



# Faith Connections

United in Faith Helping  
People In Need

Volume 4, Issue 3  
March 2021

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

## Three Positive Ways to Respond to Negative Criticism

No matter what area of leadership you are involved with, you will face negative criticism. Some criticism is good; it is constructive, truthful, and has good intentions. Relish this kind of criticism in your life and ministry. Some criticism is unequivocally bad criticism. It is destructive, not based 100% in truth, and is based on bad intentions. Prepare yourself for this kind of criticism.

Whether it is a critique of a sermon preached, a critique of an event, or a personal attack on you, your family, or your church, this criticism can pull us into the depths of despair.

But there are positive ways we can respond to negative criticism. I believe responding in these ways can help anyone relieve the burden caused by unwanted and bad criticism, as well as help and minister to those who are broken and dishing out this bad criticism.

Here are 3 positive ways to respond to negative criticism: find the hidden truth, find the broken person, and defend yourself kindly.

### Find the Hidden Truth

This is a difficult task, but much criticism... yes, even destructive criticism, can be traced to a constructive or truthful nugget of information. Maybe, the criticism was "I could have done a better job of leading the mission ministry," or "I could have taught a better Sunday school lesson." Now, there is nothing constructive about this criticism after you or your leadership team has dedicated time in prayer for these efforts.

### Find the Broken Person

A lot of destructive criticism comes from a broken and toxic person. Maybe, they are broken because they are toxic or maybe, they are toxic because they are broken. Either way, extend grace in situations of unwanted and bad criticism.

### Defend Yourself... Kindly

Maybe, you casually brush off bad criticism and never confront those who do it to you. This might not be the best path to take. Obviously, a shouting match or heated discussion in the foyer right after service is not the best place to defend criticism. Bad criticism is something none of us want. It is frustrating, disheartening, and discouraging. But in the bad criticism, we can find a way to help ourselves and help the person giving the negative talk.

Blessings,  
Mel

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### Thank You!

Because of you, our supporters, our hunger ministries were able to serve more Quad Citizens than ever before. Due to the pandemic, the needs of those in our community were great.

### 2020 Totals

Visits and Individuals served = **201,047**, including **9,000** hot meals served for 14 weeks during Covid

Total pounds of food distributed to agencies = **2,417,145** pounds

Total number of meals served = **2,014,287.5** meals

### Thank You!

Thank you, Pleasant View Elementary School 5th graders. They generously collected donations to support our pantries. Their mantra for the projects was "Yes we CAN!" They did an awesome job with the collection and creating their can sculpture. We are grateful for all of their hard work.



