

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL



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28 pages



*Members of the Good Shepherd Moravian Church
Attended the 60th Biennial Unity Convention at Camp Allen in July
(For more about the Convention, see story inside.)*

IN THIS ISSUE...

Minutes From the Unity Convention

The End of the Hussite Wars... by Jim Pokorny

New Tabor Brethren 130th Anniversary Celebration Invitation

Seaton Brethren Christian Sisters Bake Sale & Quilt Show Invitation

...AND SO MUCH MORE!!

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

EDITOR -

Cathleen Schlechte, 261 Fieldstone Place,
College Station, TX 77845; 979-255-8266
editor.brethrenjournal@gmail.com

BUSINESS MANAGER -

Ben Polasek, 1103 Harrisonburg Lane,
College Station, TX 77845; 979-220-9270
manager.brethrenjournal@gmail.com

BUSINESS COMMITTEE -

Chairperson: Lance LaBedelle
(Synodical 2nd VP)

Treasurer: Dorothy Milberger, 312 N. Lantana
Cr., Sealy, TX 77474; 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

Jim Pokorny, jwppsa@yahoo.com;
blog: otherbrotherjim.blogspot.com

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ORGANIST NEEDED

**New Tabor Brethren Church
is in search of an ORGANIST
for Sunday Morning Worship.
This is a paid position. Please
contact Cathy Homeyer at 979-
324-4561 for more information.**

CHRISTIAN SISTERS' UNION 2022-2024 OFFICERS

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

Vice President: Anna Wotipka, 652 County Rd. 324,
Caldwell, TX 77836. (979) 218-9043;
awotipka58@gmail.com

Secretary: Ann Sebesta, P.O. Box 115, Snook, TX
77878. (210) 244-3362; sebestaA2015@outlook.com

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

Treasurer: Paige Hearn, 17150 F.M. 971, Granger,
TX 76530. (512) 567-1436; usmcmom89@gmail.com

Synodical Committee Liaison:

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

**The 70th Biennial Convention
of the Unity of the Brethren Convention Minutes
- Condensed version for the BRETHREN JOURNAL -
Thursday-Saturday - July 20-22, 2023
Camp Allen – Navasota, Texas**

Thursday, July 20, 2023 -

Registration began at 3:00 p.m.

OPENING Session 4:30 p.m. President Rev. Dr. Larry Koslovsky called the 70th Biennial Convention to order and gave an opening prayer.

There were 79 people in attendance as follows:

51 VOTING MEMBERS present:

Pastors (10): Tim Chaplin, Brady Col-lard, Joe Emerson, Michael Groseclose, Jimmy Hejl, Larry Koslovsky, Vanessa Mitchell, Joseph Polasek, Tommy Tal-las, Jerry Terrill.

Lay members (13): BCS – Alan Haisler; Caldwell – Lynette Shimek, Joel Mitchell; Crosby – Debbie Clark; Fayetteville – Sandra Stepan; Houston – Rep/Delegate; Nelsonville – Janell Zettel; Ocker – Lisa Sebek; Pasadena – Rep.Delegate; Port Arthur – Mateo Vargas; Snook – Connie Janac; Taylor – Kayla Marek, Sid Srensky; Temple – Kellie Chaplin; Wall – Paul Beatty.

Absent (7): Buckholts, Industry, New Tabor, Rosenberg, Wall – L. LaBedelle, Wesley, West, Westheimer. No representatives from (3): Dime Box, Granger, Seaton.

Delegates (26): Bryan/College Sta-

tion – Tami Laza; Caldwell – Anna Wotioka; Crosby – Sharon Nelson; Fayetteville – Martha Dove; Houston – Jay Zamora (Rep); Nelsonville – Daniel Merz, Sandra Merz, Diane Arning; New Tabor – Absent (Rep); Ocker – Jordan Barbisch, Taylor Brinkley; Pasadena – Phil Michalik (Rep); Port Arthur – Delvia Castrillo; Snook – Loree Lewis, Justin Lewis; Taylor – Dotty Davis, Virginia Grow, Peggy Hejl, Eugene Kokes, Mary Kokes; Temple – Gayle Farrow; Wall – Brenda Beatty, Cindy Martin, Roy Martin; Wesley – Sharon Janes; West – Debbie Crawford, Terry Crawford.

