

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL



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No. 10

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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Snook Brethren Church BYF Live Nativity

(for more info see all the Unity Activities inside this issue.)

Merry Christmas!

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BYF Youth Activities

. . . and more!

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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

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Rev. Tommy Tallas Retires as Senior Pastor of the Wall Brethren Church

Rev. Tommy Tallas retired as the Senior Pastor of the Wall Brethren Church effective November 1, 2021. On Sunday, October 31st, he was honored during the Worship Service for his 51 years of ministry to the Unity of the Brethren. The Worship Service, led by Bro. Tommy, featured special music by church members, the Children's Choir, and the Sanctuary Choir. The WBC was blessed to receive a large number of friends and family who attended the Service.

As a special tribute, the flower arrangement in the church that day, pictured here with Bro. Tommy and Donna, contained 51 roses, representing his 51 years of ministry. Following the Service, everyone gathered in the Church Hall for lunch and a special time of Fellowship to honor Bro. Tommy and Donna. The WBC thanks Bro. Tommy for his love and care of this flock over the years. We wish him and Donna many Blessings as they begin this new chapter of their lives.



The Need to Reboot

- by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

Sometimes in life you just must pause and “reboot.” The “color spinning wheel” pops up on your computer screen indicating that something is amiss or error messages surface. A crisis may loom in the distance or may still be in the rearview mirror. A victory may come from a completely unknown prospect and bring with it overwhelming new responsibilities. Sometimes you need to “power down and restart.” As you live a life devoted to following Jesus Christ, you learn that the “reboot” is possible, virtually without ceasing! Like breathing in deeply and exhaling forcefully out to clear your pathways, the “reboot” is critical to your state of being. As you sit or kneel before God and ask Him to “restart your system,” that He created, you enter a contract with him. It is a contract initiated by God Himself that vows to oversee your well-being, to fulfill *not* your every desire, but your every literal need.

God vows:

I will never leave you.

I am always working for your good.
I am your shield in all situations.
I will carry you through the deep waters.

I will guide you through the fire unscathed.

I will bind up your broken heart.

I will free you from emotional and mental prisons.

I will give you victory and JOY!

With Me, you will soar and not grow weary.

With Me, you are safe.

With Me, you will have the strength to weather each storm.

I will be your peace.

God asks one thing:

Come to me and believe in Me.

“...a lawyer, asked Jesus a question to test him. ‘Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?’ He said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your

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.

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Fayetteville Brethren Church

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

Rev. Mike Groseclose

FayettevilleBrethrenChurch.org

*“Site of the First Czech
Protestant Preaching
in Texas - 1855”*



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Open seat

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neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:35-39)

At the core of God’s message to the world is a message of holy love. Jesus Christ gave Himself as a sacrifice for you and for me and all of humanity, that whoever believes *IN* Him, will have eternal life in Heaven.

Do you believe *IN* Jesus Christ as your Savior?

Jesus saves us from an eternity in darkness and suffering and He gives us a current life with an abundance of His Presence, filling us with His peace, His hope, His JOY, and most of all, His love. Jesus provides you with instantaneous “reboots” to navigate through life better, so that you can increasingly love Him with all that you have within you and love others as much as you love yourself.

When did you last need a “reboot”?

An hour ago?

A week ago?

Maybe right now?

I recall hanging closely to my family in Miami, Florida, on September 1, 1979, when Hurricane David, a category 5 storm, went up along the coast. The hardest hit was the Dominican Republic, on its way to us:

“At 1:30 a.m. the next day, the

hurricane turned on Santo Domingo and the Dominican Republic. Now a Category 5 storm, it pummeled the island with 175 mph winds (and gusts over 200 mph) and waves as high as 20 to 30 feet. Mudslides caused by the storm proved to be particularly deadly in the Dominican Republic, where they killed nearly 1,200 people. The worst incident was in Padre Las Casas, where more than 400 people tied themselves together as they attempted to climb to higher ground, but were washed away when a dike broke, releasing a flood of water in their direction.” (History Channel: This Day in History, August 25th.)

