

# THE BRETHREN



# JOURNAL



Vol. 120

June 2021

No. 5

32 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.*

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## ***Who remembers the Hus Bus?***

*The Bus may be long gone, but the Hus Encampment is ready to begin the new camping season! Camps start with Hus School on June 20 and will finish with Alpha camp on July 29.*

*(See inside this issue for full schedule.)*

## **IN THIS ISSUE . . .**

Invitation to the 69th Biennial Convention of the Unity of the Brethren

*Respect for the Past ...* by Jim Pokorny

*Becoming New, Again ...* by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

BYF Summer Retreat Information

**. . . and much, much more!**

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Fieldstone Place, College Station, TX 77845,  
or email: [editor.brethrenjournal@gmail.com](mailto:editor.brethrenjournal@gmail.com).

Permit #064220

*THE BRETHREN JOURNAL* (ISSN 0006-9655)  
is published monthly except for January and  
July, which are bimonthly, at \$15.00 per year  
by The Unity of the Brethren through SuzAnne  
Kurten dba Your Business Center, 1050 S.  
Hwy. 95, Taylor, TX 76574, 512-921-1068,  
periodical postage paid at Taylor, TX. Send  
address changes to *The Brethren Journal*, Attn:  
Business Manager, 1103 Harrisonburg Lane,  
College Station, TX 77845.

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Brethren Website:  
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*“Bear ye one another’s burdens  
And so fulfill the Law of  
Christ.” (Gal. 6:2)*

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## From the President . . . Rev. Larry Koslovsky

### COVID

To say the least, COVID has challenged all of us in so many ways – how we worked, how we bought groceries, how we received health care, how we did family, and yes, how we worshipped, and even at this writing still does. Certainly, it changed the way we worshipped. Some of the changes may be long lasting; others will fall by the wayside, just because they were appropriate at the time and for a season.

At this point, however, it is good to know that all our congregations are meeting again in person. Some congregations did not meet in person for the past year but resumed by Resurrection Sunday, 2021. Others have been able to meet for the past year, following protocols that worked in light of their local setting and size of the congregation.

What is to be celebrated is the fact that while we have been challenged, there has been great and wonderful creativity to meet spiritual needs during this time. Drive-in church, Facebook Live, YouTube, and Zoom have all been incorporated in some

form or fashion to keep congregations connected, not only among members, but has actually extended the witness of our congregations to people beyond the walls of the church.

The COVID challenge has produced positive results. We can meet the challenges of the day when we set ourselves out to overcome and walk in faith and trust in the Lord. It has shown our resilience despite other challenges that have come in addition to the coronavirus, such as the Arctic blast of February. It reminds us that we are called to be faithful even as the Lord is faithful and *our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble* (Psalm 46.1).

### Arctic Cold Blast

Added to the challenges of the virus was also the Arctic cold blast that hit the whole state. Congregations having to deal with burst pipes and water damage were Temple, Houston, and Crosby. At the time of this writing, these congregations have taken steps towards repairs which are still in progress.



## Fayetteville Brethren Church

Worship on the  
2nd and 4th Saturdays  
10:00 a.m.  
Rev. Mike Groseclose

[FayettevilleBrethrenChurch.org](http://FayettevilleBrethrenChurch.org)

"Site of the First Czech  
Protestant Preaching  
in Texas - 1855"



1022 Kramr Rd at Ross Prairie Church Road  
P.O. Box 11 • Fayetteville, TX 78940

## Convention

Decisions about the time, length, and location of the convention had to be made in light of the impact of the virus in March. Given the information and data as well as concern for the health and well being of convention participants at the time, the Executive Committee advised the Synodical Committee that in the best interests of participants and the need to reduce exposure, the convention time and place be changed (originally scheduled for July 13-15 at Camp Allen in Navasota). The Synodical Committee approved that the convention be shortened to one day, July 9, 2021; and with the completed renovations to the Main Building at the Hus Encampment, it be held there.

## Hus Encampment

The total renovation to the Main Building has been completed. The first phase was a remodel of the kitchen along with major modifications to the electrical and septic systems and air conditioning of the dining area. The second phase included a new exterior finish, insulation, new interior finish, flooring, removal of the stage, and the addition of restrooms. What a change! Thanks to all who had a part in the transformation of this building which will serve the Unity for years to come.

Rev. Larry Koslovsky  
Executive Committee President

## OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

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Church Email: [ockerbrethrenchurch@gmail.com](mailto:ockerbrethrenchurch@gmail.com)  
Phone: (254) 985-2240

*Preaching the Word, Loving the People*  
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Worship 10:15 AM

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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](http://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 10:00 AM. on the  
2nd and 4th Saturdays.  
– Rev. Mike Groseclose

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

Granger – Worship service Sundays,  
10 AM. Bible Study Wednesdays,  
5:30 PM.  
– Visiting Ministers

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

Industry – Worship at 5:00 PM on the  
2nd, 3rd, and 4th Saturdays.  
– 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  
10:30 AM; Worship at 11:45 AM; Lunch  
after the service.  
– 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 – Kids’ 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

Vsetin – 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.  
– Visiting Ministers

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

## Invitation to the 69th Biennial Convention of the Unity of the Brethren *“The Heartbeat of Worship and Work”*

To the Synodical Committee  
Pastors & Lay Members, Del-  
egates, and Committee Chairs:

The Synodical Executive Com-  
mittee most warmly invites you to  
the 69th Biennial Convention of the  
Unity of the Brethren to be held on  
Friday, July 9, 2021, at the Hus  
Encampment, Caldwell, Texas.

This year’s Convention will be a  
one-day event. In an abundance of  
caution and out of concern for  
your safety, we ask that only vot-  
ing and essential members be in  
attendance. The proceedings of the  
Convention are usually open to the  
public, but this year due to health  
concerns and a limited capacity in  
the Main Building, the Convention  
may need to rule otherwise to  
reduce the crowd size and enhance  
safety for everyone. Face masks  
will be required, and social dis-  
tancing will be practiced as much  
as possible.

This year’s Convention theme is  
“The Heartbeat of Worship and  
Work” with scripture taken from  
Romans 12:1-2: *“I appeal to you  
therefore, brothers and sisters, by  
the mercies of God, to present your  
bodies as a living sacrifice, holy  
and acceptable to God, which is  
your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be  
conformed to this world, but be  
transformed by the renewing of  
your minds, so that you may dis-*

*cern what is the will of God – what  
is good and acceptable and per-  
fect.”* NRSV

Lodging can be secured at Ameri-  
cas Best Value Inn (979-567-3535)  
or The Surrey Inn (979-567-3221).  
If you bring a Texas Hotel Occu-  
pancy Tax Exemption Certificate  
from your Church, you can avoid  
the State Tax.

