

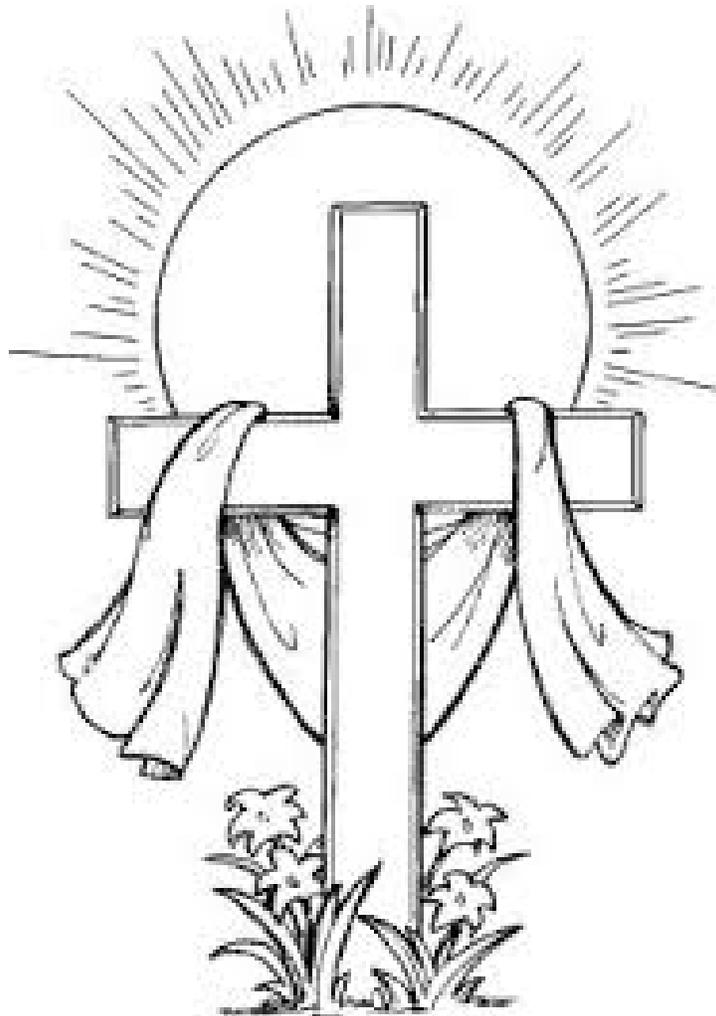


April 2017

Email: [Newsletter@cuqca.org](mailto:Newsletter@cuqca.org)

2535 Tech Drive, Suite 205, Bettendorf, Iowa 52722 \* 563.332.5002 \* [www.cuqca.org](http://www.cuqca.org)

---



## *A Note from Anne*

As you read the newsletter Easter is merely weeks away. Our world, our country has changed significantly. In light of what is happening around the world with the reemergence of women's issues, I can't help but think about the story of the women at Jesus tomb. I thought it would be interesting to explore the thoughts of women clergy and share their perspective on this part of the Easter story.



A female Episcopalian priest states that: “Mary Magdalene's encounter with the risen Jesus is the heart of the Easter message. Mary has only a moment of recognition, a voice — his voice — that rattles, shakes and turns her world upside down, as she realizes that the empty tomb, the place of death, has somehow been transformed into a place of life.

While the others at first remain silent, Mary's willingness to "go and tell" what she has seen and heard is a daring act of courage. She has no language or categories to explain what she has experienced, yet she becomes the first to reveal the promise of new life available through Christ's resurrection.”

■ A local Presbyterian pastor shares “ I'm not sure the message of Easter is different for women, and that is exactly why many women and marginalized people find it compelling: The message is the same for all.”

Jesus was counter-cultural in innumerable ways. He stepped over boundaries between genders, races and religions. He loved all and with the direction of the country today, now more than ever we need to follow the teachings of Jesus, including Forgiveness and Acceptance. Now more than ever the faith community must hold firm and reach their arms out across all of our brothers and sisters of all faiths.

Our challenge today is to reach out the way Jesus did, to all marginalized people to treat one another with dignity, respect and equality.

■ A United Methodist pastor states: The death of Jesus for the sins of God's people would forever remove the need for the priest to be the pathway to forgiveness of sins.

This event opened up a whole new opportunity for women that today manifests itself through the ministry and ordination of women in the church.

