THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

Vol. 122 March 2023 No. 2 28 pages



Winter 2023 BYF Retreat

(See story inside this issue.)

In This Issue...

There is No "Stuck" ... by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell Hus: The Journey's End... by Jim Pokorny Wall BC Christian Sisters Bookmark Project Mutual Aid Society 2023 Scholarship Announcement

...AND MUCH MORE!!

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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RATE - \$15 per year via hard copy/email (All subscriptions expire December 31st)

For subscriptions, renewals, and gift subscriptions, Hard Copy and E-mail, write The Brethren Journal Business Manager (see addresses above).

FOR ADDRESS CHANGES - Include address changes from your most recent issue and write to : The Brethren Journal Business Manager,

1103 Harrisonburg Lane, College Station, TX 77845, or email manager brethrenjournal@gmail.com

FOR ADVERTISING -

Rates (per column inch per year)
Commercial coverage - \$50.00
Religious coverage - \$50.00

Write: The Brethren Journal Business Manager
FOR ARTICLE AND REPORT SUBMISSION-

DEADLINE is the first day of the month preceding

publication.

Write: The Brethren Journal Editor, 261 Fieldstone Place, College Station, TX 77845, or email: editor.brethreniournal@amail.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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Synodical Committee Liaison:

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laioiededieu@protonmail.com

Fall Synodical Committee Meeting Minutes

The Synodical Committee met for the Fall Meeting on Saturday, October 29, 2022 at the Hus Encampment. There were 46 in attendance: 29 voting members – 13 Pastors: Charles Amos, Whitney Amos, Gerald Davis, Joe Emerson, Michael Groseclose, Jimmy Heil, Brad Herridge, Larry Koslovsky, Ben Kruse, Vanessa Mitchell, Joseph Polasek, Mark Sebek, Jerry Terrill; 16 Lay Representatives from 14 churches: Bryan C/S – Alan Haisler; Caldwell - Lynette Shimek, Martha Huffman; Fayetteville - Sandra Stepan; Houston J.T. Verwold; Industry – Harvey Treybig; Nelsonville - Jenell Zettel; New Tabor - Robert Campbell; Ocker – Lisa Sebek; Rosenberg – Alice Kocurek; Snook - Connie Janac; Taylor – Kayla Marek, Sid Snersky; Temple – Jim Hiles; West Mike James; Westheimer – Buddy Allen; (9 Churches did not have a Representative present: Buckholts, Crosby, Dime Box, Granger, Pasadena, Port Arthur, Seaton, Wall, Wesley). Also present were 17 non-voting people: Jennifer Chervenka - Youth Coordinator,

Kent Laza – Hus Board Chair, Jon Farrow – PRC Chair, Cathleen Schlechte – Brethren Journal Editor and 13 guests. President Rev Larry Koslovsky called the meeting to order.

Music and Meditation was given by Rev. Whitney & Rev. Charles Amos on "Joy." Communion was given.

Officer Reports presented were from Rev. Joe Emerson, 1st Vice-President; Rev. Vanessa Mitchell, 3rd Vice-President; Kayla Marek, Financial Secretary; Lynette Urbanovsky-Shimek, Treasurer.

President Koslovsky made an announcement about the Church By-Laws. He stated that the Unity is a non-profit 501c3 organization. As such, each congregation is connected to the Unity. Each church needs to look at their By-laws regarding church property. Each church owns their own property, but in case a church disbands it should be stated specifically where the property / assets would go – should be to the Unity of the Brethren. You cannot divide it up

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 Call: 713-553-5542 Rita Tyson Secretary 22015 Golden Cedar Dr. Cypress, TX 77433 Cell: 713-899-8272 among yourselves; it needs to go to another 501c3. Each congregation is asked to submit their By-Laws to the Executive Committee. We want to make sure we are operating as a corporation. By-Laws may be sent to Larry and to Liz Ripple. Anytime a church changes or updates their bylaws, a copy should be sent to the Unity.

A Resolution to Sell Property was adopted for President Koslovsky to proceed on the Unity's behalf with the sale of the Austin Brethren Church property. The Executive Committee met on June 29, 2022, and discerned that the Austin Brethren congregation was no longer feasible, primarily because of resources, not managing a proper membership list, AC needs repair and there was very low worship attendance. The last service was held July 3, 2022. An offer has been made of \$1.7 million to buy the property. The Church and Land amounts to 2.3 acres. All valuables have been removed.

