



The Messenger

April 2021

Office Staff

Rev. G. Metzger, *Pastor*
Loreen Rhodes, *Secretary*
Mindy Malatek, *Pastor's Assistant*
Ted Neely, *Treasurer*
Patsy Schmitt, *Custodian*

Church Council

Kelly Janak, *President*
Ross Jaster, *Vice President*
Emily Latimer, *Secretary*
Marianne Muehr, *Worship*
Hugo Richter, *Property/PPR*
Kristy Janak Janecka, *Music*
Ryan Schoeneberg,
Youth/Christian Education
Dora Vazquez, *Fellowship*
Mike Antosh
*Missions/Wider Church/
Evangelism/Stewardship*
Dickie Muehr, *At Large*

Volunteers

Deena Richter — *Offering
Contributions Record Keeper*
Ed Hilley —
Outside Church Sign Updates
Kenneth & Julia Krizak —
Care of & Changing Altar Cloths
Chris & Gretchen Maddux —
Keeping Oil in Altar Candles

Organists/Pianists

Karen Beken
Carolyn H. Dahse
Jenny Grohmann
Joan Hunsicker

Choir Director

Susan Miculka

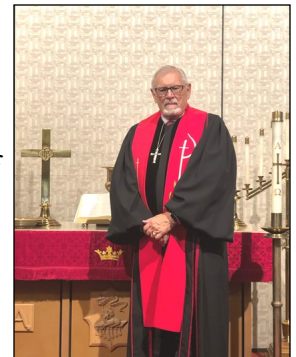
Song Leaders

Dickie Muehr
Ross Jaster

“But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.’ So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, ...” 2 Corinthians 12:9 - 10a.

The Monday following Easter has always been a sacred moment in my ministry. It is sacred because I framed it as a day of Sabbath Rest. After morning readings and prayers, I did absolutely less than nothing; including not answering the phone or engaging in extended conversations. It simply felt good and necessary.

Because Little Jake ignored the memo, he found my day of Sabbath Rest an ideal moment to bring his weathered self into my sacred space. Like others in the community, Jake found it a minimal obligation to attend our Easter Service. He once claimed the biggest draw for this service were the women's hats. He was never disappointed with the wide variety of fruits and feathers on display. After most of the women had jettisoned their Easter Bonnets, Jake found joy in watching the children squirm because their Easter clothing was beyond uncomfortable.



On this particular post-Easter Monday, Jake caught me on the back porch; the most isolated part of the parsonage. There I could enjoy coffee and an incredible view of the mountains with their ever receding snow line. While being captivated with the view and thoughts of going up-country for a short fly fishing experience, Jake walked through the backdoor carrying what I discovered was the last cup of my coffee. With the grace of an elephant in a china shop, he sat down.

“RevM, I must admit your sermon yesterday was not as boring as last year. I still think you talk too much. But, that is for another time! A question I’ve been pondering since yesterday: ‘Did John Wayne ever lose a fight or a battle?’”

“Jake, if you mean in the movies I have watched, the answer would be no. As I recall, John Wayne single handedly won WWI, WWII, and the Korean Police Action. Along with those victories, he made this country’s westward movement possible. If you mean in real life, I have no idea. I would imagine over the years he won some and lost others.”

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“RevM, since there is no difference between John’s movie life and real life, I know he never lost a fight. Which brings me to my pondering. Since John never came out on the losing side of any conflict, why didn’t God develop Jesus in the image and likeness of John Wayne?”

John would have swooped through the Roman occupation like water through a colander. They would have run back home like scolded chickens. Then he would have faced off with all those Temple crooks. It may not have been pretty, but he would have got the job done.”

“Jake, I think you missed the point of Easter. Easter was never about who can win an arm-wrestling-contest, or who can over-power a weaker person. It is in human weakness that God’s strength is able to shine forth. It is in divine love that a picture of true peace can be revealed.

For too long people have believed that brute force could magically win the golden ring. Over the centuries the human reptilian brain has often won the moment, while the defeated build up their war chests in hope of destroying the previous winner. On the other hand, God was seeking a victory that had lasting power and would transform people in a positive manner.