■ This from a Lutheran clergy - “The message of God in Christ by Spirit is the same to all. How God connects with each individual varies; how an individual responds varies. God calls all people into loving, accountable relationship. Whether male or female, believers love God for loving humankind and creation unconditionally.”

■ An American Baptist clergy woman states: “The message of Easter is powerful for the marginalized. It says two things: that women were the first to experience the resurrection and to preach the good news that Jesus had risen.”

Exclusion of women has been the domain of sinful humanity, not the intent of a perfect God, and the resurrection experience is no different.

The presence of women looking on at Jesus' crucifixion was from a distance. It would have been prohibited for women to have been in the temple and controversial for women to have been among Jesus' disciples.

And lastly, this story from the Executive Director of the Kentucky Council of Churches: “The Easter message has led to a steady march to bring down the barriers of prejudice. God's ‘new creation’ comes through the transformation of minds to see what is of God in each and every person.”

Women are among the many groups who benefit from being seen as God sees us — made in God's image, and redeemed by God's loving sacrifice for us all.



Women who see ourselves in this way have a dignity that cannot be taken away, a dignity that helps us resist oppression, fills us with gratitude and makes us want to help other people who may be vulnerable. This is one reason why so many women's groups have formed the backbone of social reform movements.

Whatever your opinion is on this piece of the story, know this – that God loves you and that Jesus died on the cross to save us and forgives our sins.

With blessings –

Anne

## *Winnie's Place*

Greetings from *Winnie's Place*! I would like to share one of the client's stories as she moves in her new beginning and hope!



Off and on for the last four years I have been battling with drug addiction. It has taken my family, friends, homes, and jobs. I have allowed chemicals to alter who I am to the point that no one knows who I am, including myself. I first came to *Winnie's* in 2014, where I stayed for a few weeks before I abruptly left, returning to my abuser and drugs. Since that time I continued my journey down the road to hell, in and out of hospitals, jail and treatment facility. In and out of bad relationships I only entered for the purpose of obtaining drugs with my body, mind and soul. I landed myself in the emergency room after I had been detoxing myself for several days and wanting help. I couldn't get help; so my daughter took me to a longtime friend who would help me, until I decided I needed to leave because he wanted more, he wanted a romantic relationship. I called and was allowed to return to *Winnie's*. The shelter staff has gone above and beyond anything I could have ever imagined possible to help me in my journey to sobriety. They have provided me with the knowledge I need to get ahead and move along back into society as a clean and sober individual. I received so much help mentally and spiritually from the shelter. I can't begin to thank the churches and businesses or even just the people who take their personal time to get things we need. I whole heartedly believe if I had not been able to come to *Winnie's Place*, either time, I most definitely would not have survived the past 4 weeks. I am eternally grateful for such an amazing group of women and their continued efforts to make a difference in a drug addict's life. Thank you for everything, N

That is just one person who has been served through the shelter ministry. As we move through Lent please pray for all who are looking for new beginnings, hope and renewal. Thank you for all you do for this ministry! You ARE making a difference!  
*Because of Him, Kit*

NEEDS: paper towels, dish washer detergent, 13 & 30 gallon trash bags, Bags – quart, gallon & 2-gallon, vinyl mattress protectors (twin size), boxed side dishes of rice or pasta, umbrellas, parmesan cheese, milk, cheese, pizzas, butter, hamburger, Clorox Clean, salad dressing and bus tickets. (Bus tickets can be purchased at most customer service counters) Call 309-764-9466 if you are able to help or would like information on special projects.

## Thank you to our Grantors!!

**IA Annual Conference of the UMC**  
(Hunger)

**Mary Iva Gittens Knouse**  
**Charitable Trust**  
(Hunger and Shelter)

### *Winnie's Wishes* *Resale Shop*

1605 N. Harrison St., Dav.

Hours:

10am-4pm Monday-Friday

10am-1pm Saturday

Donations are accepted:

10am-3:30pm Monday-Friday

10am-12:30pm Saturday



**Go Green!** We are finally ready to fully initiate our Go Green program! If you would like to receive the newsletter through your e-mail, we would be happy to make that happen. Please, email your current address and your e-mail address to [jmartin@cuqca.org](mailto:jmartin@cuqca.org). Thank you for your patience with us during this time of transition.



He has risen,  
Alleluia!

*Winnie's Wishes Resale Shop* is now accepting spring/summer clothing! The shop is also in need of housewares, small kitchen appliances & gadgets, décor, and specialty glassware. We are always looking for furniture like dressers, small desks, end tables, coffee tables, storage furniture and anything unique! Please let us know ahead of time if you plan to deliver several pieces of furniture so that we are sure to have room.

