



Faith Connections

United in Faith Helping
People In Need

Volume 3, Issue 10
October 2020

Our Mission: Serve this community † Revitalize the Church † Celebrate Christian Unity

The Elephant in the Room

As I watched and read the news, it dawned on me that a lot of our national, state, and local arguments are based on two little words: “my rights.” Numerous articles were titled like this: “How To Flex Your Rights During a Police Encounter”, “Your Civil Rights”, “Gay Rights”, “Abortion Rights”, “Right To Life”, and even “What You Need To Know About Your Rights at the Airport.” “My rights not to wear a mask”, “My right to bear arms”, “my rights to freedom of speech”, and the list goes on and on.



All of this came to mind as I have been watching the news of the protests and anger of people over the killings that have taken place, the deliberate use of fear tactics to frighten the citizens of our communities, the overflowing expression of racially motivated hatred, and of course, our upcoming election. The leaders gathered to attempt to come up with solutions. However, the solutions suggested are nothing more than the same ideas and solutions that were brought about in previous decades of discussions when these types of crisis situations occurred. Temporary fixes that didn't and don't work.

So what is the “elephant in the room” that the leaders of our country, states, communities, and churches refuse to look at? The heart! The heart is sick and must be changed. No matter how many policy changes occur, no matter how much training is offered to employers, police forces, political leaders and church leaders, it will not solve the problem. No matter how much protesting people do for their rights, as long as we ignore the elephant in the room - the condition of our hearts, humanity's issues will never be resolved.

So how do we heal or fix the heart? It is through repentance and placing God's Word in our hearts. The vaccines to all of our issues are found in Exodus 20 and Matthew 5:3-10. Instead of trusting in human efforts, why not teach people the basic principles that God laid out in His inspired Word?

Our Savior, Jesus Christ admonished us: “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another:” (John 13:34-35 NIV)

The real elephant in the room being ignored is mankind's efforts to fix their problems without first fixing their hearts. The heart can only be fixed through repentance; turning our hearts to God, and abiding by His Word.

Blessings,
Mel

Inside this issue:

<i>Fall Appeal</i>	2
<i>Thank You</i>	3
<i>Holiday Train Update</i>	3
<i>October Board Meeting</i>	4

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October 1, 2020



Dear Churches United Supporter,

Throughout the pandemic, Churches United has continued to serve the community. In the early days, we collaborated with community organizations to make sure that the poorest in our area were receiving meals daily. Most of our pantries have remained open throughout the pandemic. CareLINK continues to provide emergency financial assistance to individuals and families through rent assistance and help with utility bills. Our women's shelter, Winnie's Place, has continued to house women and families in need.

Our ministries have struggled. Our meal sites remain closed. Winnie's Wishes Resale Shop, the store whose proceeds supported Winnie's Place, fell victim to the economic conditions created by the pandemic and closed in August. We modified our Delegate Assembly meeting due to a low response. Our Thanksgiving in July campaign to help our pantries received fewer donations than in past years. Worshipping together is a major part of our mission but ecumenical worship is something that we are longing for and not planning for at this time.

We know that you are dealing with the effects of the pandemic and a world that would have been unimaginable a year ago. Churches United has ministered to the Quad Cities for 59 years. For us to carry on, we need your support at one of the following levels:

Prayer Partner: Due to your own hardship, you won't be able to make a financial contribution now but you will keep us in your prayers.

Ministry Supporter: (\$1 to \$250) Your donation will help us cover our operating expenses across our ministries.

Mission Benefactor: (\$251 to \$500) In addition to covering our expenses, your donation will help us to fulfill our mission to serve our community, revitalize the Church, and celebrate our Christian unity.

Capital Contributor: (Over \$500) At this level, you contribute to our mission and you assist with capital needs that come up. Last year, donations at this level helped us replace the HVAC system at our shelter. This year, we are working to improve funding streams for Winnie's Place through grants and the development of a strategic plan but we still need immediate help.

I ask you to prayerfully consider how you can contribute to our ministries.

Blessings!

Mel

Rev. Dr. Melvin L. Grimes

Executive Director

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



Thank you, Southeastern Iowa Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for the generous donation to our hunger ministries.

Thank you, Pastor Karen Ullestad. Pastor Karen of Zion Lutheran Church in Davenport has been an ardent supporter and contributor to our ministries. We are grateful for all that she has done to serve Churches United and the Quad Cities. Pastor Karen is leaving our area and we'll miss her.



Thank you, Scott Hildebrand, Henry's Christmas Yard, and Kona Ice for hosting a Labor Day Food Drive.

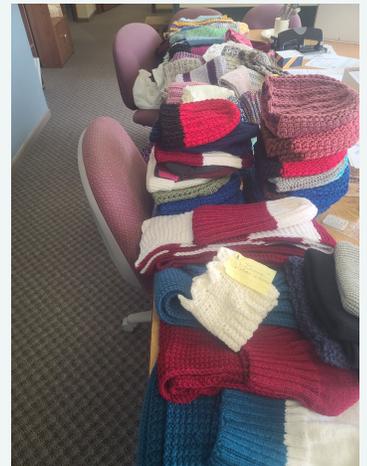
Thank you, First Baptist Church - East Moline.

The donation of these lovely quilts for our shelter residents is genuinely appreciated.



Thank you, Blue Grass Presbyterian String-A-Long group.

The beautiful, handmade hats and scarves will bring joy and warmth to our clients.



Virtual Holiday Concert 2020



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Canadian Pacific (CP) will be holding a virtual holiday concert this year, instead of hosting gatherings with brightly lit trains and local dignitaries.

As the local beneficiary of the Holiday Train Program in the Quad Cities, Churches United will be working with CP to have a food drive to benefit our Hunger Ministries, as well as providing information about the virtual concert. CP will also donate to Churches United.

As information becomes available about the concert, we will be updating you in our newsletter and on our Facebook page.



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For newsletter submissions, contact Susan Schwartz, our social media director at sschwartz@cuqca.org



On the Web

www.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
Churches United of the Quad City Area
2535 Tech Drive Suite 205
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THANK YOU!

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[ChurchesUnitedoftheQuadCityArea/](https://www.facebook.com/ChurchesUnitedoftheQuadCityArea/)



Support CUQCA by designating us as your charity and by purchasing items from our Wish List.

https://smile.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/I9QO2R6L5908/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_4?_encoding=UTF8&type=wishlist



Have you wanted to be a difference maker but you weren't sure what to do? Have you ever met someone struggling with homelessness and wondered if you could help? Did someone help you and you want to pay it forward? Whatever your motivation may be, we'd love your help.

If you feel called to assist, please contact Betsy Vanausdeln at 563-332-5002 or by email at bvanausdeln@cuqca.org



Board Meeting

Thursday, October 22nd

Trinity Lutheran Church

1330 13th St

Moline, IL 51625

7:00pm Board Meeting

Board Meeting is open to the public.