The Executive Committee made the decision to do something with the 3 lots in Cade Lake that have been vacant. We did not have insurance on the property and the lots were not attached to the church. Rev. Mark Sebek oversaw the cleaning up of the lots. A realtor was contacted, and the lots were sold for \$25,000.00. After fees, we deposited \$22,745.00. We received the property through a donation for Home Missions. The Home Missions Board will make a recommendation on where to put the funds and come back to us. A motion was made and approved to move the money to Home Missions.

President Koslovsky reported that Pastor Lisa Johnson, who had a 1-year license to serve at Westheimer Community Church retired in August 2022. Aaron Thomas has been filling the pulpit at the church. The Credentials committee has said he was good to go for pulpit supply and needs to be approved for this. Pastor Aaron is married with 5 children. He just finished his Masters' degree at Houston Therapon Seminary & Bible College. He shared his beliefs about women in pastor roles and gave references to Titus and Timothy in the Bible. He will continue to do pulpit supply at Westheimer. We will begin the



Fayetteville Brethren Church

Worship on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Saturdays 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Mike Groseclose

FayettevilleBrethrenChurch.org



6-month acquaintance period.

A report was given from Kent Laza, Hus School Board of Trustees Chair on the Hus Encampment Building Program. The Board received a \$10K donation from the Baletka family to purchase tables for the camp. The Board is interested in purchasing about 12 acres of land that adjoins the camp. The owner, Edwin Hlavaty, recently passed away. The boys' and girls' dorms need to be replaced and they would also like to build a staff dorm and medical office building. The dorms would each cost \$520K and the medical office building \$703K. A road and parking area would add to the cost. The old caretakers house is currently used for storage and plans are to turn it into a welcome center and a place to have small meetings. It would cost \$80K to remodel and update. Approval was given for the Board to start fundraising efforts for these projects. The Board would like to have all funds received before starting any of the projects. A motion and second to hold a minimum of \$700K out of the sale of the Austin church with the caveat that the staff building be called "the Austin house" was tabled until the Spring meeting in April.

Rev. James Hejl attended the Southern Province Synod of the Moravian Church that was held in Winston Salem, NC at Winston Salem State University on June 1-4, 2022. Over 230 delegates were in attendance and represented congregations of the Southern Province. Almost 40 proposals were adopted during the Synod. Rev. Heil was assigned to the Adult **Educational Ministry and Practice** Committee, serving as an advisory delegate with voice privileges only. His expenses of \$406.20 were approved to be paid.

Bro. Larry reported that the Jan Hus Documentary is in the editing stage. We gave a \$5,000.00 donation (3-3-2018) to help with the filming. This is a project by the Moravian Church that had a projected cost of \$30,000.00. Rev. Hejl participated in the filming. Hopefully it will be ready to view by the 2023 Convention.

Home Missions – Rev Mark Sebek, Chair of Home Missions reported that Rev Kay Polasek has had some health issues and has not been at Cade Lake in 3 months but plans to go back in Novem-



BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION BRETHREN CHURCH

2650 Earl Rudder Freeway South www.unityofbrethren.org



Mailing Address: P.O. Box 9283 College Station, TX 77842 Cunday Sahaal at 0:15 a m

Sunday School at 9:15 a.m. Church at 10:30 a.m. Off. 979-693-3606

email: papasebek@gmx.com

ber. Cade Lake has been served by pastoral supply during Pastor Kay's absence. Sunday School starts at 10:30, worship service at 11:45 with a meal after the service. Rev. Joe Emerson has also been doing pulpit supply and gave a report on what is happening at Cade Lake. He thinks as a mission organization we need to help them change from "give me" to something that they can bring and offer back to the Lord. He also spoke of other issues. Motion and second to accept a 2023 Home Mission budget of \$61,000.00 which includes salary and housing for Rev Kay Polasek - \$31,500.00; retirement - \$3,040.00; other expenses - \$26,460,00.

Foreign Missions – Motion and second to accept a 2023 Foreign Mission budget of \$73,000.00 passed unanimously to be di-

MINISTERS BENEFITS COMMITTEE

Rev. James D. Hejl, Chair Liz Ripple, Executive Sec./Treas. Members: Rev. Mike Groseclose, Rev. Tim Chaplin, & Rev. Joe Emerson Synodical Liason - Lance LaBedelle (2nd VP) Ex-officio: Rev. Dr. Larry Koslovsky vided: Phil & Eunice Raiford - \$15,000.00; Pavel & Stania Kozak - \$15,000.00; Joel & Teresa Jelski - \$8,000.00; Prosthetic Promises - \$4,000.00; special projects - \$31,000.00. Carolyn Groseclose gave a report on some expenses that she incurs and that she does not get paid for the work she does in Zambia.