The cross is truly the gateway to a strength that has never been defeated regardless who the contender might be. The Cross reflects a strength which John Wayne could only wish to possess. For this I am truly grateful.”

Shalom,

Pastor Gerry



Congregational Meeting – APRIL 25TH

Your church council hereby gives notice of a called congregational meeting following the worship service on Sunday, April 25th. The major topic of discussion will be a “rebranding” of sorts for our congregation through a slight alteration of our church name. The two submissions that have been made so far are “Weimar United Church” and “Weimar United.” Additional proposals are welcome from church members; however, please submit those to a council member prior to the start of the meeting.

There has always been confusion of our church with another denomination of similar name, and this name change will hopefully help to clarify that difference. This change will also drive people who are seeking a church to come speak with us or visit our website to see what we are about, rather than ending up elsewhere to learn things that don’t accurately represent our viewpoints.

To be clear, nothing else changes about our church. Our mission, our vision, and our core beliefs all remain the same!

See you on the 25th!

www.weimartxucc.com



Weimar UCC has an informative website. If you haven’t looked at it, you might do so.

For your information, any donations made on line can be “designated” for a particular purpose by pressing “donate” and following directions.



What is happening at Weimar UCC

April Volunteers

He who will unlock & lock-up the
building and adjust the air early each
Sunday —

Kelly Janak or Dickie Muehr

Those who will care for the
Sirnic Cemetery Plot —

Elliott Koehn

Thanks to All of you!

Newsletter Editors

Mindy Malatek & Loreen Rhodes

Sermon Titles/Scriptures for April

April 1st	Maundy Thursday— Rev. Gerry Metzger “In Remembrance”
April 4th	Sunrise Service— Rev. Gerry Metzger “Not Here” Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24, Isaiah 25: 6-9, Mark 16: 1-8 Easter Sunday Service— Rev. Gerry Metzger “Whom Are You Looking For” Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24, Acts 10: 34-43, John 20: 1-18
April 11th	Second Sunday of Easter—(<i>Confirmation Sunday</i>) Rev. Gerry Metzger “Breath of Life” Psalm 113, Acts 4:32-35, John 20:19-31
April 18th	Third Sunday of Easter— Rev. Gerry Metzger “Opening” Psalm 4, Acts 3: 12-19, Luke 24: 36b-48,
April 25th	Fourth Sunday of Easter— Rev. Gerry Metzger “The Cost” Psalm 23, Acts 4: 5-12, John 10: 11-18

*All sermon titles, scriptures and pastor are subject to change.

Note of Heartfelt Thanks

We thank the congregation of Weimar UCC for all the prayers, positive thoughts, and cards during our granddaughter Camdyn's recent surgeries and extended hospitalization. Our family has been blessed by your kindness. We are happy to report that Camdyn is recovering well and after Spring Break will be attending school in person for the first time in over a year.

God Bless,
Justin and Andrea Missildine
(*Son-in-Law and Daughter of Rev. Metzger*)

News From the Heart of Texas Association

We invite all of you to attend our spring Heart of Texas Association meeting, to be held on Saturday, April 24th, beginning at 10:00am, on Zoom. Worship, which begins the meeting, will be led by clergy from our South Texas cluster.

One major part of our business will be to help people understand our possible participation in a Unified Fitness Review Committee at the Conference level, which would transfer most of this extremely time-consuming work from our Association Committee on Ministry to the proposed Conference committee -- if we decide to go in this direction. Earlier, we already offered some explanation of this possibility, but our aim at this meeting would be to help those who attend to more fully understand the change (as the process to make this change is fairly complex) and possibly vote to participate. We also anticipate having up to three Ecclesiastical Councils: One, which has already been announced, will be to grant Rev. Amelia Fulbright, who is currently a Baptist minister, Privilege of Call in the United Church of Christ, meaning that, if approved, she would be able to search for a ministry call in the UCC and gain full ministerial standing with us. Our Committee on Ministry will be meeting in April with two other candidates. If these candidates are approved, we will be announcing their Ecclesiastical Councils in advance of our Association Meeting. We also will be sending out the papers the ministry candidates have written to our churches to allow reading before the Meeting. It will be important to have a quorum of attendees from a majority of our churches to allow voting on our candidates. We hope to finish midday and encourage you to join us.

