



The Messenger

July 2020

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

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Ross Jaster, *Vice President*
Emily Latimer, *Secretary*
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Kristy Janak Janecka, *Music*
Pam Schoeneberg,
Youth/Christian Education
Dora Vazquez, *Fellowship*
Darla Maxwell
*Missions/Wider Church/
Evangelism/Stewardship*
Hal Leppin, *At Large*
Danielle Hilley,
Youth Representative.

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
Marianne Muehr
Dickie Muehr
Ross Jaster

A visit with Pastor Gerry Metzger

TRUST ME ...

Reality One. Something happens when a person attached to a pair of skis and his ability is slightly better than a beginner. Instantaneously, the body receives a double shot of adrenaline which has the power to short circuit the brain's messaging of immanent danger. More simply, a person's "illusion of ability" coincides with watching a five year old switching over the snow with the grace and dignity of an eagle soaring across the heavens.

Reality Two. Anyone who has ever downhill skied knows there're many reasons for a ski lift. The most obvious reason is to transport skiers to the top of the hill. The primary, less-obvious, reason is to give the skier an opportunity to soberly and maturely contemplate what lies at the end of the not so free ride. This ride should be a time to unite the reality of a person's skills with the knowledge of the slopes treacherousness. A secondary reason for the ski lift is to give the skier a time to freeze. Once totally numb, an avenue is opened which tells the skier that whatever occurs on the hill will be less painful than the ride.

The beginning. I was (*and probably still am*) a skier who easily confused my skillful ability with the ski slope's difficulty. I am also too willing to follow another who convinces me that she/he holds sacred my best interests.

It was late afternoon and approaching the agreed upon time for our last run of the day. The unspoken reality was each of us was far more tired now than before our first run; yet, the blessing of the sun provided warmth, plus a false sense of revitalization. Getting off the ski lift this time was far less than adventurous. (*Though I remember an earlier adventure of coming off the lift in a three point nose dive, and a pair of skis leaving tracks on my back.*)

Slowly moving away from the lift to the staging (*prayer*) area, we began to discuss which trail would best deliver us to our final destination. My vote was for the green circle (*easiest trail.*) Somehow my vote did not register. My "friend" thought it best and fastest to follow the black diamond (*not selected for the stone in a thoughtful engagement ring*). Before the value of both voices could be weighed, my friend pointed her skis toward the most difficult slope on the hill, looked over her shoulder and yelled, "trust me."

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Frozen in Time. I was a big boy. I could have simply pointed my skies toward the powder-puff slope and had an easy ride down. I could have, but I didn't. Instead, I followed my friend; embarking on an experience which tested both my ability and my vaster inabilities. I followed in full knowledge that I was responsible for the direction my skis were pointing.

Frozen in another Time. Long before my skiing experience, there were others who heard the same words. **Trust me** was spoken by Jesus of Nazareth, and the hearers were the first Disciples as well as those willing to follow in Jesus' footsteps throughout history.

Jesus' message was **trust me**. Jesus never indicated that this trust would lead us down the easiest or most popular trail. Jesus never indicated trusting in him would lead us down the most prosperous road. Jesus made no promises that trusting in him would lead to glory or fame. Jesus' underlying message of "**Trust me**", followed God's ancient message for us to make life better for all people. The message was about lifting people up. The road labeled "**Trust Me**" takes the follower to joy-filled servanthood.

When we follow Jesus in total trust, we are never sure of the slopes' treacherousness. We can only trust the One we are following.

Shalom, Pastor Gerry

Weimar UCC Worship Services

Our church is open; however, it is **mandated** that all who enter wear a face mask and keep it on until entering your vehicle. Since this pandemic first began, it has affected all of us. We want you to feel safe during these times; stay home if you feel uncomfortable returning to a somewhat normal routine. Weimar UCC is taking every precaution to ensure a safe worship experience.

We have roped off every other pew in our church to make sure we have proper spacing between attendees. We regularly and frequently clean and disinfect areas regularly touched, such as doorknobs, tables, chairs, restrooms, pews, etc. We have hand sanitizers throughout the building. We strongly encourage the at-risk population to watch services remotely. If you're not feeling well or have any of the COVID-19 symptoms, please remain home.

We continue to offer our worship services online on our Facebook page (Weimar United Church of Christ) and YouTube (WeimarTXUCC). You can find our bulletin on the website at weimartxucc.com under "Info Center" - "Sunday Bulletin." If you wish, you can pick up a bulletin from our outside mailbox each Thursday after 12 Noon. *(We apologize for the fact that we were unable to have the service for July 5th on line due to technical difficulties.)*

If you have any questions, please contact the church office or email ucadmin@cvctx.com.

