



# The Messenger

December 2020

## Office Staff

**Rev. G. Metzger**, *Guest 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*  
**Pam Schoeneberg**,  
*Youth/Christian Education*  
**Dora Vazquez**, *Fellowship*  
**Darla Maxwell**  
*Missions/Wider Church/  
Evangelism/Stewardship*  
**Hal Leppin**, *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**

*“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” Micah 4:2b*

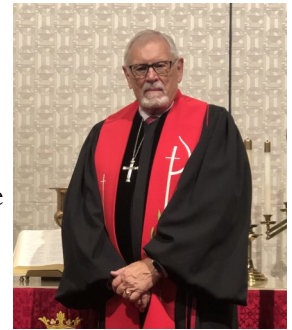
Leading the parade to great anticipation was the magical Sears “Christmas” catalogue. Every possible dream and desire was contained between the covers of this catalogue. Children, of all ages, fought over who received the first viewing of this magical experience. Parents hovered over the viewings to scope out what the children were excited about. The hovering also gave the parents an opportunity to fantasize about what they might enjoy.

With the room aglow and warmed by the fireplace, Little Jake sat in his chair; thumbing through his copy of the “Christmas” catalogue. For a person who was seldom attracted by a lot of “things,” Jake was even transformed and tantalized by the “Christmas” catalogue. Occasionally, he would stop his exploration when he came upon something either amazing or unfamiliar. While exploring the catalogue’s outdoor section, Jake became extremely relaxed, closed his eyes and found himself in a magical world of dreams.

Through this dreamland journey he saw himself as a little boy standing next to his grandfather. Surrounding them was the most beautiful winter wonderland. Snow had blanketed the mountains and decorated all the trees around his grandfather’s home. The only place without snow was the path leading from the road to the home, and in front of the garage. As Jake looked up at his grandfather, he noticed he was wearing his church clothes. Jake became aware that he was also dressed for church.

The Dream Express then transported Jake and his grandfather to the church which was located some ten miles up the mountain above the community. Standing in front of the church, Jake heard Christmas carols being sung by children. The music welcomed everyone to enter the church. Jake just knew this had to be the Christmas Eve service. This was the only service Jake and his grandfather attended together. The church was filled with people all dressed in their Christmas splendor. The inside of the Church was decorated at another level of Christmas beauty. In the middle of church stood an undecorated, simple, empty manger.

As always, this service was beautiful. The music and message were meaningful even to Jake. With the offering procession, the Pastor’s daughter brought the baby Jesus forward and placed him in the manger. As she placed the baby in the manger, a spot light illuminated the manger. The service closed with singing “Silent Night,” accompanied by a single guitar.



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As the people departed, the sky was filled with fluffy snowflakes; possibly like the angels filling the heavens to proclaim the birth of the Messiah of God to the shepherd. As the snow danced from the heavens to the earth, grumbling rose from many of the worshippers. They complained about a return trip to the community. They complained about the time it will take to arrive at the numerous Christmas parties, and the sacred opening of gifts.

Jake and his grandfather were the last ones to leave the church. As they walked out, the sound of the disgruntling words insulted their ears. As the words faded and the snow became more intense, Jake heard his grandfather in prayer. ***Thank you God, for the blessings of this night and for your gift we remember tonight. Thank you for my grandson, whose presence makes me come alive. I pray you walk with him through this life so he may always take a moment to discover your beauty surrounding him. Help me to never forget to live all the days for which you bless me.*** His prayer rose to heaven, as the aroma of sweet incense dances to the heavens. Following some silence, grandfather looked at me and said, "Didn't God bless us with a beautiful Christmas gift." Then we walked to the car and returned to grandfather's home. It took us a little longer; but we did not complain.

Somewhere in the night Jake awoke and rose to put a couple more logs in the fireplace. When he stood, the Sear's "Christmas" catalogue fell to the floor. Returning to his chair, Jake picked up the catalogue and placed it on the end table. He sat and watched the flames dancing. Turning toward the catalogue, Jake realized that regardless of how many great and amazing items were contained between the covers, the perfect gift was not included. The perfect gift is received daily by the Perfect Gift Giver.

May you receive the perfect gift on Christmas and each day.