I share with you, too, the sad news for those who do not know that Douglas Anders, our former Conference Minister, died on Monday, March 22nd at his home in Bel-Nor (in St. Louis), Missouri. He fought a courageous battle with cancer for several years, always expressing in his email updates his faith in God no matter what the outcome. For me, Douglas was a trusted and valued colleague and friend. I had a close understanding of how hard he worked, of how engaged he was in the stewardship of our Conference's resources, of his dedicated work with leadership and committees, and of his care for the South Central Conference and all of our churches. Many people experienced his kindness and also his engagement and help when a church or a minister was in need. After he retired and moved home to St. Louis, he gave his time and gifts, even over the years of his illness, in many, many ways: as an Interim Conference

Minister, as an interim and supply minister in churches, as a volunteer doing substantial work for the Missouri Mid-South Conference, and as an elected Alderperson for the City of Bel-Nor. As a measure of who he was, the city of Bel-Nor posted this on its website: "We lost a good friend, neighbor, and colleague with Douglas's death. He was a consummate gentleman who fought a courageous battle with illness but worked hard for the city and other causes as long as he was able. He will be sorely missed." Douglas will be missed, indeed. Let us commend him to God and give thanks for his life with us, with those he served, and now for his life surrounded by God's love without measure.

Blessings in Christ,
Liz Nash, Association Minister



Special Thank You

The Carl Wied family would like to thank everyone for the cards, thoughts, and prayers at the recent passing of his mother, Gertrude Wied.



There Will be an Easter Egg Hunt!

Hey, kids, bring your Easter basket with you to church on Easter Sunday!! Following the 9:30am Easter service, there will be an egg hunt for you behind the fellowship hall! (Reminder to adults — we need more filled eggs!!!)



In Memory of Mr. Delbert Fuchs, from:

Elizabeth Nieberding (Building Fund)

In Memory of David & Carol McCoskey, from:

Christian & Angela Rabel (Evening Circle)

James & Carolyn Dahse (Children's Ministry)

In Memory of Billy and Toni Bode, from:

Ross A. Jaster (Children's Ministry)

In Memory of Mrs. Joy Hempel, from:

James & Carolyn Dahse (Building Fund)

Memorial Gift Fund Suggestions

Children's Ministry Fund, Sirnic Memorial Endowment Fund,
Parsonage Fund, Ratliff Memorial Music Fund,
Building Fund, Church Landscaping Fund,
Mission Fund, New Church Start Fund,
Outside Storage Building Fund, General Operating Fund
Weimar UCC Evening Circle ***(recently added)***

(Any memorial donations made after March 24th will be listed in the next newsletter.)



Date: Thursday, April 22nd

11:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

UCC Fellowship Hall

Sponsored by The Encore Lady Lions

Appointments are required.

Call Karen Kutac at 979-743-0088.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

April



Liturgists:

1st—Marianne Muehr
4th—Angela Wied
11th—Led by Confirmands' Parents
18th—Ryan Brandt
25th—Ryan Schoeneberg

Acolytes:

1st—??
4th—Rylen Lopez & Alex Vazquez
11th—Gavin Schoeneberg & Brisyn Dixon
18th—Callie Janak & Brinson Huetten
25th—Gavin & Zoe Schoeneberg

*(If you see an omission or error on this list,
please call the church office so a correction can be made.)*

Communion Stewards:

1st—Marianne Muehr
4th—Ryan & Pam Schoeneberg

Ushers:

1st, 4th & 11th—Melvin Hedt*, Jared Hedt,
Ashlie Kunchick, Emilie Kunschick
18th & 25th—Jeremy & Amanda Turlington*,
Dalton and Delanley Turlington

Greeters:

1st, 4th & 11th—Lauren Summers & Dora Vazquez
18th & 25th—David & Deanna Niesner

Altar Flowers:

4th—Gerald & Donna Kosler (In Memory of their Parents)
11th—Jacklyn Marak-Bartosch (In Honor of Randy & Lisa Marak, Kendall & Hunter Hengst, Shaun Matthews, and the Confirmands; and, In Memory of Thomas Matthews)
18th—The Jr. Friedrich & Carrol Jean Families (In Loving Memory of Milroy & Delores Hoegemeyer)
25th—Mark & Lizetta Vanicek (In Memory of Charles Haney; and In Honor of their Families)



**Altar Flowers — You will be assigned each year, hopefully around this same date.

Please Remember —

If for any reason you don't feel comfortable attending church during this time, please contact the office as soon as possible.



