



# The Messenger

September 2020

## Office Staff

Rev. G. Metzger, *Guest Pastor*  
Loreen Rhodes, *Secretary*  
Mindy Malatek, *Pastor 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*  
Darlia 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  
Marianne Muehr  
Dickie Muehr  
Ross Jaster

***“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest... For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Matthew 11: 28-30***



The most sacred space in the parsonage was the front porch. The front porch connected the kitchen table to the greater community. This sacred space allowed me an opportunity to people watch, conduct business and experience continual meetings. From the front porch, I learned the latest community news, and enjoyed marvelous visits. This sacred space allowed me an opportunity to witness God's continuing creative beauty. Best of all, it was a space where all forms of mass communications were prohibited.

On this morning, I was in my sacred space along with my typewriter and blank sheets of paper; all of which were taunting me. I had two days to complete something that resembled a Sunday morning sermon. Unfortunately, my sermon writing juices had been damned up by the excitement of the upcoming camping/fishing trip in the high country. This was my annual two weeks' sabbatical; separating me from everything and almost everyone. For each moment I spent thinking about and studying the text, I spent hours mentally making sure I had everything, and that it fit into my bags.

My saving grace was the Labor Day weekend incorporated this Sunday. The church would be as crowded as on the Sundays following Christmas and Easter. Because it was Labor Day Sunday, I selected the text from Matthew 11: 28-30, with the focus on, **“For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”**

Shortly after selecting that text, my world had been in constant battle. The shattering effects of these troubles had made following Jesus a hard and burdensome chore. While packing for the fishing trip, I made sure I left enough room to bring the problems of the last few days along with me. Even though I knew they would dampen my vacation joy, I hoped to explore them to determine rather I should have stayed in the Parish or become a door to door shoe salesperson.

Not only would the issues suck the joy out of the trip, but the more I thought about them, the more difficult it was to write the sermon. If the battles had a positive side, it was an ever deepening understanding of why Jesus never started a church but, instead, continued to move from town to town.

*(Continued on page 2)*

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In the front porch's opening to the freshness of the weather, the beauty of the scenery, and the taunting of the blank sheet of paper, I was blindsided by Little Jake as he came strolling down the street. "Rev. M, it must be nice getting paid for sitting around doing absolutely nothing. If you had your eyes closed, people wouldn't know if you were sleeping or dead."

"If you must know, Jake, I am faithfully working on a sermon for Sunday morning. I need an especially good one so I will have less guilt being gone the next two weeks. Unfortunately, every time I think I have an open avenue, I run into a brick wall."

"Rev. M, while you are so busy doing that head-stuff, you want me to repack your stuff and remove all the nonessentials? It would save you time repacking on Monday morning. You always forget that we are not going to be gone for a life time."

"Jake, I think you just wrote my sermon. I need to sit with God while repacking my bags."

I was right. I needed to reexamine what I was taking. Some of the items were necessary for the trip; however, some I could easily live without. And, above all, I had too much stuff that needed to be handed over to God. Those were the heavy burdens which God was much better equipped to address.

It is when we are secure enough in our faith to trust God with what God is best able to address, that we have enough room to accept the lighter yoke God will place upon our shoulders.

*There, where clinging to things ends, is where God begins to be. If a cask is to contain wine, you must first pour out the water. The cask must be bare and empty. Therefore, if you wish to receive divine joy and God, first pour out your clinging to things. Everything that is to receive things must first be empty."*

- Meister Eckhart (1260-1329)

Shalom,  
Pastor Gerry

## Memorial Donations

### In Memory of Mrs. Natalie Holub and her Son, David Holub, from

Ava June Vachala (*Building Fund*)

### In Memory of Ms. Dana Gosney (Frank's daughter), from

Mike & Annette Bandy (*General Fund*)



## Weimar Food Pantry

### *Sponsored by The Weimar Ministerial Alliance*

The Weimar Food Panty continues to collect food for community folks who are in need. Suggestions this month are **hygiene items** (no toothpaste), however, anything is greatly appreciated. You may drop your donations in the box provided in the church foyer.

Jenny graciously transports the donations to the designated area. Currently, during this Pandemic, the pantry is open only one Wednesday a month. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to the food pantry.

