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THE BRETHREN



JOURNAL



Vol. 119

July-August 2020

No. 6

28 Pages

Needed: FRIENDS OF THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

– from the editor

The Brethren Journal has been publishing life and activities of the Unity of the Brethren in Texas for over 100 years. All of these include records of weddings, baptisms, deaths, etc., of the ministers... when they were submitted. These records are invaluable for families who wish to research their family history or activities that have taken place in our congregations and the denomination. It would be fitting, in the eyes of the Brethren Journal Business Committee, to ask for financial support for the continuation of this publication.

If you wish to become a special FRIEND OF THE BRETHREN JOURNAL, please send your donation to the Business Manager (address inside front cover). These donations are tax deductible.

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The Brethren Journal, 1103 Harrisonburg Ln., College Station, TX 77845.

28/July-August 2020

BRETHREN JOURNAL

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Galatians 5:13-14 (NIV)



IN THIS ISSUE . . .

From the President . . . Dr. Larry Koslovsky
Mutual Aid Convention CANCELLED

Hus Revisited . . . by Jim Pokorny

Bend to the Lord Jesus Christ . . . by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

Invitation to the 50th Biennial Christian Sisters' Convention . . .

. . . and so much more!

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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Visit the
Unity of the Brethren
Website:
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2020 MUTUAL AID SOCIETY CONVENTION CANCELLED

The **Mutual Aid Society Con-
vention** which was to be held at
the Hus School Encampment on
July 18, 2020, has been
cancelled. The Mutual Aid Ad-
ministrative Board cancelled the
convention this year due to
concerns stemming from the
coronavirus pandemic, espe-
cially to high-risk, older adults.

The Mutual Aid Board will
attempt to carry out the busi-
ness of the convention via con-
tacts with local secretaries. Your
understanding and assistance
are greatly appreciated.

Mutual Aid Administrative Board

The Community Christian Church of Rosenberg

5220 Reading Road
Rosenberg, TX 77471
(832) 449-3358

Sunday School 9:00 AM
Worship Service 10:30 AM
Wednesday Eve. 5:30 PM
Prayer Service and Bible Study

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From the President . . . Dr. Larry Koslovsky

Pandemic

As early as March 8th congregations suspended gathered community services (Sunday morning worship) to shelter at home and attempt to mitigate the corona virus, COVID-19.

The creativity of congregations to remain connected and continue worship in some form is amazing, incorporating the local gifts of members and technology at hand. The response to the pandemic has called on flexibility and adaptation to the crisis, taking us out of our comfort zones and pushing us outside the walls of buildings. The virus reminds us that the Body of Christ is not a building, but rather individuals connected as the Body of Christ for the purpose of ministry.

Initially the Executive Committee gave guidance to congregations. As the pandemic has continued, pastors in conversation with their Boards have made decisions about returning to worship given the directives of social distancing as well as the unique situations of each congregation. Over the past several weeks, it has become apparent that one size does not fit all.

Each congregation is returning to worship and activity, given its the context – age of attenders, size of congregation, capacity of sanctuary, and community levels of the virus.

Ocker Brethren Church

On Thursday evening, April 2, Ocker Brethren Church was struck by lightning. Fire ensued from the strike, extensively damaging the upstairs classrooms at the rear of the 89-year-old sanctuary. There is also extensive water and smoke damage to the sanctuary and kitchen area of the Fellowship Building. Fortunately, insurance is in place. Damage is estimated to be at least \$900,000. Please keep the Ocker congregation in your prayers.

Hus Camp Schedule

With the pandemic came a juggling of the camp schedule. Initially it was thought that the camp program for this year would be cancelled. The Board of Trustees along with Camp Directors held out making a decision until the last possible moment, anticipating directives from health authorities.



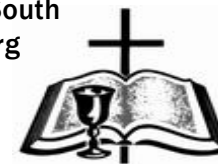
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2650 Earl Rudder Freeway South

www.unityofthebrethren.org

Rev. Mark Sebek

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 9283
College Station, TX 77842



Church 9:00 A.M.
Sunday School 10:45 A.M.
Off: 979-693-3606
email: papasebek@gmx.com

ties on whether or not camps would be able to operate this summer. The camping program has shifted to June 28 through July 31. Measures are being made to keep all campers and staff safe.

Clean Up

On Saturday, June 6th, 28 individuals of all ages carried out tasks – tree and brush removal, painting, repairs, pressure washing – to get the camp ready for a different kind of camping season. One of the larger projects was the removal of a large tree that fell on the pavilion at the pond during a spring windstorm, damaging a corner of the roof.

Main Building Improvements

We are into year 2 of building improvements to the Main Building. Phase 2 is scheduled to begin in the Fall with a targeted date of October 1st. On behalf of the Unity and the camp, thanks to all who have donated to give the Main Building much needed renovations. Completion of this project is anticipated for the early part of 2021.

Christian Sisters Convention

The date has been reset to August

29th at the Hus Encampment due to COVID-19. For more information, contact Anna Wotipka, State Secretary, at 979-219-9043.

MASUB

Convention Cancelled

This year's convention has been canceled due to COVID-19 and the higher risk to older adults who compose the MASUB. The hope is to carry out the business of MASUB through contacts with local secretaries. Thanks goes to the officers who continue to lead this arm of the Unity of the Brethren.

