



The Messenger

November 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

...Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these you did it to me.

What if... The Pilgrims would have been too arrogant to accept help from those who greeted them at the shores of this country. The story of this land would probably be significantly different.

What if... the Indigenous Welcomers had passively sat around minding their own business; watching our Pilgrim ancestors die.

What if... is an interesting game to play. This game allows you to be the sole author and redeveloper of your life story.

Sometime in the early 80's, a single pastor was serving his first church in a small New Hampshire village. In the middle of a sleepless night, Allen awoke to a **what if** moment. This seed germinated from his Thanksgiving custom of eating a deluxe television turkey dinner, and watching football. This seed was nourished during conversations and spending time eaves-dropping on others. Allen discovered he was not the only one in the village who spent Thanksgiving alone.

Armed with this information, Allen asked himself the question — “**What if** next Thanksgiving, I move from a solo celebration to a group experience?” When the time was appropriate, Allen extended an invitation through the church's newsletter and in the village's weekly newspaper. The invitation was simple. Allen would host a Thanksgiving meal in the church's social hall. There would be a television set which would only receive football games, and a baked turkey. Everyone attending was invited to bring whatever they wanted, or they could just bring her/himself.

Between the time the article was published and Thanksgiving, Allen was frequently asked if he was out of his mind. He was informed that either no one would attend, or those who came would be the village's undesirable. Multiple times, Allen was informed he would be better off accepting an invitation from a church family and enjoy a relaxing day.

Allen informed us (members of the clergy study group) that the most powerful question he received was from a homeless person who had struggled with mental issues all his life. George did odd jobs around the village and did his best to stay just under the radar. At the same time, the villagers did their best to ignore George



unless they needed him. George approached Allen and asked if he would be welcomed to the Thanksgiving meal. For Allen, nothing else had to be said.

The meal was blessed and served. The people visited, ate, and watched football. Some ignored football and enjoyed interacting over board games. After everyone had eaten their fill (and more), everyone pitched in and cleaned up. And, then they continued to spend time in community. Because Allen lived the “**what if**” game out, this was the village’s first community Thanksgiving meal, but not the last.

What if... we never know until we extend some energy to bring the question to life and step outside our comfort zone.

Pastor Gerry

The Weimar Food Panty is still collecting food for those in need, especially during this pandemic. The suggested item for this month is **peanut butter**; however, anything is greatly appreciated. You may drop your donations in the box provided in the church foyer



With that said, these children need teachers and we are asking for volunteers!! Please add your name to the list provided in the foyer if this is something you feel inclined to do. If you have any questions, you may speak with Pam Schoeneberg, our Christian Education Chair.

2021 Yearbooks *(member assignments)*

The new Yearbook will be prepared by the end of the year. For your information, due to the inconveniences caused by this COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Yearbook will be adjusted to fit 2021 and the same assignments will be made. Hopefully, this eases the workload of many who normally work up and prepare the Yearbook. As always, if you feel uncomfortable attending, please advise.



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



November Volunteers

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

Kelly Janak & Darlia Maxwell

Those who will care for the Sirnic Cemetery Plot —
Joyce & Frank Gosney

Thanks to All of you!

Newsletter Editors

Mindy Malatek & Loreen Rhodes

What is happening at Weimar UCC

Sermon Titles/Scriptures for November

November 1st	Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost— Rev. Gerry Metzger “Self Aware” Psalm 43, Micah 3:5-12 Matthew 23:1-12
November 8th	Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost— Rev. Gerry Metzger “Greeting Party” Psalm 78:1-7, Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 Matthew 25:1-13
November 15th	Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost— Rev. Gerry Metzger “Need a Shovel?” Psalm 123, I Thessalonians 5:1-11, Matthew 25:31-46
November 22nd	Thanksgiving Sunday— Rev. Gerry Metzger “Sheep vs. Goat” Psalm 100, Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Matthew 25:31-46
November 29th	First Sunday of Advent— Rev. Gerry Metzger “The Word” Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, Isaiah 64:1-9 Mark 13:24-37

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



Weimar Food Pantry Needs for Christmas Food Baskets

(At this time, it is undecided how, or if, food baskets will be assembled and distributed; however, let's collect items just in case it works out. If it doesn't work out, items will be donated to the food pantry.)