[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.



## September Volunteers

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

**Kelly Janak & Dora Vazquez**

Those who will care for the Sirnic Cemetery Plot —

**Jenny & Clifford Grohmann**

*Thanks to All of you!*

## Newsletter Editors

Mindy Malatek & Loreen Rhodes

# What is Happening at Weimar UCC

## Sermon Titles/Scriptures for September

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| September 6th  | Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost—<br>Rev. Gerry Metzger<br>“Gathering”<br>Psalm 149, Exodus 12: 1-14, Matthew 18: 15-20                      |
| September 13th | Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost—<br>Rev. Gerry Metzger<br>“Greed Plus Interest”<br>Psalm 114, Exodus 14: 19-31, Matthew 18: 21-35            |
| September 20th | Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost—<br>Rev. Gerry Metzger<br>“Generosity vs. Greed”<br>Psalm 105: 1-6; 37-45, Exodus 16: 2-15, Matthew 20: 1-16 |
| September 27th | Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost—<br>Rev. Gerry Metzger<br>“?”<br>Psalm 78: 1-4, 25-32, Exodus 17: 1-7, Matthew 21: 23-32                   |

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



## Ice Cream, Anyone???

The Weimar UCC annual ice cream social will be held on Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. Unlike in previous years, this will be a drive-thru style social. The church will provide the ice cream and toppings. You are welcome to bring your lawn chair and sit on the south sidewalk while you enjoy your ice cream and practice social distancing. If you are uncomfortable being around others during this pandemic, please feel free to drive thru and pick up your ice cream and take it to go. This will allow those sitting on the sidewalk to visit with others as they drive thru the line.

We hope that you will join us for this socially distanced, social gathering, drive-thru style ice cream party. Please contact Angela Wied if you have any questions or would like to help serve ice cream.

# Heart of Texas

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Our Heart of Texas Association Fall Meeting is still on schedule for Saturday, October 10, 2020. We had planned to hold it at Hope United in Georgetown in celebration of its 10th anniversary, but as all of us know, the COVID situation has sent all of us in directions we could not have imagined several months ago. Many of our churches are not yet meeting in person, including Hope United. Hope is also in transition, as it is in the interim and pastoral search process. The plan now for our Fall Meeting is to meet via Zoom. Our Association Board will be planning that gathering over the next month, and we will send each of our churches and ministers information and a link to the meeting as soon as that planning happens. I think we can all look forward to the opportunity to share our churches' experiences, commitments, and journeys together as we gather -- always an uplifting and vitally important part of our meetings.

Perhaps even more important than ever in this time will be your stories of how our churches are continuing to minister and how we are each dealing with the challenges that the COVID pandemic is presenting. We will look forward to the time when we can meet in person once again, but are grateful, in the meantime, that we have the opportunity to gather easily from homes online.

I am also grateful for the many ways I am aware of that our churches and pastors are adapting their ministries and even growing them in new ways over this time. Some of our churches are meeting outdoors (seated outside or by driving up and staying in cars); some are meeting in person but spread out to keep each other safer; and some, particularly those in areas with high COVID case numbers, are meeting online in various ways. Many have found that the process of learning to meet online has led to new and very creative worship formats. Some have also found that our online platforms have brought distant members and friends to worship with us, as well as allowing very broad participation in discussion and study since people do not have to drive. Our pastors have met

via Zoom several times to continue our "Jam and Bread" gatherings, the last time being to say farewell to Ron Trimmer as he prepared to move to Lake Ozark, Missouri. Ministers who otherwise would have had to drive a long distance have been able to gather easily with colleagues. The youth of United Christian and others who joined them were able to have a virtual mission trip this summer after the multi-church mission trip they have been part of was cancelled. A host of people have worked hard to make all of this happen. I thank God for all of you.

On Sunday, September 17th, Lee Zillman, pastor of Redeemer UCC in Marion (in the Zuehl community) will retire. Lee has served Redeemer for the past 11 years, and in ministry and in Christian ministry for forty three years. I hope to give news of the celebration in a future newsletter. At this time, I ask for prayers of thanksgiving and support for Lee and Sharon, and prayers for the ongoing service in ministry of the whole Redeemer community as they embark on this interim time.