I was a child gripped with fear as I heard the howling outside my bedroom window. Hiding under my light pink bed comforter, I could hear my dad finishing up boarding some windows. I just knew that I needed to hunker down. I wondered if the storm would pass without hurting us. Howling persisted. The boarding up of windows seemed to take too long. Would we make it?

The “spiritual reboot” is hunkering down with God. It’s a type of “sheltering in place,” but with God. Since

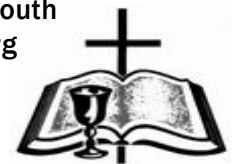


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God is present, you pour out all your thoughts and emotions to Him. If you are too distraught, you simply "crouch down" in your mind and say:

"Lord Jesus, I know that You are holding me. Wash my mind, my heart, my soul of all that is overwhelming me. 'Reboot me'."

When you open your eyes, you will sense that Jesus Christ has "re-started your system." Crisis has been averted or overcome. The storm is over. You can venture out and survey whatever damage with the peace of knowing that God is your advocate, the One Who Extends Holy Love to You. He will do damage control. You just stay close to Him.

God vows:

I will never leave you.
I am always working for your good.
I am your shield in all situations.
I will carry you through the deep waters.
I will guide you through the fire unscathed.

I will bind up your broken heart.
I will free you from emotional and mental prisons.

I will give you victory and JOY!
With Me, you will soar and not grow weary.
With Me, you are safe.
With Me, you will have the strength to weather each storm.
I will be your peace.

God asks one thing:

Come to me and believe in Me.

Will you make this vow to God?

"I will love you, my God, with all of my heart, with all of my soul, with all of my mind, and I will love those

around me as I love myself."

We need to "reboot" in order to experience the glorious life here that God intends for each one of us.

I can see that "little Vanessa" from 1979, hunkering down with her long pigtails. She's sitting up now, smiling, setting aside the Muppets Miss Piggy stuffed animal that she was clenching. She hung in and God replenished her JOY, her peace, and her hope that the storm would not harm her and her family. Her awareness of the Lord Jesus' perfect holy love for her has grown. Her daddy has finished boarding. The winds have stopped. Her momma is smiling. The calm has come after the storm. "Reboot complete."

In what area of your life is God whispering to you that a "reboot" is needed? A restoration of your faith in Him? Or perhaps faith *IN* Him for the first time?

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

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Worship at 11 AM.
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– 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

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– Rhonda Johnson - Pulpit Supply

Fayetteville – Worship at 10:00 AM. on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays.
– Rev. Mike Groseclose

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– Judy Gotcher - Pulpit Supply

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– Rev. Mike Groseclose

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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. David 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.
– Rev. Gerald Davis

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

VITAL STATISTICS

IN MEMORIAM: Betty Jean Mikeska Parthum



PARTHUM, BETTY JEAN MIKESKA, a lifelong member of the Unity of the Brethren and a founding member of the Westheimer Community Church, passed away on October 28, 2021. She died of complications of COVID at age 82.

Betty was born September 29, 1939, in Rosenberg, Texas, to Charlie and Ella Mikeska. She is survived by her loving husband, Leroy, and their daughter, Gina Parthum.

Betty's devotion to her church was deep and inspiring. She missed Sunday worship only if she and Leroy were off adventuring together. She cooked for the suppers, helped lead the singing in worship, sent cards, made caring phone calls, and served for many years as secretary for the Board of Elders. But more important even than all she did for her church was her welcoming, gracious presence. Her warmth and exuberant hospitality made everyone who walked in feel loved and accepted. She was a true and authentic Christian, known to anyone who met her for her kindness and generosity.

She was a devoted wife and best friend to Leroy, and they were inseparable. From volunteering at the Fort Bend County Fair, to playing Bingo, to meeting "the group" at Whataburger, they savored life, and each other, to the fullest.

In her tribute to her mother, Gina Parthum said, "Betty was a bright and shining star, and her light will be missed by many."

Praise God for the life and witness of God's precious daughter, Betty. May she be surrounded by peace and love and may God's eternal light shine on her forever.

If you wish to honor Betty, the family suggests you make a donation in her memory to the Wounded Warrior Project.

