

# THE BRETHREN JOURNAL



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*(Summer 2023 Camp Dates are now available inside this issue)*

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

*Sing With All Your Heart ...* by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

*Hus: The Beginning of the End ...* by Jim Pokorny

Seaton Brethren Sausage Supper Invitation

2023 Summer Camp Dates

**...AND MORE!!**

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### EDITOR -

Cathleen Schlechte, 261 Fieldstone Place,  
College Station, TX 77845; 979-255-8266  
[editor.brethrenjournal@gmail.com](mailto:editor.brethrenjournal@gmail.com)

### BUSINESS MANAGER -

Ben Polasek, 1103 Harrisonburg Lane,  
College Station, TX 77845; 979-220-9270  
[manager.brethrenjournal@gmail.com](mailto:manager.brethrenjournal@gmail.com)

### BUSINESS COMMITTEE -

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(Synodical 2nd VP)

Treasurer: Dorothy Milberger, 312 N. Lantana  
Cr., Sealy, TX 77474; [mildw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mildw@sbcglobal.net);  
979-885-7129 (h), 979-492-5091 (c)

Secretary: Stacy Hooker

### CONTRIBUTING WRITERS -

Daily Morsels: Dorothy Kocian

107 S. Barbara, Waco, TX 76705-1317

Sunday School Helper: Angie Hairrell,  
11482 FM 2155, Somerville, TX 77879;  
[Hairrell@gmail.com](mailto:Hairrell@gmail.com)

Jim Pokorny, [jwppsa@yahoo.com](mailto:jwppsa@yahoo.com);  
blog: [otherbrotherjim.blogspot.com](http://otherbrotherjim.blogspot.com)

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## Index:

<b>Sing with All Your Heart</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Hus: The Beginning of the End</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Foreign Missions</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Seaton Brethren Fundraiser</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Sunday School Helper</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Schedule of Activities</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Daily Morsels</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Vital Statistics</b>	<b>22</b>

## CHRISTIAN SISTERS' UNION 2022-2024 OFFICERS

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

**Vice President:** Anna Wotipka,  
652 County Rd. 324, Caldwell, TX 77836.  
(979) 218-9043;

[awotipka58@gmail.com](mailto:awotipka58@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Ann Sebesta, P.O. Box 115,  
Snook, TX 77878. (210) 244-3362;  
[sebesta2015@outlook.com](mailto:sebesta2015@outlook.com)

**Financial Secretary:** Dorothy Milberger,  
312 N. Lantana Cr., Sealy, TX 77474.  
(979) 472-5091; [mildw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mildw@sbcglobal.net)

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Granger, TX 76530. (512) 567-1436;  
[usmcmom@ymail.com](mailto:usmcmom@ymail.com)

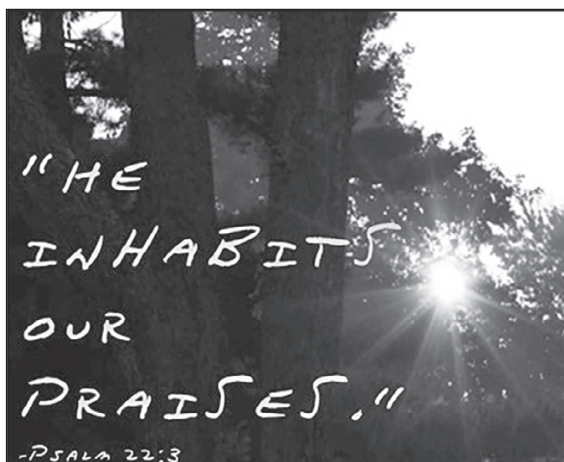
### Synodical Committee Liaison:

Rev. Vanessa Mitchell, 3rd Vice President  
2070 Carter Lake Drive, College Station, TX  
77845. (979) 574-0268;  
[lakolededieu@protonmail.com](mailto:lakolededieu@protonmail.com)

# Sing with All Your Heart!

By Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

I am not what one might classify as a “good singer.” In fact, I am one of those who relies on the roaring of the water in the shower to drown out any lack of singing in tune or in the right key. Truth be told, the only key that I am familiar with is the one that opens my Mustang and the one that opens the front door to my house. Nonetheless, I have learned over the years that God not only loves to hear me praise Him with beautiful songs, hymns, and Christmas carols (good any time of year), but HE Himself sings with JOY over us!! God sings with all His heart over you each day! It may strike you as odd at first- the image of God singing with JOY over you- but it is actually something that God does with gusto, loudly, like



a proud dad! *You end up with a powerful 2-person choir, where daily, it's God and you, singing to each other!* Take a glance at the Jewish prophet Zephaniah's illustration of the singing relationship that God intends for every human being to have with Him:

The Book of Zephaniah, in the Holy Bible, chapter 3, verses 14-20. OUR REASON FOR SINGING WITH ALL OUR HEART



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## **TO GOD!:**

14 Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and **leap upward** with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! 15 The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. 16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. 17 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 **leap upward** over you with loud singing 18 as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. 19 I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. 20 At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I

restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

Zephaniah was speaking to the people of Judah of his day, who had strayed from following God and were now receiving God's promise of forgiveness and restoration. How far had they distanced themselves from God? The Book of Zephaniah, chapter 3, verses 1-3 reveals their state:

“Ah, soiled, defiled, oppressing city! It has listened to no voice; it has accepted no correction. It has not trusted in the Lord; it has not drawn near to its God. The officials within it are roaring lions; its judges are evening wolves that leave nothing until the morning.”