2020 MASUB Scholarship Awards

Congratulations to Jessica Chervenka of Ocker Brethren and Johanna McKay of Crosby Brethren, who are this year's high school graduates receiving Mutual Aid Scholarships of \$1000.

Thanks to all who contribute to this special project of the Mutual Aid.

Interim Pastoral Leadership

At the present time, Granger and West are being served by interim pastoral leadership – Pastor Judy Gotcher and Rev. Gerry Davis, respectively.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Austin – Bible Study at 10 AM
Worship at 11 AM.
– Rev. Linda Chandler

Bryan-College Station – worship at 9 AM every Sunday.
– Rev. Mark Sebek

Buckholts – Worship at 9 AM every Sunday except the 5th Sunday.
Holy Communion on 1st Sunday.
Guest speaker on 4th Sunday.
– Rev. John Kueker

Caldwell – Come as you are! **Sundays** – explore the Bible @ 9:30 AM (all ages); KIDS CHOIR practices @ 10:15 AM; & worship @ 10:30 AM! **Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday**, join the fun @ Family Game Night, 6-7:30 PM! Check out lifeatcbc.org for spiritual resources, events, videos, & more! Friend us on Facebook!
– Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

Crosby – 9 AM: Worship
10 AM: Faith Adventure
– Dr. Larry Koslovsky

Dime Box – worship at 9 AM every Sunday.
– Visiting Ministers

Fayetteville – Worship at 10:30 AM every Sunday except the 5th Sunday. Sunday School at 9:30 AM.
– Visiting Ministers

Good Shepherd Moravian – Worship at 11:30 AM and 6:30 PM every Sunday.
– Rev. Adolfo Gonzalez

Granger – Bible Study every Sunday at 9 AM with worship service following at 10 AM. 5th Sunday - Sing-along led by the Elders and Christian Sisters.
– Visiting Ministers

Houston – Sunday School at 9:15 AM; Worship at 10:30 AM every Sunday.
– Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill

Industry – worship at 9 AM 1st & 3rd Sundays. – Visiting Ministers; 2nd & 4th Saturdays at 5 PM – Rev. Mike Groseclose

Nelsonville – Sunday School at 9 AM
Worship at 10:15 AM
– Rev. Michael Groseclose

New Beginnings (PO Box 163, Caldwell, TX 77836) – A Home Mission Project since 10/22/11 – Sunday School at 11 AM; Fellowship Lunch at Noon; Worship at 1 PM.
– Rev. Kay Polasek

New Tabor – Sunday School at 9 AM & Worship at 10 AM every Sunday, "Tune Up" on Wednesdays, 7:30 PM.
– Rev. Dave Johnson

Ocker – Worship at 10:15 AM every Sunday. Sunday School at 9 AM every Sunday.
– Rev. Dr. Brad Herridge

Pasadena – Sunday School at 9:30 AM and worship at 10:45 AM every Sunday.
– Dr. Larry Koslovsky

Community Christian Church of Rosenberg – Sunday: Adult Bible Study and Sunday School for children at 9 AM; worship at 10:30 AM.
Wednesday: 5:30 PM Dinner; 6:30 PM Bible Study.
– Pastor Ben Kruse

Seaton – Sunday, 9:15 AM – Prayer Gathering; 9:30 AM – Sunday School, All Ages; 10:30 AM – Worship Celebration Service. Wednesday, 6:30 PM – Kid's and Adult Bible Study.
– Rev. Denise Mikeska

Snook – Sunday School – 9:00 AM; Worship – 10:15 AM.
– Rev. Joseph Polasek

Taylor – Worship at 10:15 AM every Sunday. Sunday School 9 AM every Sunday with free breakfast every 5th Sunday at 8:30 AM.; Friends Fellowship (seniors) 4th Tuesday (except Nov. & Dec.) at 2 PM.
– Rev. James Hejl

Temple – Cross Church on Birdcreek – Sunday School at 9:30 AM., Worship at 10:45 AM.
– Rev. Tim Chaplin

Vesetn – A non-official member congregation of the Unity of the Brethren – Worship at 10 AM every Sunday.
– Dr. Mark Labaj
5th Sunday – Visiting Ministers

Wall – Sunday School (for all ages) at 9:30 AM; worship at 10:45 AM every Sunday.
– Rev. Thomas Tallas

Wesley – worship at 9 AM every Sunday. Sunday School follows.
– Rev. Michael Groseclose

West – Sunday School at 9 AM and worship at 10:15 AM every Sunday.
– Interim Pastor – Rev. Gerald Davis

Westheimer Community – worship at 10:30 AM every Sunday.
– Pastor Lisa Johnson

SNOOK BRETHREN CHURCH

9882 FM 2155/P.O. Box 247, Snook, TX 77878
Church Phone – (979) 272-3303

COME WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday School – 9:00 AM; Worship – 10:15 AM

Bible Study – Each Tuesday, 9:00-10:00 AM

Pastor

Rev. Joseph Polasek
P.O. Box 54
Snook, TX 77878
(979) 272-1624

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☐ The Hus Encampment may list my name and donation amount in written materials when giving thanks to donors.

