



Faith Connections

United in Faith Helping
People In Need

Volume 4, Issue 9
September 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.

Justice



On August 28, 1963, the late Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his iconic “I Have a Dream” speech in Washington D.C. One of the key thoughts that emerged from that speech was Justice.

Justice. Who wants justice? Who speaks about justice? Who pursues justice? Who is willing to sacrifice for justice? The church? The business community? The political establishment? The academy? The activists? Who wants justice for “We the People?” In a real sense, all of us should be proponents of justice, and Christians, in particular, should be courageous voices and vessels for justice. Sadly, the pursuit of justice is nonexistent in far too many sacred spaces. Unfortunately, this reality reveals the hypocritical nature of both the church and society.

Nevertheless, we must remember that the pursuit of justice is a biblical pursuit. It is a biblical mandate for all who claim to be followers of Jesus Christ. The God of the Bible is the “God of justice” (Isaiah 30:18 NIV). God is not an inactive and abstract deity unconcerned about social injustices in the world. God is an active and personal God working through humanity to produce justice in the world. Hence, the nature and character of God encompass justice. As a result, God calls and demands society to prioritize justice. For example, Micah 6:8 declares, “He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” Micah echoed the profound theme that living out God’s justice is more important than performing the correct sacrificial rituals before God (Micah 6:6-7).

The word “require” demonstrates action done in an uninterrupted state -- it neither starts nor stops. It is never-ending, showing that action defined by the verb is going on all the time. Hence, pursuing justice is to be the ongoing pursuit of the Christian. Therefore, Christians are called upon to remind the church and culture that the pursuit of justice is a continuous lifelong one worthy of our attention and resources.

Therefore, “But let justice run down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream” (Amos 5:24)

Blessings,
Mel

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Thank you, Modern Woodmen of America and the employees who gave to our organization through the Matching Fund project.

Thank you, United Healthcare for the charitable donation to our organization.

2021 Thanksgiving in July Sponsors



Aim High. Bank Strong.



Bettendorf, Davenport, & Moline



Trinity Lutheran
Church
Moline, IL



First Lutheran
Church
Rock Island, IL



TABERNACLE
BAPTIST CHURCH
Moline, IL



CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH
Moline, IL



First Presbyterian Church of East Moline

Thanksgiving in July Update

Our final Thanksgiving in July numbers are in. Thanks to our sponsors and our donors, it was the biggest Thanksgiving in July, yet. We were able to collect **54,165** pounds of food, which equals **27.08** tons of food. The food was distributed to pantries throughout our area.

Save the Date!

Our last fundraiser at Applebee's was a success so we're doing it, again. On Tuesday, October 5th 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.

TOGETHER WE CARE TUESDAY



SERVING OUR NEIGHBORHOODS TOGETHER

Three-Cheese Chicken Penne
 Asiago, Parmesan and white Cheddar cheeses are mixed with penne pasta in a rich Parmesan cream sauce then topped with grilled chicken breast and bruschetta tomatoes.

Fiesta Lime Chicken
 Grilled chicken glazed with zesty lime sauce is drizzled with tangy Mexi-ranch and smothered with a rich blend of Cheddar cheeses. Served on a bed of crispy tortilla strips with Spanish rice and house-made pico-de-gallo.

Classic Bacon Cheeseburger
 All-beef patty topped with your choice of two cheese slices and two strips of Applewood-smoked bacon. Served with lettuce, tomato, onion and pickles on a Brioche bun.

Chicken Tenders Platter
 Crispy breaded chicken tenders served with honey Dijon mustard, signature coleslaw and fries.

Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad
 Crisp romaine tossed in garlic Caesar dressing topped with grilled chicken, croutons and shaved Parmesan.

Applebee's®
GRILL + BAR

Drink Responsibly.
Drive Responsibly.



Meal Site Help Needed

Our meal sites are reopening soon. We need groups to prepare and serve meals. Meal sites will be open Monday through Friday evenings at Mount Zion Baptist Church in East Moline and Zion Lutheran Church in Davenport. There will be COVID-19 protocols in place to keep volunteers and those being served safe.

Hunger Committee

Our Hunger Committee still has openings. If feeding those in need in our community is important to you, please join this essential committee.

Office Projects

If you have office skills and some time to donate, we have projects for you. If you're willing to volunteer, we're willing to work around your schedule.

For more information on volunteer opportunities, contact Betsy Vanausdelt at 563-332-5002 or by email at bvanausdelt@cuqc.org.

Volunteers Needed

Are you **handy**?

Do you know anyone who is **handy**?

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 Vanausdelt at 563-332-5002 or by email at bvanausdelt@cuqc.org.



Meal Site Update

Our meal site at Zion Lutheran Church in Davenport will reopen on Tuesday, September 7th. Please pray that the process of reopening is safe and that we're able to reach those in need.



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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
Bettendorf, IA 52722

Thank You!

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



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

Notable September Days

September 5
International Day of Charity

September 6
Labor Day

September 7
National Grateful Patient Day

September 12
Grandparents Day

September 21
International Day of Peace

September 22
Fall Equinox

September 28
National Voter Registration Day

September 29
National Coffee Day

Source: <https://nationaltoday.com>