



The Messenger

March 2021

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*
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

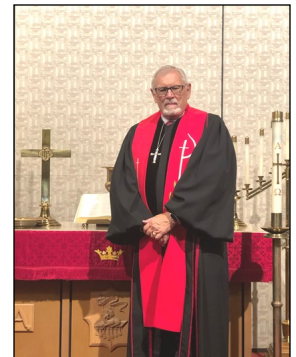
Choir Director
Susan Miculka

Song Leaders
Dickie Muehr
Ross Jaster

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...”

As was our custom, I annually crossed the mountain to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in beautiful, downtown Butte, Montana. To show we were not single focused, whenever possible, I left early enough so we could celebrate St. Urho Day. This allowed John (my solid mentor and self-appointed guru) and me to cover our Saintly bases, catch up on our ministry, move deeper into our friendship, and constantly apologize to John's beautiful bride.

The “season for my pilgrimage” with John has long since ended. Instead of the pilgrimage to Butte, I now take time annually to celebrate our heroic Saints, and the memory of my challenging mentor and friend. In the times of remembrance, I realize my journey to Butte provided more blessings than were obvious at the time.



One of the blessed remembrances engulfs a return journey home. I saw a sight which caused me to pull to the side of the road and stare at the meadow. In the middle of a snow field was a single flower poking her head above the snow. In this sea of white, a dot of bright yellow stood out like a spot light igniting the heavens. It was amazing how a flower so small and delicate could hold my attention. Not only was it spell bindingly beautiful, it was a reminder and an announcement of the new season which was beginning. It was a reminder creation is constantly in a state of change.

Perhaps, because of the recent days of watching snow fall outside our home, I was taken back to my shared moment with the yellow flower and the season of my life which had taken me to that time and place.

As I watched the snow dancing outside my office window a few days ago, I remembered a thought I had while being mesmerized by my yellow flower. When you explore the back stories and lives of the saints, they are much like the little, yellow flower standing in the midst of the snow field. They are insignificant, timid, small dots in the midst of human tragedy. Yet, as insignificant as the Saints appear, they had hearts and passion much greater than their common sense or desire for self preservation. They saw a problem and heard an internal small voice, and had faith

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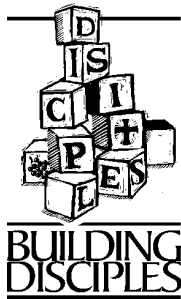
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they could make a real, positive difference. Rather than being frightened about what might never happen, they believed the Creator would guide them through the chaotic forces which wanted to stop them.

We each have a time and a season to be a saint. A time and a season to make a positive difference in the world, and to improve the life of one of God's most special children. I have no great aspiration of being a Mother Teresa, but I do pray that I will be able to see and respond to the ministry that is before me.

Blessings,

Pastor Gerry



Special Service on March 14th

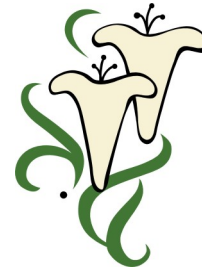
One piece of the curriculum for the Confirmation Class is to design and implement a worship service. The foundation for this was laid in our study and discussion of the elements which are included in our service. Layered on top of this foundation is the reality that worship speaks to each of us in different ways.

I pray that as you enter worship on the 14th, you will celebrate the statement our Confirmands are making, and receive with gratitude their offering.

As my heart continues to remind me, "the young members of our congregation are not only the future of the church; they are the present of the church."

Shalom,

Pastor Gerry



Lilies for Easter

Each year on Easter Sunday, the Weimar UCC sanctuary is decorated with beautiful lilies which are generously provided by our church members. This year, Easter falls on **April 4th**.