HOUSTON BRETHREN CHURCH

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

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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

The Scenic Route

- by Jim Pokorny

My previous historical submissions were leading me toward a particular destination, a discussion of Jan Hus. But events throughout the month of October made me realize that God was planning a detour for me along the journey. A detour that afforded a panoramic view of Hus, the Ancient Unity, and their practice of Holy Communion which helped shape Protestant history.

The exit off the main path began with two opportunities to speak to our men's group on the history of both the ancient and contemporary Unity of the Brethren. This began with a discussion of Jan Hus. Hus died both in defense of the truth and for his faith on July 6, 1415. Hus did not establish the Unity, which came into being in 1457. Hus was an inspiration to the early Brethren and, according to Joseph Edmund Hutton's *A History of the Moravian Church*, the Brethren officially began to "regard themselves as the disciples of Hus" in 1495.

During the month we also celebrated Holy Communion twice. The first time was on World Communion Sunday. This unites Christians around the globe and reminds each of us of His sacrifice. As a congregation, we later celebrated Holy Communion along with a confirmand. This was a first for our congregation and I would dearly love to see this practice continue.

I also exchanged correspondences with someone who had questions about Hus, his view on transubstantiation (the change by which the

bread and wine become Christ's presence) and his practice of Communion in both kinds (a practice which allowed lay people to partake of the cup which had been previously reserved exclusively for the clergy) and the Brethren view on John 6. This portion of the detour was certainly the most challenging, and I found myself returning to the writings of Craig D. Atwood. But, speaking metaphorically, the view was magnificent.

The Council of Constance thrust the chalice and Hus into the spotlight. Hus did not initially place emphasis on communion in both kinds, although that view would change toward the end of his earthly life. Communion in both kinds and more frequent communion were instituted by Jakoubek of Stribo, who permitted the laity to partake of the chalice on October 18, 1414. Jakoubek was Hus' successor as rector at Bethlehem Chapel and was the visible leader of the reform movement in his absence. He attributed his decision to a revelation based on the study of the Law of the Lord and from the writings of ancient saints including Augustine, Cyprian, Bernard, Chrysostom, and others. This was no epiphany directly from God, but rather one based on the study of scripture and the example set by the early church. Hus, imprisoned in Constance, agreed with Stribo but urged caution.

Regarding transubstantiation, Hus maintained an orthodox view. At the time, there were priests who claimed



that it was their power during consecration of the elements that “created the body of God.” Hus not only found this boastful; he also found it quite blasphemous. In time, the Unity correctly believed and taught other Protestants that Christ is “really, truly, virtually, spiritually, and sacramentally present in the Eucharist in His divine rather than His human form. The Eucharist is not merely a symbol; it is a spiritual reality that should be approached with reverence and love.”

The Ancient Unity’s text *Concerning Good and Evil Priests* paints us a picture of their approach to Holy Communion. The congregation would recite the Apostles’ Creed. The priest would offer a prayer followed by the Lord’s Prayer. Next, he would consecrate the elements, saying “Our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, gave thanks,

broke it, and said: Take, eat, this is My body which was betrayed for you. Even so, He took the cup after the evening meal and said: Drink of it, all of you, this is the cup of the New Testament in My blood that has been poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

The Brethren believed that in this way they were all sharing in the community of the body and blood of Christ. “They eat the visible form of bread and wine, and they believe that they receive the invisible meal, the living bread of heaven and so have communion with the body and blood of Christ.” The Brethren believed that they were united in Christ through faith, just as was promised in John 6:56. The unity of the entire invisible church was contained in this unity with Christ.



