina expressed, “I really had no choice but to reach out to the food pantries. That’s been such a lifesaver.” She added, “I’m beyond grateful that they are there, and it really has helped so much.”

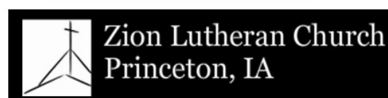


Thanksgiving in July

Thank you to everyone who made this year’s Thanksgiving in July a success. We are grateful to our sponsors and our donors. We’re thankful to those who spread the word about this annual fundraiser. We’re blessed to have a community that supports those in need in our area.

The following are our sponsors:

- Airgas -- Davenport,
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- Christian Science Church -- Moline,
- Macedonia Baptist Church -- Sterling,
- NAACP Metrocom Branch -- Davenport,
- QC Core Chiropractic Wellness Center -- Bettendorf,
- First Lutheran Church -- Rock Island,
- Riverside UMC -- Moline,
- St. James Lutheran Church -- Bettendorf,
- Tabernacle Baptist Church -- Moline,
- Trinity Lutheran Church -- Moline,
- Zion Lutheran Church -- Davenport, and
- Zion Lutheran Church -- Princeton, IA.





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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:
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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:



www.facebook.com/ChurchesUnitedoftheQuadCityArea

Meal Site Volunteers

We would love to have you volunteer at our meal site at Zion Lutheran Church in Davenport. If you have a heart to help serve meals to those in need, contact our associate director, Betsy Vanausdeln at 563-332-5002 or by email at bvanausdeln@cuqca.org.



Birdies for Charity



We are thankful to everyone who donated to our organization through the John Deere Classic Birdies for Charity program. The funds raised will help us to continue our mission.