In memory/honor (circle one) of:

Please provide address for acknowledgment:

Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law. Please make checks payable to: "Hus Encampment Building Fund"

Mail to:
Todd Corporon, Hus Board Treasurer
5350 CR 124
Georgetown, TX 78626

For credit card donations, go online to huscamp.org and click Donate.

As we move toward more stability beyond the pandemic, a Synodical Committee meeting will be scheduled and held. Prior to this meeting the Credentials Committee will meet with these individuals. The Pastor Relations Committee has met with the Granger elders and will seek to meet with the West elders soon. The Pastor Relations Committee has been in conversation with leadership of these two congregations.

The Brethren Journal

Thanks to all the article contributors; to Cathleen Schlechte, Editor; the Business Committee; LuAnn Angel, Setup; and SuzAnne Kurten, Printer; for your faithfulness in publishing *The Journal*. It is appreciated!

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Rick Weise, Wall (2017); weise.rick@aol.com

Angie Labaj, (2019) Temple

Jennifer Chervenka, Ocker (2017), (254) 983-1002; jennchervenka@farm-market.net

The Encampment is governed by a Board of Trustees of 8 members.

Terms: 2 years, may be re-elected/re-appointed for a maximum of 4 terms, or 8 years (Unity of the Brethren By-Laws, Article XIV, Sec C, Par.4).

Non-Voting Appointments:

Programming Director: Amy Snelgrove agsnelgrove@hotmail.com

Unity Youth Coordinator: Jennifer Chervenka; jennchervenka@farm-market.net; (254) 983-1002

Facilities Manager: Alan Haisler, haislera@ymail.com

Caretakers: Open

Synodical Committee Oversight: Rev. Whitney Amos.

Hus Encampment Address: 3635 County Rd. 225, Caldwell, TX 77836; (979) 272-8176.

2020 Mutual Aid Scholarships Awarded

The Administrative Board of the Mutual Aid Society is pleased to announce that Mutual Aid Scholarships in the amount of \$1000 each have been awarded to Jessica Chervenka of the Ocker Brethren Church and Johanna McKay of Crosby Brethren Church. Congratulations to these two young ladies!

Mutual Aid Scholarships are funded exclusively through private donations. No Mutual Aid assessments are used to fund these scholarships. Churches

and the organizations within them are encouraged to hold fundraisers to benefit the scholarship program so that Brethren students may be recognized and continue to receive financial assistance to further their education. Donations may be sent to Ruth Ann Wuensche, Treasurer, at 2451 CR 405, Taylor, Texas 76574. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Mutual Aid Administrative Board

KUBENA Funeral Home
507 South Main St.
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Web Address: www.ockerbrethrenchurch.org
Church Email: ockerbrethrenchurch@gmail.com

Preaching the Word, Loving the People

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Worship 10:15 AM

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Youth Director
Jennifer Chervenka
(254) 983-1002

Cemetery
Sharon Marek
(254) 482-0498

HUS CAMP

Main Building Renovation

The Impact of Camp Is Eternal... You Can Help Make It Possible!

Due to your generous support of the Hus Camp and its Facility Improvement Capital Campaign, we have completed Phase A (Renovation of the Kitchen) and are now well on our way to starting **Phase B, Renovation of the Main Building!** This phase will not only renovate the interior and exterior of the building, but will also stabilize the structure, add restrooms and insulation, complete air conditioning, and make the building more accessible for a variety of people, functions, programs, and activities. While we hope to begin renovations soon, we can't do it without your help!

Please prayerfully consider your support of the Hus Camp and its growing ministry by making a donation to the Building Fund.

Estimated Main Building Renovation Cost:	\$380,000
Generous Donations Thus Far:	\$380,000
Additional Funds Needed:	\$ 0

THREE SIMPLE WAYS TO GIVE...

- 1) Make an **online donation** via credit card at: huscamp.org
- 2) Make a **recurring donation** using the pledge form at: huscamp.org
- 3) Send a **one-time gift** to: Hus Camp Building Fund
c/o Todd Corporon, Hus Board Treasurer
5350 CR 124
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VITAL STATISTICS

RECENT DEATHS

JONES, JASON E., 41, passed in Deer Park, Texas, on Tuesday, November 6, 2018. He was born January 14, 1977, in Pasadena, to James 'Mickey' and Patricia (Jurek) Jones. He was a 1995 graduate of Deer Park High School and continued his education at San Jacinto Jr. College, earning an associate degree.

Jason grew up in Pasadena Brethren Church. He was active in the local BYF (Brethren Youth Fellowship) and state BYF. He attended summer camps at the Hus Encampment and served as a counselor in training.

He is survived by his mother Patricia Jones of Deer Park, sister Deborah Jones of Pasadena, and brother James Jones, wife Leigh, and niece Keziah of Pearland. He was preceded in death by his father James 'Mickey' Jones.

Celebration of Life was held Sunday, November 18, 2018, at Pasadena Brethren Church.

Matching Technology Grant Program

The Synodical Committee approved an application for a Matching Technology Grant for all Unity churches. Churches may apply for a matching grant up to \$1,000. This is to assist churches who are seeking to enhance their worship experience through the use of technology and A/V equipment. The deadline to apply for a grant is December 31, 2020. The application can be found on the Unity website at UnityoftheBrethren.org. Contact Us – click on Forms. If you need one mailed to you, please contact the Unity Secretary, Angie Hairrell. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Executive Committee.