No delegates (7): Buckholts, Dime Box, Granger, Industry, Rosenberg, Seaton, Westheimer.

Committee Chairs (2): PRC – Jon Farrow; Hus Camp – Kent Laza; Home Missions – Mark Sebek (above). Absent - Christian Ed – Kari Raesz; Foreign Missions – David Miller.

Non-Voting: Guests – 28

Reports from Officers and Denom-inational Boards: Reports are in the Convention Booklet.

Reports provided: President, Third

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Temple, Texas 76502

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[youtube.com/channel/UCVsyYokWvdtloeQi9151rCA](https://www.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

VP, Acting Secretary, Treasurer (provided at Convention, Financial Secretary, Congregation Contributions 2021-2023, Brethren Fund Assessments 2019-2022; Reports from others: Brethren Journal Editor, BJ Business Manager, BJ Treasurer, BJ History, Board of Christian Ed, Board of Foreign Missions, New Beginnings & Financial Rpt (provided at Convention), Christian Sisters Union, Hus School Chair, Hus School Treasurer, Ministers' Benefits, Mutual Aid Society, State Youth Coordinator.

Welcome & Overview of Convention:

Rev. Koslovsky gave an overview of the convention and welcomed everyone to our time together. He explained that those who are wearing a red lanyard are the official members of the convention and can vote and participate in the meeting. He explained that the bylaw changes and financial decisions we make during the convention require a Referendum vote and will go back to the congregations for approval.

Procedures & Synodical Representative Changes:

Our congregations' Representatives are elected in the fall and serve a 2-year term. There are no substitutes for this person during the term. If you have a new representative, they need to be approved by the Synodical Committee. The following need approval: Joel Mitchell – Caldwell, Jay Zamora – Houston & Kellie Chaplin – Temple

Motion and Second to approve new representatives; passes unanimously.

Committee Introductions & Working Agenda:

The 6 committees are: By-Laws/Motions, Finance, Hus Camp, Missions, Brethren Journal/Website, Pastoral Relations. Committee Guidelines were recommended.

The Committees went to their assigned rooms to get started on their tasks.

6:00 Evening Meal - Rev. Koslovsky gave the blessing for the meal.

7:30 Worship with Holy Communion:

There were 70 people present at the service. The call to worship was given by Kayla Marek from Psalms 103. Opening prayer by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell in English and Spanish. Music was provided by Myah Collard. The offering was taken up followed by the Doxology; prayer by Rev. Joe Emerson. Lynette Shimek read from Ephesians 3:20-21. Rev. Larry Koslovsky gave the message "More Than Able!" Rev. Koslovsky asked who is this God of Omni's – Omnipotent, Omnipresent and Omniscient. He asked "have we prayed too small? Dreamed too small? Have we settled for a God that's too small? There is so much more to our story – the Lord is not done with us yet; the Lord is more than able!" Holy Communion was administered to all by Rev. James Hejl and Rev. Tommy Tal-

→

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.*

las. Rev. Koslovsky gave the closing prayer.

8:30 p.m. Pastor to Pastor Selection

Friday, July 21:

9:00 Worship – Attendance – 85. Music provided by Myah Collard on the guitar & singing. The message was given by Pastor Brady Collard – Youth Pastor at Wall Brethren. He spoke about Failure, and how we can expect failure to happen. He read from Mark 9:14-19.

9:30 General Session #1:

There were 90 people in attendance as follows:

58 VOTING MEMBERS present: **Pastors** – 14; **Lay members** – 14; **Delegates** – 28; (28); **Committee Chairs** – 2; and **Guests** – 32.

Questions on Reports:


Corrections on Christian Sisters report. Kent Laza questioned why we don't have a Treasurers report. Due to a family emergency, everyone was emailed the reports this morning.