By March 1st, a sign-up sheet will be available in the church foyer. It will then be your responsibility to contact a local florist and make your purchase. Our local florists (Flowers by Judy or M-G) have a key to the church and will deliver. The florists will have been advised by **Council Worship Chair Marianne Muehr** on how the flower containers are to be decorated. The florists do not need to know for whom you are donating the lily or lilies. We, however, do need that information, and you must sign up in order for your donation to be included in the bulletin insert on Easter Sunday.

Remember — you need to do two things:

- 1) sign up on the sheet provided in the foyer;
and,
- 2) purchase a lily from a local florist.

The deadline for both is Noon on Monday, March 29th. The florists will deliver them to the church on that Saturday, the 3rd, and Marianne will arrange the lilies for Easter Sunday. You, of course, may take yours home after the service has ended.

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

March Volunteers

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

Kelly Janak — Marianne Muehr

Those who will care for the Sirnic Cemetery Plot —

Jenny & Clifford Grohmann

Thanks to All of you!

Newsletter Editors

Mindy Malatek & Loreen Rhodes

Sermon Titles/Scriptures for March

March 7th	Third Sunday in Lent— Rev. Gerry Metzger “When Perfect Does Not Satisfy” Psalm 19, Exodus 20:1-17, John 2:13-22
March 14th	Fourth Sunday in Lent— Rev. Gerry Metzger “Wilderness Love” Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22, Numbers 21:4-9, John 3:14-21
March 21st	Fifth Sunday in Lent— Rev. Gerry Metzger “Inside” Psalm 119:9-16, Jeremiah 31:31-34, John 12:20-33
March 28th (Palm Sunday)	Sixth Sunday in Lent— Rev. Gerry Metzger “No Social Distancing” Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29, Isaiah 50:4-9a, Mark 11:1-11

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

The Great Laboratory of Love

A Devotional by Richard L. Floyd, Pastor Emeritus of First Church of Christ, (UCC) in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, a writer and author—August 19, 2017

“I beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with humility and gentleness, with patience, bear with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” - Ephesians 4: 1-3.

A pastor friend of mine is known to have told his congregation, “If there isn’t somebody here who rubs you the wrong way, you need to come around more often.”

In my long ministry, I tried to love everybody in the church, but I never entirely succeeded. I knew God loved them even if I couldn’t. But, one thing I learned over time was that if I kept trying, sometimes, just sometimes, I did learn to love the seemingly unlovable. If, just as Paul admonished and could bear with another member for a while, then something in our relationship changed.

I am convinced that this change in the relationship was by grace. Perhaps that is what Paul meant when he wrote about “the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” That somehow, if we hang in there with another member of the body of Christ, even someone we seem to have no natural affinity for, God’s Spirit brings a change of heart in both parties. And, this dynamic is something that I firmly believe is an important part of what the church is, a kind of laboratory of love. Too often, we betray this aspect when we look for our congregations to be homogeneous enclaves of the like-minded. Try a little experiment. Next time you are in coffee hour, don’t migrate to a person you love and delight in. Instead, pick out someone who rubs you the wrong way and start a conversation. It might be the “beginning of a beautiful friendship.”

Prayer — We pray, O God, for your unifying Spirit, that we may flourish in your great laboratory of love, the church.

Heart of Texas Association News

As I write, we are just a couple of days past the very difficult days of our freeze, power outages, and water problems. Many in our churches have suffered. Among our churches, we have had illness and death over this past week. Many of us faced situations in our homes that we never thought we would face -- extreme cold, lack of water, the inability to get out or even communicate at times. Some faced these while also being ill. Others who did not have problems or had fewer issues to deal with offered help and care with great generosity. My heart and prayers go with all of you. We have had several churches with building issues from burst pipes, including (to my knowledge as I write) Friends Congregational College Station, Faith UCC in Bryan, St. John's UCC in Burton, and Church of the Savior in Cedar Park. Slumber Falls Camp has also sustained damage. The United Church of Christ Disaster Ministry is reaching out with support to the churches in our Conference. Our Conference Minister Campbell Lovett has been reaching out to our churches, and I have been in touch with a number of our pastors. If there are ways I can support your congregation, please let me know (lizknash@gmail.com, 512-799-2782).