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 tables in the East corner of the UCC fellowship hall before Saturday, December 19th.

Confirmation Class

The members of the 2020-2021 confirmation class are: **Kaiden Antosh, Rayleigh Huette, Dalton Turlington, Delaney Turlington, Brooke Wanjura, and Zane Wanjura.**

As we begin this faith journey, I invite you to keep these pilgrims in your prayers.

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month, following worship.

It is planned that Confirmation Sunday will be on Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021.

Pastor Gerry

Heart of Texas Association News

Our Heart of Texas Association Fall Meeting met on Zoom on Saturday morning, October 24th. We had a good turnout with 13 of our churches represented. Open Cathedral led our opening with a video worship on YouTube that included excellent music -- with one of the musicians sharing from out of state, creative video segments, and a reflection by Ryan Hart. We appreciate deeply their skilled, faithful, and uplifting work.

The meeting began with a time of recognition for Hope United on their tenth anniversary. Their council president, Jim Robichaux, shared about their send off for Ron Trimmer as Ron and his family left for Missouri, the recent interim time with Kyle Walker leading worship, and the exciting news of a new designated pastor coming on board. Jeremy Albers, Director of Slumber Falls Camp, shared with us that the camp is in difficult financial condition because all of the groups that were scheduled to come have canceled due to COVID-19, stopping the major revenue stream. Slumber Falls was able to have our UCC summer camps last summer due to careful planning and hard work to keep people safe (no one got sick), but the revenue that is needed to support the camp is missing for now. Jeremy is working quarter time, and major fundraising is needed. We also recognized and lifted up our chaplains with great gratitude as they continue their life-giving work in this time of real risk. Our attendees connected with a breakout time in small groups, and representatives from each of the churches present shared quite a bit about the life, challenges, and things to celebrate in their churches -- always a rich time in these meetings. Finally, we appreciated the excellent presentation that Campbell Lovett, our Interim Conference Minister, gave on the proposed Unified Conference level Fitness Review Committee and the work needed in the next few months to be able to make a decision on whether to join with the other South Central Conference Associations in forming this committee.

An important decision at this meeting, made during our financial report time, was to donate \$5,000 of our dedicated youth funds to Slumber Falls Camp. We did this both to show our financial support and because we had funds set aside to give scholarships to the National Youth Event last summer, which had to be cancelled as an in-person event. Also, we are encouraging our churches to give as generously as possible to Slumber Falls.

I also shared the news of my trip last week out to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi to deliver 110 hygiene kits -- 100 from Friends Congregational Church and 10 from Friedens Gay Hill -- along with a check from Friedens. The staff at Back Bay Mission welcomed me and received our gifts with joy, as the need among the homeless people they serve with these particular donations is greater than ever. We are encouraging giving to Back

Bay Mission along with Slumber Falls as an offering from our churches.

We offer congratulations to Crystal Silva-McCormick and Church of the Savior. Crystal has been their designated pastor since Mary Wilson retired last spring. In this role, a designated pastor has a contract for a specified period of time, during which the pastor and the church can decide to make the call a permanent one as a settled pastor. Church of the Savior recently voted to call Crystal as their settled pastor. Our joy and prayers for a thriving ministry go with Crystal and Church of the Savior as they embark on this profound calling together.

Blessings in Christ, Liz Nash, Association Minister



Dear Friends in Christ,

I thank you all for your most generous Pastor's Appreciation gift. I also thank you for your blessings to both Karen and me over the past months. Your kindnesses and prayers have provided me with incredible strength during these ever changing times. Following God's guidance, we have been able to gracefully move through the COVID-19 challenges.

Prayerfully, Pastor Gerry



We are planning to have our annual BBQ baked potato dinner in early December; however, the date is still pending. Tickets will go on sale in November.