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Hus Revisited

- by Jim Pokorny

"Therefore, faithful Christian, seek the truth, hear the truth, learn the truth, love the truth, speak the truth, adhere to the truth, defend the truth even till death; for the truth will make you free from sin, the devil, the death... My dearest, live according to the discerned truth which prevails over everything and is powerful forever." Most of us are familiar with these words of Jan Hus. We also understand that Hus willingly died defending the truth of his teachings. He refused to recant them despite pressures from the Council of Constance. Time and again, his inquisitors demanded he recant. Time and again, Hus challenged them to show him in scripture where he was in error. They made no such attempt.

Hus was neither Brethren nor was he Protestant, but like many, I am glad we continue to celebrate the life of this faithful servant of God.

Having recently finished a personal study of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and some of his sermons, my thoughts turned to Hus as July approached. In my research I came across letters from

his final years. Some of these were written to Hus during his imprisonment. Many were written by Hus in order to pass the time as well as to answer the charges being put to him.

Particularly moving to me were references I found to Hus writing on scraps of paper. In one instance, Hawlik, the priest at Bethlehem, was about to read a letter from Hus to the congregation. Upon examining the scrap of paper itself, Hawlik stated: "Alas, alas! Hus is running out of paper." John of Chlum is reported to have received a letter from Hus written on a "tattered three-cornered bit of paper."

In a letter from April 1413 to Master Christian of Prachaticz, Rector of the University of Prague, Hus wrote the following: "It is better to die well than to live badly. We must not sin to avoid the punishment of death. To end in grace the present life is to be banished from misery. He that adds knowledge, adds labor. He that speaks the truth, is smitten on his own head. He that fears death, loses the joys of



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Donna Verwold
Secretary
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life. Above all else, truth is conqueror.”

Hus wrote at least three letters on June 29, 1415, mere days before his martyrdom. One of these was to his friends in Bohemia. In it, Hus concluded with these words: “I write this in prison in fetters, which I am wearing, I trust, for the gospel of God, expecting every moment the sentence of death. For God’s sake, I pray you suffer not good priests to be oppressed.”

In another to Wenzel de Duba, Hus closed with these words: “God is still upholding the life of Hus by His might; yea, and will uphold it so long as He wills, against the proud, greedy, and in diverse ways unconscionable Council, wherein the Lord knoweth them that are His.”

In a third to John of Chlum, Hus wrote: “The kings of this world do not act thus with their servants. They only care for them so long as they are useful and necessary to them. Not so Christ, the King of glory, Who hath today crowned the apostles Peter and Paul – Peter by crucifixion, Paul by beheading...May those glorious martyrs, thus united with the King of glory, deign to intercede for us, that, strengthened by their help, we may

be partakers in their glory, by patiently suffering whatever God Almighty shall ordain in this world for our greater good.”

We live in an age of fake news; an age in which the truth has become a relative concept. It has even been stated that what is true for one individual might not necessarily be true for another. Politicians on both sides of the aisle willingly abandon the truth. Our press is no longer objective. It has an agenda that panders to its target audience. It also willingly preys upon our fears.

Hus innately understood that truth, all truth, is of God. Hus never allowed fear to dominate his life. Nor should we.

I close with these words from a memorial hymn of the Moravian Church for the death day of Hus...

For all thy saints, O Lord,
Who strove in thee to live,
Who followed thee, obeyed, adored,
Our grateful hymn receive.
For all thy saints, O Lord,
Accept our thankful cry,
Who counted thee their great
reward,
And strove in thee to die.

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for August 2020

By Mari-Anne Kocian Gordon and Dorothy E. Kocian

From the *Holy Bible New Revised Standard Version*, slightly modified.

Sundays in bold.

1. So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. Gen. 29:20
2. **My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit and has followed me wholeheartedly, I will bring into the land. Num. 14:24a**
3. Let us now build an altar...to be a witness between us and you...that we do perform the service of the LORD in His presence. Josh. 22:26-27
4. Choose this day whom you will serve,... but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD. Josh. 24:15
5. Speak, LORD, for Your servant is listening. I Sam. 3:9b
6. Only fear the LORD, and serve Him faithfully with all your heart. I Sam. 12:24a
7. May the LORD reward you for your deeds, and may you have a full reward from the LORD, the Lord of Israel, under Whose wings you have come for refuge. Ruth 2:12
8. {Abigail} rose and bowed down, with her face to the ground, and said, “Your servant is a slave to wash the feet of the servants of my lord.” I Sam. 25:41
9. **Great is the LORD, Who delights in the welfare of His servant. Ps. 35:27b**
10. Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, who stand by night in the house of the LORD! Ps. 134:1
11. Then once more you shall see the difference between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him. Mal. 3:18
12. No one can serve two masters...You cannot serve God and wealth. Matt. 6:24
13. Here is My Servant, Whom I have chosen, My Beloved, with Whom My soul is well pleased. Matt. 12:18a
14. Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant. Matt. 20:26b
15. The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many. Matt. 20:28
16. **The greatest among you will be your servant. Matt. 23:11**
17. Whoever wants to be first of all must be last of all and servant of all. Mark 9:35b
18. He has looked with favor on the lowliness of His servant. Luke 1:48a
19. I am among you as One Who serves. Luke 22:27
20. Whoever serves Me must follow Me, and where I am, there will My servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. John 12:26
21. If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. John 13:14
22. Select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task. Acts 6:3
23. **Serve the Lord with all humility and with tears. Acts 20:19a**
24. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rom. 12:11
25. God gave me the grace...to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God. Rom. 15:15-16a
26. Render service with enthusiasm, as to the Lord and not to men and women. Eph. 6:7
27. You know that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you serve the Lord Christ. Col. 3:24
28. Those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and great boldness in the faith that is in Christ Jesus. I Tim. 3:13
29. God will not overlook your work and the love that you showed for His sake in serving the saints. Heb. 6:10b
30. **Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. I Pet. 4:10**
31. {Jesus Christ} made us to be a Kingdom, priests serving His God and Father. Rev. 1:6a

