



Faith Connections

United in Faith Helping
People In Need

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Our Mission: Serve this community † Revitalize the Church † Celebrate Christian Unity **To Look Back, or Not to Look Back, That Is the Question**

Genesis 19:17 "And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed."

1 Chronicles 16:11-12 "Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his face continually. Remember his marvelous works that he has done, his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth;"

"To be, or not to be, that is the question:" This much quoted line from the third act of William Shakespeare's Hamlet continues:

*"Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles
And by opposing end them?"*

This prompted this month's article.

I think we all believe 2020 has been one of the longest years of our lives. Hurricanes have occurred at such a rate that they actually ran out of names for the Atlantic Ocean storms and had to move well into the Greek alphabet. Out west, forest fires were early, destructive, and devastating. Of course, there was the pandemic that is not going away in the foreseeable future. Add to these calamities, the murders of George Floyd, Brianna Taylor and countless others that have fanned the flames of racial hatred and injustice. Last and certainly not least is the election that is not yet settled in the minds of many.

We have been forced to institute changes this past year, yet managed to stay connected in new ways. We have learned that worship need not take place in the sanctuary thanks to virtual technology.

Churches United as a ministry, has had to adapt our operations. We had to suspend operations at our two hot meal sites due to COVID-19 concerns for our volunteers, our host church and the individuals who counted on a decent hot meal in the evenings.

Our food pantries had to adapt also. These changes ranged from limiting service to one family allowed in our pantries, pre-packaged food boxes according to family size, curb side no-contact service, and to a couple of pantries suspending service completely.

Last and certainly not least, our lack of finances pushed Churches United to the brink of ceasing operations after nearly 60 years of serving the Quad Cities area.

Yet, in the midst of it all, God has showed Churches United with so many blessings and new opportunities that cause me to stand in awe of His awesomeness.

We will finish 2020 and enter in to a new year with new hopes. We have fed and will continue to feed the hungry. We have served women and children who suffered from domestic violence and will continue to serve them in a new, comprehensive way. And thanks to the generosity of our members and ministerial organizations, Churches United will not be forced to suspend operations for the foreseeable future. (Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Churches United Staff

- **Executive Director**
Rev. Dr. Melvin Grimes
mgrimes@cuqca.org
- **Associate Director**
Betsy Vanausdeln
bvanausdeln@cuqca.org
- **Administrative
Assistant**
Kimberly Reese
kreesee@cuqca.org

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Psalm 42:4-5 "When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holyday. Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted in me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance."

We must resist looking back when doing so will expose and remind us of the destructive forces that have been running rampant in our world.

I don't want to look back on the pain, heartache, disappointment, and destructive things that we have experienced this past year.

I will look back and I encourage our readers to look back on what God left and what God gave us. God gave us another year to serve Him!

On behalf of the Churches United Board of Directors, our staff, and volunteers, have a Happy and Safe New Year.

Blessings,
Me





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 social media director at sschwartz@cuqca.org



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2535 Tech Drive Suite 205
Bettendorf, IA 52722

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