A motion and second was made to have the 70th Biennial UOB Convention on July 20-22 (Thurs-Sat), 2023 at Camp Allen, Navasota, Texas and passed unanimously. The 2023 Spring Synodical Committee meeting will be held on Saturday, April 22, 2023, at the Hus Camp. There will be a Pastors retreat in March 2023 at Camp Allen.

Lunch was served at noon. The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m. The closing prayer was given by Rev Gerry Davis and the meeting ended with the singing of "Blest Be the Tie That Binds."

Respectfully submitted, Liz Ripple, Administrative Assistant Due to the resignation of Unity Secretary, Angie Hairrell, 2021-2022

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 pastorjdbama@gmail.com

There Is No 'Stuck'

By Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

How do I change?

New Year's Day has passed.

Resolutions may or may not have been kept.

My Lord, how do I change?

I want real and lasting change in the depths of my soul!

Oh King of kings, Lord Jesus, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Help me, Lord Jesus.

Help me to change.

The solid route to self-improvement lies in reliance not on self but on Jesus Christ.

We rely on those whom we know and trust.

Who is Jesus? He is the Highest! He is the Greatest! He is the Mightiest! He is the Purest! There is NO ONE like Him!

Take a moment and pray right now before you read what the Book of Colossians in the Holy Bible says about Who Jesus Is. Ask God to prepare your mind and your heart to receive the TRUTH about Who He Is.

The more you meditate on the truth of Who Jesus Is, the more the Holy Spirit increases your

trust in Jesus, and your ability to be transformed by His power.

Please read aloud, Colossians, 1:15-23, as a prayer:

"Jesus, You are the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by You all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things were created through You and for You. And You are before all things, and in You all things hold together. And You are the head of the body, the church. You are the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything You might be preeminent. For in You all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through You to reconcile to Yourself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of Your cross. And I, who once was alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, You have now reconciled in Your body of flesh by Your death, in order to present me holy and blameless and above reproach before You, if

 \rightarrow

To communicate with the HUS Encampment...

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

Kent Laza 4913 F.M. 166 Caldwell, TX 77836 (979) 220-1957

Kent.laza@verizon.net

*This must be done well in advance.

indeed I continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that I heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven,..."

How do I change?

New Year's Day has passed.

Resolutions may or may not have been kept.

My Lord, how do I change?

I want real and lasting change in the depths of my soul!

Oh King of kings, Lord Jesus, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Help me, Lord Jesus.

Help me to change.

The Lord Jesus speaks to you and to me:

The more you meditate on the truth of Who I AM, the more the Holy Spirit increases your trust in Me, and your ability to be transformed by My power. Pray again aloud.

Colossians, 1:15-23, as a prayer: "Jesus, You are the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by You all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things were created through You and for You. And You are before all things, and in You all things hold together. And You are the head of the body, the church. You are the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything You might be preeminent. For in You all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through You to reconcile

ADERHOLD FUNERAL HOME, INC.

"Thoughtful Service --A Payne Family Tradition" West, Texas 254/826-5321 to Yourself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of Your cross. And I, who once was alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, You have now reconciled in Your body of flesh by Your death, in order to present me holy and blameless and above reproach before You, if indeed I continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that I heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven,..."

When we feel trapped, unable to change, if we sit long enough in the Presence of the Lord Jesus, the Holy Spirit will whisper to you and to me the truth that the problem is not that we are "stuck." Rather, the problem is that we have unconfessed sin, usually pride, rearing its head within us and spiraling outward into every sphere of our life, choking the joy out of things. "Stuck" is often equal to "I won't." That's when it is time to hit the brakes, drop down on your knees, and pray:

Lord Jesus, forgive me for thinking that I could ever be "stuck" when I have a God as BIG and MIGHTY as You! I am sinning against You by resting on what wisdom I think I have in my fallen nature, when I know for a fact that Your thoughts are higher than my thoughts and Your ways are higher than my ways. Nothing is impossible with You. I can do ALL things through Christ