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20. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a Warrior Who gives victory; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will renew you in His love; He will exult over you with loud singing. Zeph. 3:17
21. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child (John) leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb (Jesus).” Lk. 1:41-42
22. And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.” Lk. 1:46-47
23. But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for Me One who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Mic. 5:2
24. For a Child has been born for us, a Son given to us; authority rests upon His shoulders; and He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isa. 9:6
25. To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is the Messiah, the Lord. Lk. 2:11
26. **Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom He favors!” Lk. 2:13-14**
27. The heavens proclaim His righteousness; and all the peoples behold His glory. Ps. 97:6
28. Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart. Ps. 97:11
29. How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” Isa. 52:7
30. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Jn. 1:1
31. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. Jn. 1:5

OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

17454 State Highway 53, Temple, TX 76501

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 806, Rogers, TX 76569

Web Address: www.ockerbrethrenchurch.org

Church Email: ockerbrethrenchurch@gmail.com

Phone: (254) 985-2240

Preaching the Word, Loving the People

Sunday School 9:00 AM

Worship 10:15 AM

Pastor

Dr. Brad Herridge

(254) 716-2578

brad.herridge@gmail.com

Youth Director

Jennifer Chervenka

(254) 913-1244

jennchervenka@gmail.com

Cemetery

Sharon Marek

(254) 482-0498

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for December 2021

By Mari-Anne K. Gordon and Dorothy E. Kocian

From the *Holy Bible Revised Standard Revision*.

Sundays in Bold

1. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. Lk. 21:33
2. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with... this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly like a trap." Lk. 21:34-35a
3. For (the day of the Lord) will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Lk. 21:35b
4. Be alert at all times, praying. Lk. 21:36a
5. **To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. Ps. 25:1**
6. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all day long. Ps. 25:5
7. See, I am sending My messenger to prepare the way before Me..., says the LORD of hosts. Mal. 3:1a
8. Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has looked favorably on His people and redeemed them. Lk. 1:68
9. He has raised up a mighty Savior for us in the house of His servant David. Lk. 1:69
10. He spoke through the mouth of His holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies. Lk. 1:70-71a
11. He has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors and has remembered His holy covenant... to our ancestor Abraham. Lk. 1:72-73a
12. **That we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all our days. Lk. 1:74-75.**
13. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us... Lk. 1:78
14. ...To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. Lk. 1:79
15. I am confident of this, that the One Who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. Phil. 1:6
16. This is my prayer: that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight. Phil. 1:9
17. John went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Lk. 3:3
18. As it is written in ...the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight...'" Lk. 3:4
19. **John answered them, "I baptize you with water; but One more powerful than I is coming. His sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." Lk. 3:16**

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 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

BYF 2021 Fall Retreat



Twenty-three youth had a weekend of fellowship and fun as they learned how to discern God's purpose from the world's views. The next retreat for youth 6th grade and up is in January. Hope to see you there!

(Editor's Note: See information about the next retreat later in this issue.)





Free Time:

There is free time, so you can bring your favorite book, crafting items, games, etc., if you would like. There is also fishing, biking, tennis, volleyball, and other activities that will be available.

Forms are available on the youth website. Deadline is January 9. If you have any questions, please contact me. I can be reached at jennchervenka@gmail.com; 254-913-1244. Be sure to leave a message if I do not answer.

We hope that you can join us!

2021-2022 Leadership Team YOUTH

YOUTH

Jessica Chervenka
Jacelyn Chervenka
Allyson Cocke
Riley Green
Johanna McKay
Karley Powell
Micah Stewart
Trent Wuensche

ADULTS

Dillon Barbisch
Jordan Barbisch
Teresa Cocke

PASTORAL ADVISOR

Rev. Michael Groseclose

YOUTH COORDINATOR

Jennifer Chervenka

Find us on Facebook: State BYF Retreats;
Visit: www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.org

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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You're Invited to the

HUS ENCAMPMENT
Caldwell, TX
Winter Youth Retreat
January 22-23, 2022

This is a fun time for youth age 6th grade and up to fellowship and enjoy music, games, crafts, and Bible study. It is also a great time to reconnect with your camp friends!

Here are the details:

Check in:

Check in is on Saturday from 8:30-9:00 a.m. It is, of course, ok to arrive at any time on Saturday. We understand that winter weekends are busy. If you will be arriving later in the day, please just make a note on your registration form.

Dismissal:

We will clean the camp after lunch on Sunday and dismiss shortly afterwards. Everyone needs to be picked up between 1:30-2:00 p.m. on Sunday.