Registration will begin at 8:00  
a.m., followed by worship and  
Holy Communion at 9:00 a.m. The  
agenda will be sent out before the  
convention. A dedication service  
will also be held for the Main  
Building as the remodeling project  
was completed this year. A conti-  
nental breakfast, lunch, and snacks  
will be served.

Let us all join in prayer that God  
will bless this gathering and that  
the work of the Holy Spirit will be  
evident among us as we seek to  
serve our Lord in this day and time.

For the Synodical Committee,

Rev. Larry Koslovsky  
Executive Committee President

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## Important Convention Information from Liz Ripple, Administrative Assistant to the Unity

TO: All Congregations (Ministers, Synodical Committee Lay Members, Committee Chairpersons, Unity Organizations and Youth Director)

Let's get ready for the 69th Biennial Convention of the Unity of the Brethren, which will be held on **Friday, July 9, 2021**, at the Hus Encampment, Caldwell, Texas. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information regarding the convention. Please remember the Convention in your prayers for God's will to be done and to pray for all the participants.

This year, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we will have a one-day convention with limited capacity to only voting and essential members (see invitation letter). Face masks will be required and social distancing will be practiced as much as possible.

Registration & Check-In: Friday, July 9 at 8:00 a.m.; complimentary break-

fast at 8:00 a.m. Enclosures and information as follows:

**1) Questionnaires** – the deadline for the 2020 questionnaire is **May 15, 2021**.

**2) Convention Credentials Form** (copy more as needed) – Each page contains two Credential forms – complete two forms for each delegate/alternate.

a. Please fill out all information – name, address, email, phone number – for each delegate and alternate and have it signed by your Minister and/or Board President and Secretary. Mail one copy of the signed credential form(s) and the delegate fee(s) to Liz Ripple by **June 18, 2021**. The second copy is to be brought by the delegate to the registration table at the convention.

b. Please return \$100 for each delegate with the credentials form to Liz Ripple (keep a copy for your records).

### BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION BRETHREN CHURCH

2650 Earl Rudder Freeway South

[www.unityofthebrethren.org](http://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](mailto:papasebek@gmx.com)

### Unity Archivist

Clint Machann

[c-machann@tamu.edu](mailto:c-machann@tamu.edu)

979-696-1360 or 979-845-4898

### BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Chair: Vacant

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](mailto:chatney@aol.com)

### CHRISTIAN SISTERS' UNION OFFICERS

**President:** Paula Wagner, 10506  
Mourning Dove Dr., Austin, TX  
78750. (512) 632-6644;  
[paulak1121@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paulak1121@sbcglobal.net)

**Vice President:** Carolyn Beseda,  
2515 Lazybrook Dr., Houston,  
TX 77008. (281) 546-7941;  
[cffilipp@earthlink.net](mailto:cffilipp@earthlink.net)

**Secretary:** Anna Wotipka, 652  
County Rd. 324, Caldwell, TX  
77836. (979) 218-9043;  
[awotipka58@gmail.com](mailto:awotipka58@gmail.com)

**Financial Secretary:** Lydia Faust,  
P.O. Box 125, Snook, TX 77878.  
[lydiavajdakfaust@gmail.com](mailto:lydiavajdakfaust@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Paige Hearn, 17150 FM  
971, Granger, TX 76530. (512)  
567-1436; [usmcmom@ymail.com](mailto:usmcmom@ymail.com)

**Synodical Committee Liaison:**  
Rev. Whitney Amos, 3rd Vice  
President

### HUS ENCAMPMENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Chairman:** Kent Laza (2017),  
(979) 220-1957

**Treasurer:** Todd Corporon (2016), 5350  
County Road 124, Georgetown, TX  
78626; [toddcorporon@yahoo.com](mailto:toddcorporon@yahoo.com)

#### Members:

Todd Snelgrove, BCS (2013);  
[rtsnelgrove@gmail.com](mailto:rtsnelgrove@gmail.com)

Tami Laza, BCS (2015), 4913 FM 166,  
Caldwell, TX 77836;  
[tami.laza@verizon.net](mailto:tami.laza@verizon.net)

James Marek, Taylor (2017);  
[james@cnbt.net](mailto:james@cnbt.net)

Rick Weise, Wall (2017);  
[weise.rick@aol.com](mailto:weise.rick@aol.com)

Angie Labaj, (2019) Temple

Jennifer Chervenka, Ocker (2017).  
(254) 983-1002; [jennchervenka@farm-market.net](mailto: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](mailto:agsnelgrove@hotmail.com)

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

**Facilities Manager:** Alan Haisler,  
[haislera@gmail.com](mailto:haislera@gmail.com)

**Caretakers:** Open

**Synodical Committee Oversight:**  
Rev. Whitney Amos.

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

### MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS BOARD (2019-2021)

Rev. Michael Groseclose  
(Pastor to the Pastors)  
Rev. Whitney Amos  
Rev. Tim Chaplin  
Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill

## Thoughts about giving...

**Remembering the Unity of the Brethren or any of its ministries is a fitting testimony to your faith. Your gift leaves a legacy that continues to support the mission or ministry of the Unity that is important to you.**

*You can give without restrictions and let the funds be used for the most pressing needs. You may also designate to a particular ministry.*

*You can give in memory or in the honor of someone.*

*Your gift can be contingent. The funds go to someone, if they survive you, and if not, then to the Unity.*

*You can tell us now that you have named the Unity in your will and allow us to express our gratitude...or you can let it be known later.*

**There are many other ways to give. The Executive Committee of the Synodical Committee receives and manages special gifts, grants, and bequests in coordination with the Synodical Committee. For more information or to make a donation, contact the Unity President.**

Rev. Dr. Larry Koslovsky, Executive Committee President  
4211 Misty Timbers Way  
Kingwood, TX 77345  
(713) 594-4518  
lwkoslo@aol.com

**KUBENA Funeral Home**  
507 South Main St.  
Hallettsville, Texas 77946  
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Phone 361-798-3271

**GRANGER NATIONAL  
BANK**  
Ryze Ceska Banka, Member F.D.I.C.  
Granger, Texas  
www.grangernationalbank.com

Do not send money for alternates. Please make the check payable to *Unity of the Brethren*. This fee covers the administrative costs, mileage, and meals reimbursement of the Convention members. Delegates – please check with your congregation to ensure that the \$100 payment has been submitted prior to your departure to the Convention.