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

Surreptitious Saints

One of the most gracious dispensations of God concerning his saints is their lovely unawareness of sanctity. The nearer they move to him, the more conscious are they of sin. If it were impossible at times not to note their own growth in grace, it were impossible also to forget that it was all by his power. If they could be persuaded to admit their progress and talk of it at all, the language of their heart would be this: "If God could do this in me, he could do it in anyone."

—W.E. Sangster

A Meaningful Month

Consumerism can prevent us from noticing needs, writes Walter Brueggemann (*The Prophetic Imagination*). A culture steeped in materialism and greed can "block out the cries of the denied ones ... so that no one discerns misery alive in the heart of God."

In November, we celebrate Thanksgiving, Christ the King Sunday and the start of Advent. What does it mean that Christ is our King? How can we truly give God thanks and prepare for Jesus' coming? It's a good time to ponder what hurts God's heart — and how we can help.

If someone is lonely, perhaps we can invite them to Thanksgiving dinner. If we sense inequality saddening God, we might advocate for fair policies. If God is in pain because some of his children have too little, we can share our resources. In so doing, we welcome Christ the King among us, and give him meaningful thanks.

(Both of these articles are from The Newsletter)



We are meeting periodically, reviewing pastoral profiles and communicating with potential candidates.

It is possible that candidates are "checking us out" but not yet making inquiry. The parsonage updates are completed and we think making our offer stronger.

Please continue to hold your search committee members in your prayers as we seek to find the pastor/teacher God intends for us.

All Saints Sunday/Totenfest November 1st

During our annual All Saints/Totenfest Service on Sunday, November 1st, we will remember those from our congregation who have recently joined the Church Eternal. Each year as we light a candle and ring our church bell in their memory, we read aloud the names of those who have died since we had Totenfest the year before. This happens during the sharing of the Great Thanksgiving in preparation for receiving Holy Communion.

Since last November, we have six persons who have passed away and will be remembered on this special Sunday. These are: **Raymond Koller, Leola DuRant, Harold Leppin, Joyce Terrell, Lillian Kahlden, and Erna Mae Rose.**

Family members and friends of these six are especially invited to be present during worship on this particular Sunday as we recall, remember, and give thanks for each of these who enriched our lives during the time they were among us.



Christmas Poinsettias Needed

Christmas will be here before long! For many years for Weimar UCC members provide Poinsettias to decorate the church for this special time of the year. The Poinsettias are displayed in the sanctuary for two consecutive Sundays (*this year—December 13th and 20th*); as well as on Christmas Eve. **Sign-up sheets to provide the Poinsettias will be available in the church foyer beginning on Sunday, November 8th, thru Tuesday, December 8th.**

Worship Chair Marianne Muehr will direct the local florists (*Flowers by Judy and M-G*) on how to wrap the potted plants so they will be uniform. After you sign up on the provided sheet, you will go to a local florist and purchase your plant. 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.**

We ask that you leave your Poinsettia in the sanctuary until after the service on Christmas Eve. **We will have that service at 6:00pm, with Pastor Gerry.**

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

NOVEMBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

Liturgists:

1st—Angela Wied
8th—Mike Antosh
15th—Elliott Koehn
22nd—Marianne Muehr
29th—Shannon Adamcik

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

Acolytes:

1st—Rylen Lopez & Callie Janak
8th—Chole Brandt & Alex Vazquez
15th & 22nd—Anton & Alex Vazquez
29th—Rylen Lopez & Callie Janak

Ushers:

1st & 8th—Ava June Vachala*, Debbie Janak, Kristy Janak Janecka, Jane Amrontrout
15th & 22nd—Harvey & Linda Vornsand*, Brandon & Amarae Anders
29th—Matthew* & Brandy Janak, Kathy & Luke Janak

Greeters:

1st & 8th—Lanette Kahlden & Julie Kunschick
15th, 22nd & 29th—Kenneth & Juila Krizak