Women's Fellowship

Your Evening Circle, at Work & Play

Reminder: The Evening Circle meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 4:00pm in the church library. This month, we will meet on April 13th. Hostesses for this meeting are Sandy Kainer and Gretchen Maddux. The group meets for about an hour and a half for fellowship time, which means delicious food, a brief meeting chaired by Sandy Kainer, and an interesting devotional presented by Julia Krizak.

Some of our activities include:

- A greeting card ministry in which we sign and mail cards each month to some of our church members. We thank Mike Loessin for providing the many cards needed to help make this ministry possible.
- At the February meeting, the group decided to donate \$200 to the food pantry as a special Easter donation.
- Each year the Circle honors our high school graduates during the worship service on the first Sunday of May, followed by a reception. Please contact a Circle member or the church office if you have a high school graduate this year. We don't want to miss anyone!

We invite all ladies to visit or join our Evening Circle group for a wonderful time of Christian Fellowship. Currently, we continue to wear masks and social distance for the safety of all involved during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Worship Attendance

February 28th—39

March 7th—48

March 14th—39

March 21st—50

March 28th—55

(March Average — 48)

These attendance records show how many folks attended the services in the sanctuary. Services are streamed due to the pandemic, and an average of **102 views per Sunday** are being watched over Facebook and YouTube combined.



Record Keeping Information

From time to time, questions have come to the office regarding financial contributions and what records are maintained by the church; so, this is a reminder.

All single monetary donations of \$250 or more per individual are totaled at the year's end and a letter (for IRS purposes) is sent to you in January for the year just ended. This does not include any other donations made through the year.

There are offering envelopes in the church pews. Members have offering numbers which they indicate on the envelope. (*If you would like to have a number assigned to you, contact the office.*) All offerings given in your numbered envelope are placed in the offering plate and the emptied envelope is given to Deena Richter for record keeping. If you want a report from her in January for the previous year, contact her directly. Her report includes only donations made through the numbered envelope system.

Other offerings, even made by a check, are not recorded by the church. Memorial offerings are not recorded unless the amount is \$250 or more.

If you still have questions, feel free to ask.

Weimar UCC Dates to Remember

- Hall is reserved for 4-H meeting on April 3rd.
- Confirmation — April 11th
- Evening Circle Meeting—April 13th at 4:00pm
- Council Meeting, April 14th at 7:00pm
- Blood Drive in Hall—April 22nd, 11:00am—5:30pm. Must call Karen Kutac at 979-743-0088 to make an appointment. Sponsored by the Encore Lady Lions.
- Called Congregational Meeting—April 25th, immediately after the worship service.
- Please help keep our community food pantry stocked. Pasta and rice are requested during April; however, any non-perishable food items are appreciated. The collection box is in the church foyer.
- May Newsletter articles are due by April 25th.



**WEIMAR UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

Post Office Box 188
Weimar TX 78962

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

April 2021

Stamp

Rev. Gerald Metzger—Pastor
Office: 979-725-8315
ucadmin@cvctx.com weimaruc@cvctx.com
Church is located at 403 West Main Street.

Sunday Morning Study at 9:00
Sunday Worship Service — 9:30am
Services are streamed over
Facebook and YouTube. Weimar UCC

Weimar United Church of Christ (UCC)

403 West Main Street

Weimar TX

(Mail: PO Box 188, Weimar TX 78962)



Holy Week Schedule at Weimar UCC

Maundy Thursday 7:00pm	Community Good Friday Service 12:05pm	Easter Sunrise Service In church yard—6:30am	Regular Service 9:30am
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Easter Egg Hunt in Church Yard following the 9:30am service.
Kids are to bring their baskets on Easter Sunday morning.