According to the Unity of the Brethren 2019 By-Laws: Congregations are entitled to one delegate per 50 members or the greater fraction thereof. This translates into the following number of entitled delegates per number of members:

# of members	# of delegates
75 or less	1
76-125	2
126-175	3
176-225	4
226-275	5
276-325	6c

Lodging and food expenses outside the convention are considered separate and should be covered by your congregation.

**3) Invitation letter** to the Convention from the Executive Committee.

**4) Hotel Information/Lodging** suggestions are included in the invitation letter.

**5) DEADLINE FOR REPORTS:** Reports (all Officers, Committee/Board Chairpersons, and Organizations) to

be included in the Convention Packets are due by **JUNE 18, 2021**. Liz Ripple will contact all Chairs/Organizations for your reports. The packets will be available for all members of the Convention. Reports will be emailed or sent by regular mail prior to the convention to give everyone time to read the reports.

**6)** If you have not yet submitted your Annual Assessments for 2019 and/or 2020 to the Brethren Fund, please do so at this time. This assessment is based on the active communicant membership reported on the Unity Questionnaire and is currently \$40 for each member. Please note that annual assessments should be sent directly to Kayla Marek, Financial Secretary, (kmarek2012@gmail.com) mailing address: 1804 Mallard Ln, Taylor, TX 76574.

**7)** This information (secretary's letter, invitation letter with hotel information, 2019 & 2020 questionnaires, credentials form) will also be posted on the Unity website – [www.UnityoftheBrethren.org](http://www.UnityoftheBrethren.org) – see Convention 2021.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

*Liz Ripple*, Administrative Assistant  
Unity of the Brethren  
311 W State Hwy 71  
Fayetteville, TX 78940  
979-378-2239 / 979-702-1886  
[lizripple@hotmail.com](mailto:lizripple@hotmail.com)



# Respect for the Past

- by Jim Pokorny

There are times in life when you feel like you just need something good to happen. God provides such moments, and He involves special people in the process. But often, it is just that, a process. In my case, the process began in September 2019 when I spoke to members of the Texas Czech Genealogical Society in Caldwell, Texas, on the history and development of Brethren Churches within the state. Along with my presentation, I was delighted to speak informally with both small groups and individuals. Only a year and a half has gone by, but the pandemic almost makes this feel like ancient history.

On a recent Sunday morning, just prior to the start of our worship service, I was approached by two dear friends bearing a gift bag. This gift was from someone at the event with whom I had a most delightful conversation regarding Brethren history. Inside the bag were two incredibly old books from his personal library that he wanted me to have.

One of these is *The Moravian Manual Containing an Account of*

*The Moravian Church, or Unitas Fratrum, Published by Authority of the Provincial Synod of The American Moravian Church, North* (1901). The other is *The History of the Church Known as The Unitas Fratrum or The Unity of the Brethren, Founded by the Followers of John Hus, the Bohemian Reformer and Martyr* by Edmund De Schweintz, S. T. D. (1885). Considering these treasures, I knew I would have to read them with care. Each is more than a century old; their pages have yellowed with the passage of time and their bindings are not as secure as they once were.

I decided to read the older of the two first as it was the longest at 658 pages contained within its 56 chapters and 3 appendices. As I write this at the close of April, I have digested 140 pages which make up the first 15 chapters. Thus far, I have found De Schweintz not only to be very thorough in his historical account but also very meticulous in matters regarding sources as is evidenced by his abundant footnotes.

De Schweintz begins with the his-

porter of Snook VFD. She also won awards several times at Kolache Festival. In their earlier years she and her husband Bennie attended New Tabor Brethren Church, and most recently attended Caldwell Brethren and Snook Brethren Churches. Funeral services were held on January 29, 2021, at Strickland Funeral Home in Caldwell. She was preceded in death by her husband of 69 years, Bennie Nathan Hejl; son-in-law, Randy Walker; and 1 sister, Joyce Orsag Floeck. Survivors include a daughter, Bonnie Walker; 3 sons, Ronnie (Ginger), B.J. (Nichole), and Donnie (Bonnie); 9 grandkids; 6 great-grandchildren; 2 step-great-grandchildren; 1 brother, John Orsag (Betty); and brother-in-law, Jesse Floeck III.

KOSLOVSKY, EVELYN ALBINA HERING, age 89, of Temple died Monday, January 25, 2021, in Temple. A lifelong member of the Unity, she worshipped at Temple and Ocker Brethren Churches throughout her life. She served as a children's Sunday School teacher and was a member of the Christian Sisters. Graveside services were held on Friday, January 29, 2021, at Bellwood Memorial Park in Temple. She is preceded in death by her parents, all of her brothers and sisters, and her husband, Erwin. Survivors include her daughter, Joyce Koslovsky; 3 sons, Randy, Glenn, and Larry; 7 grandchildren; and 2 great-grandchildren. Minister: Rev. Michael Groseclose.

MICHALSKY, EUGENE "RED" HENRY, age 90, died on Mother's Day, May 9, 2021, in Austin, Texas, at St. David's Medical Center. He was born at home on January 31, 1924, in Fayetteville, Texas, to Peter Paul and Frances (Krenek) Michalsky. He was a retired businessman, the owner and operator of Michalsky's Packing Plant for 36 years and a cattleman for over 75 years. He was a U.S. Army Veteran serving in the Korean War. He served 12 months on the 38th Parallel line in the Yangu Valley and 6 months as a prisoner guard in Nonsan, Korea. In 1953 he and 76 other soldiers were captured and held hostage for 30 days by the North Korean soldiers. He was a Christian man of the Catholic faith. Services were held on Monday, May 17, 2021, at Fayetteville Brethren Church with Military Honors and burial in the church cemetery. Eugene was preceded in death by his parents; 3 brothers and 1 sister. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Margaret; 3 daughters, Elizabeth Rypl-Ripple (Joe); Frances Vaughn (Gerald); and Roberta Michalsky; 2 sons, Eugene Michalsky, Jr. (Sheryl), and Edward Michalsky; best friend, Kitty-Kitty; a host of grandchildren, step-grandchildren, great-grandchildren, step-great-grandchildren; and step-great-great-grandchildren; 2 brothers, 2 sisters, 6 sisters-in-law; 2 brothers-in-law, and many other relatives. Minister: Rev. Michael Groseclose.