TAYLOR BROTHERS CHURCH

Seventh Street at Sloan in Taylor, Texas
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 351, Taylor, TX 76574
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DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for July 2020

By Mari-Anne Kocian Gordon and Dorothy E. Kocian

From the *Holy Bible New Revised Standard Version*, slightly modified.

Sundays in bold.

1. (The king of Israel) must not acquire silver and gold in great quantity for himself. Deut. 17:17
2. The lover of money will not be satisfied with money; nor the lover of wealth with gain. Eccl. 5:10
3. I am afraid that...your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. 2 Cor. 11:3
4. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Matt. 5:8
5. **I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty...I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. Phil. 4:12**
6. If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the universe, why do you live as if you still belonged to the world? Col. 2:20a
7. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. Col. 3:2
8. No one serving in the army gets entangled in everyday affairs; the soldier's aim is to please the enlisting officer. 2 Tim. 2:4
9. Let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us. Heb. 12:1
10. Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. James 4:8a
11. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. James 4:8b
12. **You say, "I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing." You do not realize that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. Rev. 3:17**
13. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Ps. 51:6
14. You...live in the shelter of the Most High...abide in the shadow of the Almighty. Ps. 91:1
15. {May} your alms...be done in secret; and your Father Who sees in secret will reward you. Matt. 6:4
16. Whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father Who is in secret; and your Father Who sees in secret will reward you. Matt. 6:6
17. {May} your fasting...be seen not by others but by your Father Who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Matt. 6:18
18. Nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. Matt. 10:26
19. **What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8b**
20. There is nothing hidden, except to be disclosed; nor is anything secret, except to come to light. Mark 4:22
21. To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God. Luke 8:10a
22. According to my gospel, God, through Jesus Christ, will judge the secret thoughts of all. Rom. 2:16
23. For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from Him. Ps. 62:5
24. The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom. Isa. 35:1a
25. Under the weight of Your hand, I sat alone. Jer. 15:17b
26. **After Jesus had dismissed the crowds, He went up the mountain by Himself to pray. Matt. 14:23a**
27. In the morning, while it was still very dark, He got up and went out to a deserted place, and there He prayed. Mark 1:35
28. {Jesus told the disciples,} "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest awhile." Mark 6:31a
29. Jesus took with Him Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. Mark 9:2a
30. He went out to the mountain to pray; and He spent the night in prayer to God. Luke 6:12
31. The hour is coming, indeed it has come, when...you will leave Me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with Me. John 16:32

Bend to the Lord Jesus Christ

- by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

Ballerinas bend
Karate students bend
Dogs bend
Cats bend

Our nation bends to certain ideologies

Our bodies bend to pick up something we've dropped

Our churches bend to orthodox teachings

Yet to whom does your mind bend throughout the days and moments that the Heavenly Father has given you?

To what does your mind bend as the hours and minutes pass, as clouds come and go?

What is your propensity toward the whispers and the loud booms of the Holy Spirit?

Can you hear the Holy Spirit calling and requiring you to bend to the Lord Jesus Christ in all things, at all times, and in every way?

The most practical way to "bend to the Lord Jesus Christ," is to flip the word order of your sentences. Let the subject be "Jesus" in lieu of "I". For

instance, **instead of saying:** "I am weary, Lord Jesus." **Say:** "Lord Jesus, strengthen my weary mind and my tired hands and feet." **Like flipping a pancake, flip the pattern of your speech and consequently your thoughts and actions will shift – your entire being rather – to a state of mind that brims over with confidence and peace that nothing can shake because you are bending to the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Bend to the Lord Jesus Christ, right now.

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how to bend to the Lord Jesus Christ as you read through this portion of his letter to the Ephesian Church – a group of Christ followers dealing with great opposition, needing with much desperation to become practiced in "bending to the Lord Jesus Christ":

11...in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.



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Temple, Texas 76502

email: ccb@crosschurchonbirdcreek.org

<https://www.crosschurchonbirdcreek.org>

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Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Worship: 10:45 a.m.

Rev. Tim Chaplin

(254) 718-6094

tpch4359@gmail.com

13 I pray therefore that you may not lose heart over my sufferings for you; they are your glory. 14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. 16 I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, 17 and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. 18 I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. 20 Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3:11-21, NRSV)

Now pray:

Lord Jesus,
Teach me not to lose heart in the middle of suffering
Make my faith bold
Bend my knees before you
Strengthen me through the Holy Spirit
Give me your power
Dwell in my heart
Ground me in love
Open my mind and my heart to know the depth of your love
Fill me with your fullness
Accomplish in me and through me far more than I can ever ask or fathom – for your glory alone, Jesus. Amen.

