



# The Messenger

January 2022

## 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 A. Jaster**

**“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”**

*Isaiah 43: 19a*

As inefficient as it might be, there is something special about the sounds, smells and warmth of the fireplace aglow with wood I cut during warmer times. Add this fire to sounds of Christmas carols sung by children, and new falling snow blanketing all of creation, and a great cup of doctored coffee! It is like being part of a Rockwell painting. These elements provided a marvelous backdrop for a productive morning. The closer I come to Christmas, the more I need numerous productive moments.

In this Rockwell moment, a mood breaker moved through the front door to a prime location by the fireplace. “RevM, I know you are busy with all your Christmas stuff; but, after having coffee with Pastor Sven this morning, I have something on my mind. What do you do with all of your old calendars?”

“Seriously, Jake? I can’t imagine what you and Sven talked about which would raise this question. I thought your conversations centered on the local gossip. If you are serious, on the morning of January 1st, I place all the past year’s calendars into the fireplace. As they burn, I say a prayer of thanksgiving for what was, and a prayer of hope for what lies ahead.”

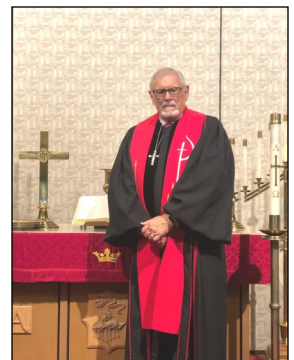
“RevM, don’t you worry about missing something, or forgetting something, or not remembering what you did before?”

“Not really! I am more concerned about the temptation of getting trapped into always looking through the rearview mirror. I was once told, if I stay focused on former glories, I will never have room for the glories to come.”

“I think it is much better to hold onto the past and occasionally venture a little into the new when absolutely necessary. As long as I continue to do as I had always done, I will not have to think as hard. Plus, since I follow the same path, it takes less time.”

“Jake, for someone who is always bragging about loving new adventures, you are closing off a lot of amazing possibilities.

Remember what happened to Lot’s wife when she looked backward rather than in the direction God requested! From the beginning of time, God constantly called the people to move forward into new possibilities.”



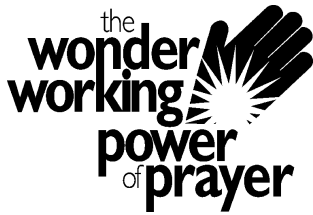
*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

“If the God thing is always about new things, why do you constantly complain about your church never wanting to accept change? RevM, I think I will go over to Father Mal’s office and get a third opinion.

May God Bless 2022 with unexpected new adventures.

Pastor Gerry



### Our Search is Over!

To the Congregation of Weimar United Church,

The Pastoral Search Committee has some exciting news to share! After a long search, they have selected an amazing minister to come and potentially serve our church! They have worked with the Council in bringing him to meet the congregation.

**We will have a “meet and greet” in the fellowship hall on Saturday, January 22nd. Then, on January 23rd, there will be a trial sermon and a meeting will be called immediately after the service so members can vote on a Call to Ministry.** Please make every effort to be a part of this important event in the life of our church!

Should you have any questions about the weekend or about the pastor candidate, please reach out to me or any member of the Search Committee! We are all happy to share the great news!

In Christ,  
**Kelly Janak**  
Council President

### Thanks to So Many!!!

The true spirit of Christmas was once again demonstrated on the morning of Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers gathered at our fellowship hall to assist with the annual Weimar Ministerial Alliance Christmas food basket distribution.

The food was graciously donated by local churches who participate in the Weimar Ministerial Alliance and include Weimar United Church, St. Michael Catholic Church, Trinity Church New Bielau, First United Methodist Church, and St. James AME Church; civic organizations including the Weimar Encore Lions, and many individuals from the community.

Those participating from Weimar UCC included Loreen Rhodes and Mindy Malatek (*providing all the set up assistance*), Kylie Helmcamp, Olivia Garmoe, Chloe Brandt, Hugo Richter, Angela, Emily and Kelsey Wied, Brinson Huette, Delaney and Dalton Turlington, Camden Morrison, Dawn Dahse, and Jenny Grohmann.

A special thank you goes to our own Weimar United Church for allowing us to use the fellowship hall, and to all of the various local churches, organizations, and individuals who participated! Our community is blessed with many generous people!!