## 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

## Knesek Family Funeral Chapels



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## 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](mailto:rev.tjt@gmail.com)  
Church: [wallbrethren@gmail.com](mailto:wallbrethren@gmail.com)  
[www.WallBrethrenChurch.com](http://www.WallBrethrenChurch.com)

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

<i>President</i>	<i>Pastor/Director of Youth</i>	<i>Church Office</i>
<i>Board of Elders</i>	<i>and Young Family Ministries</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
Josh Holik	Rev. Ryan Volkman	Libby Lane
325-234-8667	325-213-0671	Tu-F: 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.



## VITAL STATISTICS

### RECENT DEATHS

MACIK, FRANK JOSEPH, age 79, of Snook, Texas, died Friday, January 1, 2021. He was born April 14, 1941, to Joe Lee and Lydia (Balitka) Macik. He worked several jobs over the years, including Porters Ranch, Ray Mass and Clint Luksa. A celebration of life followed by burial was held Saturday, February 20, at Snook Cemetery. He was preceded in death by his parents, 5 sisters, and 4 brothers. Survivors include his wife of 30 years, Mary Ann Skopik Macik; 1 brother, Bennie Macik (Leatrice); 1 stepdaughter, Rebecca Fojt; 2 stepsons, Patrick and Chris Fojt; 1 brother-in-law, Joe Skopik; 4 step-granddaughters; 3 step-grandsons; 1 great-great-granddaughter; and numerous nieces, nephews, and other relatives. Ministers: Rev. Joesph Polasek and Rev John Gantt.

DUBCAK, JOE JERRY, age 99, of Red Ranger, Texas, and member of Ocker Brethren Church, Seaton SPJST Lodge No. 47, and American Legion Post No. 133 in Temple, died Friday, January 15, 2021, at a local hospital. He was born August 14, 1921, in Red Ranger to Charles and Terezie Ondrasek Dubcak. He served in the U.S. Air Force Reserves. He was a farmer. Services were held January 21, 2021, at Ocker Brethren Church with burial in the church cemetery. His wife of 75 years, Martha Dubcak, died on January 17. He was preceded in death by a grandchild and a great-grandchild. Survivors include 1 son, Glenn Dubcak; 3 daughters, Nancy Posvar, Judy Jeske, and Sandra Dubcak; 1 brother-in-law, Ed Hejl; 6 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; and 1 great-great-grandchild. Minister: Rev. Dr. Brad Herridge.

DUBCAK, MARTHA CLARA, age 98, of Red Ranger, Texas, and member of Ocker Brethren Church and Ocker Brethren Christian Sisters, died Sunday, January 17, 2021, at a local hospital. She was born November 18, 1922, in Seaton to Joe W. and Frances Ondrasek Hejl. Services were held January 21, 2021, at Ocker Brethren Church with burial in the church cemetery. She was preceded in death by her husband of 75 years, Joe Jerry Dubcak; a grandchild; and a great-grandchild. Survivors include 1 son,

Glenn Dubcak; 3 daughters, Nancy Posvar, Judy Jeske, and Sandra Dubcak; 1 brother, Ed Hejl; 6 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; and 1 great-great-grandchild. Minister: Rev. Dr. Brad Herridge.

GUNN, PATRICIA ANN "PAT" SODEK, age 82, of Temple, Texas, and member of Heights Baptist Church, Temple Bible Church, Cross Church on Birdcreek, and SPJST Lodge No. 87, died Tuesday, January 12, 2021, at a Temple hospital. She was born April 15, 1938, in Alice to William George and Elsie Olga Novosad Sodek. She was a dental assistant and credit consultant. Services were held January 16, 2021, at Cross Church on Birdcreek with burial in Greathouse Cemetery. She was preceded in death by her parents. Survivors include her husband of 63 years, Lawrence Gunn; 1 son, Mark Gunn; 1 daughter, Karen Newman; 2 grandchildren; and 1 great-grandchild. Ministers: Rev. Randy Holtzclaw and the Rev. Tim Chaplin officiating.

SCHILLER, GARLAND E., age 95, of Temple and member of Ocker Brethren Church, SPJST, and American Legion Post No. 9, died Thursday, January 21, 2021, at a local hospital. He was born June 10, 1925, in Cameron. He served in the Marines from 1943 to 1946. He worked as a clerk for the Santa Fe Railroad until his retirement. Services were held January 23, 2021, at the Ocker Brethren Church Cemetery. He was preceded in death by his wife, Evelyn Joyce Oswald Schiller, and a daughter, Betty Schiller Tarver. Survivors include 3 daughters, Mary Polasek, Theresa Brown, and Barbara Schiller; 6 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

HEJL, EMILY JANE ORSAG, age 89, died Thursday, January 21, 2021, at St. Joseph Hospital with family at her bedside. Emily was born at home on January 9, 1932, in the Czech community of Volney in Burleson County to John Jr. and Ella (Zalmanek) Orsag. Emily and her husband, Bennie, started the H&H Ranch along with their two sons, B.J. and Donnie. She helped them with checking livestock, feeding, hay hauling, and bookkeeping. She participated in several organizations, including manager of the SPJST Hall in Snook, the Burleson County Fair Association, and active sup-

tory of Bohemia and Moravia prior to the time of Hus (451-1369 A.D.). He begins with the introduction of Christianity and its development, including those who proceeded Hus. He then devotes some 40 pages to an incredibly detailed account of John Hus (1369-1415), from the beginning of the Bohemian Reformation as inaugurated by Hus to his opposition to Papal Indulgences, from his voluntary exile to his arrival at the Council of Constance and his subsequent condemnation and martyrdom.

A history of the Hussites follows (1415-1457), beginning with the Hussite Wars and various factions, from Rokycana and the Utraquist Church, from Peter Chelcicky to those who founded the Ancient Unity. He proceeds from the founding to the earliest development of the church (1457-1460), the first persecution of the Brethren (1461-1463), the Synod of Reichenau and the Brethren's separation from the Utraquist Church (1464-1466), the Synod of Lhota and the institution of an independent ministry (1467).

I still have hundreds of pages and several centuries of history yet to study in this one book alone. Although it is a journey that I have

undertaken with other authors serving as my guides, it is always one I enjoy taking. God has blessed each of us with both a rich history and a remarkable heritage. It does not matter whether you grew up Brethren or are its newest member. Each of us has an equal share in that blessing.