To whom does your mind bend throughout the days and moments that the Heavenly Father has given you?

To what does your mind bend as the hours and minutes pass, as clouds come and go?

What is your propensity toward the whispers and the loud booms of the Holy Spirit?

Can you hear the Holy Spirit calling and requiring you to bend to the Lord Jesus Christ in all things, at all times, and in every way?

Like a ballerina
Like a dog or cat
Like a karate student
Let's bend
Let's bend to the Lord Jesus Christ!

In Jesus's Hands, Right With You,
Sister Vanessa Mitchell

MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS BOARD (2019-2021)

Rev. Michael Groseclose
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Hus School Class of 1968 Reunion Announcement

A reunion of the members of the Hus School Class of 1968 is being planned for the summer of 2021. Look for more information in later issues of the Brethren Journal or contact Arnold Cuba at 512-247-8019.

SAVE THE DATES:

Summer 2021 – Class of 1968 Hus School Reunion at the Hus Encampment. For information, contact Arnold Cuba at 512-247-8019.

****2020 Summer Camp Dates:****

DATES OF MOST CAMPS HAVE BEEN CHANGED

ENCOUNTER

Ages 7-9 years old
Camp Cost: \$250
Camp Date: **June 28-30**

PIONEER

Ages 12-13 years old
Camp Cost: \$350
Camp Date: **July 26-31**

CHALLENGER

Ages 16-19 years old
Camp Cost: \$350
Camp Date: **July 12-17**

ALPHA

Ages 10-11 years old
Camp Cost: \$350
Camp Date: **July 5-9**

DISCOVERY

Ages 14-15 years old
Camp Cost: \$350
Camp Date: **July 19-24**

HUS SCHOOL

In-depth Leadership Program
Ages 16-Adult
Cost: \$550
Date: **Not held in summer 2020**

**For more information about the Hus School Encampment go to:
www.huscamp.org**

Does your church/organization have an activity that you would like to include in this listing? Please send activity information including a contact name, phone number, and/or email address to the Brethren Journal Editor at: editor.brethrenjournal@gmail.com. Information must be received by the first day of the month immediately preceding the month of publication.

To communicate with the Hus Encampment . . .

. . . regarding scheduling* of meetings or events there, contact:

Kent Laza
4913 FM 166
Caldwell, TX 77836
(979) 220-1957
Kent.laza@verizon.net

**This must be done well in advance.*

Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

July 5-9, 2020 – Alpha Camp at the Hus Encampment.

July 11-12, 2020 – BYF Convention and Volleyball Tournamet at the Hus Encampment.

July 12-17, 2020 – Challenger Camp at the Hus Encampment.

July 19-24, 2020 – Discovery Camp at the Hus Encampment.

July 26-31, 2020 – Pioneer Camp at the Hus Encampment.

August 29, 2020 – The 50th Biennial Christian Sisters' Convention at the Hus Encampment. Registration begins at 8 A.M., followed by a Morning Worship Service and Communion beginning at 9 A.M. There will be a Memorial Service after the noon hour. The camp will be available the night before for those who will be traveling from out of town. More information will be mailed to all the delegates along with their packets sometimes in late July. If you have any questions, please email Anna Woltipka: awotipka58@gmail.com.

WALL BRETHREN CHURCH

12 miles east of San Angelo, Loop 570, Wall, Texas
P.O. Box 195, Wall, Texas 76957
Phone: 325-651-4444 ~ Fax: 325-651-5100

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Tallas
Home: 325-949-7543 Cell: 325-656-8558
Home: rev.tjt@gmail.com
Church: wallbrethren@gmail.com
www.WallBrethrenChurch.com

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Worship: 10:45 a.m.

<i>President</i> Board of Elders Josh Holik 325-234-8667	<i>Pastor/Director of Youth and Young Family Ministries</i> Rev. Ryan Volkman 325-213-0671	<i>Church Office Secretary</i> Libby Lane Tu-F: 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
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Invitation to the 50th Biennial Christian Sisters' Convention from the Caldwell Christian Sisters

The Members of the Christian Sisters' Executive Committee extends an invitation to all Delegates, Representatives of Women's Work in the Church, Members of the Local Christian Sisters' Societies, Ministers of the Unity and all Friends of the Christian Sisters' Union to the 50th Christian Sisters' Convention on August 29, 2020, beginning at 8:00 A.M. at the Hus Encampment.

Registration begins at 8:00 A.M., followed by a Morning Worship Service and Communion begin-

ning at 9:00 A.M. There will be a Memorial Service after the noon hour. The camp will be available the night before for those that will be traveling from out of town.

More information will be mailed to all the delegates along with their packets sometimes in late July. If you have any questions please email Anna Wotipka: awotipka58@gmail.com

Your Sisters' in Christ,
Christian Sisters'
Executive Committee

CALDWELL BRETHREN CHURCH



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Rev. Vanessa Mitchell, Pastor
lajoiededieu@gmail.com
(979) 574-0268

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Children's Choir
Practice, Sundays
10:15 a.m.

Sunday Worship
10:30 AM

Church email: lifatecbc@gmail.com

Wednesday Family Night Gathering:
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www.lifatecbc.org

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Friend us on Facebook!