What to bring:

YOUR BIBLE, twin bedding or a sleeping bag, pillow, change of clothes, pjs, toiletries, and a bath towel. You may bring your cell phone and charger, but they will only be allowed at designated times.

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



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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
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.

President
Board of Elders
Josh Holik
325-234-8667

Pastor/Director of Youth
and Young Family Ministries
Rev. Ryan Volkman
325-213-0671

Church Office
Secretary
Libby Lane
Tu-F: 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Unity of the Brethren Synodical Committee Officers 2021-2023



*Left to right: Rev. Jimmy Hejl (installed the officers);
President – Rev. Dr. Larry Koslovsky; 3rd VP – Rev. Vanessa
Mitchell; Secretary – Angie Hairrell; Treasurer – Lynette
Urbanovsky; Financial Secretary – Kayla Marek.
Not pictured: 1st VP – Rev. Joe Emerson; 2nd VP – Lance
LaBedelle*

2022 Summer Camp Dates

ENCOUNTER

Ages 7-9 years old
Camp Cost: TBA
Camp Date: **June 21-23**

ALPHA

Ages 10-11 years old
Camp Cost: TBA
Camp Date: **June 26-30**

PIONEER

Ages 12-13 years old
Camp Cost: TBA
Camp Date: **July 17-22**

DISCOVERY

Ages 14-15 years old
Camp Cost: TBA
Camp Date: **July 12-17**

CHALLENGER

Ages 16-19 years old
Camp Cost: TBA
Camp Date: **July 10-15**

HUS SCHOOL

In-depth Leadership Program
Ages 16-Adult
Cost: TBA
Date: **Not Held in 2022**

**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.



CALDWELL BRETHREN CHURCH

401 South Main Street
(979) 567-7203

Sunday School
9:30 AM

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

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

Church email: lifecatbc@protonmail.com

Sunday Worship
10:30 AM

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

www.lifecatbc.org

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TAYLOR BRETHREN CHURCH

Seventh Street at Sloan in Taylor, Texas – 512-352-6423
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 351, Taylor, TX 76574
Church email: taylorbrethren@sbcglobal.net

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

<i>Pastor</i>	<i>Board President</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
James D. Hejl	Daniel Knippa	Mary Kokes
512-365-6890	512-844-0208	M-Th 8 a.m.-noon

Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

December 19, 2021 – Christmas Communion – Snook Brethren Church at the 10:15 a.m. service.

Snook Brethren Church Sunday School Christmas Program - 6 p.m. with a meal following.

December 19, 20, 21 – Snook Brethren BYF Youth present live **Nativity Scene** and follow with caroling.

December 19 - Children's Christmas Program at Ocker Brethren Church at 10:15 a.m. followed by a finger food luncheon and gift exchange.

December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service and Holy Communion at Ocker Brethren Church at 5:30 p.m.

December 25, 2021 – Christmas Day

SAVE THE DATES . . .

January 22-23, 2022 – Winter Youth Retreat at the Hus Encampment for youth ages 6th grade and up. Check in on Saturday from 8:30 a.m.-9 a.m. Registration forms are available on the youth website. Deadline is January 9. Contact Jennifer Chervenka at jennchervenka@gmail.com; 254-913-1244. (For more information, see article inside this issue.)

February 26, 2022 – State Children's Rally for 5th grade and below. More information to come soon!

March 19, 2022 – Spring Synodical Committee Meeting at the Hus Encampment – 9 a.m.; refreshments served at 8 a.m. with a light lunch served at noon. If you have any questions, contact Dr. Larry Koslovsky, 713-594-4518.

July 9-10, 2022 – BYF Retreat and Volleyball Tournament at the Hus Encampment. Be looking for more information coming in Spring 2022.

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Snook Brethren Church Happenings

The Snook Brethren Church held its annual **BBQ** on October 16. Brisket and chicken with all the trimmings were available for either "Dine In" or "Carry Out". We were happy to return to fellowship with friends and neighbors from throughout the area.

Snook Brethren Christian Sisters hosted their annual "**Turkey and Dressing**" supper on November 6. We had an excellent turnout and appreciated all who came out to support the Christian Sisters.