As stated at the outset, the receipt of these books was that "something good" that I felt I needed to have happen. I also know that God provided this and involved some incredibly special people in the process. This, of course, applies to the one from whose library these books originated and whose conversation I enjoyed those many months ago. It also includes my dear friends who delivered these into my hands and whom I have asked to relay my gratitude.

I am also aware that the collecting of books and the amassing of knowledge are not to be considered goals. Knowledge kept is the mental equivalent of hoarding. Knowledge gained should be shared. This is especially true in matters of history and heritage. As Maya Angelou once said: "I have great respect for the past. If you don't know where you've come from, you don't know where you're going."

### NEW TABOR BRETHREN CHURCH

2439 County Road 225 Caldwell, TX 77836

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 262, Caldwell, TX 77836  
(979) 272-3008

Website: [newtaborchurch.com](http://newtaborchurch.com) Facebook: New Tabor Church  
Sunday School: 9 a.m. Worship: 10 a.m.

*New Tabor Brethren is here for you. We're not only a church. We're a fellowship of believers coming together to declare the glory of the Lord.*

**Reverend David Johnson (979) 220-3822**  
**[pastordjbama@gmail.com](mailto:pastordjbama@gmail.com)**

## Becoming New, Again

- by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

The sun always comes.

Every morning it rises and streams its rays of light over us.

Bathing us with new beginnings and hope for all things in our lives.

The golden light fuels growth, inspires endurance, pours out warmth.

The Lord God is the author of the sun, empowering its function, directing its every movement.

The Holy Spirit comes like the rays of the sun, pouring life into each one of us.

Bathing us with new beginnings and hope for all things in our lives.

How do we engage the Holy Spirit to receive this newness of life?

What do we say to the Lord when we feel devoid of His golden light of renewal?

How do we ask Him?

There are moments when all seems lost, when you cannot feel the sun-bathing you, when the skies of your mind are darkened, and *then the Lord God whispers to you:*

**“Here I am. Cry out to me. I’m listening.”**

The Jewish prophet, Habakkuk, was appointed to speak God’s wisdom to the devastated nation of Israel, a people that felt trapped under dark skies. They had fallen captive to their own sinfulness: worshipping comfort, worshipping what they could see, worshipping anything but the One True Merciful God Almighty, YAHWEH, the Great I AM. *They were appointed to be God’s light to the world. Now, by the grace of Jesus Christ’s work of the Cross, we all are.*

From the Holy Bible, in the Book of Habakkuk, chapter 3, we witness Habakkuk’s prayer resonating within us. Habakkuk believed that newness of life would come again; there would be peace for Israel. The golden rays of the sunlight would be felt by the people of God once again. Much like the Lord Jesus Christ prayed in faith that His Father in Heaven would glorify Him so that we could all have the opportunity to become indwelt by God the Holy Spirit who perpetually renews His people.

## DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

### Daily Morsels for June 2021

By Mari-Anne Kocian Gordon and Dorothy E. Kocian

From the *Holy Bible Revised Standard Revision*.

#### Sundays in bold.

1. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His name. Lk. 1:49
2. His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation. Lk. 1:50
3. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good. Rom. 12:9
4. Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Rom. 12:10
5. Rejoice in hope. Rom. 12:12a
6. **Be patient in suffering. Rom. 12:12b**
7. Persevere in prayer. Rom. 12:12c
8. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Rom. 12:15
9. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Rom. 12:16
10. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You preserve me against the wrath of my enemies. Ps. 138:7a
11. You stretch out Your hand, and Your right hand delivers me. Ps. 138:7b
12. The LORD will fulfill His purpose for me. Ps. 138:8a
13. **Your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Ps. 138:8b**
14. Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD. Ps. 130:1
15. Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications! Ps. 130:2
16. If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? Ps. 130:3
17. But there is forgiveness with You, so that You may be revered. Ps. 130:4
18. I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope. Ps. 130:5
19. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. 2 Cor. 5:14
20. **And He died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. 2 Cor. 5:15**
21. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: the old has gone, the new has come! 2 Cor. 5:17
22. But the LORD said to Samuel, “...for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” 1 Sam. 16:7c
23. So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. 2 Cor. 4:16
24. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure. 2 Cor. 4:17
25. Because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. 2 Cor. 4:18
26. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 Cor. 5:1
27. **(The mercies of the LORD) are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. Lam. 3:23**
28. The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in Him.” Lam. 3:24
29. We take every thought captive to make it obedient to Christ. 2 Cor. 10:5b
30. The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul that seeks Him. Lam. 3:25

## TAYLOR BRETHREN CHURCH

Seventh Street at Sloan in Taylor, Texas – 512-352-6423

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 351, Taylor, TX 76754

Church email: taylorbrethren@sbcglobal.net

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. Worship: 10:15 a.m.

*Pastor*  
*James D. Hejl*  
512-365-6890

*Board President*  
*Daniel Knippa*  
512-844-0208

*Secretary*  
*Mary Kokes*  
M-Th 8 a.m.-noon

## BYF Summer Retreat Information

### CONVENTION AND VOLLEYBALL

Saturday, July 3, 2021

Please email reports and information to [jennchervenka@gmail.com](mailto:jennchervenka@gmail.com) no later than June 13.

#### ITEMS NEEDED BY JUNE 13:

- List of youth members for your local group
- Sponsors and contact information
- 2 delegates and contact information
- Report on your activities for 2020
- List of youth who will be attending
- Number of teams for the tournament
- Approximate head count of visitors for meal planning


#### POA for JULY 3

8:30 a.m. – Business Meeting

10:00a.m. – Volleyball

10:00 p.m. – Worship/Holy Communion & Fireworks

Registration forms and more information available at [www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.org](http://www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.org)