Rev. Koslovsky wanted to add a paragraph to the Board of Christian Education report from the Chair – Kari

Raesz, p. 58: “She recommends the disbandment of the Board of Christian Education at the Unity level and continue to have each congregation create and support their own education committee. The lack of Unity support and congregational acceptance leads me to believe this board was just another group created just for looks.” It is not functioning like it used to. It was reported that pages 25-26 show what congregations do for Sunday School. There was discussion.

Kent Laza, Chair presented a report on the Hus Encampment. He reported that the camp is doing well; they have spent about \$1-million in the last six years with upgrades to the camp and facilities. The Unity has just purchased 12 acres of land adjacent to the camp with closing on the property to be held next week. The next phase - a new camper dorm for the boys and a family/staff dorm. The approx. cost is \$560K for camper dorm and \$675K for family/staff dorm.

Reports from Congregations: 17 congregations are represented; 6 with no representation (no Representative or Delegate – Buckholts, Dime



CALDWELL BRETHREN CHURCH

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caldwellbrethrenchurch@gmail.com

Sunday School
9:30 AM

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

Sunday Worship
10:30 AM

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Box, Granger, Industry, Seaton, Westheimer). Every congregation had about 3 minutes to give a report.

Retirement of Rev. Thomas Tallas: Rev. Thomas Tallas gave a formal request to retire from active ministry in the Unity of the Brethren and will remain a member at large. (ByLaws Art. III. B. 14) Rev. Tallas gave appreciation for his wife Donna and his family. He was ordained in Granger in 1970; thru the years he has served in a variety of ways.

Motion and Second to accept his request to retire (August 31). Passes unanimously. Rev. Hejl led a prayer over Rev. Tallas and Donna.

12:00 Lunch – The Blessing for the meal was given by Rev. Dr. Brad Heridge.

1:30 - 3:00 Committee Meetings.

4:00 General Session #2:

By-Law Changes & Motions

Report from the By-Laws and Motions Committee by Chair, Rev. Jimmy Hejl:

MOTION from the Executive Committee for **Article II. Congregations - B.**

See Referendum report – Item #5. Discussion. FOR – 50; AGAINST – 1. Passes.

MOTION and Second for Article III. Office of the Ministry – B. Pastors: See Referendum report – Item #7. Passes unanimously.

Motion and Second - FOR ARTICLE XVIII. Archivist to delete entire

Article. FOR – 35, AGAINST – 16. Passes. See Referendum report – Item #8.

FOR ARTICLE XIX. Book Store to delete entire Article and to renumber other articles as they pertain to the change and adjust/renumber pages. Passes unanimously. See Referendum report – Item #10.

Motion and Second: FOR Appendix A, By-Laws of the Hus School Encampment, Article III. Administration, E.: Passes unanimously. See Referendum report – Item #11.

ELECTION of 2023 – 2025 Synodical Committee Officers / Board Chairs

For 2023-2025 - Elected were:

President–Rev. Dr. Larry Koslovsky (4th term)

1st VP–Rev. Joe Emerson (2nd term)

2nd VP–Rev. Michael Groseclose (1st term)

3rd VP–Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Terrill (1st term)

Secretary–Loree Lewis (1st term-Snook)

Financial Sec–Kayla Marek (4th term- Taylor)

Treasurer–Lynette Shimek (4th term - Caldwell)

Lay Alternate: Jordan Barbisch (Ocker)

Ministerial Alternate: Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

→

BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION BRETHREN CHURCH

2650 Earl Rudder Freeway South

www.unityofbrethren.org

Rev. Mark Sebek

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 9283

College Station, TX 77842



Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.

Church at 10:30 a.m.

Off. 979-693-3606

email: papasebek@gmx.com

Board of Christian Education

Chair: Jordan Barbisch (1st term - Ocker)

Board of Home Missions Chair:

Rev Joe Emerson (1st term)

Board of Foreign Missions Chair:

Carolyn Groseclose (1st term - Ocker).

Hus School Chair: Kent Laza (4th term).

Brethren Journal Editor: Cathleen Schlechte.

Brethren Journal Business Manager: Ben Polasek.