**LOOK AGAIN at Zephaniah, chapter 3, verses 14-20, AND THIS TIME, SEE GOD'S FORGIVENESS & RESTORATION. SEE HOW GOD BRINGS IT TO YOU & TO ME (in parentheses), OUR REASON FOR SINGING WITH ALL OUR HEART TO GOD!:**

14 Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; →

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shout, O Israel! Rejoice and **leap upward** with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

**(God wants you to sing shouting and leaping with all your heart, because you are His daughter/son!)**

15 The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

**(God has removed all judgment from you through the forgiveness you have found in Jesus Christ! God is with you, Jesus living within your heart! Fear is no longer your master!)**

16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

17 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 leap upward over you with loud singing 18 as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

**(God is working all things together for good for you who love Him, who are called according to his purpose. He is giving you victory in the precise situation where you now feel weak. He is renewing you by His love, leaping over you with singing and freeing you!)**

19 I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. **(God will bring His justice in your life and in this world.)**

20 At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

**(God will bring you home and restore you in ways you never imagined possible.)**

You may not be what one might classify as a “good singer.” In fact, you may be one of those who relies on the roaring of the water in

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## **BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION BRETHREN CHURCH**

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the shower to drown out any lack of singing in tune or in the right key. Truth be told, the only key that you may be familiar with is the one that opens your car door and the one that opens the front door to your home. Nonetheless, God not only loves to hear you praise Him with beautiful songs, hymns, and Christmas carols (good any time of year), HE Himself sings with JOY over you- YES, YOU!! God sings with all His heart over you each day! It may strike you as odd at first- the image of God singing with JOY over you- but it is actually something that God does with gusto, loudly, like a proud dad! *You are a member of His powerful 2-person choir, because you believe that Jesus Christ is your Savior from sin.*

*It's God and you, singing to each other, in this life! Don't be shy! Sing a little "Joy to the World," or "Precious Lord Take My Hand," "In the Garden," or all your Christian favorites from the radio or your playlists!*

**When You sing with ALL YOUR HEART, GOD IS WITH YOU, SINGING OVER YOU WITH LEAPS AND BOUNDS AND JOY, RESTORING YOU, TAKING PERFECT CARE OF YOU, PERIOD.**

"But thou art holy, O thou (LORD GOD) that inhabits the praises of Israel (your people)." (Psalm 22:3)

*God is with you whether you accept His invitation to the 2-person choir that He has reserved for you and Himself or not, but if you say "YES" and SING WITH HIM, you will be able to proclaim with JOY oozing out of your toes: "...my cup runneth over!" (Psalm 23:5)*

*In Jesus' Choir Right with You,  
Sister Vanessa Mitchell*

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# Hus: The Beginning of the End

By Jim Pokorny

Although it might be difficult for us to comprehend, Hus had been deemed a 'heretic' by the authorities within the Latin Church. Merriam-Webster defines 'heretic' as "a person who differs in opinion from established religious dogma." So, in the truest sense of the word, Hus was indeed a heretic. But true 'reform,' which the same source defines as "to amend or improve by change of form or removal of faults or abuses," requires someone to speak out and act. It requires a heretic. In the case of the Czech Reformation, that heretic was Hus.

While the Church firmly clung onto its authority and demanded its members to completely submit to it in matters of both doctrine and faith, Hus held that the believer has the rights of private reflection and criticism. The Church also held that any reformation must take place through its organizational structure, whereas Hus looked to the example set by the original Christian church

according to the New Testament.

External conflicts only complicated the struggle between Hus and the Church. Among these was the hatred stirred by the clergy against Hus as he exposed their vices. Compounding this was the number of personal enemies Hus made in exposing the vices for what they were. Even the various schools of philosophy became antagonistic. Adding to this was the growing sense of resentment between Germans and Bohemians. This resentment only grew as many blamed Hus for the mass exodus of German students from Prague University.

After the hearing of Hus officially concluded, his sentencing was delayed for a month. Hus was returned to the Franciscan Monastery for continued incarceration. Hus entertained no illusions. He understood that his death was approaching. He faced that certainty with the strength shown by earlier martyrs as he calmly wrote letters of fare-  
→

## **To communicate with the HUS Encampment...**

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

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

well to his friends. These and other final letters give us insight into both his character and internal strength. Two weeks prior to his execution, Hus wrote to his friends: "Oh holy Christ! Draw us after Thee. We are weak, and if Thou dost not draw us, we cannot follow Thee. Give us a strong and willing spirit, and when the weakness of the flesh appears, let Thy grace go on before us, accompany and follow us. For without Thee we can do nothing, least of all suffer a cruel death for Thy sake. Grant a willing spirit, a fearless heart, true faith, steadfast hope, perfect love, that for Thy sake we may, with patience and joy, surrender our life. Amen."

This period of waiting was granted to Hus as both King and Council hoped that he would recant, thus granting them victory. Many attempted to persuade Hus to recant during this period. In a final attempt, the King sent a final emissary in his name to Hus on July 5, 1415. Through it all, Hus refused to recant.

The following day, July 6, 1415, the punishment of Hus would be carried out. The Council met with all the ceremony it could muster. Hus was brought under guard and forced to wait while the Council finished mass without his presence. Upon being brought in, Hus was given the vestments of a priest and

immediately knelt in silent prayer. Even though the eyes of the nobility and those of the vast array of the clergy were upon him, he never flinched. As the first article was read, Hus was silenced. The readings, liberally sprinkled with false accusations continued, and Hus once more tried to speak.