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Jesus who strengthens me! How vile of me, my Holy King Jesus, to cling to my pride. Please forgive me and cleanse me. You are my God. You are the firstborn of all creation. By You all things were created, visible and invisible, all things were created through You and for You. You are before all things and in You all things hold together. You are the head of the Church. You are the beginning, preeminent in everything. In You all the fullness of the Godhead is pleased to dwell. You reconcile all things to Yourself, making peace by the blood of Your Cross. You have reconciled me from the hostility of my mind and heart, my flesh, in Your body of flesh by Your death, in order to present me holy and blameless and above reproach before Yourself, IF INDEED I CON-TINUE IN THE FAITH, STABLE AND STEADFAST, NOT SHIFT-ING FROM THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL THAT YOU HAVE PRO-CLAIMED TO ME, WHICH HAS

BEEN PROCLAIMED IN ALL CREATION UNDER HEAVEN! Thank You that You are the Highest, Lord Jesus! Thank You that You are the Greatest, Lord Jesus! Thank You that You are the Mightiest, Lord Jesus! Thank You that You are the Purest, Lord Jesus! There is no one like You! Hallelujah, my King Jesus! Hallelujah to You alone, my King Jesus! Rescue me without ceasing from the hostility of my flesh- the pride of my mind and my heart! Rescue me without ceasing from the destructive appetite of my flesh! REMOVE, BY GRACE, MY HOLY LORD CHRIST, MY APPE-TITE FOR ANYTHING IN THIS WORLD! There is no "stuck" because I am in Your sovereign hands. Cleanse. Transform. Change me, Abba. I am ready for real change. Here I am, Lord Jesus. Teach me to rely on You. Amen.

Persevering in Remaining "Unstuck" By Jesus' Power, Sister Vanessa Mitchell



Hus: The Journey's End By Jim Pokorny

The ceremonial degradation of Hus continued with the removal of his priestly vestments. The malice of his tormentors increased with each successive article. When it came time to desecrate his tonsure (the style of hair symbolic of the priesthood), a protracted debate arose as to how this should be done. Some clamored for a razor while others favored the use of shears. The faction in favor of shears prevailed and his tonsure was cut in four directions effectively defacing the remaining earthly symbol of his priesthood.

A tall paper cap was brought forth that depicted three devils struggling with each other for the soul of Hus. Prominent was the Latin phrase: "Hic est haeresiarcha" (This is the arch-heretic). As this insult was placed upon the head of Hus, the Bishops were heard to say, "Thus we deliver your soul to the devil!" Hus clasped together his hands, lifted his gaze heavenward and replied, "But I commit it to my most gracious Lord Jesus Christ! For my sake he bore, though innocent, a much harder and heavier crown of thorns; why should

I, a poor sinner, not wear this lighter though blasphemous one for His name's and truth's sake?"

With the formal degradation ceremony concluded, Hus was handed over to the secular authorities for execution. The order was passed from Sigismund to the Elector to the burgher-master to the bailiffs and finally to the executioners who were waiting.

Hus was first taken to the square to witness the burnings of his writings. This was a futile gesture. While it is possible that all copies within Constance might have been accounted for, there were certainly many more copies within the Czech lands. In a wanton display of authority, Hus was placed between two servants of the Elector and guarded by a detachment of one thousand armed men. A large crowd followed as Hus was led to his place of martyrdom. He showed no sign of weakness. Accounts indicate that he never wavered and was sure of step along the way.

At last, the spot was reached.



SNOOK BRETHREN CHURCH

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

COME WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.; Worship - 10:15 a.m. Bible Study - Each Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study - Each Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.

Pastor Rev. Joseph Polasek P.O. Box 54 Snook, TX 77878 (979) 272-1624 Board of Elders President Justin Lewis P.O. Box 222 Snook, TX 77878 (979) 220-4732 Youth Directors Randall & Jonna See P.O. Box 345 Snook, TX 77878 (979) 272-8179

When they neared the stake, Hus knelt and prayed both the thirtyfirst and fifty-first Psalms. All who witnessed this were deeply moved. The executioners ordered him to rise. Hus obeyed with these words: "Lord Jesus Christ, this cruel and terrible punishment I will cheerfully and humbly bear for the sake of Thy holy Gospel and the preaching of Thy blessed Word!" Hus wished to address the multitude, but this was refused by the Elector who commanded that the sentence be conducted without delay. Hus was bound to the stake with moistened thongs and a heavy chain was wound around his neck. A combination of dry wood, wet straw and pitch were stacked around him ultimately reaching his chin.

