



Faith Connections

United in Faith Helping
People In Need

Volume 4, Issue 7

July 2021

Our Mission: Bringing together an ecumenical coalition of Quad City area churches to help feed the hungry, offer emergency assistance to those in crisis, and provide a transitional housing program for women and children who are victims of domestic violence or human trafficking.

Courage to Stand

We find ourselves moving rapidly toward the celebration of our nation’s birth. Yet, there are many issues that face this country including the separation of those who have much from those who struggle for the resources of life. The increased separation of opinion by differing people so that compromise becomes almost impossible has only increased. We could go on and on about issues, real life issues that need attention and leadership, yet many of our political representatives are focused on the destruction of the opposition, instead of how we can address these various issues.

One quality that needs to be held up for all leaders but possibly more for those who want to stand for public service is the quality of moral courage. Can someone stand for some important approaches to problems with the courage to offer clarity, even when the audience may not be totally supportive?

In the Biblical narrative, we can often meet leaders who lack this quality of moral courage. I am thinking of Herod who had John the Baptist executed not because he truly believed that he was dangerous to the country but because he would be embarrassed to change a promise made to a stepdaughter. We can also meet Pilate who clearly knew that Jesus of Nazareth did not in any way deserve death, yet he would not stand for the right against the clamoring of the crowd.

I am reminded of an old movie that has been on the cable channels of late entitled Twelve Angry Men, starring Henry Fonda. The setting is the jury room where 12 men who are a jury to determine the guilt or innocence of a young Puerto Rican man accused of murdering his father. In the beginning, 11 of the men see him as guilty while one man votes not guilty because he is not sure, and he feels that if a life is in the balance, time and serious deliberation is demanded. By some, this man is ridiculed for his inability to see clearly. For others, this is just a delay keeping them from other activities. The question for us as an audience as we observe this drama is how does one man stand against the wishes of the many, even when his conscience demands a varied course? Had he accepted the course of least resistance, a young man who this jury later followed the evidence to determine that he likely was not guilty, might have been executed for an offense he did not commit.

As we look at the issues that divide our country: race, adequate health care, lack of civility, etc., we must ask ourselves, are we willing and able to offer the courage to stand for a position, a belief, instead of looking for the “spin” that will absolve our conscience of avoiding the truth. We have some important challenges, and they demand our courage as Christians to provide the compassion and courage to provide the leadership necessary to bring about in the words of the Battle Hymn of the Republic, “His Truth Is Marching On.”

Happy 4th of July!
Mel

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Thanksgiving in July

Thanksgiving in July has begun for the sixth consecutive year.

Donations will be collected throughout the month of July.

Items that may be dropped off in collection boxes at our sponsor locations are non-perishable, non-expired food items, like cereal, canned fruit, vegetables, meat (tuna, chicken, Spam), peanut butter, rice, pasta/pasta sauce, macaroni and cheese, juice boxes, boxed meals, and soups. We also accept essential, non-food items such as, disinfecting spray, cleaning wipes, laundry detergent, aluminum foil, batteries, postage stamps, and bus passes.

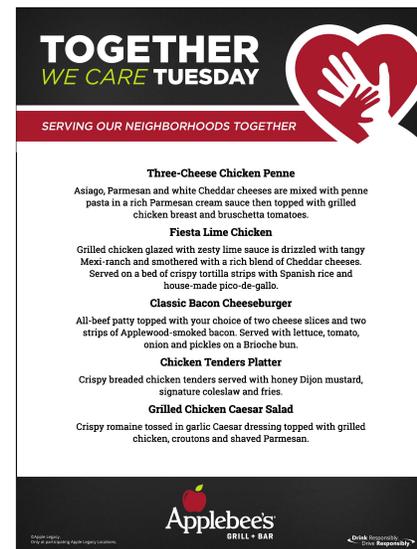
Monetary donations are appreciated. Donations may be made online at www.cuqca.org/donate.php or on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ChurchesUnitedoftheQuadCityArea>. We also accept cash and checks.

This year's sponsors are **Boozie's Bar and Grille** (Davenport), **CBI Bank and Trust**: Davenport—Downtown, Davenport—Paul Revere Square and Walcott, **Fareway Stores**: Bettendorf, Davenport, and Moline, **QC Core Chiropractic** (Bettendorf), **Christian Science Church** (Moline), **First Lutheran Church** (Rock Island), **First Presbyterian Church** (East Moline), **Tabernacle Baptist Church** (Moline), and **Trinity Lutheran Church** (Moline).



Applebee's Fundraiser

On Tuesday, July 6th from 11am to 10pm, Applebee's (3838 Elmore Ave, Davenport) will donate 50% of sales of certain menu items (see image) to Churches United. This includes all dine-in and carry-out orders. We will also have representatives sharing information about our ministries at Applebee's. Stop by and support us.



Volunteers Needed

We are in need of individuals and groups to assist with renovations at Winnie's Transitional Housing by cleaning, painting, and/or contributing carpentry skills to upgrade our units. For more information, contact Betsy Vanausdeln at 563-332-5002 or by email at bvanausdeln@cuqca.org.



Winnie's Transitional Housing Committee Members

We're looking for people who are passionate about helping women and their children escape domestic abuse and human trafficking. This committee will provide insight and oversight for Winnie's Transitional Housing. If you are interested, please contact our executive director, Rev. Dr. Melvin L. Grimes at 563-332-5002 or by email at mgrimes@cuqca.org.

Hunger Committee Members

Do you want to help combat hunger in our community? Our Hunger Committee needs members. For more information, contact our associate director, Betsy Vanausdeln, at 563-332-5002 or by email at bvanausdeln@cuqca.org.

New Administrative Assistant

Welcome, Laronda Bennett. Laronda moved here from Kansas City. She likes office work. She also likes to make greeting cards and sew. She is an active member of Tabernacle Baptist Church serving on the media ministry, as well as being the announcement clerk and assisting at the food pantry. Laronda said, "I'm kind of at home here (Churches United)." We are glad she has become a part of our organization.



Dr. Melvin Grimes, Lynn Broughton, Betsy Vanausdeln

Thank You!

Thank you, **Iowa Scottish Rite Masonic Foundation** and the **Davenport Scottish Rite Foundation** for contributing to our capital campaign benefitting Winnie's Transitional Housing.

Thank you to **The Moline Foundation** for supporting our capital campaign.

These gifts will go a long way in helping us improve the facilities at Winnie's Transition Housing so we can continue to assist women and their children who are escaping from domestic abuse and human trafficking.



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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:
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Thank You!

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



<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/19QO2R6L5908/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_4?_encoding=UTF8&type=wishlist

Thank you, Sister Kathleen Mullin for ten years of dedicated service to the ministries of Churches United. Sister Kathleen recently resigned from our board of directors. We will miss her tremendously.



Thank you, Dr. Eduardo Marquez and QC Core Chiropractic for your continued support of Churches United of the Quad City Area. We are grateful for the many ways you contribute to the success of our ministries.

You're Invited.

Quarterly Meeting via Zoom

Tuesday, July 13th at 6:30PM

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 Friday, July 9th. To reserve your spot, contact our office at (563) 332-5002 or e-mail our administrative assistant, Laronda Bennett, at lbennett@cuqca.org.