In Christ's Love . . . from the Foreign Mission Fields

From Robert & Anne Thiessen Missionaries in Mexico

May 29, 2020

Pedagogy of the Oppressed

Dear friends,

Last fall Anne and I took a course offered by SIL (Wycliffe translators) at their center near Oaxaca City. It's title, Dialogue Education, for the un-initiated doesn't immediately conjure up what it was about. The course is based on the ideas of a (fairly famous, not widely read) 50-year-old book that has been instrumental in shaping several disciplines, not just education, where it started: *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, written by Brazilian educator and published in English in 1970.

This book is considered one of the foundational texts of and proposes a new relationship between teacher, student, and society. Dedicated to the oppressed and based on his own experience helping Brazilian adults to read and write, Freire explores the relationship between the colonizer and the colonized. Freire calls tradi-

tional pedagogy the "banking model of education" because it treats the student as an empty vessel to be filled with knowledge, like a piggy bank (the assumption that normal preaching is based on). He argues that pedagogy should instead treat the learner as a co-creator of knowledge (taken from what Mexicans call San Wiki, with an insert by me).

One of the first steps in the process is "boil it down." Condense your ideas, because it will take longer to teach in this more student-oriented way, among other reasons.

Well, last week, we taught our normal 30-hour course on Healthy New Churches (And all the Ways You Can Weaken One, Especially in Cross-Cultural Situations – that's not the written subtitle, but it is a large part of the course). This was with the nine participants in the Sin Fronteras missionary candidate training, the ones that we wrote about making up the Seventh Simple Church

And then this week we boiled it down for a six-hour teaching done by Zoom for a group of nine that the other Multiply missionaries are train-

PLAY: *David's City* (A cross between *Mother May I* and *Tag*). Have all the children line up on one side of the room. Then choose one child to be King David.

All the children will chant, "**King David, King David, can we enter the City of David?**"

King David says, "**Yes, but only if you are wearing RED!**"

All of the children wearing RED are free to run to the other side of the room. Everyone else must wait. Then, after everyone wearing red is safe on the other side of the room, the King chases everyone else. They try to run to the other side before the King catches them. If the King is able to tag someone, this child becomes the new King David and the play continues. EXAMPLE: Only BOYS, only GIRLS, only if you have SHOES WITH LACES, or only if you have LONG HAIR, etc.

DO: Edible Crowns Times Two

- *Fresh Fruit Crowns:* Materials: Pineapple rings, strawberries (chopped), blueberries, grapes (halved). Give each child a plate with a pineapple ring. Have them add the other fruit as jewels on the crown.
- *Cookie Crowns:* Materials: Cookies (round or crown shaped), chopped fruit (strawberries, blueberries, grapes, pineapple, banana), cream cheese, vanilla, sugar.

Make the cookies and icing ahead of time (8 oz. cream cheese, 1/3 cup sugar, 1/2 teaspoon vanilla).

Give each child a cookie and let them smear on some icing. Let them use fruit to create jewels on the crown.



Fayetteville Brethren Church

Sunday School 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am

For the schedule of visiting
ministers, please visit the
church website.

FayettevilleBrethrenChurch.org

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Protestant Preaching
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I JUST CAN'T WAIT TO BE KING

BIBLE STORY

David becomes King

Scripture: 2 Samuel 5:1-10

WATCH the story of how David becomes King.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZ7nDS07fO0>

David was a shepherd. One day, the prophet Samuel came to David's house and anointed David to become a king someday for all of Israel. Saul was still the king at this time. King Saul did not obey God in many ways. God was not pleased with Saul. Now, it is time for David to take over as King.

Questions to ask:

1. Did all of the tribes of Israel come to David or just some of them? (*All of them.*)
2. Instead of sheep, what would David shepherd and rule over as the new king? (*People.*)
3. How old was David when he became king of Israel? (*30 years old.*)
4. What do you imagine the celebration was like when the people crowned David as their new King? (*Allow for answers.*)

DO: *I Just Can't Wait to Be ____:* Ask kids to think about what they want to be when they grow up. Have them act it out for the others to guess. Explain there are many jobs we can do. No matter what our job is, we should be assured we are working for the Lord and honor Him with our work.



ing in Guadalajara (mid NW Mexico). We were supposed to spend a week with them in Mexico City, but of course COVID-19 is wreaking havoc on plans here, too. This group is more general discipleship (the SF group is quite specifically for long-term cross-cultural missions), and with what is being called "Zoom fatigue," we all decided that three days of two-hour segments was sufficient. It forced Anne and me to dig deep into the heart of what we try to help students conclude for themselves from looking anew at the teaching of Jesus and Paul, while pointing out how much the Western Church has accumulated along our 2000 years of history.

We discovered that teaching via Zoom, while sufficient during this pandemic, greatly limits the opportunity for Dialogue Education. We will have to keep exploring how to do that better, but we're not sure how to overcome the face-to-face advantage of live teaching. I imagine that our present reality will continue to provide opportunities to refine the process.

In early June, Anne starts four weeks of linguistic and phonetics training for the SF group. She teaches one of the three areas and helps coordinate overall. This is another SIL course and it is based on the Dialogue Education model, too. Anne has been preparing extensively for months now, but still feels out of her depth (both in content and method), causing her stress. Please pray about that!