### CALDWELL BRETHREN CHURCH

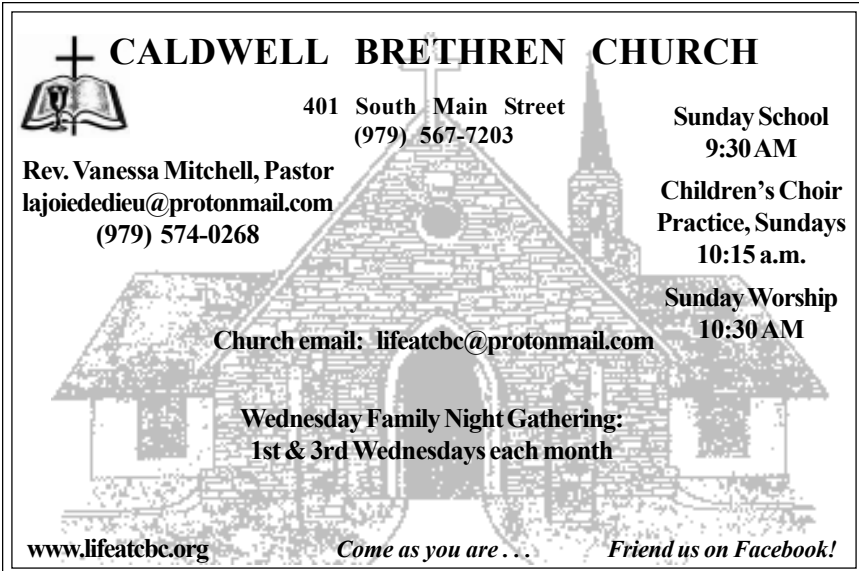
401 South Main Street  
(979) 567-7203

Rev. Vanessa Mitchell, Pastor  
[lajoiededieu@protonmail.com](mailto:lajoiededieu@protonmail.com)  
(979) 574-0268

Church email: [lifecatbc@protonmail.com](mailto:lifecatbc@protonmail.com)

Wednesday Family Night Gathering:  
1st & 3rd Wednesdays each month

[www.lifecatbc.org](http://www.lifecatbc.org)    Come as you are...    Friend us on Facebook!



A prayer to experience the newness of life that only God can give:

1 A prayer of the prophet Habakkuk according to Shigionoth.

2 **O Lord, I have heard of your renown, and I stand in awe, O Lord, of your work. In our own time revive it; in our own time make it known; in wrath may you remember mercy.**

3 God came from Teman, the Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise.

4 **The brightness was like the sun; rays came forth from his hand, where His power lay hidden.**

5 Before him went pestilence, and plague followed close behind.

6 He stopped and shook the earth; he looked and made the nations tremble. The eternal mountains were shattered; along his ancient pathways the everlasting hills sank low.

7 I saw the tents of Cushan under affliction; the tent-curtains of the land of Midian trembled.

8 **Was your wrath against the rivers, O Lord? Or your anger against the rivers, or your rage against the sea, when you drove your horses, your chariots to victory?**

9 You brandished your naked bow,

sated were the arrows at your command. Selah You split the earth with rivers.

10 The mountains saw you, and writhed; a torrent of water swept by; the deep gave forth its voice. The sun raised high its hands;

11 the moon stood still in its exalted place, at the light of your arrows speeding by, at the gleam of your flashing spear.

12 In fury you trod the earth, in anger you trampled nations.

13 **You came forth to save your people, to save your anointed.** You crushed the head of the wicked house, laying it bare from foundation to roof. Selah

14 You pierced with their own arrows the head of his warriors, who came like a whirlwind to scatter us, gloating as if ready to devour the poor who were in hiding.

15 You trampled the sea with your horses, churning the mighty waters.

16 **I hear, and I tremble within; my lips quiver at the sound. Rottenness enters into my bones, and my steps tremble beneath me. I wait quietly for the day of calamity to come upon the people who attack us.**



### CROSS CHURCH ON BIRDCREEK

2202 Birdcreek Drive  
Temple, Texas 76502

email: [ccb@crosschurchonbirdcreek.org](mailto:ccb@crosschurchonbirdcreek.org)  
<https://www.crosschurchonbirdcreek.org>

(254) 778-8759    Rev. Tim Chaplin  
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.    (254) 718-6094  
Worship: 10:45 a.m.    [tpch4359@gmail.com](mailto:tpch4359@gmail.com)



17 *Though the fig tree does not blossom, and no fruit is on the vines; though the produce of the olive fails, and the fields yield no food; though the flock is cut off from the fold, and there is no herd in the stalls,*

**18 yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the God of my salvation.**

**19 God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, and makes me tread upon the heights.**

Habakkuk would say to us:

- 1) Tell God what you know about Him.
- 2) Ask God all of your questions.
- 3) Tell God how you feel.
- 4) Resolve in faith in Him to receive His strengthening, His renewal.

The sun will come again tomorrow.

Every morning it will rise and stream its rays of light over you.

Bathing you with new beginnings and hope for all things in your life.

The golden light fuels growth, inspires endurance, pours out warmth.

The Lord God is the author of the sun, empowering its function, directing its every movement.

The Holy Spirit comes like the rays of the sun, pouring life into you.

Bathing you with new beginnings and hope for all things in your life.

***The Lord God will daily whisper to you:***

***“Here I am. Cry out to me. I’m listening.***

***You will become new again.”***

In Jesus’s Hands,

Right With You,

Sister Vanessa Mitchell

## Save the Dates . . .

### 2021 Summer Camp Dates

#### ENCOUNTER

Ages 7-9 years old

Camp Cost: \$250

+++Camp Date: **July 6-8**

#### PIONEER

Ages 12-13 years old

Camp Cost: \$350

Camp Date: **July 18-23**

#### CHALLENGER

Ages 16-19 years old

Camp Cost: \$350

Camp Date: **Not Held in 2021**

#### ALPHA

Ages 10-11 years old

Camp Cost: \$350

Camp Date: **July 25-29**

#### DISCOVERY

Ages 14-15 years old

Camp Cost: \$350

Camp Date: **July 11-16**

#### HUS SCHOOL

In-depth Leadership Program

Ages 16-Adult

Cost \$550

Date: **June 20-July 2**

**For more information about the Hus School Encampment go to:  
[www.huscamp.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:Kent.laza@verizon.net)

*\*This must be done well in advance.*



### ***Insuring & Enriching Lives***

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serving Texans  
and their families**

#### **Membership Benefits**

- Life Insurance
- Annuities
- Family Activities
- Community Involvement
- Youth Activities and Camp
- Scholarships

*Call us if you have questions about naming your church or a Unity of the Brethren agency as a beneficiary in an existing or new SPJST insurance certificate.*

***SPJST  
520 NorthMain Street  
Temple, Texas 76501  
(800) 727-7578***

## Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

**June 20-July 2 – Hus School** at the Hus School Encampment.

**June 20 – Ocker Brethren Church Annual Father's Day Barbeque Fundraiser at Star Hall.** We will begin taking dine-in, take-out, and drive-through orders beginning at 11 AM. Barbeque plates will come with two ribs, two pieces of sausage, Westphalia noodles, beans, coleslaw, dessert, and a drink for \$10. A silent auction and raffle will be held with some "big ticket" items including a handmade quilt, Blackstone griddle, gift cards, trips, and guns. For more information, contact Pastor Brad Herridge at (254) 716-2578.

