



Faith Connections

United in Faith Helping
People In Need

Volume 5, Issue 2

February 2022

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.

Thoughts About Christian Love



Valentine’s Day is a time when we express our love and appreciation to our spouses, children, siblings, parents and grandparents, and to others we deem special in our lives.

I have lived long enough to know that there are numerous ways of understanding love and expressing it. As followers of Christ, we live in a divided time and land, where people have their opinions about how we should and should not treat each other.

Christian Love – Christ’s Commandment

So, what exactly is meant by Christian love? What is at the heart of Christian love? Jesus said: “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35). John inspired by the Holy Spirit once wrote, “We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death” (1 John 3:14). And “by this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome” (1 John 5:2-3)

Christian Love – Not a Feeling, a Lifestyle

Is love a warm fuzzy feeling? I don’t have a warm fuzzy feeling for everyone I meet, Christian or otherwise – does that mean I’m not saved? No, a warm fuzzy feeling is not the biblical definition for love. So, what is the Biblical definition for love?

According to Matthew’s Gospel, the very essence of the Law and the Prophets is to love God and to love others. And we see the term the “Law and the Prophets” used in one other place in Matthew’s gospel. It’s in this passage that we find the Biblical definition of love: “Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 7:12).

In Luke’s Gospel, Jesus elaborates on this “do unto others as you would have them do unto you” principle. He says, “Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your good do not ask them back. And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lent to those whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore, be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful” (Luke 6:30-36)

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Christian Love – Selfless and Giving Love

Christian love is giving to others those things that you would want them to give you if you were in their situation -- and it's doing so even if they can't pay you back. In fact, it's doing so especially if they can't pay you back. Christian love is respect for others. It's mercy. It's charity.

God's love is unselfish and unconditional. Now we know what is meant by Christian love. Now it is time to strive for it.

*Blessings,
Mel*

Delegate Assembly 2022



Churches United of the Quad City Area is pleased to offer the work, words, and compassionate wisdom of Dr. N. Jonas Ohrberg at our annual Delegate Assembly to be held Thursday, March 24, 2022 at Tabernacle Baptist Church, 2601 15th Street, Moline, Illinois.

Dr. Ohrberg, founder of The Human Promise: One Heart One Humanity (USA) and The Human Promise Kenya: One Heart One Humanity, will present the keynote address during the program of worship and song to begin at 7 p.m.

With a deep passion for and belief in positive change, Dr. Ohrberg founded The Human Promise in the United States and Kenya to share a message of unity, understanding, and acceptance between diverse communities and peoples. Dr. Ohrberg's message to respect and accept the dignity and worth of the human personality of all, beyond race, way of life, beliefs, and heritage is the beginning to see through our differences and walk together for real change.

Dr. Ohrberg suggests that it is time to achieve a higher level of thinking, a paradigm shift, a new narrative to describe and experience our existence. As Track and Field Legend, Jessie Owens profoundly expressed, "The only bond worth anything between human beings is their humanness." This narrative includes that we must hold on to our "humanness" through mutual kindness, respect, good faith, understanding, and forgiveness regardless of race, beliefs, and heritage.

Dr. Ohrberg has a Ph.D. in organization, management, and leadership, has published in national and international academic journals and presented at a number of international speaking engagements.

Dr. Ohrberg has worked with several national and regional civil rights organizations and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. Dr. Ohrberg is a former professor, but still teaches at Bowie State University and the University of Maryland Global Campus.

To find out more about Dr. Ohrberg and his work, visit The Human Promise website at www.thehumanpromise.org.

To RSVP for Delegate Assembly, call our office at 563-332-5002 or send an email to lbennett@cuqca.org. Registration will begin at 6:30pm and the program will start at 7pm.

Masks are required.

Update from the Zion Lutheran Meal Site



Thank you all who serve at the Zion Lutheran Meal Site including, those behind the scenes who prepare, and gather the meals, and most of all **THANK YOU** to the congregations for seeing the dire need to feed those in need at Zion Lutheran. Churches United and Zion Lutheran are very appreciative to you all for this ministry.

We are starting a new month with new adventures! On January 31st, we served 39 people. This is a new high and it is exciting. Will this be the

norm? No...maybe eventually. Our numbers bounced from 7 to 39 and all points in between for the month of January. There is no pattern like when we were serving inside. The world and times have changed due to the pandemic. The beginning of the month is not always lighter nor heavier than at the end of the month. Fridays had been lighter until last Friday when we served 29. So everything we saw, heard, and knew from the past we can throw out. We need to deal with real numbers now.

With this said, for the month of January we served 400 clients. We can add to this number because the leftovers either went to a shelter or food pantry, so the nights we may have served 20 meals of your 30 or 40 prepared meals...we ended up serving all of the meals to those who are hungry. No food was wasted or thrown away! **CONGRATULATIONS!!!**

I am going to start for this month, asking how many meals were brought and also count how many served so we can see the actual numbers on a closer level.

We still have a few open dates. If you have a group that would like to serve, please contact me.

We are so proud of Zion Lutheran Meal Site and for all of you who bring a great meal for the clients.

Please feel free to reach out if there are any questions, I am happy to assist. Either email me at bvanausdeln@cuqca.org or call the office at 563-332-5002 and ask for Betsy Vanausdeln, associate director.

Together we can do this!

*Blessings,
Betsy*



Congratulations, Deacon Quincy Davis. Deacon Davis is a member of our Board of Directors. He was awarded the 2022 Black Excellence Award.



Upcoming Meetings

We will be having meetings via Zoom for food pantry leaders and for member churches who serve meals at Zion Lutheran Church soon. Watch your email for information from associate director, Betsy Vanausdeln.



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On the Web

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Gift Cards

Our clients often leave domestic abuse situations with very few possessions. Donations of gift cards allow our clients to get what they need for themselves as they rebuild their lives. If you would like to donate a gift card, please drop it off or mail it to our office.

