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March 2018

Email: Newsletter@cuqca.org

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A Blessed Message of Hope



***“Thanks be to God, who
in Christ always leads us
in triumphal procession,
and through us spreads
in every place the
fragrance that comes
from knowing him.”
– 2 Corinthians 2:14***

To say that this past year has been one of transition for Churches United would be a gross understatement! To the best of my recollection, in the 18 years I have been associated with CU we have never had the kind of turn over in staff that we have had this year. But even as we have said good-bye to some long-time friends, I am buoyed by the ongoing mission and ministry of Churches United: “To Serve this Community, Revitalize the Church and Celebrate our Christian Unity.”

Even in the midst of transition we have responded to Christ’s call to feed the hungry and sheltered the homeless! And we will continue to do so into the future because this is what disciples of Jesus Christ do.

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- *A Blessed Message of Hope continued*

We are faithful to a calling that is greater than ourselves and serves a community that God is seeking to redeem. We will continue to strive to be agents of God's grace and peace where we can and bring healing and wholeness where there is need.

On the back of my van I have a sticker that reminds me that "Life is Good." And I know that life is good because I know that God is good. God has a plan for Churches United that is greater than any one of us and I am confident and hopeful for a blessed future for CU because I know that God is good!

It has been a blessing to have served as board president this past year. I am excited to see where God leads us next!

Yours in Christ, Rev. Troy Winder

Greetings from Winnie's Place! Last month we shared a client's story with you. T talked about how one day she woke up, decided she was tired of being beaten and controlled, and left that relationship. In fact, she had decided to leave an abusive relationship more than once. At the very least, she had been in two abusive relationships. Statistically, a female child who grows up in a home where there is abuse is much more likely to end up in an abusive relationship as an adult. They may even stay in the relationship longer because they see abuse as "normal". On average, a woman will leave an abusive relationship seven times before she will stay out of the relationship.



It is not uncommon for us to receive calls from friends or family of a woman who is being abused. These callers want the best for their loved one; they want her out of the situation! No one but the person in the situation can make the decision to get away from an abusive situation. I know that this can be heartbreaking for those of you who may have lost a loved one due to violence. You can help those in abusive situations learn about personal rights, resources, options, and personal safety. If you would like information, please call *Winnie's Place* at 309-764-9466. We are here to help!!

Because of Him, Kit

Winnie's Place needs barbeque sauce, ketchup, peanut butter, dishwasher detergent, parmesan cheese, eyeliner, tea, coffee creamer, crackers, pillows, radios, juice, Kool-Aid, sugar, sour cream, cheese, pizzas, frozen potatoes, lunch meat and fresh fruit/veggies! **Thank you!**

Reach Out! Be a Blessing!
Give TODAY to Churches United
United in Faith Helping People in Need
25 food pantries † 3 hot meal sites † Winnie's Place emergency shelter
Visit our website at www.cuqca.org † Call us at 563-332-5002

Grantors Funding Our Ministries THANK YOU!
Illinois Great Rivers Conference UMC
Iowa Annual Conference of the UMC
City of Rock Island Gaming Grant

Events & Announcements

Upcoming programs in March at Benet House Retreat Center:
Portrait of a Radical: The Jesus Movement, Tuesday evenings, March 5, 12, and 19, 6:30-8 p.m.; **A Lenten Evening for Families: "A Walk with Jesus Through Holy Week,"** Tuesday, March 6, 5:30-8 p.m.; **Centering Prayer**, Wednesdays, March 7, 14, 21 and 18, 1-2:30 p.m.; **Break-A-Way: Day of Prayer and Quiet**, Wednesday, March 7, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; **Taize Prayer**, March 8, 6:30-7:30 p.m. For information on all upcoming programs in March at Benet House Retreat Center, call 309-283-2108, email retreats@smmsisters.org, or visit www.smmsisters.org/retreats.

Song and Worship with Father J. Michael Joncas, Thursday, March 8, 7 p.m., at Sacred Heart Cathedral in the Diocesan Hall, 422 E. 10th St., Davenport. Co-sponsored by Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat and the Congregation of the Humility of Mary; FREE event, good will offering accepted.

CHURCHES UNITED DELEGATE ASSEMBLY
Thursday, March 22, 7 p.m., at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1330 13th St., Moline. **ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN US** as we celebrate 57 years of service to the Quad City Area community!