The shop can be reached at 563-323-5007.

Want to know when sales are taking place? Follow *Winnie's Wishes Resale Shop* on Facebook.



## Mortgage Burning Ceremony held at the Annual Delegate Assembly

Churches United of the Quad City Area celebrated a milestone accomplishment during the Delegate Assembly on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The ceremonial “mortgage burning” marked the unofficial paid in full ownership of Churches United offices at 2535 Tech Drive Suite 205 in Bettendorf.

Executive Director Anne Wachal recalls the circumstances surrounding the move in 2010 from the Martin Luther King Center in Rock Island. “The heat stopped working in the building in January when it was below zero for six weeks,” Anne said. Space heaters were no match for the cold in offices with cinder block walls. “Staff came to work in winter coats and gloves or worked from home and the library.” Flooding from a bathroom accessed by staff and a devastating office break-in sent Churches United looking for a new home.

“We needed to relocate. We wanted to stay in Illinois. But no one had the space we needed within our budget,” Anne said. Rented space found in Davenport came with apartment tenants and landlord responsibilities that would have severely strained Churches United’s resources.

“We had a board member and former board president who knew this office was available,” Anne explained. “The accountant who owned the condo was selling it at a cost below market value. We did the math and knew it would work for us.”

Concerns about the perceived affluence of Bettendorf prompted a survey of Churches United constituents. Would the location conflict with the mission, core beliefs and ministries to serve people in need? Answers gathered overwhelmingly supported the decision.

“Once they learned why we were making the move, they were totally fine with it,” Anne said.

Churches United purchased the condo for \$75,000. An open house was held in July 2010. Extra payments reduced the amount owed to \$22,000 by January 2017. An anonymous donation, “a kind of Christmas gift,” according to Anne, paid off the mortgage. Churches United now owns the condo and Winnie’s Place, the emergency shelter that houses women and children who are homeless or victims of violence.

“It was a struggle,” Anne remarks. “But we did it.”



## Current Events

**Bible Art Journaling!** Quad City Bible Art Journaling is eager to meet again on **April 8th and May 20th from 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. at First Baptist Church, 3020 30<sup>th</sup> Street, Rock Island.** (This is a non-denominational group, we are blessed that First Baptist has allowed us to use their wonderful space!) No special talent needed. Feel free to bring your Bible or Art Journal if you have one, otherwise color pages will be available. Art materials will be available to use. Find us on Facebook at Quad City Bible Art Journaling. You will see growth and newness of life blossom all around you as you draw near to Him.

## Classified

**Available:** Conference table w/8 upholstered chairs, office desk, cradanza, bookcase, waiting room furniture (15 upholstered chairs, 2 end tables). All items are in perfect condition. For prices and more information please contact: Mary @ 309/738-6176.

### New Deadline for articles, Current Events and Classifieds!!

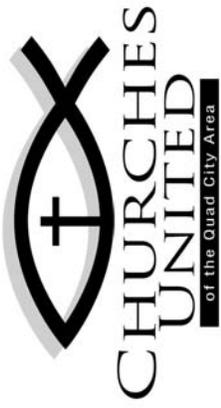
We are changing the way we produce the newsletter, so we must change the deadline date for Current Events and the Classified section. The new deadline date is the 12th of the month prior to your event. The newsletter is mailed on the first Monday of the month. If your event falls into that week, you may want to email your event information two months prior.

Churches United on

facebook

Recently, we sat down with Darlos Stroud, Churches United Board Member. Darlos shared her experience with Churches United as a recipient of our hunger ministry. She shared why she chose to become a Churches United Board Member. And shared how imperative our organization is to the Quad-Cities area community.

To view this video, go to Churches United of the Quad City Area Facebook page or type in this link: <https://www.facebook.com/ChurchesUnitedoftheQuadCityArea/videos/1298938663489863/>



2535 Tech Drive, Suite 205  
Bettendorf, IA 52722  
Phone: 563.332.5002  
[www.cuqca.org](http://www.cuqca.org)  
E-mail: [newsletter@cuqca.org](mailto:newsletter@cuqca.org)

8

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Rock Island, IL 61201  
Permit No. 37

If you no longer wish to receive  
"The ARC", please return this  
page with the mailing label to  
our address above, or call us.  
Thank You!!