



Faith Connections

United in Faith Helping
People In Need

Volume 3, Issue 11
November 2020

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

Life in the Overflow

Would you consider yourself a grateful person? With the Thanksgiving season upon us and the changes families must make due to COVID-19, we would do well to ponder that question. After all, we are called upon to emulate Jesus and His life was characterized by gratitude. Throughout His ministry, He regularly expressed His thanks to the Father. Before breaking the bread and fish to feed the five thousand, He paused to give thanks. Prior to raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus stood at the tomb and thanked the Father for hearing the prayer that was about to be answered (John 11:41-42).



How about you? Are you communicating gratitude on a regular basis? Our life should be characterized by it, even as we deal with the chaos surrounding us. However, becoming a thankful person is not a matter of self-effort. Genuine thankfulness flows from a grateful heart, and a grateful heart comes from Christ's life expressed through us. It's not simply about choosing to try and be more grateful. Rather, it is a daily choice to surrender control of our life to the Lord. That's when He's free to demonstrate His character through us.

So, what does it look like when Christ transforms us into grateful people? First, we will be filled with confidence in the Lord and His Word. Knowing that He's working everything out for our good (Romans 8:28) and developing within us the priceless treasure of faith, we can respond with gratitude even in painful trials (1 Peter 1:6-7).

Next, we will recognize Him as the source of all good things. Contentment and peace will be evident in our life because we will understand that whatever God chooses for us is best – whether much or little.

Finally, a grateful person is generous. God wants His children, like flowing streams, to pass blessings onto others. Selfishness always stifles gratitude but giving increases it.

This year, don't allow Thanksgiving Day to be your only expression of gratitude. Ask God to develop within you a grateful heart. Then thank Him for His faithfulness in both good and hard times.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Mel

Dr. M. Lawrence Grimes

Inside this issue:

Recognition	2
It's On Us	2
CUQCA Needs	2
Season of Giving	3
Thank You	3
Turkey Burn	3
Sponsorship Opportunity	4
Reverse Advent Calendar	4

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Congratulations, Churches United Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Melvin L. Grimes on being honored as one of the recipients of the YWCA of the Quad Cities Race Against Racism Award.

Blair Bullock, our CareLINK intern, is president and founder of a new organization on the campus of St. Ambrose University called It's On Us. It's On Us focuses on education and prevention of sexual assault on college campuses. Blair is an assault survivor and she is very passionate about this work! She's selling these pins for \$3 a piece to get the club up and running so they can throw some major events! If you'd like to contribute to this amazing cause, please contact Blair by sending an email to: bullockblair@sau.edu



We need your help.

Below is the latest list of items that our ministries need. Donations can be dropped off Monday through Friday between 8am and 4pm at our office.

Can you open a door for someone in need? We need volunteers to help at Winnie's Place Shelter. We will provide training. This is an opportunity for you to help women and families transition from homelessness to having a home of their own.

For more information, contact Betsy Vanausdeln at 563-332-5002 or by email at bvanausdeln@cuqca.org.

Needs List

<i>Gift Cards for grocery stores and Walmart/Target</i>	
<i>Paper Towels</i>	<i>Cleaning Supplies</i>
<i>Toilet Paper</i>	<i>Garbage Bags (13 Gallon Black)</i>
	<i>Clorox Wipes</i>
	<i>Masks for Adults and Children</i>
	<i>Monthly Bus Cards</i>
	<i>Postage Stamps</i>

Can you open a door for someone in need?






3rd Annual Season of Giving Blood Drive and collection for other organizations at Henry's Christmas Yard (1504 26th Avenue Moline, IL) is Saturday, November 28th from 11am - 4pm.

For more information, contact Scott Hildebrand at (309)738-4879 or go to: <https://www.facebook.com/henrysyard>

Thank You

Thank you, Smokinpyro_BBQ!

On October 3rd, Smokinpyro_BBQ worked with community organizations, including Churches United, to provide a hot meal, clothing, and hygiene products to those in need. Even though it was a cold and rainy day, the event was a success and many were served.

Thank You

Thank you, John Deere Classic Birdies for Charity and all of those who donated to Churches United through the Birdies for Charity program.

The financial gift will go a long way in helping serve those in need in our community.



A FREE COMMUNITY WORKOUT BENEFITING AREA FOOD BANKS

WHEN: November 14, 2020 9-10am

WHERE: The Indoor turf @ TBK Bank Sports Complex

WHO: Ages 12 and up. Participants ages 12 - 15 must have a guardian present.

WHAT: A free community workout featuring three different stations spaced out on the spacious indoor turf following social distancing guidelines.

WHY?

The event will be free to all community members, but we ask that participants bring a non-perishable food item to benefit area foodbanks via Churches United of the Quad City Area



Churches United of the Quad City Area

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For newsletter submissions, contact Susan Schwartz, our social media director at sschwartz@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
Bettendorf, IA 52722

THANK YOU!

Donate, keep up-to-date, and check out daily reflections by following us on Facebook at:



<https://www.facebook.com/>

[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



Support the pantries of Churches United by purchasing the items on this list and bringing your donations to our office or directly to one of our 26 pantries. If you'd like help connecting with a pantry, contact our office for information.

Business Opportunity

We are looking for businesses to partner with for our Holiday Food Drive. Sponsors will receive recognition in our newsletter, on Facebook, and on our website. This food drive is to help us because we won't be able to have our Holiday Train Live food collection event this year.

If you're interested in helping, please contact Betsy Vanausdeln by calling our office or send an email to: bvanausdeln@cuqca.org.



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

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