The formal sentence was pronounced. The writings of Hus were to be publicly burned, he was to be degraded from the priesthood, and he was to be punished as a heretic. Hus pleaded, "Lord Jesus, forgive mine enemies! Thou knowest they have borne false witness against me. Forgive them for Thy great mercy's sake!" His ceremony of degradation was conducted by six Bishops who concluded with: "Now we see how hardened he is in his wickedness and obstinate in his heresy! We take from thee, thou cursed Judas, who has forsaken the council of peace... this cup of salvation!"

Hus replied, "But I confide in the Lord God Almighty, for whose name I patiently bear this blasphemy, and who will not take from me the cup of salvation, but will permit me, I am firmly persuaded, to drink it, this day, in His Kingdom."

But this was only the beginning of the ordeal that the Council had in store for Hus.

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

*From Robert and Anne Thiessen*

**NOVEMBER 28, 2022**

Dear friends,

We've already had our first big(ish) snowstorm, a week ago. All melted now, with temperatures a few degrees above freezing. Anne's a bit worried that her 35-minute trip twice a day might get complicated with winter weather, so pray for her. It is an AWD car with good tires, so that's what we can do about it. The rest is in God's hands.

This is Anne's first full-time job (leaves the house at 7:15, gets back at 5) in forever. She is an educational assistant, helping mostly in grades 5-8. She finds it much more difficult to discipline and maintain order, whether because the culture here is different, or she's not the "real" teacher, who knows.

I'm busy learning more about the indigenous (First Nations, the term in Canada) people and ministry possibilities. The situation is very complex with layers of experiences, conflicting histories, and hidden agendas. Anne and I are attending a book review for this whole month that explores, from the author's indigenous perspective, the foundational ideas that sustain the European colonization of Turtle Island (the term I keep hearing for North America). Look it up if you want an



idea of what this is about: The Land Is Not Empty – Following Jesus In Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery, Sarah Augustine.

Last weekend we attended an event that gave space to indigenous leaders to express their views about colonization and the possibilities for collaboration and partnering going forward. The ideas seem to

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

*From Robert and Anne Thiessen*

center on building relationships and *Becoming Kin* (the title of another book I'm reading, by Patty Krawec).

That event started with a tactile exercise where we all (50ish people) stood on blankets of various sizes and colours spread out close to each other. As some leaders talked us through the history of Turtle Island from before the 1500s up to the present, others wandered throughout our area, pushing our blankets against our feet (reducing our lands), assigning death cards to others (representing sickness), and pulling some completely away and putting them outside the communities (for the residential schools). Finally, there were only about a tenth of us still on our blankets but rav-

aged by many ills and troubles. As the hour-long reading of injustice, marginalization and outright evil unfolded some people were weeping, others shame-faced, some unmoved.

In break-out groups afterwards, the commonest observation was "we never knew" and "no one told us this." I struggle with that since the information is readily available and constantly in the news. What is keeping us of European descent from seeing what is right in front of our eyes? That is my work for the next while, to understand better how people who love God and care about justice can be woken to the reality that is normal for many of the descendants of the first dwell-

→



## CALDWELL BRETHREN CHURCH

401 South Main Street  
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10:30 AM



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

*From Robert and Anne Thiessen*



ers of this beautiful land. Then, what comes next? That will be even harder, since good intentions and money (the go-to patterns of the past) haven't the best track record for fixing historical faults.

Thank you for your prayers for Anne and myself and the many layers of ministry and life (what's the difference?). We are thankful for your support and trust in us. Happy Thanksgiving to all our American friends, and an early Merry Christmas to everyone!

The one photo accompanying this letter is obvious. The other one is a 10" diameter tree cut down by muskrats, a rat-like version of beavers, on a pond where I walk almost every day.

*Robert*

## **SNOOK BRETHERN CHURCH**

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## Seaton Brethren Church

### Annual Sausage Supper Fundraiser Invitation

The Seaton Brethren Church annual sausage supper fundraiser will be held Saturday, February 18, 2023, beginning at 3:00 p.m. until the sausage is gone. The menu consists of homemade pork sausage, sauerkraut, new potatoes, seasoned green beans, bread, homemade desserts and tea or coffee. Dine in or drive thru plates

will be available. The location of the supper is at **Seaton Star Hall**, 10842 State Hwy 53, Temple (Seaton). There will be a bake sale consisting of kolaches, pies, cakes, strudels, other baked goods and jellies, a silent auction, and a basket raffle. Proceeds benefit the ministry of the church, community, and other projects. The public is invited.

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# Sunday School Helper

“and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

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 Advocate The Way, the Truth & the Life

Names. We all have names. Some of us also have nicknames. We find many names for Jesus in the Bible. This month we will learn some of the names for Jesus.

This year, each month will include a cut and tell Bible story! All you will need is a large sheet of paper and a pair of scissors!

## The Names of Jesus

**Materials:** scissors, 18in square of paper

**Preparation:** Prefold paper figures 1 to 5. Unfold to fig. 6 and refold to 7.

**Procedure:** 1. During the lesson, fold on exact lines to figure 7 and cut on line FG making figure 8. 2. Cut out the shape of a heart (figure 9). This is best done by bisecting figure 8 vertically down the center. When unfolded it will be flower shaped (figure 10). 3. Refold figure 10 on exact lines and cut on line HJ of figure 11 to make a star. 4. Fold star on line KL making a crown (figure 13). 5. Fold corners KL to center, making figure 14. Then fold figure 14 down center on line MN and cut on line OP to make a cross.