Hus was given a final opportunity to recant in exchange for his life. Hus refused. In unwavering voice, he clearly stated, "What shall I recant not being conscious of any errors? I call God to witness that I have neither taught nor preached what has been falsely laid to my charge, but that the end of all my preaching and writings was to induce my fellowmen to forsake sin. In the truth which I have proclaimed, according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the

exposition of holy teachers, I will, this day, joyfully die." As the torch was applied, Hus began to sing:

"Christ, Thou Son of the living God, have mercy upon us!

Christ, Thou Son of the living God, have mercy upon me!

Thou who wast born of the Virgin Mary --- "

It was at this point that the wind blew the flames into his face and the voice of Hus was heard no more.

When the flames died down, the executioners' work resumed. The remains of Hus were removed from the charred stake. His bones were ground to powder as neither church nor state wanted anything of Hus to survive intact and become a relic around which people could rally. One legend stated that the heart of Hus survived the initial conflagration only to be impaled by a spear and roasted in the remaining fire. The ash and bone were cast into the Rhine River.

Hus was gone. But his teachings lived on in the catechisms of the Ancient Unity of the Brethren. And although there were those who tried to erase him from living memory, we gratefully continue to acknowledge this martyr for Christ.

Cross Church on Birdcreek

2202 Birdcreek Drive Temple, Texas 76502

email: ccb@crosschurchonbirdcreek.org https://www.crosschurchonbirdcreek.org youtube.com/channel/UCVsyYokWvdtloeQi9151rCA

(254) 778-8759

Rev. Tim Chaplin

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

(254) 718-6094

Worship: 10:45 a.m.

tpch4359@gmail.com

Brethren Youth Retreat Walk the Walk: Do Something

Twenty-one youth came together at the camp in January to learn what it means to be covered in grace by a forgiveness that cannot be earned and cannot run out, offered by a God that doesn't give up on us. We were challenged to live unashamed of the Gospel and let others see Jesus through our actions.



We will all go to different places, hold different positions, and serve different purposes, but we all have the same calling: to share the message of God's love and forgiveness with everyone we meet. EVERYONE needs to know that they can be covered by God's amazing grace!

Join us in praying for those who will receive a blanket we made. Pray not only that the blankets will provide physical warmth, comfort, and joy, but that they will touch the hearts of those who recommended them with God's love.



Brethren Youth Retreat Walk the Walk: Do Something



Wall Brethren Christian Sisters



July 10, 2022

To: The Brethren Journal Editor 3635 CR 225, Caldwell, TX 77836

From: Wall Brethren Christian Sisters c/o Donna Tallas, 206 Glenmore Dr., San Angelo, TX 76903 (325) 232-1334

The Wall Christian Sisters coordinated a project that will pro-

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 vide 2642 bookmarks for Terry Mikeska's upcoming mission trip to Nepal. The bookmarks were purchased with donations from the Wall congregation as well as funds from the Christian Sisters. Three hundred thirty-seven of the bookmarks were hand made by children and adults of the church.

Through the generosity of individuals and local churches, the Terry Mikeska Foundation has provided thousands of Bibles and Bible story books to churches in the villages being served. Leaves and sticks are commonly used to mark pages. Terry suggested the bookmark project to Sharon Hohmann, president of the Wall Christian Sisters. Last year, socks and caps were provided.



Terry Mikeska is a former businessman, a professional pianist, and the long-time care-giver of San Angelo philanthropist Eva Camunez Tucker. He grew up in the Wall Brethren Church and is currently serving as a member of the Board of Elders,

In an effort to help those in need, Terry went to Nepal where, with the help of many local volunteers, immediate relief was provided to many Nepalese villages. Basic life sustaining items such as rice pots, rice, clothing, water holding tanks, educational supplies, and financial aid were distributed directly to the people. In subsequent trips, Bibles

and guitars were provided, restrooms and churches were built.

The Terry Mikeska Foundation, a non-profit 501(C)(3) organization, was formed to enable continued assistance to the Nepalese and other nations rebuilding from natural disasters, as the devastating earthquake in Nepal several years ago.

For additional information or to support this ministry, go to www.terrymikeskafoundation. org.

KUBENA Funeral Home 507 South Main St.

Hallettsville, Texas 77946 Pre-Arranged Funerals Phone 361-798-3271

Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

March 4, 2023 – State Children's Rally at the Hus Encampment. Registration Deadline is February 12.

March 25-26, 2023 – Youth Retreat at the Hus Encampment. Deadline to register is March 5.

Save the Dates ...

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.