**July 3-4 – State BYF Summer Retreat & Volleyball Tournament** at the Hus Encampment. See information in this issue or contact Jennifer Cherenka. Registration forms and more information available at [www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.org](http://www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.org)

**July 9 (Friday) – 69th Biennial Convention of the Unity of the Brethren.** One-day Unity Convention at the Hus Encampment, 3635 County Road 225, Caldwell, Texas. Registration at 8 a.m. followed by worship and Holy Communion at 9 a.m. Please see Convention invitation in this issue. All the information has been sent to Ministers, Synodical Representatives, Organizational Chairpersons, and other essential members. *Ministers and Representatives* – please communicate so the person in charge of filling out the credentials form can return the needed information along with the credential fee of \$100 per delegate. The deadline to return the forms and for all Convention reports is June 18, 2021. Reminders will be sent out. Check the Unity Website "2021 Convention" for up-to-date information. Contact for further information: Liz Ripple, Administrative Assistant, [lizripple@hotmail.com](mailto:lizripple@hotmail.com), or (979) 378-2239.

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

### From Joel & Teresa Jelski... Missionaries in Israel



**April 20, 2021**

#### The Valley of Tears

As you may know, last year Teresa and I started the process of doing fertility treatments. After almost 6-7 months round of treatment, we found out Teresa was pregnant in early February. It seemed like things were going well. Then 2 days before Passover, in late March, we found out the pregnancy had stopped, probably around 6-7 weeks. We were crushed. She was told she would need to have medical intervention since her body was not dealing with the failed pregnancy, but we decided to wait 2 weeks, praying for a miracle, but also giving her body a chance to deal with it on its own before seeking medical intervention. Early last week we finally went to the hospital, got confirmation that the pregnancy indeed ended, and got medication for her.

The 2 weeks in between, in the waiting, not knowing, hoping, grieving, and dealing with crushed hopes,

was one of the most difficult emotional experiences in recent memory personally, but also for both of us – Teresa was going through another miscarriage (her 4th failed pregnancy).

During those 2 weeks, the Lord really encouraged me from Psalm 84 and 23 – walking through the valley of tears and the valley of death, and from John chapter 11 – the story of Lazarus. Somehow, we find God (or Yeshua) as someone who is comfortable with our brokenness, pain, grief, and disappointment. He doesn't shy away from it, and is deeply emotionally involved in our suffering – as seen is Yeshua's own emotional state revealed to us in the story in chapter 11, when Mary weeps at His feet, pouring her grief and pain out to Him. We can go through seasons of valleys of tears and still hold on to the truth – that He is faithful, good, and His presence is our comfort through the grief. There is hope in the journey through the valley, and there is light at end of the tunnel.

*"Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined."* (Isaiah 9:2)

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* (John 1:5)

Thank you for walking with us through this journey and keeping us in your prayers.

#### Prayer Requests

• **Family** – pray for us as we continue the fertility treatments (we are



on a break for reasons stated above for 4-6 weeks). We are believing ultimately that life is in His hands, not ours. We will continue doing what we can, but ultimately trust in His will for our family. We are hoping to get some medical insight into why Teresa keeps having miscarriages right around 6-8 weeks, if there could be a medical reason for it.

- **Katzir** – Please pray for us as we pray and decide how to proceed with Katzir. At this point, in order to hold youth camps, we would need to do it through the green passport program – which means only vaccinated youth (or negative test for under 16) – which we are not excited about, so we need to pray about our direction. We don't like the idea of having youth camps under those kinds of restrictions.

- **Property** – We are currently in negotiation for a small hospitality-type property in the Golan Heights for Fields of Wheat. Please pray for wisdom for our team, as the next few weeks will be critical to whether we will be able to purchase said property. We would also need some financial miracles, but we trust the Lord if He wants us to purchase it. I can't publicly share details at this point, but as

soon as we proceed and can make things public, I will share all the details with you.

Joel and Teresa.

## From Pavel and Stania Kozak... Missionaries in the Czech Republic

May 15, 2021

### Praise God! We can CONTINUE...

What a grace we are privileged by our Heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus to continue in our ministry mission task and call!

Both you all in U.S. and us here in Czech Republic know how hard it was during the Covid lockdown, which was full of restrictions and limitations. In these days we are slowly coming back to normal, this week they did open most shops and services. Finally! But there are still limitations about gathering INSIDE, including churches, etc. Restaurants, fitness centrums, swimming pools, most schools, etc., are still closed.

During the lockdown we tried to be as much as possible with our kids and

Along came a big fish, maybe a trout.  
He swallowed him whole, there is no doubt.  
Then after three days, in that trout.  
It took a big burn and spit him out.

### PaperPlate Craft: A Big Fish

*Materials:* 2 paper plates per child, wiggly eyes, blue construction paper, stapler, cutout figure of Jonah



1. Color the outside of two plates blue. Color the inside red.
2. Cut out a fish tail and 2 fins from the construction paper.
3. Staple the back half of the two plates together. Add the fins and tail.
4. Place Jonah in the fish.

### GAME: What's that smell?

Inside the fish was a smelly place. Fill several containers with smelly items (perfume, chocolate, oranges, vanilla, peppermint, tuna fish, etc.) Have children guess the smells.

### SNACK: FISH BAIT

Mix together popcorn, goldfish crackers (multi-colored), blue M&Ms, gummy fish, and white chocolate chips. Give each child a baggie full of this treat!



### HOUSTON BRETHREN CHURCH

6207 North Main, Houston, TX 77009 – (713) 864-6707

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO WORSHIP WITH US  
Sunday School 9:15 a.m. – Church Service 10:30 a.m.

**Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Terrill**

*Donna Verwold*  
*President*  
325 Sunnyside St.  
Houston, TX 77076  
Cell: 713-553-5542

*Rita Tyson*  
*Secretary*  
22015 Golden Cedar Dr.  
Cypress, TX 77433  
Cell: 713-899-8272

# JONAH

## BIBLE LESSON

### *Jonah & the Whale*

Scripture: Book of Jonah

**READ** the scripture or use a storybook version. Here is a video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wxdgzCT4ttU>  
Use the following questions to discuss the story.