I ask you at this time to pray for our faithful brother in Christ, our former Conference Minister Douglas Anders. Douglas, who moved home to the St. Louis area when he retired, has been fighting colon and very aggressive liver cancer now for a number of years. While continuing to serve the church and his local community in numerous ways, Douglas has undergone several forms of treatment, including travel to MD Anderson in Houston for experimental treatment. He is in the final stages of his life now. His example of faith and service to us while he was with us and, in the past few years, during his illness, has been extraordinary and inspiring. Let us pray for him and give thanks for his years of ministry with us.

Carl Schwartz-King, our Association Vice-Moderator, a licensed minister in the Heart of Texas Association, and a commissioned minister in the Christian Church Disciples of Christ, has resigned his position at United Christian Church as Minister of Congregational Care at United Christian Church of Austin. He has served in this position for the past five years, giving generously of his time and talents. Following a call to ministry, Carl completed the Certificate program at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary to be able to serve after retiring from his position as Manager of Emergency and Trauma Services at St. David's Medical Center in Austin. He has served the Heart of Texas Association in many ways, and I am happy to say that he will be continuing in that work. If elected at our Spring meeting, he will serve as our moderator for the next term. I know United appreciates Carl's ministry, and I look forward to his gift of excellent leadership in this Association.

Our Association Spring meeting date will be set soon. We will be having an Ecclesiastical Council for Amelia Fulbright for Privilege of Call in the United Church of Christ. We anticipate having one more Ecclesiastical Council. More details and a meeting date will come soon.

Blessings in Christ, Liz Nash, Association Minister.



Your Evening Circle at Work & Play

The Women's Fellowship of our church is called the Evening Circle. At this time, we are eight members strong. Our members include: **Linda Barrilleaux, Sandy Kainer, Lanette Kahlden, Julia Krizak, Gretchen Maddux, Marianne Muehr, Jo Lynn McDonald, and Ava June Vachala.** Honorary Evening Circle Members are: **Lornette Schoeneberg and Donna Trefny.**

The Evening Circle meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 4:00p.m. We meet for about an hour and half for fellowship time, which means good food, a brief meeting chaired by **Sandy Kainer**, and an excellent devotional presented by **Julia Krizak.**

We invite all ladies to come and join or visit our Evening Circle Group for a wonderful time of Christian Fellowship. Our next meeting will be the second Tuesday (March 9th at 4:00 pm) in the church library. Hostesses for our March meeting will be **Ava June Vachala and Julia Krizak.** We do wear masks and social distance from each other due to COVID-19 and give the peace for everyone's safety.

Stay tuned for next month to learn more about what Evening Circle members do.



In Memory of Carol & David McCoskey, from:

Jenny & Clifford Grohmann and Family (*Bldg. Fund*)

In Memory of Evening Circle Members:

Elva Belt, Hilda Brandt, Ora Nell Beken,
Eunice Bittner, Willyne Dunn, Annette Hertel,
Betty Kahlden, Lillian Kahlden, Sylvia Leppin,
Joyce Terrell, from:

Sandy Kainer (*Evening Circle*)

In Memory of Mrs. Carol McCoskey, from:

Lawrence & Laura Henke (*Bldg. 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 February 24th will be listed in the next newsletter.)