**Lesson:** Jesus had some nicknames I am going to show them to you with this piece of paper!

1. THE GOOD SHEPHERD Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep." (John 10: 11) This square shape of paper reminds me of the sheepfolds of Palestine.

2. THE DOOR OF THE SHEEP FOLD THE *(Fold figure 1 down the center and swing it like a door.)* This is the kind of door you will find in your home, but it is not the kind found on a Palestinian sheepfold. Jesus said, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out and find pasture." (John 10:9) You see, after the shepherd had all the sheep in the fold, he stretched himself across and became the door.

3. THE LAMB OF GOD John the Baptist introduced Jesus by saying, "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world." (John 1:29). A lamb was often used as a sacrifice. Jesus became a sacrifice, so he was called by John "the lamb of God" because he became the sacrifice for our sins, *(Cut out the heart)* Jesus loved



us with all his heart.

4. THE ROSE OF SHARON Solomon called Jesus “The Rose of Sharon” and “The Lily of the Valley.” (Song of Solomon 2:1) What wonderful nicknames Jesus had! (*Unfold to flower shape.*)

5. THE BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR (*Cut and show star.*) In the last book of the Bible, Revelation, Jesus is called “The Bright and Morning Star.” (Revelation 22: 16).

6. THE KING OF KINGS (*Fold on line KL of star and show the crown (figure 13).*) Once they placed a crown of thorns on the head of Jesus because he said he was the King of the Jews.

7. THE SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD (*Complete the folds of the crown and cut out a cross.*) Of all the nicknames, this is the sweetest of all. The angels said on that first Christmas night, “For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:11). A savior is one who saves, and Jesus said, “The Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.” (Luke 19:10). God said “The wages of sin is death,” (Rom. 6:23). Jesus paid those wages on the cross, so that Paul could say “The gift of

God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

(*Show the cross.*)

YOU SHOULD

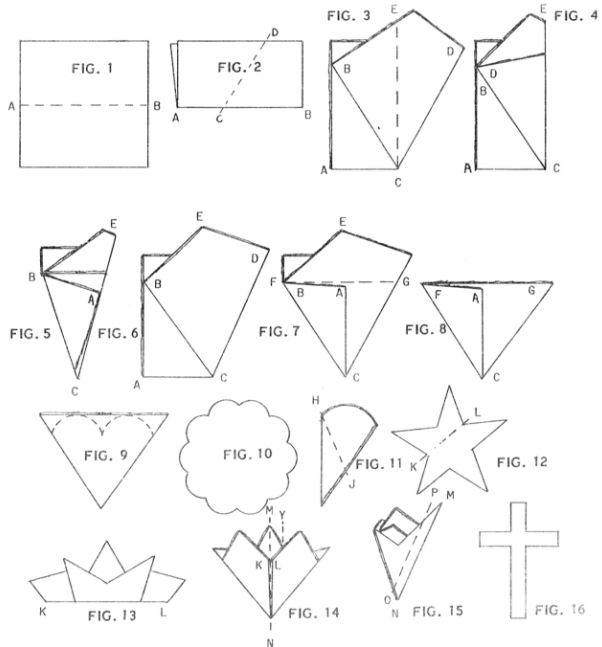
HAVE A NICKNAME

The name “Chris-  
tian” is a nickname  
for all those who  
follow

Christ. The Bible  
says, “The disciples  
were called Chris-  
tians

first in Antioch.”

(Acts 11:16).



## Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

### January 7-8, 2023 – Youth Retreat at the Hus Encampment.

Deadline to register is December 11. Registration information available at [www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.org](http://www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.org) or by contacting Jennifer Chervenka: [jennchervenka@gmail.com](mailto:jennchervenka@gmail.com); 254-913-1244.

### February 18, 2023 – Seaton Brethren Church's Annual Sausage

Supper Fundraiser at Seaton Star Hall, 10842 State Hwy 53,

Temple (Seaton). Starts at 3 p.m. For more information see article in this issue.

## Save the Dates ...

### March 25-26, 2023 – Youth Retreat at the Hus Encampment.

Deadline to register is March 5.

### March 4, 2023 – State Children's Rally at the Hus Encampment.

Registration Deadline is February 12.

### April 1, 2023 – Adult Volleyball Day at the Hus Encampment.

A day of fellowship and volleyball for ANYONE over 21. More details soon!

**April 22, 2023** – Spring Synodical Committee meeting at the Hus Encampment, 8:00 a.m. kolaches and coffee, meeting begins at 9:00 a.m.

**July 20-22, 2023** (Thursday – Saturday) – 70th Biennial Unity of the Brethren Convention at Camp Allen, Navasota. More information will be announced soon.

## 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](mailto: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



## 2023 Summer Camp Dates

### ENCOUNTER

ages 7-9 years old

Camp cost: \$250

Camp Date: **July 9 - 12**

### ALPHA

ages 10-11 years old

Camp cost: \$350

Camp Date: **July 16 - 20**

### PIONEER

ages 12-13 years old

Camp cost: \$350

Camp Date: **June 25 - 30**

### DISCOVERY

ages 14-15 years old

Camp cost: \$350

Camp Date: **June 18 - 23**

### CHALLENGER

ages 16-19 years old.