Pastoral Relations Committee: Jon Farrow (Temple) and James Marek (Taylor) - term is 2023-2027. Anna Wotipka (Caldwell) and Dan Merz (Nelsonville) serve until 2025.

PRC Chair: Jon Farrow.

Pastor to the Pastors: Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

Ministerial Credentials Board:

First, Second and Third VP of the Synodical Committee. (Emerson, Groseclose, Terrill)

Pastor David Johnson gave the Blessing for the evening meal.

The convention adjourned at 5:20 for everyone to meet in their committee rooms.

7:30 – An evening with Our Missionaries: Reports from Phil & Eunice Raiford – Mexico; and Joel & Teresa Jelski – Israel – Fields of Wheat.

Saturday, July 22:

9:00 Worship – Attendance – 67.

Music provided by Kevin & Lynette Shimek – accordion & guitar music and singing. Rev. Groseclose led everyone in singing “Happy Birthday” to Lynette Shimek. Port Arthur folks led Happy Birthday in Spanish. The message was given by Rev. Mike Groseclose. He talked about how much bad news we get. He is reminded about what Paul wrote in Philippians 4:8. The world around us seems bad, but there are good things happening out there.

9:30 Committee Wrap Up:

There were 78 people in attendance as follows:

54 VOTING MEMBERS present: **Pastors – 10; Lay members – 14; Delegates – 28; Committee Chairs – 2; and 24 Guests.**

Rev. Koslovsky opened the meeting. Today, we will finish the By-Law changes.

He first recognized Caroline Groseclose – an unsung heroine. She has spent the last 12 years working with children in Africa. He thanked her for her service and she received a round of applause.

Who are we as the Unity of the Brethren – Rev. Koslovsky asked that we ask this of ourselves and without talking about Jan Hus, being Czech, being Protestant or being like other denominations – we should be able to say, “who we are” in 2 minutes or less. Several reports were given. Joel



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

Jelski, Foreign Missionary suggested if you really want to love your neighbor – open up your home, invite them for a meal in your home; if you don't, you'll never get to know them. In the West, we sanctify our right to privacy. Gospel is about being in each other's lives in a real way – discipleship – in your homes.

Rev. Koslovsky thanked everyone for their thoughts and discussion on this. Now can we do five minutes? Two minutes was the first level. He encouraged everyone to keep this in your thoughts.

10:30 General Session #3

MOTION and **SECOND** for **Article II. Congregations. L:** to change percentages of the Contingency Fund from 18% to 9% and Executive Assistant position from 9% to 18% and to keep the Brethren Fund assessment at \$40. Passes. See Referendum report – Item #6.

MOTION and **SECOND** to increase the expense allowance for the Youth Coordinator from \$1,800/yr to \$3,000/yr, an increase of \$1,200.00. Passes. See Referendum report – Item #1.

MOTION and **SECOND** to pay a lump sum payment to Liz Ripple and Jennifer Chervenka in the amount of \$1,000.00 per year for 2023 & 2024. Total cost would be \$4,000.00 to come from Major Gifts. Passes. See Referendum report – Item #2.

MOTION and **SECOND** that the Unity website be redesigned and maintained. Passes. See Referendum report – Item #3.

NEW MOTION and **SECOND** for **Article XI – Treasurer, A & F:**

Passes unanimously. See Referendum report – Item #9.

In regard to proposed Bylaw amendments from the Executive Committee to delete Article XIII – Board of Christian Education, the ByLaws/Motions Committee recommends not to submit these amendments with the understanding there is someone willing to serve as the Chairman of the Board of Christian Education with the intention

of trying to re-engage the board over the next 2 years; if those efforts prove unsuccessful then the next convention can re-visit these items.

MOTION and **SECOND** that the Unity commit \$600,000.00 toward the construction of a new camper dorm on the campus. These funds are in addition to the funds already paid for the Hlavaty property. The expenditure of these funds shall be managed by the Board of Trustees. Proposed funding source – funds from the sale of Austin Brethren Church.