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

March

MARCH



Liturgists:

7th—Zane Wanjura
14th—Led by Confirmation Class
21st—Brooke Wanjura
28th—Alice Friedrich

Acolytes:

7th—Chloe Brandt & Kadi Dees
14th—Gavin Schoeneberg & Brinson Huette
21st—Caroline Koehn & Rayleigh Huette
28th—Emily Wied & Zoe Schoeneberg

Communion Stewards:

7th—Chris & Gretchen Maddux

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

Ushers:

7th & 14th—Kelly & Kathy Janak*, Shannon Adamcik,
Harris Kainer
21st & 28th—Wayne & Jo Lynn McDonald*,
Alan & Amy Koehn

Greeters:

7th & 14th—Lizetta Vanicek & Dawn Davila
21st & 28th—Peggy Hiatt & Jane Armontrout

Altar Flowers:

7th—The Valerie Harmon Family &
The Melissa Dittrich Family
In Memory of Donald Ray & Willyne Dunn
14th—The Loessin Family
In Memory of M/M George Loessin
21st—Werner & Nancy Boer
In Memory of Jerry & Chuddie Boer, Ora Nell &
Milton Beken, Ford Beken, M/M Wm. Boer,
and Lillie Beard
28th—George & Vera Brandt
In Honor of their Children & Grandchildren

**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.*

A Pastor's Hymn

(A good one for us these days.)

A church in Atlanta was honoring one of its senior pastors who had been retired many years. He was 92 at that time and I wondered why the church even bothered to ask the old gentleman to preach at that age. After a warm welcome, introduction of this speaker, and as the applause quieted down, he rose from his high back chair and walked slowly, with great effort and a sliding gait to the podium. Without a note or written paper of any kind, he placed both hands on the pulpit to steady himself and then quietly and slowly he began to speak....

"When I was asked to come here today and talk to you, your pastor asked me to tell you what was the greatest lesson ever learned in my 50-odd years of preaching. I thought about it for a few days and boiled it down to just one thing that made the most difference in my life and sustained me through all my trials. The one thing that I could always rely on when tears and heartbreak and pain and fear and sorrow paralyzed me The only thing that would comfort was this verse

"Jesus loves me this I know.
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong,
We are weak but He is strong ...
Yes, Jesus loves me The Bible tells me so."

The old pastor stated, "I always noticed that it was the adults who chose the children's hymn, 'Jesus Loves Me' *(for the children of course)* during a hymn sing, and it was the adults who sang the loudest because I could see they knew it the best."

"Here for you now is a Senior version of Jesus Loves Me:"

"Jesus loves me, this I know,
Though my hair is white as snow.

Though my sight is growing dim,
Still He bids me trust in Him.

(Chorus)

Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me,
For the Bible tells me so.

(verse 2)

Though my steps are oh, so slow,
With my hand in His I'll go,
On through life, let come what may,
He'll be there to lead the way.

(verse 3)

When the nights are dark and long,
In my heart He puts a song,
Telling me in words so clear,
"Have no fear, for I am near."

(Verse 4)

When my work on earth is done,
And life's victories have been won.
He will take me home above,
Then I'll understand His love.

(Chorus)

I love Jesus, does He know?
Have I ever told Him so?
Jesus loves to hear me say,
That I love Him every day."

If you think this is neat, please pass it on to your friends.

*If you do not pass it on, you will have missed an opportunity to
"reach out and touch" a friend or a loved one.*

God Bless Us All!!!! AMEN!

Worship Attendance

February 7th—49
February 14th—N/A
February 17th—N/A
February 21st—38
February 28th—N/A
(February Average — N/A)

These attendance records show how many folks attended the services in the sanctuary. Services are streamed due to the pandemic, and an average of **103 views per Sunday** are being watched over Facebook and YouTube combined.

Weimar UCC Dates to Remember

- Confirmation class meets every 1st and 3rd Sunday
- Evening Circle Meeting—March 9 at 4:00pm
- Council Meeting, March 10 at 7:00pm
- Worship led by Confirmation Class—March 14th.
- Newsletter articles are due by March 23rd.
- Please help keep our community food pantry stocked. Vegetables (*canned*) are requested during March. The collection box is in the church foyer.
- Confirmation — April 11th



**WEIMAR UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

Post Office Box 188
Weimar TX 78962

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

March 2021

Stamp

Rev. Gerald Metzger—Guest 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)



Stay safe, everyone.

Wear your mask!