2023 Summer Camp Dates

ENCOUNTER

ages 7-9 years old Camp cost: \$250

Camp Date: July 9 - 12

PIONEER

ages 12-13 years old Camp cost: \$350

Camp Date: June 25 - 30

CHALLENGER

ages 16-19 years old. Camp cost: \$350

Date: Not Held in 2023

ALPHA

ages 10-11 years old Camp cost: \$350

Camp Date: **July 16 – 20**

DISCOVERY

ages 14-15 years old Camp cost: \$350

Camp Date: **June 18 - 23**

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

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.



Sunday School Helper

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.

Hebrews 6:19a



There seem to be two types of people in this world. Those who like to fish and those who don't. Where do you fall? Many of the disciples were fishermen. Have you ever noticed that fishermen are usually very optimistic people? Even if nothing is biting, they keep fishing, they keep going back! This month's activities are going to focus on optimism and biblical hope, even in the storms of life. Biblical hope is optimistic, but it is based on truth. Biblical hope is based on God's promises in Christ.

Storms and Anchors

Materials: Anchor (or picture of an anchor), boat (or picture of a boat), wire coat hanger, string, helium balloon with a weight

Show the pictures. **Ask**: What is this? What is it used for? (Anchor, keeps the boat from floating away.) How does it work? (It's really heavy.)

Demonstrate how an anchor works. (Tie a string to a wire hanger and drag it until it catches on a chair leg. Show how the hanger is now "anchored" to the chair.) **Explain**: You can only move so far from where it is anchored. An anchor on a ship is much larger and heavier. Some anchors hold ships up to 200 times their own weight. Some anchors weigh as much 60,000, that's as much as a family of elephants!

Read: Hebrews 6:13-20. God is unchanging. His love, compassion, patience, mercy, and goodness never change. He promised Abraham he would bless his family, and he kept that promise. (Review the story of Abraham, if needed)

Bring out the balloon with the weight at the bottom. Say: Let's pretend this balloon is ship at sea and the weight at the bottom is an anchor. A storm is coming so the crew throws an anchor overboard. Ask two volunteers to hit at the balloon (to be the storm). Explain: The ship was tossed around by the storm, but it always came back to the center. It didn't leave its anchor. The anchor kept it safe and secure. Life can toss us around. What are some "storms" we encounter? (being sick, moving, fighting with siblings or friends) Even when we encounter hard things, storms, we know that God is with us. Our connection is Jesus and His love gives us hope.



GAME

Captain of the Ship

The leader will be "Captain of the ship." The Captain will give orders to the crew (the club members) to follow.

Bow—Crew members run to the "front" of the boat.

Stern—Crew members run to the "back" of the boat.

Port—Crew members run to the "left side" of the boat.

Starboard—Crew members run to the "right side" of the boat.

Hit the Deck—Crew members lie down on the ground.

Attention on Deck—Salute the captain and yell, "Aye, aye captain!"

Scrub the Deck—Crew members get on their hands and knees and pretend to scrub the floor.

Three in a Lifeboat—Crew members grab two partners and stand one in front of the other, facing the same direction. They will pretend to row like they are in a lifeboat.

Crow's Nest—Crew members must pretend that they are climbing up to the crow's nest.

Captain's Quarters—Crew members run to the captain.

Use the links below to practice Fisherman knots Fisherman knot https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7ORr1hhRJo

Overhand knot https://www.youtube.com/

watch?v=tOxrcGXmjYg

Clove hitch https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eHLz1s3zlt8

ANCHOR WATERCOLOR

Materials: white crayon (or white glue), white paper, water-colors (blues, greens), paintbrushes

Preparation: Use a white crayon (or white glue) to draw an anchor outline on white paper. You will need one per student. Allow students to paint over the anchor outline with the watercolors. The anchor will show through as the students paint.



Daily Morsels for March 2023

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

From the Holy Bible New Revised Standard Version, slightly modified

- 1. I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go. Ps. inherit the world did not come to 32:8a Abraham or to his descendants
- 2. Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD. 32:10
- 3. Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred ...to the land that I will show you." Gen. 12:1
- 4. I will make of you {Abram/ Abraham} a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. Gen. 12:2
- 5. In you {Abram/Abraham} all the families of the earth shall be blessed. Gen. 12:3b
- 6. For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. Rom. 4:13 7. Jesus answered {Nicodemus}, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Jn. 3:3 8. Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit." Jn. 3:5 9. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Jn. 3:6
- 10. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that

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 (Interim)
Cell: 325-656-8558
Home: rev.tjt@gmail.com
Church: wallbrethren@gmail.com
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 Roxie Holik M-Th–7:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." Jn. 3:16

- 11. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." Jn. 3:17
- 12. O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! Ps. 95:6
- 13. Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Rom. 5:1
- 14. Through Him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. Rom. 5:2
- 15. We also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance. Rom. 5:3b
- 16. Endurance produces character, and character produces hope. Rom. 5:4
- 17. Hope does not disappoint

us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. Rom. 5:5

- 18. God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Rom. 5:8
- 19. The hour is coming, and is now here, when the true wor-



PLEASE JOIN US AS WE

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

THE MUTUAL AID SOCIETY

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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.