*Shalom, Pastor Gerry*

## **Weimar UCC Congregation Donates \$570 to St. Nicholas Ministry**

*By Darlia Maxwell, Mission Chair*

On November 11, 2020, the church council voted to donate **\$1 For 1 Mission** funds that have been collected since the pandemic began, in addition to the mission offerings collected Sunday, November 15 and 22. Because there are so many special donations collected during the holiday season, the council felt this was a great way to participate in the St. Nicholas program without having to ask our members to make any extra sacrifice.

This ministry provides food, new toys/gifts, blankets or quilts, and other items for children, the elderly, and families who are referred by an approved agency, school or church, and is run solely by volunteer efforts. With the pandemic sweeping across our nation and the loss of jobs by some, the ministry is anticipating the need to be greater than ever this year.

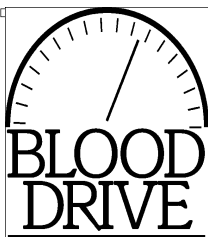
The ecumenical work of the St. Nicholas Ministry began in 1998 when the ministry reached out to families impacted by major flooding in the Cuero, Texas area. In 2017, efforts expanded to Colorado and Fayette Counties in order to reach out to many who were affected by Hurricane Harvey.

Our donation will remain in the Weimar community to help our neighbors in need. The \$1 For 1 Mission Fund will continue and plans for upcoming donations can be suggested to the new Mission Chair who will take my place in 2021. I also want to thank all of you who have supported the \$1 For 1 Mission Fund since its inception last year. Wishing you all a joyous holiday season!

**Date: Thursday, December 3  
11:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.  
UCC Fellowship Hall**

**By The Encore Lady Lions**

*Appointments are required.  
Call 743-0088.*



[www.weimartxucc.com](http://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

### December Volunteers

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

**Kelly Janak & Kristy Janak Janecka**

Those who will care for the  
Sirnic Cemetery Plot —

**Wayne & Jo Lynn McDonald**

*Thanks to All of you!*

### Sermon Titles/Scriptures for December

December 6	Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13; Isaiah 40: 1-11; Mark 1:1-8 "Trailblazer"
December 13	Psalm 126; Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; John 1:6-8, 19-28 "Trailblazer, Part 2"
December 20	Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Luke 1:26-38 Children's Pageant
December 24	Psalm 96; Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-20 "They Saw"
December 27	Psalm 148; Isaiah 61:10 thru 62:3; Luke 22:40 "Acknowledged"

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

### Newsletter Editors

Mindy Malatek & Loreen Rhodes



### Needs for Christmas Food Baskets

We ARE going to have the Christmas food basket distribution on December 19. A limited number of people will prepare the baskets during the week. The distribution will be done outside with just a few people carrying the baskets outside. We should all stay safe and still be able to provide food for those who need it.

Canned Meats.....Spam, Chili, Stew, Chicken;

Canned Vegetables.....Carrots, Baked Beans, Pork & Beans, Green Beans, Green Peas, Corn; Canned Fruit; Assorted

Canned Soups; Boxed Macaroni & Cheese (*many, small*);

Dry Pinto Beans, Rice, Ramen Noodles.

*Please bring your donations to the table in the foyer or to the East corner of the UCC fellowship hall before Saturday, December 19th.*

## Heart of Texas Association News

On the fourth Sunday of November, I watched the Facebook link to the worship service at the Union Congregational United Church of Christ in Angels Camp, California. The church is a small congregation in a rural town in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. My dear friend and mentor, Rev. Dr. Sally Smith, was being honored in celebration of the 50th anniversary of her ordination -- an extraordinary milestone for anyone, but even more so for a woman ordained in 1970. I could not be there in person because of the distance and difficulty traveling now. I also could not be there because I live in an area where the COVID counts are extremely high and would be bringing that risk into an area with far lower case counts and, in the process, endangering a 90 year friend along with the congregation honoring her. But the blessing was that I actually could be part of the congregation that day. In this week of Thanksgiving as I write, I am so very grateful.

I share my experience for two reasons. First, to highlight the creative ways we have learned to bring people together in worship during this difficult year, and second, to encourage us to understand some of our differences.

In our Association, our urban churches are meeting almost completely by Zoom, on YouTube, by Webex, or using a similar online platform. These churches are all currently in high danger COVID areas. A few of these who have a good space for an outdoor service have taken the opportunity to worship once or twice in that way, while also putting up the cameras and microphones to include those who could not be present -- quite a feat. A few of our churches have worshipped in person for a short time, and then stopped when the COVID counts locally went up. Several of our more rural churches have been meeting in person for quite a while. These are in areas where the pandemic has not hit as hard or not much at all. We have one church who broadcasts to cars outside via the car radio, and has met inside on and off as the local case counts went down and then back up. Other churches did drive-up services before beginning to meet in person.