Communion Stewards: 1st—Jenny Grohmann & Emily Latimer

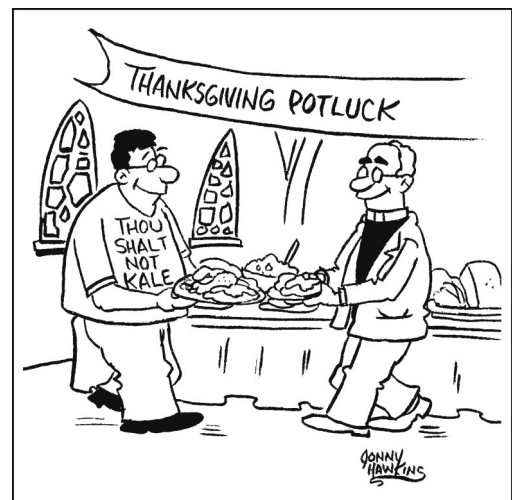
Altar Flowers:

1st (Totenfest)—Wayne & Jo Lynn McDonald
*(In Memory of Raymond Koller, Leola DuRant,
Harold Leppin, Joyce Terrell, Lillian Kahlden, and
Erna Mae Rose)*
8th—Kenneth & Julia Krizak
(In Memory of Henry & Albine Krizak)
15th—Wayne & JoLynn McDonald
(In Memory of Otto, Lillian and Roy Kahlden)
22nd—Harris & Sandy Kainer
*(In Honor of their Children, Grandchildren and
Great-Granddaughter)*
29th—Ava June Vachala
(In Memory of Jerry Vachala and in Thanksgiving of Family)

**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.





In Memory of Mrs. Joyce Terrell, from

Larry & Cynthia Seydler (*Outside Storage Bldg.*)

David & Shirlene Smith (*Outside Storage Bldg.*)

In Memory of Mr. James Lange, from

David & Shirlene Smith (*Outside Storage Bldg.*)

In Memory of Mr. Reuel Walters (Julia's Brother), from:

Kenneth & Julia Krizak (*Outside Storage Bldg.*)

Louis & Linda Barrilleaux (*Outside Storage Bldg.*)

Wayne & JoLynn McDonald (*Outside Storage*)

Ava June Vachala (*Outside Storage Bldg.*)

In Memory of Dr. Phillip Hassell, from:

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

In Memory of Mr. Curtis Konieczny, from:

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

October Worship Attendance

October 4th—44

October 11th—47

October 18th—37

October 25th— 49

(Average — 44)

These attendance records show how many folks attended the services in the sanctuary during this pandemic.

An average of **97 views per Sunday** are being watched over Facebook and YouTube combined.

November Special Dates

- All Saints' Day, *November 1, 2020*
- Daylight-Saving Time ends, *November 1, 2020*
- Election Day, *November 3, 2020*
- Veterans Day, *November 11, 2020*
- Thanksgiving Day, *November 26, 2020*
- First Sunday of Advent, *November 29, 2020*

Weimar UCC Dates to Remember

- Confirmation class meets every 1st and 3rd Sundays
- Evening Circle Meeting—Tuesday, Nov. 10, 5:00pm
- Veterans—Drive-Thru Chicken Noodle Soup Meal at Weimar UCC, Nov. 11, 5-5:30pm, by 4-H Club
- Council Meeting, Nov. 11 at 7:00pm
- Decorate the Church, November 29th
- Blood Drive at UCC, Dec. 3, 11:00am till 5:30pm
- Drive-Thru Baked Potato Fundraiser —Early December (Contact Angela Wied for more info.)



**WEIMAR UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

Post Office Box 188
Weimar TX 78962

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

November 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

Weimar United Church of Christ (UCC)

403 West Main Street

Weimar TX

(Mail: PO Box 188, Weimar TX 78962)





Wild Clover
4-H Club

*Honoring
our*
VETERANS
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

All Veterans and their spouses are invited to pick up a Free meal!

CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ *Drive-Thru Meal* ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

on **Wednesday, Nov. 11**

at Weimar UCC Church between 5-5:30 p.m.

"The Messenger" A Monthly Publication of Weimar UCC, Weimar, TX