Camp cost: \$350

Date: **Not Held in 2023**

### HUS SCHOOL

In depth Leadership

Program ages 16-Adult

Cost: \$550

Date: **June 4 - 16**

**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.*

### 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

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Worship: 10:45 a.m.

Rev. Tim Chaplin

(254) 718-6094

[tpch4359@gmail.com](mailto:tpch4359@gmail.com)

# Daily Morsels for January 2023

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

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

**1. O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! Ps. 8:1a**

2. For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. Eccl. 3:1

3. {There is} a time to mourn, and a time to dance. Eccl. 3:4b

4. {There is} a time to keep, and a time to throw away. Eccl. 3:6b

5. {There is} a time to keep silence, and a time to speak. Eccl. 3:7b

6. On entering the house, {the wise men} saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Mt. 2:11

7. Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. Isa. 60:1

**8. When Jesus had been baptized... a voice from heaven said, "This is My Son, the Beloved, with Whom I am well pleased." Mt. 3:16a, 17**

9. Here is My Servant, Whom I uphold, My Chosen, in Whom my soul delights; I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations. Isa. 42:1

10. A bruised reed He will not break, and a dimly burning wick He will not quench; He will faithfully bring forth justice. Isa. 42:3

11. Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and what comes from it, Who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it. Isa. 42:5

12. I am the LORD, I have called You in righteousness, I have taken You by the hand and kept You; I have given you as a Covenant to the people, a Light to the nations. Isa. 42:6

13. I am the LORD, that is My name; My glory I give to no other, nor My praise to idols. Isa. 42:8

14. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare. Isa. 42:9

**15. Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel..., "Kings shall see and stand up, princes shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, Who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, Who has chosen you." Isa. 49:7**

16. John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the

→

## FOREIGN MISSIONS BOARD

### Chairman:

David Miller (2015), Wall; cell (325) 245-5616,  
[dm103157@wcc.net](mailto:dm103157@wcc.net)

### Unity Representatives:

John Brinkley (2021), Ocker  
Paula Wagner (2015), Taylor; (512) 996-8846,  
[paulak1121@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paulak1121@sbcglobal.net)

Open Seat

Erin Brinkley (2015), Ocker;  
[erinbrinkley@yahoo.com](mailto:erinbrinkley@yahoo.com)

Alan Haisler (2019), BCS

Daniel Vojtek (2019), BCS

### Synodical Committee Liason (1st VP):

Rev. Joe Emerson

### Advisors:

Rev. Lawrence & Barbara JuneK (Unity at large)

Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world!” Jn. 1:29

17. All the prophets testify about Him that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name. Acts 10:43

18. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. 1:3

19. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus. 1 Cor. 1:4

20. In every way you have been enriched in Him, in speech and knowledge of every kind...

He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. 1:5, 8

21. God is faithful; by Him you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 1 Cor. 1:9

**22. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great Light; on those who lived in a land of deep darkness Light has shined. Isa. 9:2**

23. The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? Ps. 27:1a

24. The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Ps. 27:1b

25. One thing I asked of the Lord, that I will seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple. Ps. 27:4

26. For He will hide me in His shelter in the day of trouble...; He will set me high on a rock. Ps. 27:5

27. “Come,” my heart says, “seek His face!” Your face, Lord, do I seek. Ps. 27:8

28. Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. 1 Cor. 1:10

**29. He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Mic. 6:8**

30. O LORD, ...Who may dwell on your holy hill? Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart. Ps. 15:1, 2

31. Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” Mt. 4:17

**MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS BOARD  
(2021-2023)**

**Rev. Whitney Amos  
(Pastor to the Pastors)**

**Rev. Charles Amos  
(Pastor to the Pastors)**

**Rev. Tim Chaplin**

**Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill**

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE

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

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SOCIETY**

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Natalie Outlaw, Gen. & Jr. Dept.

Secretary, 979-589-2012

Ruth Ann Wuensche, Treasurer

James Marek, Board Member

Ann Sebesta, Board Member

Synodical Liaison: Lance LaBedelle,

2nd Vice-President

# Daily Morsels for February 2023

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

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

1. The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Cor. 1:18

2. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. 1 Cor. 1:25

3. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong. 1 Cor. 1:27

4. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, Who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption. 1 Cor. 1:30

**5. Happy are those whose strength is in You. Ps. 84:5**

6. Is not this the fast that I (the LORD) choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, ...to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Isa. 58:6

7. Share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, cover them, and do not hide yourself from your own kin. Isa. 58:7

8. Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly. Isa. 58:8a

9. Your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Isa. 58:8b

10. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and He will say, Here I am. Isa. 58:9a

11. If you offer your food to the hun-

gry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. Isa. 58:10

**12. The LORD will guide you continually, satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Isa. 58:11**

13. I (the LORD) have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. Deut. 30:15

14. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying Him, and holding fast to Him; for that means life to you. 30:19b-20a.

15. Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD. Ps. 119:1

16. Happy are those who keep His decrees, who seek Him with their whole heart. Ps. 119:2

17. Neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 1 Cor. 3:7

18. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose...For we are God's servants, working together. 1 Cor. 3:8a, 9a

**19. Jesus was transfigured before them, and His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became dazzling white. Mt. 17:2**

20. Suddenly a bright cloud over-

→

shadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with Him I am well pleased; listen to Him!" Mt. 17:5b

21. Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Ps. 51:1

22. Against You, You alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You are justified in Your sentence and blameless when You pass judgment. Ps. 51:4

23. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Ps. 51:10

24. Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth... but... in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Mt. 6:19a, 20-21

25. Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes

to the Father except through Me." Jn. 14:6

**26. Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Ps. 32:1**

27. I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and You forgave the guilt of my sin. Ps. 32:5

28. You are a hiding place for me. Ps. 32:7a

**The Community Christian Church of Rosenberg**

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

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday Eve 5:30 p.m.

Prayer Service and Bible Study

**WALL BRETHERN 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 (Interim)  
Cell: 325-656-8558

Home: [rev.tjt@gmail.com](mailto:rev.tjt@gmail.com)

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

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

*President*  
Board of Elders  
Rick Weise  
325-656-2620

*Director of Youth  
and Young Family Ministries*  
Brady Collard  
254-229-5217

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

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# VITAL STATISTICS

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## RECENT DEATHS

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**KUROPATA, FRANK E.**, 88, a



member of the Houston Brethren Church, died February 13, 2022, in Houston, Texas. He was born June 27th, 1934, in

Latium, Texas. Frank was predeceased by parents Frank and Katie Kuropata, 3 siblings, and wife of 33 years Lorene Kuropata. He is survived by son Frank J. Kuropata (Donna), granddaughters Ashley Trlica (Jarrod) and Stacy Jackson (Chris), daughters

Deborah Porter and Katherine Hanes (Jeff) and granddaughter Jessica Hanes, and great granddaughters Sonya Trlica and soon to arrive Nadia Trlica and stepson Steven Plentl and stepgrandson Charles Plentl. Frank graduated from Reagan High School, Houston, TX class of 1951, was a ROTC Sergeant and member of the Honor Society. His lifelong career was in the retail grocery business from the age of 13 until he retired at age 87. The family would like to extend their gratitude to his special caregiver and friend Nancy Reynolds for her loving care over the past several months.

## OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

17454 State Highway 53, Temple, TX 76501

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

Web Address: [www.ockerbrethrenchurch.org](http://www.ockerbrethrenchurch.org)

Church Email: [ockerbrethrenchurch@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:brad.herridge@gmail.com)

*Youth Director*

**Jennifer Chervenka**

(254) 913-1244

[jennchervenka@gmail.com](mailto:jennchervenka@gmail.com)

*Cemetery*

**Sharon Marek**

(254) 482-0498

---

# VITAL STATISTICS

---

## RECENT DEATHS

---

**BRAVENEC, "BILL" JOHN**, 92, a member of



**WILLIAM** the Houston Brethren Church, died on July 23, 2022. Bill was born on March 23, 1930, and graduated from

Bellville High School in 1949. He had a love for animals and wildlife. Bill was married to Loyce Bravenec for 49 years. They enjoyed dancing and won many trophies over the years. Bill is preceded in death by his parents Lydia and Edwin Bravenec. Family and friends gathered to celebrate Bill's life during visitation and funeral services on Tuesday, August 2 at Waltrip Funeral Directors, in Houston, Texas. Interment was at Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery, also in Houston

**YOAKUM, BETTY JOY (DOSS)**, 89, of Fayetteville, Texas died Sunday, October 2, 2022, in Brenham. She was born October 21, 1932, near Rockdale to Bailey Antonio and Sabina (Pelzel) Doss. She was a high school cheerleader and graduated in 1949; she became a floor model for Schepp's Ready to Wear in Houston; was involved in politics, served 16 years as a 4-H Leader and sponsored an Alateen Group for 21 years. She was a secretary for the family business, Yoakum House

Moving. In 2012, she became a member of Fayetteville Brethren Church and the Christian Sisters. A memorial service was held on Nov 19, 2022, at Memorial Oaks Chapel in Brenham. Burial was at the Fayetteville Brethren Church Cemetery. She was preceded in death by her parents and husband, Vernon R. Yoakum. Survivors include 1 daughter, Rebecca (Larry) Schroeder; 2 sons, Steven Yoakum and Christopher (Elizabeth) Yoakum; 2 grandsons; 1 great-grandson; and a sister, Adele Lumpkins. Minister: Rev. Michael Grose-close.

**BAYER, RAYMOND GILBERT**, 79, of Kyle, Texas died Sunday, November 20, 2022, at his home. He was born in Burton, Texas on February 14, 1943, to Ernest and Alvine (Schulz) Bayer. He worked at Mosher Steel Company in Houston until he joined the United States Air Force in 1966, serving his country, including one year in Vietnam. He retired from Xerox Corporation after 31 years. He enjoyed country music, dancing, fishing and playing cards and dominoes. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, JoAnn (Marek) Bayer; two sons, Blake Bayer and Blayne Bayer; one daughter, Brandi (Marc) Friberg; one sister, Bernice Guinn; and four grandchildren. Funeral services were held at Industry Brethren Church on Dec 3. Burial with military honors was held in the church cemetery. Minister: Rev. Joe Emerson.