(Courtesy of Jenny Grohmann)

## What is Happening at Weimar United Church



### January Volunteers

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

**Kristy Janak Janecka**

Those who will care for the Sirnic Cemetery Plot —

**The Richter Family**

*Thanks to All of you!*

### Newsletter Editors

Mindy Malatek & Loreen Rhodes

### Sermon Titles/Scriptures for January

January 2nd	Second Sunday after Christmas— Rev. Gerry Metzger “Foreign Influence” Psalm 72: 1-7; 10-14, Isaiah 60: 1-6, Matthew 2: 1-12
January 9th	First Sunday after Epiphany— Rev. Gerry Metzger “Claiming” Psalm 29, Acts 8: 14-17, Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22
January 16th	Second Sunday after Epiphany— Rev. Gerry Metzger “Finest Wine” Psalm 26: 5-10, Isaiah 62: 1-5, John 2: 1-11
January 23rd	Third Sunday after Epiphany— Rev. Gerry Metzger “Revealed Today” Psalm 19, Luke 4: 14-21
January 30th	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany— Rev. Gerry Metzger “Itchy Ears” Psalm 71: 1-6, Jeremiah 1: 4-10, Luke 4: 21-30

**BIG  
THANK YOU**

Dear Church Family.

Both of us thank you for your most incredible Christmas gifting. We were humbled by your generosity, and your many acts of kindness over the years. Throughout our time together, your warmth and love have strengthened us.

Love, Gerry and Karen

### \$1 for 1 Offering

Council Stewardship Chairman Mike Antosh has determined that during January we will continue collecting offerings designated for The Weimar Heritage Society Museum. Through your gifts, we will provide a worthwhile contribution to the Weimar Community.

**YOUR GIVING  
MATTERS!**





## **Your Evening Circle, at Work & Play**

Reminder: The Evening Circle meets the second Tuesday of each month at 4:00pm in the church library. **This month, we will meet on Tuesday, January 11th.** Hostesses for our January meeting are all Evening Circle Members. We meet for about 1 & 1/2 hours for fellowship time and delicious food, a brief meeting chaired by Sandy Kainer, and a devotional presented by Julia Krizak.

Some of our recent Circle Activities included a wonderful Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 14th when we enjoyed delicious refreshments and an exciting gift exchange. We were happy to have long-time member Lornette Schoeneberg join in on our fun. Our guests included Loreen Rhodes, Mindy Malatek, Patsy Schmitt, Debbie Little, Dottie Schoeneberg, and Aileen Kasper. At this time we set up a special offering box for families in need. We continue to give 10% of our monthly offerings to the Community Food Pantry. We continue our card ministry by mailing cards to shut-ins, and those we think might enjoy getting a card. Mike Loessin graciously provides the cards we mail each month. Thank you Mike!

**Elderfest will be on the third Thursday of January, the 20th, at 11:30am.** Everyone is welcome to come to visit, eat various foods, and play dominoes and cards.

We invite all ladies to come and join or visit our Evening Circle group for a wonderful time of Christian Fellowship.

*Submitted by Jo Lynn McDonald*

### **We have recipes to share —**

#### **Great Banana Pudding (Sandy Kainer)**

1 large pkg instant vanilla pudding; 1 tsp vanilla; bananas; 2 cups milk; 1 can Eagle Brand milk; 8 oz. sour cream; 4 1/2 oz. Cool Whip; Vanilla wafers.

Mix pudding with 2 cups milk. Add Eagle Brand milk, sour cream, vanilla, and Cool Whip. Layer pudding, bananas and vanilla wafers. Repeat layer of pudding, bananas and vanilla wafers.

#### **Cowboy Corn Bread (Donna Trefny)**

1 1/2 c. cornmeal; 1/2 c. flour; 1/2 tsp salt; 1/2 tsp soda; 1 c. milk.

Add 2 eggs, one at a time, beating well after each. Pour in 2 T. cooking oil and add 1 large chopped onion, 4 pods chopped jalapeno pepper, 1 8oz can cream style corn and 1/2 lb. grated Cheddar cheese. Bake at 350 for 45 minutes.