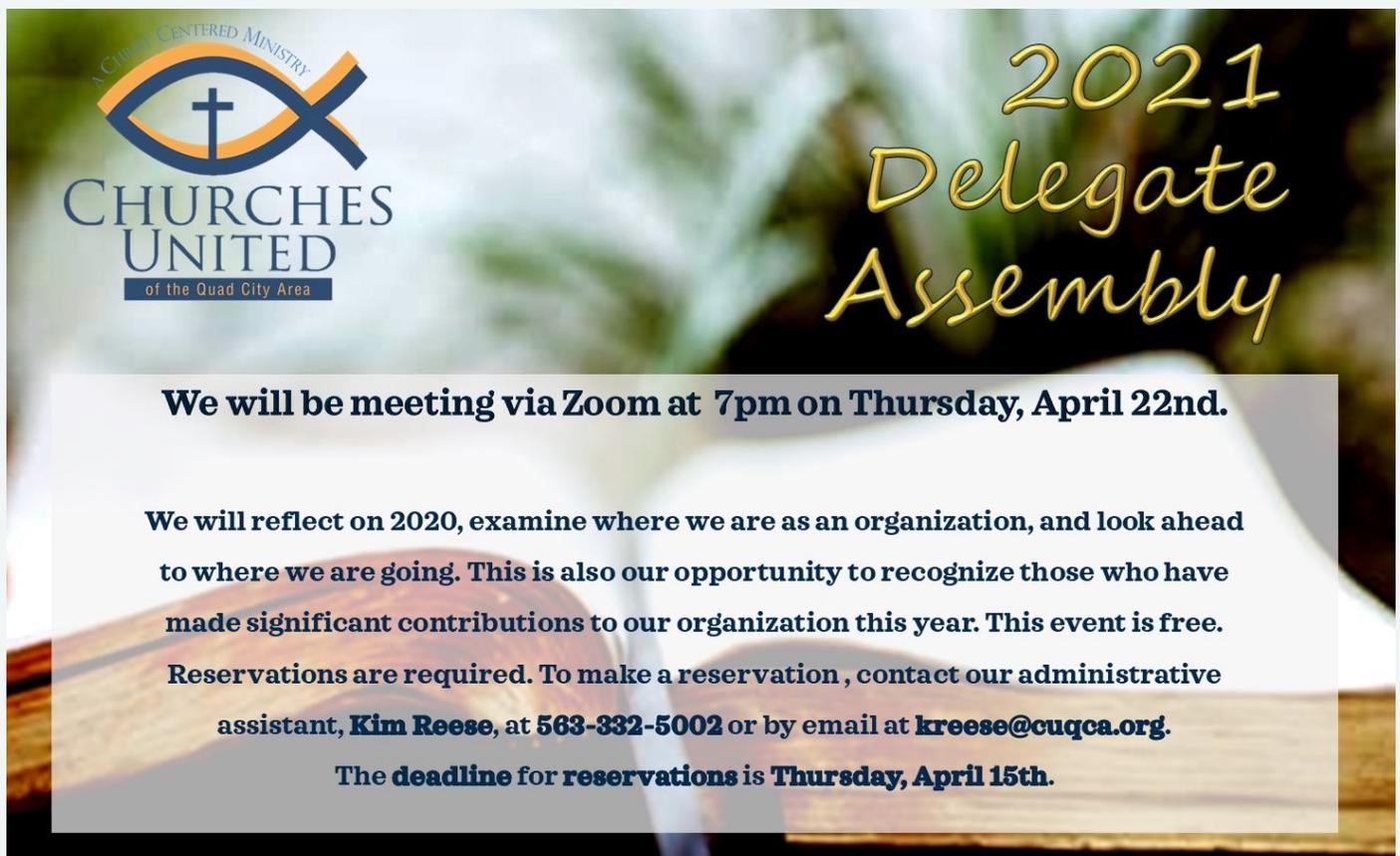
## Quarterly Meeting

We will be having a quarterly meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, March 23rd at 7pm. The meeting will be run by our executive director, Rev. Dr. Melvin L. Grimes. This is an opportunity for you to get updates, ask questions, and provide input. Reservations are required and due by Friday, March 19th. To reserve your spot, contact Kim Reese at [kreese@cuqca.org](mailto:kreese@cuqca.org) or by calling (563) 332-5002.

## Winnie's Update

We continue to make progress in our partnership with Project Now. Upgrades are being made to the building to be in compliance with the collaboration. Details of how the partnership is going to be implemented have been agreed upon.

Winnie's Place will now be officially known as Winnie's Transitional Housing.

A graphic for the 2021 Delegate Assembly. It features the Churches United logo on the left and the text "2021 Delegate Assembly" in a large, gold, cursive font on the right. Below the text is a white box with details about the meeting.

**2021 Delegate Assembly**

**We will be meeting via Zoom at 7pm on Thursday, April 22nd.**

We will reflect on 2020, examine where we are as an organization, and look ahead to where we are going. This is also our opportunity to recognize those who have made significant contributions to our organization this year. This event is free. Reservations are required. To make a reservation, contact our administrative assistant, **Kim Reese**, at **563-332-5002** or by email at **[kreese@cuqca.org](mailto:kreese@cuqca.org)**.

**The deadline for reservations is Thursday, April 15th.**



## Churches United of the Quad City Area

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On the Web

[www.cuqca.org](http://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  
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THANKYOU!

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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 for Churches United?

We need volunteers who are willing to assist at our shelter, on our committees, and in our hunger ministries.

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

## How can you celebrate March and help others?

March 1st is National Peanut Butter Lover's Day—Donate a jar of peanut butter.

March 2nd is National Read Across America Day—Donate a book.

March 3rd is National Soup it Forward Day—Donate soup.

March 6th is National Oreo Cookie Day—Donate Oreos.

March 7th is National Cereal Day—Donate cereal.

March 11th is National Johnny Appleseed Day—Donate applesauce.

March 13th is National Good Samaritan Day—Help those in need by purchasing items they can't buy through food assistance programs, like diapers, feminine hygiene products, and household cleaning supplies.

March 17th is National Small Business Development Day—Support a small business by purchasing something that you can donate to those in need.

March 18th is National Sloppy Joe Day—Donate BBQ sauce or Sloppy Joe sauce.

March 23rd is National Chip and Dip Day—Donate healthy sides to go with chips, like salsa and guacamole.

March 28th is National Something on a Stick Day—You can eat almost anything on a stick. Donate something that's fun to eat on a stick.

March 31st is National Tater Day—Donate boxed potatoes.

Source:

March 2021 National Days - National Day Calendar