Pastor James D. Hejl 512-365-6890 Board President Daniel Knippa 512-844-0208

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

shipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship Him. Jn. 4:23

- 20. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth. Jn. 4:24
- 21. The LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart. 1 Sam. 16:7b 22. Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light. Eph. 5:8
- 23. The LORD restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for His name's sake. Ps. 23:3
- 24. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for You are with me. Ps. 23:4a
- 25. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. Ps. 23:5a

26. I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope. Ps. 130:5

27. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on

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the Spirit is life and peace. Rom. 8:6

- 28. You are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Rom. 8:9a 29. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. Rom. 8:9b
- 30. If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of right-eousness. Rom. 8:10
- 31. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. Ezk. 37:5

MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS BOARD (2021-2023)

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Paula Wagner (2015), Taylor; (512) 996-8846, paulak1121@sbcglobal.net

Open Seat

Erin Brinkley (2015), Ocker;

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)

VITAL STATISTICS

RECENT DEATHS

BRANAM, MARIAN ELIZA-BETH (**COUFAL**), 75, of Fayetteville, Texas, died Thursday, February 2, 2023, after her battle with dementia. She was born April 4, 1947, in Fayetteville to William and Lillian Poncik Coufal. She was a member of Industry Brethren Church. She dedicated her life to raising her family with endless faithful love, always bustling about her house, tackling the day's duties with an unrivaled work ethic. She is survived by her husband of 52 years, Jesse Branam; daughter Melanie Martinsen,

stepdaughter Kim Highnote, sons Brett and Bryan Branam, daughter-in-law Leslie Branam, 4 granddaughters, 2 grandsons, 1 great-grandson, brother William (Mary Ann) Coufal, Jr, sister Linda (Hildred) Lawson and numerous nephews and nieces. She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers Leonard, Tommy and Daniel Coufal. Funeral services were held on Saturday, February 11, 2023, at Industry Brethren Church with burial in the church cemetery. The service was officiated by Steve Cuffle.

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

Mutual Aid Society Scholarship Announcement

The Mutual Aid Society will award up to \$8,500 in the Spring of 2023. The amount of each scholarship will depend on the number of qualified applications received. Candidates must be high school seniors or undergraduate students who will be attending an accredited university, college or technical school during the Summer or Fall of 2023. Past recipients may apply again; however, preferential consideration will be given to first-time applicants. Scholarship application and requirements can be found on the Unity website at: http://unityofthebrethren.org/ mutual-aid-society/

Application must be **postmarked** by **March 31, 2023,** and mailed to:

Natalie Outlaw, General Secretary, Mutual Aid Society, 7575 Wixon Road, Bryan, TX 77808

In addition, an electronic copy of the essay must be **emailed** by **March 31,2023**, to Rev. Joseph Polasek at josephjpolasek@yahoo.com.

Recipients will be announced after May 1, 2023.

If you would like to **donate** to the Mutual Aid Scholarship Fund, please send checks payable to "Mutual Aid Scholarship Fund" to:

Ruth Ann Wuensche, Mutual Aid Society Treasurer, 2451 CR 405, Taylor TX 76574

Sincerely, **Rev Joseph J. Polasek,** President, Mutual Aid Society



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Austin -Bible Study at 10 AM Worship at 11 AM.

