



# Faith Connections

United in Faith Helping  
People In Need

Volume 4, Issue 1  
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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 showered 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:

Mel's Column Continued	2
Thank You	2
Interview with Brian Morley	3
Winnie's Place Needs List	3
Volunteers Needed	4
Fall Campaign Thank You	4



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Continued from page 1 - **To Look Back or Not to Look Back, That is the Question**

**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 has 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, we hope you have a Happy and Safe New Year.

Blessings,  
Mel

*“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.” Psalm 42:4-5*

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

**Thank You!**

**Thank you, Tyson Foods for graciously donating chicken sausage patties to our pantries.**

**Thank you to all the individuals and organizations who generously and abundantly donated items to help our clients. You filled our office and you filled the hearts of those who received your gifts.**



## Interview with Brian Morley of Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry

### What does the process of donating deer meat to our pantries entail?

"The state (Illinois) actually has a program where they take donated deer meat and they supply it to the pantries and shelters. I have a similar process. The only difference is that mine is 100% free and stays local. The process is that I, throughout the year, raise funds through grants and donations for processing the meat. 100% of the proceeds goes directly into the processing fees. There's no overhead. There's no administrative fees. There's nothing. Once that money is secured and Churches United is gracious enough to be my accountant that kind of keeps everything clean and simple. Then hunters...what they can do if they harvest an extra deer or would like to donate a deer...all they have to do is drop it off at one of our donation sites. Those are Woodhull Locker in Woodhull, Illinois and Reason's Locker in Buffalo Prairie, IL Once they drop it off, all they do is just sign the book. There's no ask of any kind of donation or partial payment or anything. I take care of all the financials. Once we have enough...the meat is all ground into one pound burger: burger patties or burger packages. Once I have enough to get picked up, Betsy (CUQCA Associate Director) is gracious enough. She takes care of all the distribution through Churches United. I give Betsy a call and say we have 750 pounds of ground deer meat ready to go whenever you are available and Betsy coordinates the pick up. Then that meat stays right here locally."

### Why do you work with Churches United?

"Because they're so respected in the Quad City Area. They not only have their finger on the pulse of who's in the most need but they also know whose got the freezer space to accommodate the meat to make sure that nothing is going to go to waste. They have the wherewithal to make the pick-up and the deliveries. They're also fantastic in the financial aspect of all my donations to make sure all the paperwork is done for the meat lockers. Churches United makes sure that everything stays honest and gets to where it needs to get."

### Anything else?

"My two butchers are incredible."

"Betsy is the greatest."

**Brian's organization is set up as a 501(c)(3). For more information, Brian may be reached at (309) 781-2944 or by email at: [brian.morley@rimsd41.org](mailto:brian.morley@rimsd41.org). The website is [www.fhfh.org](http://www.fhfh.org). Donations may also be made to Churches United to support this ministry.**



### Brian Morley

Brian is the coordinator for the Illinois Heartland Chapter 10 of Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry. Brian has worked with Churches United for almost 10 years to enable hunters to donate deer meat that is distributed to pantries throughout the Quad Cities. Brian is also an art and PE teacher in the Rock Island-Milan School District.





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On the Web

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## Volunteers Needed

Do you have a heart that wants to help those in need? Do you feel like God is nudging you to do something but you're not sure what to do?

Have you considered volunteering at our shelter, Winnie's Place?

We need volunteers who are willing to assist women and their families find stability and permanent housing.

For more information, contact **Betsy Vanausdeln** at (563) 332-5002 or by email at [bvanausdeln@cuqca.org](mailto:bvanausdeln@cuqca.org).

## 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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THANK YOU!

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Thank you to everyone who donated to our Fall 2020 Campaign.



Your donation will enable Churches United of the Quad City Area to keep on serving our community in 2021. Know that we are working on nurturing existing collaborations and building new relationships with community organizations to make sure that the poorest in our area are receiving daily meals. We will continue to assist our pantries in remaining open and to seek out donations on their behalf. Our CareLINK program will remain open and provide emergency financial assistance to individuals and families through rent assistance and help with utility bills. Our women's shelter, Winnie's Place, will continue to house women and families.

We are grateful for your support. Your donation will have a significant and lasting impact on those most in need in the Quad Cities.

*"...you do not have because you do not ask." James 4:2*