For your information — As of this writing, we have no timeframe as to when Rev. Cervantes and his family will be able to join us in Weimar. This COVID-19 pandemic is hitting everyone very hard. In the meantime, Rev. Metzger has said he is available to us for long as needed. We are very grateful for that.

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.





July Volunteers

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

Kelly Janak & Ross Jaster

—
Those who will care for the
Sirnic Cemetery Plot —

The Beken & Baumbach Families

Thanks to All of you!

What is Happening at Weimar UCC

Sermon Titles/Scriptures for July

July 5th	Fifth Sunday after Pentecost— Rev. Gerry Metzger “The Dance” Psalm 45:10-17, Romans 7:14-25a, Matthew 11:16-19. 25-30
July 12th	Sixth Sunday after Pentecost— Rev. Gerry Metzger “Listen—Hear” Psalm 119: 105-112, Genesis 25:19-34, Matthew 133:1-9, 18-23
July 19th	Seventh Sunday after Pentecost— Rev. Gerry Metzger “God Is Here” Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24, Genesis 28:10-19a, Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
July 26th	Eighth Sunday after Pentecost— Rev. Gerry Metzger "small stitches make our future" Psalm 105:1-11 Genesis 29:15-28 Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

*All sermon titles and scriptures are subject to change.

Weimar Food Pantry

The Weimar Food Panty continues to collect donations. Suggestion item this month is crackers; however, anything is greatly appreciated.

You may drop your donations off at the church on Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday between 9am and 12Noon, or before the Sunday worship service. A donation box is in the foyer. Jenny Grohmann timely transfers the donations to the designated area.

Currently, the food pantry is open only once each month. Participants are not allowed to enter the food pantry building; instead they are handed items through a slightly opened door. Once again, thank you to everyone who has contributed and continues to contribute to the food pantry.

Heart Texas

As many of you know, our Association sets aside money in our scholarship fund each year to award as scholarships to our seminary students. Also, we are able to award some of the Greg Felder Memorial Scholarship money in this effort. The current awards are going to Betty McDaniel at Chicago Theological Seminary; Rene Slataper at Lexington Theological Seminary who is transferring to Chicago Theological Seminary beginning this fall; and Brooke Dooley at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth on the TCU campus. All are earning their Master of Divinity degree and are Members in Discernment in the Heart of Texas Association. Both Betty and Rene are in the online programs at their schools, programs that allow them to work in their home cities and area churches while pursuing seminary degrees.

The students apply for these scholarships through our Association scholarship committee. Our Association website, <http://hotaucc.org/>, has a page to congratulate them that also tells how to inquire about scholarship applications.

Our South Central Conference Annual Meeting was held online for the first time on Saturday morning, June 13th. While it was a loss not to gather face to face in a more extended time together in friendship and worship, the meeting was done in an excellent way that reflected the hard work of Board President Nikki Stahl and several others who helped put it together. There was uplifting music and outstanding worship in the recorded video offered by Houston Association churches; video reports including an opportunity to hear from our new Consulting Conference Minister Campbell Lovett; screen sharing that helped us with minutes, financial reports, understanding bylaw changes that were voted on and adopted, and the slate of nominations; a lovely tribute to Rev. Dr. Alice Graham, the outstanding Executive Director of

Back Bay Mission who is retiring at the end of the year; a tribute of gratitude to Jim Blume, our long-time SCC attorney who has given us so much over the years and has now retired: a well-crafted agenda that helped us move along in a timely way that also allowed for discussion; and a time for video break-out rooms that allowed small groups of us to gather and talk. As many of us are finding out, there are new opportunities to be creative and connect that many of us will very likely use in the future as we go back to worship in person. Many thanks to our Conference leadership for this meeting.

At the meeting, we elected new representatives for our Association, and we continue to have others serving on our behalf. We elected Bainie Wild from St. John's UCC, Burton, to the South Central Conference Board of Directors and Rev. Jenny Russell from Touchstone Community Church, Boerne, to the Nominating Committee. Carl Brown from Trinity Church of Austin continues to serve on the SCC Board of Directors; Rev. Nikki Stahl from United Christian, Austin, continues as President of the SCC Board; Rev. Peter Bauer from Faith UCC, New Braunfels, and Andrew Roblyer from Friends Congregational UCC, College Station continue as General Synod delegates; Josh Mata from United Christian, Phillip Gullen from Friends Congregational, and Jerry Carpenter, retired pastor of Weimar UCC, continue as General Synod alternate delegates; and Cindy Miller from St. John's UCC, Burton, continues on the Nominating Committee. As the chair of the SCC Nominating Committee, I also thank Rev. Trent Williams and Rev. Peter Bauer for their SCC Board service as they finish their terms as representative and secretary.