Our circumstances are different right now. From listening to those I know and care about, I know sometimes these varying circumstances are hard to understand.

For those of us living in a large city, COVID is very present and gathering in a group is dangerous. For those of us living in rural areas, COVID is not as present. We are a diverse church in many ways, and this difference now in how we worship is part of that diversity. For me, I found a life-giving and creative bridge between two ways of doing church as my friend was honored last Sunday. Thanks be to God for that bridge. In this time of polarization in our society, I invite us to choose to appreciate each other.

Our friends at Hope United in Georgetown have welcomed Rev. Remington Johnson as their designated pastor at this time of change for them. Rev. Johnson is a Presbyterian minister with substantial experience in hospice care and chaplaincy in the Austin area. We offer our prayers and hope that her ministry with Hope United will be a faithful and enriching time.

Blessings in Christ,  
Liz Nash, Association Minister



We are planning to have our BBQ baked potato drive-thru fundraiser on December 9 from 5-6:30pm. Helpers and desserts are needed. Tickets are on sale.

As usual, we will need desserts for the meal. If you would like to help in any way, sign up in the foyer, or get in touch with Angela Wied. This is always a very successful fundraiser, and much help will be needed.



In Memory of Ms. Linda Muras, from

Robert & Wanda Herbrich (*Ratliff Music Fund*)

In Memory of Ms. Tara Kanady, from

Robert & Wanda Herbrich (*Ratliff Music Fund*)

In Memory of Mrs. Bernice Billeck, from

Robert & Wanda Herbrich (*Ratliff Music Fund*)

In Memory of Mr. James Stock, from

Marianne & Dickie Muehr (*Church General Fund*)

In Memory of Mr. Raymond Koller, from

Marianne & Dickie Muehr (*Church General Fund*)

In Memory of Mrs. Evelyn Cernoch, from

Marianne & Dickie Muehr (*Church General Fund*)

In Memory of Mrs. Allison Wilke Weinschenk, from

Ross A. Jaster (*Children's Ministry*)

In Memory of Otto & Lillian Kahlden, from

Elsie Kahlden (*Ratliff Music Fund*)

In Memory of Mrs. Joyce Terrell, from

Robert & Sharon Huetten (*Outside Storage Bldg.*) Marianne & Dickie Muehr (*Church General Fund*)

Robert & Wanda Herbrich (*Ratliff Music Fund*) Mike & Darlia Maxwell (*UCC Evening Circle.*)

In Memory of Kervy & Betty Kahlden, Leslie Kahlden, Fred Wilson,

Wilton & Sylvia Leppin, Otto & Lillian Kahlden, from

Wayne & Jo Lynn McDonald (*Outside Storage Bldg.*)

In Memory of Mr. Harold Leppin, from

Shannon & Mark Kloesel (*Outside Storage Bldg.*) Jan Klingsporn (*Outside Storage Bldg.*)

Laurie & Ed Branecky (*Outside Storage Bldg.*)

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**Liturgists:**

6th—Sara Wanjura  
13th—Alan Koehn  
20th—Children's Pageant  
24th—Kelly Janak  
27th—Lauren Summers

**Acolytes:**

6th—Rayleigh & Brinson Huetie  
13th—Brisyn Dixon & Caroline Koehn  
20th—Chloe Brandt & Gavin Schoeneberg  
24th—Volunteers Needed  
27th—Callie Janak & Zoe Schoeneberg

**Ushers:**

6th & 13th—Paul & Tammy Hilley\*, Alice Friedrich,  
Mary Cowling  
20th—Jr. & Debbie Friedrich\*, Macey Friedrich, Melvin Hedt  
24th—Volunteers Needed  
27th—Alan & Amy Koehn\*, Glenn & Elena Horndt

**Greeters:**

6th & 13th—Hal & Teresa Leppin  
24th—Volunteers Needed  
20th—Mike Loessin & Amy Koehn  
27th—Jane Armontrout & Peggy Hiatt

**Communion Stewards:** 6th—Ross Jaster & Ryan Brandt

**Altar Flowers:**

6th—In Loving Memory of Rubin & Lorene Dahse,  
by their Children  
13th—In Loving Memory of Arthur & Agnes Oncken, Artie, Paul  
& John, by their Family  
20th, 24th & 27th  
The Brooksie Beken Fuchs Family and The Will Ann Beken  
Nava Family (*In Memory of Edgar, Bill & Maurice Beken, Clem  
Nava, and Delbert Fuchs*)