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# SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

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**Austin** – Bible Study at 10 AM  
Worship at 11 AM.  
– Rev. Joe Emerson  
*“the last service was held on Sunday, July 3, 2022”*

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**Bryan-College Station** – Sunday School at  
9:15 AM and Worship at 10:30 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.  
– Supply Pastors

---

**Fayetteville** – Worship at 10:00 AM. on the  
2nd, 3rd, 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.  
– Judy Gotcher - Pulpit Supply

---

**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** (1103 Harrisonburg Ln., College  
Station, TX 77845) – 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 (all ages) at 9:30 AM;  
worship at 10:45 AM every Sunday.  
Wednesday – Children's Awanas, 5:30 PM.  
– 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.  
– Supply Pastors

---

## DIRECTORY OF MISSIONARIES

Pastor Pavel and Stanya Kozak  
Norska 42

77900 Olomouc  
Czech Republic  
e-mail: [Pavel.Ko@volny.cz](mailto:Pavel.Ko@volny.cz)

Phil & Eunice Raiford  
(parents' address in U.S.)  
230 SW Sandy Way  
Port Saint Lucie, FL 34986  
[pbrmissions@gmail.com](mailto:pbrmissions@gmail.com)

Carolyn Groseclose  
NDO  
PO Box 630260  
Choma, Zambia  
e-mail: [carolyngroseclose84@gmail.com](mailto:carolyngroseclose84@gmail.com)

Joel & Teresa Jelski  
Mazkeret Moshe  
19  
Jerusalem 9431619  
Israel

## PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

**Chairman:** Jon Farrow; (254) 718-1938;  
[jfarrow@hotmail.com](mailto:jfarrow@hotmail.com)

Dan Merz (2021), Nelsonville  
James Marek; (512) 844-8520;  
[james.Marek@cnb.tbank](mailto:james.Marek@cnb.tbank)

Anna Wotipka; (979) 218-9043

**Advisors:** Rev. Whitney Amos &  
Rev. Charles Amos

**Synodical Committee Liaison:**  
Dr. Larry Koslovsky

## HOME MISSIONS BOARD

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Beth Dusek (2017), Wesley  
Tillman Clark (2017), Crosby  
Rev. Larry Zabcik (2018)  
Jerry Dove (2019), Fayetteville  
Rev. Gerry Davis (2019)  
Jon Farrow (2019), Temple  
Liaison: Rev. Joe Emerson  
(Synodical 1st VP)

## SYNODICAL COMMITTEE

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**1st Vice President:** Rev. Joe Emerson,  
(254) 931-1653

**2nd Vice President:** Lance LaBedelle,  
(325) 227-9900;  
[lance.labeledelle@caltech.com](mailto:lance.labeledelle@caltech.com)

**3rd Vice President:** Rev. Vanessa Mitchell,  
(979) 574-0268

**Secretary:** Contact Liz Ripple

**Treasurer:** Lynette Urbanovsky Shimek, 13795 Alacia  
Ct., College Station, TX 77845; (979) 450-1820  
[lurbanovsky@gmail.com](mailto:lurbanovsky@gmail.com)

**Financial Secretary:** Kayla Marek, 1804 Mallard  
Ln, Taylor, TX 76574, (512) 944-2619;  
[kmarek2012@gmail.com](mailto:kmarek2012@gmail.com)

**Administrative Assistant:** Liz Ripple, 311 W.  
State Hwy. 71, Fayetteville, TX 78940;  
(979) 378-2239, [lizripple@hotmail.com](mailto:lizripple@hotmail.com)

**Ministerial Alternate:** **VACANT**

**Pastor to Pastors:** Rev. Whitney Amos and  
Rev. Charles Amos

**Non-Voting Lay Alternate:** Taylor Brinkley,  
Ocker

### Lay Members:

Austin: No Representative

BCS: Alan Haisler, [haislera@gmail.com](mailto:haislera@gmail.com)

Buckholts: Charlene Vogelsang,  
[cakv@hotmail.com](mailto:cakv@hotmail.com)

Caldwell: Lynette Urbanovsky Shimek (Treasurer);  
Martha Huffman, [marthahuffman@gmail.com](mailto:marthahuffman@gmail.com)

Crosby: Debbie Clark, [foxfire890@aol.com](mailto:foxfire890@aol.com)

Dime Box: No Representative

Fayetteville: Sandra Stepan,  
[sandrinaustin@yahoo.com](mailto:sandrinaustin@yahoo.com)

Good Shepherd: Lorenzo Wilson

Granger: No Representative

Houston: J.T. Verwold, [dmverwold@yahoo.com](mailto:dmverwold@yahoo.com)

Industry: Harvey Treybig, [harvey.treybig@gmail.com](mailto:harvey.treybig@gmail.com)

Nelsonville: Jenell Zettel, (979) 203-8390

New Tabor: Robert Campbell,  
[robertfcampbell05@yahoo.com](mailto:robertfcampbell05@yahoo.com)

Ocker: Lisa Sebek, [sebeks@centurylink.net](mailto:sebeks@centurylink.net)

Pasadena: Phil Michalik,  
[pmichalik1@peoplepc.com](mailto:pmichalik1@peoplepc.com)

Rosenberg: Alice Kocurek,  
[katalice8@gmail.com](mailto:katalice8@gmail.com)

Seaton:

Snook: Connie Janac  
[conniejanac@gmail.com](mailto:conniejanac@gmail.com)

Taylor: Kayla Marek (Fin. Sec.), Sidney Srnensky

Temple: Jim Hiles, [jimhiles1959@gmail.com](mailto:jimhiles1959@gmail.com)

Wall: Paul Beatty, [pbeatty@gmail.com](mailto:pbeatty@gmail.com); Lance  
LaBedelle (2nd VP)