Blessings in Christ,  
Liz Nash, Association Minister

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## **Lifting Up Our Church In Prayer**

As our church moves back into the pastoral search process, I think it would be great if everyone was taking a hands folded approach to lift up our church to help us see the plans the Lord has for us.

I am planning on putting together a series of very short daily devotions to help us focus our thoughts by having all of us praying the same thing that day. These devotions can be sent to you via text, email, or printed, and distributed so you can join in the joy of lifting up our Church. The times that the seas seem the roughest are the greatest times for growth!

This is my second request. If you are interested in joining us in this time of discernment and development, please text, call, or email me to let me know so I can add you to the list!

Pam Schoeneberg  
512-332-6439 cell  
[Pasberg30@gmail.com](mailto:Pasberg30@gmail.com)



## Weimar UCC Worship Services

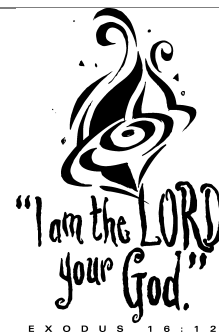
*(This is a re-print, with additional info added. Please help us all be safe by abiding by these mandates.)*

Our church doors are open for worship services!! Since the very beginning of this pandemic, our daily lives have been affected. We want you to feel safe when attending services or visiting the building. With that being said, Weimar UCC is taking every precaution to ensure a safe experience for you and your family.

We have roped off every other pew in the church to make sure we have proper spacing between attendees. We regularly and frequently clean and disinfect areas which are regularly touched, such as doorknobs, tables, chairs, restrooms, pews, etc. We have hand sanitizers throughout the church. **When visiting the church, it is mandated that all wear a face mask and keep it on throughout the service and when visiting, keep six feet or more apart from other attendees, and we strongly encourage the at-risk population to watch the services remotely.** If you're not feeling well or have any of the COVID-19 symptoms, please remain home and watch remotely. It has been noted that some attendees are removing their masks once seated. Please, do not do that!! The "rules" are to keep masks on at all times while in the building.

We continue to offer our worship services online on our Facebook page (Weimar United Church of Christ) and on YouTube (WeimarTXUCC). You can find the bulletin on our website at [weimartxuucc.com](http://weimartxuucc.com) under "Info Center" - "Sunday Bulletin," or, you can pick one up from our outside mailbox on Thursday after Noon.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office or email [ucadmin@cvctx.com](mailto:ucadmin@cvctx.com).



## When God crosses our paths ...

Pastor and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "God will be constantly crossing our paths and canceling our plans by sending us people with claims and petitions."

Last spring, the whole world had plans canceled, first by Covid-19, and then by God, "sending us people with claims and petitions." Some folks needed prayers for healing or for coping with grief. Medical staff, teachers, pastors and others serving long hours needed support: meals, check-in calls, "thinking of you" cards. Parents working remotely while helping kids with distance-learning needed encouragement. Crucial nonprofit work still required donations.

Pre-pandemic, you may not have realized that staying home or wearing a face mask could be a ministry. Or, that sending a card expresses love in Jesus' name. Or, that buying takeout from a local restaurant can be a gift to the owners. When our calendars are empty, God "crosses our paths" in new ways — both to be with us and to nudge us toward others (even if virtually, or six feet apart!).



## Confirmation Plans

Following the worship service on September 13, there will be a meeting of those interested in being a part of this year's confirmation class. During this meeting, we will discuss the best way to move forward. Part of the discussion will be devoted to deciding the best time for the class to meet, how long each session will last, and the frequency of our meetings. Eighth and ninth grade students are invited to attend the confirmation classes. Please let the office know if your child is of the appropriate age to attend. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. My phone number is 210-834-0510; and my email address is [gwmetzger@gmail.com](mailto:gwmetzger@gmail.com).

Blessings, Pastor Gerry





# SEPTEMBER

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

*(If you are assigned but feel uncomfortable attending during this Pandemic, volunteers will step in. We would like for you to attend if possible. Stay safe!)*

This information has been removed for online privacy. If you would like any information please contact the church office.