We are heading up to the US (Maybe ON) in mid July. Our visas end around then, and the SF students will be out in their village settings by

then. There is so much uncertainty in all three of our countries that we can't really make plans beyond a few weeks at a time. Pray for that, too!

One opportunity we really hope works out, in mid August there is a two-week training that Anne is signed up for in WA state about all this language learning that she is involved with, taught by the fellow that originated the ideas 20 years ago. And on August 26th we celebrate 30 years of life together. We had hoped for something special, but who knows now?

Thank you for everything, and please help us pray about trusting Jesus for tomorrow's problems.

Robert and Anne

Unity Archivist

Clint Machann

c-machann@tamu.edu

979-696-1360 or 979-845-4898

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE
*"Bear ye one another's burdens
And so fulfill the Law of
Christ."* (Gal. 6:2)

THE MUTUAL AID SOCIETY

Rev. Joseph J. Polasek, President
Daniel Vojtek, Vice-President
Natalie Outlaw, Gen. & Jr. Dept.

Secretary
Ruth Ann Wuensche, Treasurer
Dorothy Hinson, Board Member
Ann Sebesta, Board Member
Synodical Liaison: Kayla Marek, 2nd
Vice President

Mutual Aid Society – Listing of Local Secretaries’ Addresses and Phone Numbers

Granger #1: Angie Malicoat, PO Box
362, Granger, TX 76530,
512-859-2837

Taylor #3: Marie Ann Ripple, 2302
Heights Blvd, Taylor, TX 76574,
512-365-6916

West #4: Dorothy Kocian, 107 South
Barbara Street, Waco, TX 76705,
254-799-5331,
dekocian@yahoo.com

Fayetteville #5: Sandra Stepan, PO
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512-468-2396,
sandrainastin@yahoo.com

Dime Box #6: Marvin Chlapek, PO Box
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979-272-9102,
mjcarc@airplexus.com

Snook #7: Ann Sebesta, Box 115,
Snook, TX 77878, 210-244-3362,
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Ocker #8: Eugene Haisler, 19081
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TX 76519, 254-985-2316

New Tabor #13: Connie Surovik, 1701
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conniesurovik76@gmail.com

Nelsonville #14: Peggy Peschel, 8000
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979-865-5095

Seaton #16: Joyce Skrabanek, 7157
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Sealy #17: Esther Breeden, 2728
Osborn Appt #1002, Bryan, TX
77803, 979-779-3835

Wesley #18: Elaine Koehn, 9053
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koehns72@yahoo.com

Temple #20: Irene Marek, 2900 Pecan
Valley Drive, Temple, TX 76502,
254-778-2120

Rosenberg #21: Cathy Kuritza, 5220
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Westheimer #22: Betty J. Parthum,
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Wall #25: Sharon J. Hohmann, 222
Crestwood Drive, San Angelo, TX
76903-9106, 325-651-5884

Caldwell #27: Brenda Schroeder, 4193
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Crosby #28: Gisela Gaeke, PO Box
599, Crosby, TX 77532,
281-426-5506

**Austin #32: Natalie Outlaw, 7575
Wixon Road, Bryan, TX 77808-8085,
979-589-2012,
natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com

Pasadena #33: Betty Orsag, 5118
Coventry Ct, Friendswood, TX
77546-3001, 281-482-1501

B/CS #34: Natalie Outlaw, 7575 Wixon
Road, Bryan, TX 77808-8085,
979-589-2012,
natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com

**Position currently filled by Administrative
Board members

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

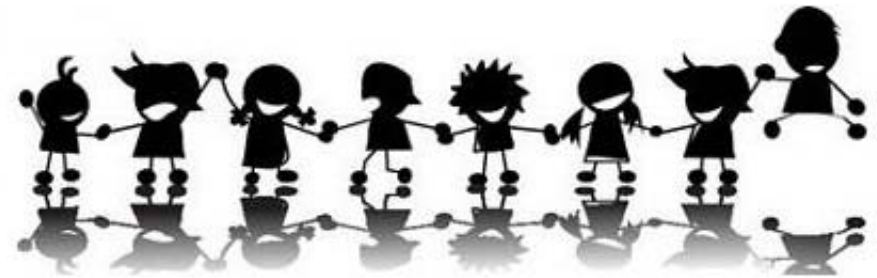
Chair: Deborah Schiller – (2019)
Temple, (254) 721-2735;
dschiller1123@gmail.com

Debbie Clark – (2014) Crosby
Deanna Hairrell – (2019) Snook
Jordan Eilers – (2019) Ocker
Open seat

Open seat

Jennifer Chervenka – Youth
Coordinator, Ocker

Synodical Liaison – Rev. Whitney Amos,
3rd Vice-President, chatney@aol.com



Sunday School Helper



Psalms 33:4

For the word of
the Lord is upright,
And all His work is
done in
faithfulness.

Bible Character

David

Bible Reference

2 Samuel 5:1-10

Theme Color

Gold

After years and many struggles, David finally wore the gold crown that God had promised him. Kids will learn that we can stay faithful to God, because he always remains faithful to us.

ADERHOLD
FUNERAL HOME, INC.
*"Thoughtful Service –
A Payne Family Tradition"*
West, Texas
254/826-5321