*(Courtesy of Joe Wallace)*

***Annual Congregational Meeting  
Scheduled for January 16th,  
Immediately following the  
worship service.  
All Members are encouraged to attend.***

***Three new Council Members are needed  
starting January 2022 for three-year terms.***

***Take time to pray about it; think about it;  
and decide if this is another way  
YOU can serve YOUR church; and,  
Just "do it!"***



In Memory of Mr. Raymond Grunewald, from:

Faye Guenther (Pew Cushions)	Robert & Mary Ann Poppe (Pew Cushions)
Roy & Melanie Ulrich (Pew Cushions)	John & Rachel Guenther (Pew Cushions)
Shannon Williamson (Pew Cushions)	James Bittner (Pew Cushions)
Alice Friedrich (Building Fund)	Monica Stock & Family (Building Fund)
The James Purdy Family (Building Fund)	Allen & Jeanette Hoelscher (Building Fund)
Don & Doris Hoeinghaus (Pew Cushions)	Donald & Gracie Grohmann (Building Fund)
Tommy & Clara Holub (Pew Cushions)	

In Memory of Betty & Kervy Kahlden, from:

Wayne & Jo Lynn McDonald (Pew Cushions)

*(Any memorials given after December 27th will be posted in the February Newsletter.)*

**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,  
New Pew Cushion Fund,  
Weimar UCC Evening Circle

## January Worship Assistants

### Liturgists:

2nd—Angela Wied  
9th—Amy Koehn  
16th—Ryan Brandt  
23rd—Kelly Janak  
30th—Mike Antosh

### Acolytes:

2nd—Chloe Brandt & Alexander Vazquez  
9th—Gavin Schoeneberg & Caroline Koehn  
16th & 23rd—Chloe Brandt & Hadley Brandt  
30th—Madeline Antosh & Brock Antosh

### Communion Stewards:

2nd—Wayne & Jo Lynn McDonald

### Ushers:

2nd & 9th—Mack & Debbie Janak\*, Hal & Teresa Leppin  
16th, 23rd & 30th—Mark & Valerie Harmon\*,  
Jane Armontrout, Jo Lynn McDonald

### Greeters:

2nd & 9th—Kelly & Kathy Janak  
16th, 23rd & 30th—Frank & Joyce Gosney

### Altar Flowers:

2nd—David & Debbie Little and Dennis Knebel  
In Memory of M/M Edwin Knebel & Harvey Knebel  
9th—Alan & Amy Koehn  
In Memory of Arlene; and their Parents,  
Wilton & Sylvia Leppin and Lester & Adela Koehn  
16th—Leon Hattermann & Family  
In Memory of Alice Hattermann  
23rd—Harris & Sandy Kainer  
In Memory of Robert & Ella Keel, Robert W. Keel,  
and Edgar, Helen and Davis Kainer  
30th—Ross A. Jaster  
In Memory of Roselie “Book” Chapel



2	Carl Wied	263-5159
7	Sandra Lednický	743-4771
9	Dawn Davila	725-9099
12	Julia Krizak	263-5366
14	Pam Schoeneberg	979-251-2813
18	Amanda Turlington	263-4179
19	Stephanie Garza	253-2959
20	Gina Lamme	832-594-3381
22	Alan Koehn	263-4165
	Paul Cernoch	733-6116
23	Hadley Renee Brandt	263-5225
24	Tyler Baumbach	725-6005
	Tammy Hilley	725-6861
29	Christian Rabel	263-5676
30	Susan Miculka	979-702-9716
	Kelsey Elaine Wied	263-5159



8	David & Robin Hutchison	979-820-3697
18	Kenny & Gwen Helmcamp	725-8090

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

## Weimar United Church Dates to Remember

- January 9th—Un-decorate the church after services.
- Evening Circle Meeting, Jan. 11th @ 4:00pm.
- Annual Congregational Meeting-Jan. 16th.
- Church Council Meeting, Jan. 19th @ 7:00pm
- Elderfest, Jan. 20th, Thursday @ 11:30am
- Saturday, Jan. 22nd—Meet & Greet Pastor candidate
- Jan. 23rd—Trial Sermon, followed by meeting for members to vote on accepting the candidate.
- Rev. Metzger will be in Weimar, Jan. 9th—11th and 16th—18th, and, on Sundays. He is available to anyone.
- February Newsletter articles due by Noon on the 24th.