- Rev. Joe Emerson "the last service was held on Sunday, July 3, 2022"

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 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 Heil

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 Repubic

e-mail: Pavel.Ko@volny.cz

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

Carolyn Groseclose

PO Box 630260 Choma, Zambia

e-mail: carolyngroseclose84@gmail.com

Joel & Teresa Jelski Mazkeret Moshe 19 Jerusalem 9431619

Israel

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

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Dan Merz (2021), Nelsonville James Marek; (512) 844-8520; james.Marek@cnbt.bank

Anna Wotipka; (979) 218-9043

Advisors: Rev. Whitney Amos &

Rev. Charles Amos

Synodical Committee Liaison:

Dr. Larry Koslovsky

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Liaison: Rev. Joe Emerson

(Synodical 1st VP)

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

2nd Vice President: Lance LaBedelle, (325) 227-9900:

lance.labedelle@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 Iurbanovsky@gmail.com

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

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

Ministerial Alternate: VACANT
Pastor to Pastors: Rev. Whitmey Amos and

Rev. Charles Amos

Non-Voting Lay Alternate: Taylor Brinkley, Ocker

Lay Members:

Austin: No Representative

BCS: Alan Haisler, haislera@ymail.com

Buckholts: Charlene Vogelsang, cakv@hotmail.com

Caldwell: Lynette Urbanovsky Shimek (Treasurer); Martha Huffman, <u>marthahuffman@gmail.com</u>

Crosby: Debbie Clark, foxfire890@aol.com

Dime Box: No Representative
Fayetteville: Sandra Stepan,
sandrainaustin@yahoo.com
Good Shepherd: Lorenzo Wilson

Granger: No Representative Houston: J.T. Verwold, dmverwold@yahoo.com

Industry: Harvey Treybig, <u>harvey.treybig@gmail.com</u> Nelsonville: Jenell Zettel, (979) 203-8390

New Tabor: Robert Campbell, <u>robertfcampbell05@yahool.com</u> Ocker: Lisa Sebek, <u>sebeks@centurylink.net</u>

Pasadena: Phil Michalik, pmichalik1@peoplepc.com Rosenberg: Alice Kocurek, katalice8@gmail.com

Seaton:

Snook: Connie Janac conniejanac@gmail.com

Taylor: Kayla Marek (Fin. Sec.), Sidney Srnensky Temple: Jim Hiles, <u>jimhiles1959@gmail.com</u> Wall: Paul Beatty, <u>pbeatty@gmail.com</u>; Lance

LaBedelle (2nd VP)

Wesley: Beth Dusek, <u>bethbrenham@gmail.com</u> West: Mike James, <u>pswmhiames@gmail.com</u>

Westheimer: Buddy Allen, 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
- Rev. Gerald Davis, 1218 La Vega St., Waco, TX 76705. (254) 299-7743; grdfbc58@gmail.com
- Rev. Joe Emerson, 5404 Southern Crossing Dr., Temple, TX 76502. (254) 931-1653; 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
- Rev. David Johnson, 902 Timberlane, Caldwell, TX 77836. (979) 567-1838(h), (979) 220-3822(c); pastordjbama@gmail.com
- Pastor Lisa Johnson, 10221 Centrepark Drive #737, Houston, TX 77043, (713) 548-4901; writer.johnson@gmail.com
- Dr. Larry Koslovsky, 4211 Misty Timbers Way, Kingwood, TX 77345. (713) 594-45 18 (c); lwkoslo@aol.com
- Pastor Ben Kruse, 11714 Needville Fairchilds Road, Needville, TX 77461; (71) 376-3646; 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
- Rev. Denise Mikeska, 3894 Apple Cider Road, Temple, TX 76501 sbcpastordenise@yahoo.com
- Rev. Vanessa Lucia Mitchell, 2070 Carter Lake Drive, College Station, TX 77845. (979) 574-0268; lajoiededieu@protonmail.com Blog: notboxingtheair.wordpress.com
- Rev. Joseph Polasek, P.O. Box 54, Snook, TX 77878, (979) 272-1624; josephjpolasek@yahoo.com
- Rev. Kay Polasek, 1103 Harrisonburg Lane, College Station, TX 77845. (979) 220-1289; revkaypolasek@yahoo.com
- Rev. Mark Sebek, 9235 FM 437, Rogers, TX 76569. (254) 931-2000; papasebek@gmx.com
- Rev. Tommy Tallas, 206 Glenmore Drive, San Angelo, TX 76903. (325) 656-8558; rev.tjt@gmail.com
- Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Terrill, 7 Torch Pine Court, The Woodlands, TX 77381. (281) 744-1147 jerryleeterrill@comcast.net
- Rev. Ryan Volkman, 23242 Hockman Rd., Defiance, Ohio 43512 (325) 213-0671; ryvolkman@gmail.com
- Rev. Larry Zabcik, 2013 Burnie Bishop Place, Cedar Park, TX 78613. (512) 992-5824; zabcikville@ymail.com

RETIRED PASTORS

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