\*\*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.*

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

**Christmas Poinsettias Needed**

Consider this a reminder that poinsettias are needed to decorate the church for this special time of the year. **Sign-up sheets to provide the Poinsettias are available in the church foyer thru Tuesday, December 8th.** The florists will deliver them to the church on Saturday, the 12th, and Marianne will arrange them in the sanctuary. **Remember, you must first sign up so we can list your donation in the bulletin insert on those two Sundays and on Christmas Eve; then you personally purchase a Poinsettia. Please leave them in the sanctuary until after the service on Christmas Eve. We will have that service at 6:00pm, with Pastor Gerry.**

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### In Memory of Mrs. Lillian Kahlden, from

Wayne & JoLynn McDonald ( <i>Ratliff Music Fund</i> )	Jacklyn Marak ( <i>Outside Storage Bldg.</i> )
Kenneth & Julia Krizak ( <i>Ratliff Music Fund</i> )	UCC Evening Circle ( <i>Outside Storage Bldg.</i> )
Marianne & Dickie Muehr ( <i>Church General Fund</i> )	Werner & Nancy Boeer ( <i>Outside Storage Bldg.</i> )
Mike & Darlia Maxwell ( <i>UCC Evening Circle</i> )	Leona Lange ( <i>Ratliff Music Fund</i> )
E. J. & Janell Kahlden ( <i>Ratliff Music Fund</i> )	Waldine Mozisek ( <i>Ratliff Music Fund</i> )
Chris & Gretchen Maddux ( <i>General Fund</i> )	Fred & Kris Wilson ( <i>General Fund</i> )
Tommy & Clara Holub ( <i>Building Fund</i> )	Mike & Margie Turner ( <i>Building Fund</i> )
Leon Hattermann ( <i>Building Fund</i> )	William & Stacye Parry ( <i>Building Fund</i> )
Carol J. Oncken ( <i>Children's Ministry Fund</i> )	M/M Dennis Jurek ( <i>Children's Ministry Fund</i> )
Larry "Bear" Kana ( <i>Building Fund</i> )	Jim & Betty Kahlden ( <i>Ratliff Music Fund</i> )
Lanette Kahlden ( <i>Outside Storage Bldg.</i> )	Janacek Locksmith Service ( <i>Building Fund</i> )

### In Memory of Ms. Erna Mae Rose, from

Donna Beck ( <i>UCC Evening Circle</i> )	Family/Friends of Erna ( <i>Church Bldg. Fund</i> )
Wayne & Jo Lynn McDonald ( <i>Outside Storage</i> )	Jacklyn Marak ( <i>Outside Storage Bldg.</i> )
Leon Hattermann ( <i>Outside Storage Bldg.</i> )	Lawrence & Laura Henke ( <i>Ratliff Music Fund</i> )
Marianne & Dickie Muehr ( <i>Church General Fund</i> )	

*(Donations made after November 24th will be listed in the next newsletter.)*

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### **Memorial Gift Fund Suggestions**

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

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### **Worship Attendance**

November 1st—61  
November 8th—35  
November 15th—47  
November 22nd—39  
November 29—54

**(Average — 47)**

These attendance records show how many folks attended the services in the sanctuary during this pandemic. An average of **106 views per Sunday** are being watched over Facebook and YouTube combined.

### **Weimar UCC Dates to Remember**

- Confirmation class meets every 1st and 3rd Sundays
- Blood Drive at UCC, Dec. 3, 11:00am till 5:30pm
- Evening Circle Meeting—Tuesday, Dec. 8, 4:00pm
- Dec. 8 is last day to sign up for poinsettias
- Drive-Thru Baked Potatoes —Dec. 9, (5—6:30pm)
- Council Meeting, Dec. 9 at 7:00pm
- Dec. 19—Christmas Food Basket distribution (*outside*)
- Children's Christmas Program in Worship Svc., Dec. 20.
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6:00pm



**WEIMAR UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

Post Office Box 188  
Weimar TX 78962

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*December 2020*

Non-Profit  
Org.

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

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)*



**Our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service  
will be at 6:00pm. Rev. Gerry Metzger will lead  
the service and Communion will be offered.  
Come and worship with us. All are welcome!**

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