## Worship Attendance

December 5th—57

December 12th—64

December 19th—84

\*December 24th—159 (*not streamed*)

December 26th—40

(December Average — 81)

These attendance records show how many folks attended the services in the sanctuary. Services are streamed, and an average of **70 views per Sunday** are being watched over Facebook and YouTube combined.

# Heart of Texas

Happy New Year !

I pray that your Advent and Christmas Time was/is meaningful for you and your congregations. There were/are so many beautiful activities happening across the Heart of Texas Association in your local congregations and settings. It was/is beautiful to behold each setting celebrating the incarnation of the divine in sometimes unique, sometimes familiar ways.

As the new year begins, I've been thinking a lot about the role of an Association Minister. According to the job description one of the main focuses is to support local congregations via lay leaders, local clergy, and local clergy's families. In an effort to live into these expectations, I'm looking for ways to connect one-on-one and in groups in addition to visiting your local congregations. Additionally, is the call to foster connections between the 20 wonderful churches of the Heart of Texas Association and create ties to the South Central Conference and beyond. Following are some efforts to live into these efforts:

## Clergy

- **First Tuesday of every month from 9:30 am - 11:30 am on zoom (for now).** We can adjust time and place as we continue to move out of COVID. Part of this time will be fellowship and sharing, and the rest of the time we will creatively engage in the Marks of Ministry as we all strive to be healthy, well-rounded, growing clergy, regardless of our settings. Begins January 4th.  
Added bonus: the weekly Conference Cafe (Wednesday from 9:30 - 10:30) has been a wonderful way to connect with clergy all over the South Central Conference. Although not strictly Heart of Texas Association, a good number of HOTA clergy are regularly attending. We have a lot of fun wondering and stretching our theological understanding on such topics as what is a soul?, what does incarnation really mean?, and so on.

## Lay Leaders

**First Wednesday of every month from 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm on zoom.** We will gather for a time of fellowship, sharing and dip our toes into educational pieces important for lay leaders. Begins January 5th. I could use your help in updating contacts (name & email) for your 2022 Lay Leaders. [Click here for form](#) or email me

at [revnikkistahl@gmail.com](mailto:revnikkistahl@gmail.com). These are both come and go so feel free to attend as you are able, for as long as you are able, even if it is to just pop on and say hello! Separate invites will be sent out to each group.

## Annual Meeting Planning

There is still time for both lay and clergy to jump in and help with 2022 Annual Meeting. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 6th at 12 pm. [Email me](#) for the zoom invite.

## Invite me to Worship with You

So far I've been able to visit Bethany (San Antonio), Open Cathedral (Leander), Hope United (Georgetown), Trinity Church of Austin, Friends Congregational (College Station), Faith UCC (Bryan) and Faith UCC (New Braunfels). I have planned visits for St. John's UCC (Burton), Touchstone UCC (Boerne), St. Peter's UCC (Coupland), Redeemer UCC (Zuehl), and St. Paul's UCC (Corpus Christi). If you aren't on this list, let's plan a date!

## Schedule a One-on-One

I'm available for safe in-person visits, zoom or a good-ole fashion phone call.

## FB and Instagram

Information and cross-posting of your events and information happening here! Take a moment every once in a while to see what others in the Association are doing and/or share your good news!

Heart of Texas Association FB

Page <https://www.facebook.com/HOTA.UCC>

Heart of Texas Association

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/heartoftexasassociation/>

Rev. Nikki Stahl, Association Minister FB

Page <https://www.facebook.com/togetherwithyouonthejourney/>

Rev. Nikki Stahl, Association Minister

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/rev.nikkistahl/>

I pray that some or all of these ways help you feel a little less out there on your own and connected to the wider church. If topics or needs arise, remember I'm here to be with you on the journey.

Peace and Light,  
Nikki



## WEIMAR UNITED CHURCH

Post Office Box 188  
Weimar TX 78962

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*January 2022*

Stamp

Rev. Gerald Metzger—Pastor

Office: 979-725-8315

ucadmin@cvctx.com weimaruc@cvctx.com

Church is located at 403 West Main Street.

Sunday Worship Service — 9:30am

Bible Study—Sunday 9:00am

Services are streamed over

Facebook and YouTube. Weimar UCC

### *Weimar United Church*

*403 West Main Street*

*Weimar TX*

*(Mail: PO Box 188, Weimar TX 78962)*