Wesley: Beth Dusek, [bethbrenham@gmail.com](mailto:bethbrenham@gmail.com)

West: Mike James, [pswmhjames@gmail.com](mailto:pswmhjames@gmail.com)

Westheimer: Buddy Allen,  
[buddyallen@gmail.com](mailto:buddyallen@gmail.com)

## DIRECTORY OF PASTORS

Rev. Charles Amos, 845 Airville Road,  
Temple, TX 76501. (254) 791-9611

Rev. Whitney Amos, 845 Airville Road,  
Temple, TX 76501. (254) 913-5757

Rev. Linda Von Chandler, 13108 North  
Ridge Circle, Leander, TX 78641.  
(512) 836-2712

Rev. Tim Chaplin, 1326 Starlight Dr.,  
Temple TX 76502. (254) 718-6094;  
[tpch4359@gmail.com](mailto:tpch4359@gmail.com)

Rev. Gerald Davis, 1218 La Vega St.,  
Waco, TX 76705. (254) 299-7743;  
[grdfbc58@gmail.com](mailto:grdfbc58@gmail.com)

Rev. Joe Emerson, 5404 Southern  
Crossing Dr., Temple, TX 76502.  
(254) 931-1653;  
[joe.emerson\\_ma@yahoo.com](mailto:joe.emerson_ma@yahoo.com)

Rev. Adolfo Gonzalez, 3913 Brinkman  
Drive, Port Arthur, TX 77642.  
(409) 293-2065

Rev. Michael Groseclose, 352  
Nelsonville Church Rd., Bellville, TX  
77418. (979) 865-3026

Rev. James D. Hejl, 309 Cherrywood  
Circle, Taylor, TX 76574. (512) 365-6890

Rev. Dr. Brad Herridge, 5925 Mt.  
Rockwood Circle, Waco, TX 76710.  
(254) 716-2578;  
[brad.herridge@gmail.com](mailto:brad.herridge@gmail.com)

Rev. David Johnson, 902 Timberlane,  
Caldwell, TX 77836.  
(979) 567-1838(h),  
(979) 220-3822(c);  
[pastordjbama@gmail.com](mailto:pastordjbama@gmail.com)

Pastor Lisa Johnson, 10221  
Centrepark Drive #737, Houston, TX  
77043, (713) 548-4901;  
[writer.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:writer.johnson@gmail.com)

Dr. Larry Koslovsky, 4211 Misty  
Timbers Way, Kingwood, TX 77345.  
(713) 594-45 18 (c);  
[lwkoslo@aol.com](mailto:lwkoslo@aol.com)

Pastor Ben Kruse, 11714 Needville  
Fairchilds Road, Needville, TX  
77461; (71) 376-3646;  
[krusedadb@yahoo.com](mailto:krusedadb@yahoo.com)

Rev. John Kueker, P.O. Box 325,  
Buckholts, TX 76518. (254) 605-0434

Dr. Mark L. Labaj, 3410 Meadow Creek  
Lne, Temple, TX 76504. (254) 774-8179;  
Baylor Medical Center, Round Rock,  
TX, [mark.labaj@utexas.edu](mailto:mark.labaj@utexas.edu)

Rev. Denise Mikeska, 409 E. Upshaw,  
Temple, TX 76501.  
[dkaym@hotmail.com](mailto:dkaym@hotmail.com)

Rev. Vanessa Lucia Mitchell, 2070  
Carter Lake Drive, College Station,  
TX 77845. (979) 574-0268;  
[lajoiededieu@protonmail.com](mailto:lajoiededieu@protonmail.com) Blog:  
[notboxingtheair.wordpress.com](http://notboxingtheair.wordpress.com)

Rev. Joseph Polasek, P.O. Box 54,  
Snook, TX 77878, (979) 272-1624;  
[josephjpolasek@yahoo.com](mailto:josephjpolasek@yahoo.com)

Rev. Kay Polasek, 1103 Harrisonburg  
Lane, College Station, TX 77845.  
(979) 220-1289;  
[revkaypolasek@yahoo.com](mailto:revkaypolasek@yahoo.com)

Rev. Mark Sebek, 9235 FM 437,  
Rogers, TX 76569. (254) 931-2000;  
[papasebek@gmx.com](mailto:papasebek@gmx.com)

Rev. Tommy Tallas, 206 Glenmore  
Drive, San Angelo, TX 76903.  
(325) 656-8558; [rev.tjt@gmail.com](mailto:rev.tjt@gmail.com)

Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Terrill, 7 Torch Pine  
Court, The Woodlands, TX 77381.  
(281) 744-1147  
[jerryleeterrill@comcast.net](mailto:jerryleeterrill@comcast.net)

Rev. Ryan Volkman, 23242 Hockman  
Rd., Defiance, Ohio 43512 (325)  
213-0671; [ryvolkman@gmail.com](mailto:ryvolkman@gmail.com)

Rev. Larry Zabcik, 2013 Burnie  
Bishop Place, Cedar Park, TX  
78613. (512) 992-5824;  
[zabcikville@ymail.com](mailto:zabcikville@ymail.com)

### RETIRED PASTORS

Rev. Curtis Holland, 1017 Southwood,  
Waco, TX 76712. (254) 715-0477

Rev. Lawrence Junek, 3316 Lyle,  
Waco, TX 76708. (254) 722-4194

Rev. Al Newby, 2210 Forest Trail,  
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