- What did God want Jonah to do? What did he do instead?
- Why didn't Jonah want to go to Nineveh?
- What did the sailors do when the storm started?
- Where was Jonah when the storm started?
- What happened when Jonah was thrown overboard?
- How many days was Jonah inside the fish?
- What did Jonah do when the fish spit him out?
- What did Jonah do next?
- What does God want us to do when we do something wrong?
- What does God do when we ask for forgiveness?

## SING: Jonah Goes out (I'm a Little Teapot)

(from [Daniellsplace.com](http://Daniellsplace.com))

One day God told Jonah, to go out.  
He began to pout and took another route.  
When he got on a ship, they threw him out.  
He hit the water and swam about.



with people online. We did record ministry videos about Biblical stories, and we did communicate with them like this – online. It was also fun for the kids, and many times they drew pictures about the story they learned.

For the school kids the lockdown was so bad most of them are “at home” about 18 months! NO school! Just something online – meetings with their teacher. Now we all know how devastating it was for most of them. Parents say that the kids learned nothing during the home school.

Right now we do our best to meet with them regularly in the park and do some good uplifting ministry for them.

We are so HAPPY that most of the kids did come back to us again, into our Mission club for the kids. And because we try to make the program pretty interesting for them, they are looking forward to being with us all the time. Stania is preparing funny competitions and other activities and the kids love it. I have always a Biblical word and a story for them to have knowledge about Lord Jesus and stronger faith.

Super is that kids are accompanied by their parents many times and we can be together with them. They also

can listen to the Biblical stories and it is good. Most of the parents do not believe and we do pray for their salvation. It is always so uplifting to hear a word of thankfulness from the parents that we do care for their kids! Praise the Lord!

Also our Street Gospel Sharing Ministry continues well. When we are outside and share with people our faith in Christ, we can see that, maybe “thanks” to the Covid pressure, people are more open to listen to the Word. Before the pandemic some people were many times arrogant and not too happy to listen, but we see some change. Each family probably lost some of their beloved or relatives and they have many questions now. For us it is great chance to minister to them!

## A WORD OF STANIA...

### **Our God is still in ACTION!**

During the lockdown we had been in tight contact with our kids and with their parents all the time. We did prepare interesting Christian videos with Biblical themes and did share with them.

Now when the things are about to



## 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

#### Board of Elders President

Yvonne Kovar  
P.O. Box 66  
Snook, TX 77878  
(979) 219-0375

#### Youth Directors

Randall & Jonna See  
P.O. Box 345  
Snook, TX 77878  
(979) 272-8179



go back to normal, we can meet in the public park where we do many various activities with the kids. We also talk a lot with them about many Biblical stories and parables and about Lord Jesus.

Kids also share with us many things which seems to be a big burden for them. All of them are from divorced marriages and their situation is many times very difficult. We try to do our best to encourage them and explain to them how to live a better life when adult.

So nice it is to see how much they are looking forward to meet with us, and also they bring their friends with them to the club! God is awesome!

There is a little girl, named Michaela, and she really loves to read and listen to the Bible. She is very sensitive and kind. Last time she said: "I have to pray more... nobody in our family is a believer! I have two Bibles at home. And the one I will give to my mom to read it..."

She is a BIG encouragement for us! The kids are for us a model of fearless attitudes, simple faith, purity, and honesty...

I am so thankful to Father God and YOU all that I still can serve the Lord Jesus as His missionary together with my husband! THANK YOU, a LOT!

As our Lord Jesus said, "...Suffer the little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for to such belongeth the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 19:14.

#### A WORD OF THANKFULNESS...

We are so thankful to our Lord Jesus that we are honored to serve Him, to serve the people in Czech Republic together with you all!

Yes, this year was really crazy, we all know. We bow down before His Throne of Grace in TRUST that also this year we will have the same privilege to do this ministry to unsaved people. We do not know about tomorrow, but our Lord is THE LORD of the lives He gave us.

We humbly PRAY in thankfulness for you, our dear Sisters and Brothers, dear Friends, and trust that you all are OK, well, healthy, and in His peace and protection. May our Lord Jesus Christ is glorified!

#### OUR PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for the club kids. Please pray with us for the parents of the kids. They really need open their hearts to the Lord Jesus.

Please pray with us for the Lord's Guidance, for our protection, safety, and health.

Let us please pray for the Czech Republic – very atheistic...

Let us pray for our countries and for the entire world, because the Lord Jesus is NEAR!

May our Lord Jesus Christ REPAY you back abundantly!

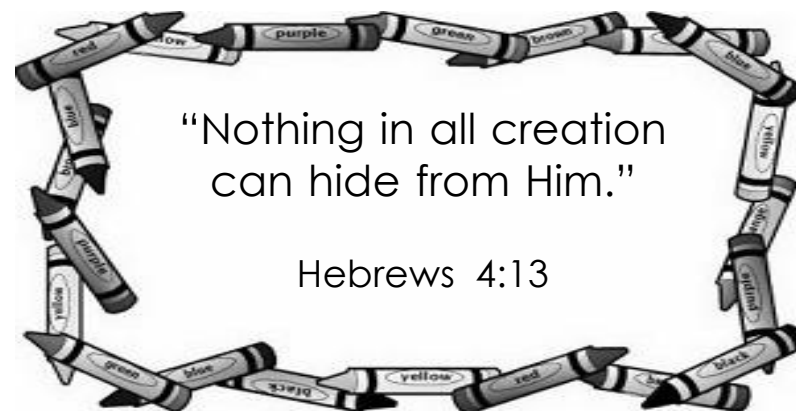
#### OUR BIG THANK YOU...

Belongs to each of you, who are interceding, praying, and kindly supporting Stania and me in our hard task, the Ministry we do in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for His Kingdom!

We love you all very much, we miss you, and we are looking forward for the time when we will be able to be together with you again! May our Lord Jesus Christ BLESS YOU ALL abundantly in His Holy Name!!!



# Sunday School Helper



**Bible Story**  
Jonah

**Bible Reference**  
Book of Jonah

The story of Jonah is a great lesson. We all rebel sometimes. But the story of Jonah teaches us that you can't run away or hide from God, disobedience creates chaos, God is always with us, and when we repent, God is faithful to forgive us.