### Liturgists:

6th—Anton Vazquez  
13th—Mack Janak  
20th—Valerie Harmon  
27th—Julia Krizak

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

### Acolytes:

6th—Kadi Dees & Alex Vazquez  
13th—Zoe Schoeneberg & Kadi Dees  
20th—Gavin Schoeneberg & Caroline Koehn  
27th—Emily Wied & Brinson Huette

### Ushers:

6th & 13th—James & Carolyn Dahse,  
Dawn Dahse, Blake Dahse  
20th & 27th—Ava June Vachala, Gwen Helmcamp,  
Kylie Helmcamp, Sarah Wanjura

### Greeters:

6th & 13th—Patsy Schmitt & Dora Vazquez  
20th & 27th—Donna Kosler & Stephanie Garza

**Communion Stewards:** 6th — None needed.

### Altar Flowers:

6th—The Jr. Friedrich and Carrol Jean Families and  
Gary Heger *(In Memory of  
Ewald Sr. & Marguerite Friedrich and Sandra Heger)*  
13th—Vickie & Jason Busa *(In Honor of their Families)*  
20th—Louis & Linda Barrilleaux  
*(In Memory of her Parents, Otto & Alice Rahlwes)*  
27th—Jim & Susan Miculka *(In Memory of  
her Dad, John Whitelaw; and in Honor of their Children)*

\*\*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.*





## UCC Special Mission Offerings

While we are going through this Covid-19 Pandemic and a time of uncertainty, we have let our hearts and minds veer from our Christian duty. With our being unable to worship together, our mission offerings are being neglected. We have asked Loreen and Mindy to include a “One Great Hour of Sharing” envelope and pamphlet in this newsletter. Your council had already suspended our “One for One Mission Offering” until we have enough money to send to a worthy cause.

If you are able to give a donation, it can be returned to our office or sent to WUCC P.O. Box 188 Weimar TX 78962, or on linear [weimarucc.org/give](http://weimarucc.org/give) and designate OGHS.

Thanks to everyone for your continued support of our church.

Kelly Janak  
Council President

## Many Parts, One Body

Through the teaching, support, sacrifice, worship and commitment of the church, utterly ordinary people are enabled to do some rather extraordinary, even heroic acts, not on the basis of their own gifts and abilities, but rather by having a community capable of sustaining Christian virtue.

The church enables us to be better people than we could have been if left to our own devices.

—Stanley Hauerwas and William Willimon

## One All-Important Word

Sometimes one word makes all the difference. In John 14: 16, when Jesus promises the disciples that God will send the Holy Spirit, he doesn’t say “the” Helper or “a” Helper but, “another” Helper. For there to be “another” of something, we must already be familiar with a first of that thing. Jesus has been, for the disciples, their first Helper. They already “know him for he dwells with [them]” (verse 17 ESV).

When my infant son was to start full-time daycare, the transition went quite smoothly. That’s because his “new” caregiver wasn’t new at all: She was Grandma! The sense that my son would be in the hands of another family member he already knew eased the handoff for Mama and baby alike.

Not all parents have access to that type of situation, but the care giving arrangement Jesus provided his disciples is available to all. Even when Jesus is no longer physically with us, another who loves us just as much — another we already know and whose truth we’ve seen in Jesus — is here. We’re in good hands.

—Heidi Mann

## August Worship Attendance

|           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| August 2  | 33  |
| August 9  | 19  |
| August 16 | 41  |
| August 23 | 37  |
| August 30 | N/A |

These attendance records show how many folks attended the services in the sanctuary during this pandemic. An average of 146 views per Sunday are being watched virtually over Facebook and on You-Tube combined.

## Special September Dates

- Labor Day — September 7 (*church office closed*)
- Patriot Day — September 11
- National Grandparents’ Day — September 13
- Hispanic Heritage Month — Sept. 15 thru Oct. 15
- First Day of Autumn — September 22

## Dates to Remember at Weimar UCC

- Now — One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
- Prospective confirmands/parents meet — Sept. 13
- Drive-thru Ice Cream Social — Sept. 20 at 5:30pm



**WEIMAR UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

Post Office Box 188  
Weimar TX 78962

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*September 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)*