A Harvest Festival/Trunk or Treat was hosted by the Snook Brethren Sunday School on October 31. An ambulance, cars, and trucks were decorated with Bible Story themes; Ten Commandments, Beatitudes, Noah's Ark and many more had games for the children with candy and biblical materials. Games were followed by a meal. Many from the community and surrounding area came out for the fun and fellowship.



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.*

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child project sponsored by the Snook Christian Sisters partnering with the local SPJST Lodge 9 Youth Club prepared and mailed gift boxes.

Christmas 2021 activities:

Poinsettias will be placed throughout the church "In Memory" and "In Honor" of loved ones.

Feast For Caring – Food/groceries will be provided to families in need during the Christmas Season.

December 19, 2021 – Christmas Communion at the 10:15 a.m. service; **Sunday School Christmas Program** – 6 p.m. with a meal following.

December 19, 20, 21 – BYF Youth present live Nativity Scene, and follow with caroling.



Plug in the strand of lights. Discuss how the lights are not working. Point out the one missing bulb.

Read Matthew 5:15. Explain that this verse tells us that when Jesus lives in our heart, we have a light inside. We have to let this Jesus-light shine, not be hidden. Explain that when we hide our light, we break the chain, just like this string of Christmas lights. Ask what is brighter, one light or an entire strand?

Plug in the missing light. When we allow Jesus to shine through us, we make the world a brighter place! Have children list ways they can "shine".

GLOW

Scripture: John 8:12

Materials: Glow stick necklace, glass of tonic water covered with a towel

Show children your glowstick necklace. Read John 8:12. Tell children that no matter how dark it is, Jesus' light glows, even if you can't see it! As believers, we also have this Jesus-light. Turn off the lights. Tell students that you couldn't really see the necklace glowing with the lights on, but now it is much brighter. Uncover the tonic water. Show that it is glowing too! Ask: what would happen if I drank the water? Say: now God's light is inside me. Not really. You don't have to drink God's light! Jesus promised that his followers would be light in a dark world. When God looks at you, do you glow? Give each child a glow stick necklace.



Are you a candle or a sparkler?

Scripture: Matthew 5:14

NOTE: This activity is best done outside at night!

Show children a sparkler (unlit) and a candle. Read Matthew 5:14.

Light the candle. Ask children if they can see the light. Talk about how Jesus said that we are the light of the world. Discuss what that means. As the candle burns, mention how steady it shines and how it lights up the surrounding area.

Now light the sparkler. Talk about how pretty the light from the sparkler is. Play with it (draw shapes, etc.) When it burns out, ask what do we do now? Try to light it again. Explain why it won't work (we have burned up all the fuel). Point out that the candle is still burning.

Jesus wants us to be like the candle, a steady light for those around us.

Missing a Light

Scripture: Matthew 5:15

Preparation: You will need a strand of Christmas lights with 1 bulb removed. (It needs to be a strand that stops working when a bulb is missing.)

Show the strand of lights to the group. Ask what you have. Talk about what Christmas lights look like. What do we do with them? Where can we see Christmas lights? Who likes to look at them?



The Community Christian Church Honors Veterans

The Community Christian Church congregation honored military veterans on November 7 during the service. Members were invited to tell about their military service or family military service, and then lit a candle for each. Member Terry Chupik told of his experience in Viet Nam.

This was the second year of this special service for Veterans.

Also, the Christian Sisters made a bulletin board of past and current members and their military service.



CROSS CHURCH ON BIRDCREEK

2202 Birdcreek Drive

Temple, Texas 76502

email: ccb@crosschurchonbirdcreek.org

<https://www.crosschurchonbirdcreek.org>

(254) 778-8759

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Worship: 10:45 a.m.

Rev. Tim Chaplin

(254) 718-6094

tpch4359@gmail.com

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Sunday School Helper



You are the light
of the world. A
town built on a
hill cannot be
hidden

Matthew 5:14



We are called to be a light in a dark world. This month's activities focus on LIGHT. Whether we are talking Christmas lights, fireworks on New Year's, or a candle when the lights go out, light is a wonderful analogy for Christians.