Blessings in Christ,
Liz Nash, Association Minister

\$1 for 1 Mission Offering

\$1 for 1 Mission Offering is a ministry opportunity where you can give \$1 in addition to your regular offering each Sunday to benefit a different non-profit organization throughout the year.

Please place your \$1 (more if you wish) in the special envelope marked **\$1 for 1 Mission Offering** and put it in the offering plate each week. ***Keep in mind that if your donation is not placed in the special envelope, it will go into the General Fund.***

Organizations that we are planning to contribute to in 2020 are as follows:

January – K9s4COPS.org

February – Turtle Wing Foundation

March – Hooves & Hounds Rescue & Rehab

April – Colorado County Habitat for Humanity

May – Friends of the Weimar Library

June – Mini Horse Helpers

July – The Heritage Society of Weimar

August – Parents As Teachers

September – Boys & Girls Club of Champion Valley

October – Family Crisis Center

November – Weimar Volunteer Fire Department

December – ARTS for Rural Texas

The purpose of this ministry is to demonstrate that something as small as one dollar can be used to make a difference in the lives of others. Thank you to all who support this special mission project.

We find inner peace when we give generously. Proverbs 11:25

Submitted by Darlia Maxwell, Missions Chair



Blood Drive at Weimar UCC

August 6, 2020 — 11:00am 'till 5:00pm

Sponsored by Encore Lady Lions

Call Karen Kutac to make an appointment. 725-8919



Liturgists:

5th—Amy Koehn
12th—Alan Koehn
19th—Kendall Baumbach
26th—Billye Lynn Ratliff

Acolytes:

5th—Caroline Koehn & Alex Vazquez
12th—Gavin & Zoe Schoeneberg
19th & 26th—Callie Janak & Kadi Dees

Ushers:

5th & 12th—Ryan & Pam Schoeneberg*,
Chris & Gretchen Maddux
19th & 26th—Jr. Friedrich*, Macy Friedrich,
Debbie Friedrich, Mary Cowling

Greeters:

5th & 12th—Glenn & Elena Horndt
19th & 26th—Debbie Janak & Kathy Janak

Altar Flowers:

5th—Michael & Sandy Trefny
(In Loving Memory of Glenn Vornsand and their
Grandparents)
12th—Sue Vornsand and Family
(In Memory of Glenn Vornsand)
19th—Dickie & Marianne Muehr
(In Memory of Richard & Gertie Muehr, Gene
Muehr, Dorothy & Wylie True, and Mack True)
26th—Billye Lynn Ratliff
(In Memory of her Parents, Florine & Bill Ratliff)

**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. The office hours are
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday, 9 am—12Noon.*

Newsletter Editors

Mindy Malatek & Loreen Rhodes

***Do to privacy we have removed
birthdays & anniversaries off the
online copy. If you have any questions
please contact the church office.
Thank you***

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



In Memory of Mr. Louis Krizak, from:

Marianne & Dickie Muehr (Ratliff Music Fund)

In Memory of Mr. Harold Leppin, from:

Marianne & Dickie Muehr (Ratliff Music Fund)

M-G Farm Service Center (Storage Bldg. Fund)

James & Carolyn Dahse (Building Fund)

In Memory of Mr. Gary Piwetz, from:

Louis & Linda Barrileaux (Building Fund)

(Donations made after July 5th will be listed in the next newsletter.)

Thank you for your consideration of a memorial gift to Weimar UCC.
Below are several choices of special gifts you are welcome to pick from these or feel free to designate your own.
Simply write on the envelope where you would like your memorial placed.

Building Fund
Children's Ministry Fund
Sirnic Memorial Endowment
Parsonage Fund
Ratliff Memorial Music Fund
Church Landscaping Fund
Mission Fund
New Church Start Fund
Outside Storage Building Fund
General Operating Fund

If you have questions about specific funds, please ask any church council member.



**WEIMAR UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

Post Office Box 188
Weimar TX 78962

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

July 2020

Non-Profit
Org.

Rev. Juvenal Cervantes (coming later)

Guest Pastor — Rev. Gerald Metzger

Office: 979-725-8315

ucadmin@cvctx.com weimaruc@cvctx.com

Church is located at 403 West Main Street.

Weimar United Church of Christ (UCC)

403 West Main Street

Weimar TX

(Mail: PO Box 188, Weimar TX 78962)