Bro. Jimmy said after discussion in the ByLaws/Motions committee, there is not a clear consensus on how to present this proposal. 2 options are recommended: Vote on the motion as presented – authorizing \$600,000 for the new dorm in addition to the \$400K plus that has already been allocated for the Hlavaty purchase, bringing that total to over \$1million. The other option would be a new motion – which needs a Second – to send to the Synodical Committee for further study, evaluation over the next 2 years and then to bring another motion to the next convention. This second option recognizes there are a lot of people who are uncomfortable with such a large expenditure without very much time to consider it at this convention. If the motion passes here, it still needs to go to referendum for all the congregations to vote on. There was discussion on how we can revitalize/help our existing churches. We – the Executive and Synodical Committee - haven't had time to talk about ministry, youth pastors, discipleship for lay people – and how to spend this large amount of money. (Total amount of time spent on this: 1 hour, 8 minutes)

MOTION and **SECOND TO AMEND** to allow the Synodical Committee the authority to spend up to \$600K on improvements at the camp. Discussion. Several minutes for prayer.

Voting on the amended motion: For – 27; Against – 19; (46 voting) The amendment passes.

VOTE ON MOTION as amended:

For – 43; Against – 4. The motion as amended passes. See Referendum report – Item #4.

Motion and Second to combine the Foreign and Home Mission Boards and have the First VP as the Chairperson and to have 5 members appointed by the Synodical Committee. Discussion.

Bro. Jimmy said since there would be many amendments needed to bring this change to fruition, he suggests discarding this motion and bring the necessary bylaw amendments to the next convention. The motion was withdrawn.

Motions passed: To come back to Camp Allen for the Convention; to give

the offering of \$575.25 to the Foreign Missionaries; for the convention to dismiss the committees from their duties; to adjourn. Rev. Groseclose gave the blessing for the noon meal. Meeting was adjourned at 12:05.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Ripple, Acting Secretary
Unity of the Brethren

*Note: Motions in GRAY will go on to Congregations for a Referendum decision made at a congregational meeting (Constitution – Art. V. Administration, A. Convention, 2.).





The End of the Hussite Wars

By Jim Pokorny

The Hussite Wars continued. Fourteen years had elapsed since the Defenestration at Prague which ignited the series of conflicts. The Hussite factions agreed on the Four Articles of Prague but disagreed in other matters. Despite this, they remained a formidable military force with which to be reckoned. Sigismund himself was forced to concede that only Bohemians could defeat Bohemians. Cardinal Legate Julian offered that only the upcoming Council at Basle offered any hope in stopping the Hussite movement. In truth, both King and Pontiff were exhausted militarily and still the Hussites prevailed.

Julian traveled to Basle and assumed presidency of this body. He persuaded the Council to invite the Hussites to the deliberations hoping that a peace could be achieved. The Taborites resisted but were eventually won over. A delegation consisting of Utraquists, Taborites, and Orphans was selected. They reached Basle in January 1433 and were welcomed upon arrival.

In an unprecedented event in the history of the established Church, Hussite delegates engaged in dialog. This dialog included the revelation of the sins of the hierarchy, exultations of Jan Hus and Jerome of Prague as bold witnesses for the truth, and defense of the principles

of the Articles of Prague. In May, accompanied by deputies of the Council, the Hussite delegates returned to Bohemia. At Prague, negotiations continued. This resulted in the formation of a second Hussite delegation which traveled to the Council. Council deputies also accompanied this delegation back to Bohemia. What followed was the draft of the Compacta of Basle which substantially conceded the Four Articles. On November 30, 1433, the Compacta was ratified by the Diet.

The Compacta were regarded as the law of the land; and the Utraquist Church was recognized by the Pope as the national self-governing Church of Bohemia. There were basically four terms of the Compacta:

I. Communion was to be given to laymen in both kinds.

II. All mortal sins were to be punished by the proper authorities.

III. The Word of God was to be freely preached by faithful priests and deacons.

IV. No priests were to have any worldly possessions.

For all practical purposes, this agreement meant the defeat of the advanced reforming movement. In truth, the Utraquists had gained one thing and one thing only; they were allowed to take wine at Holy Communion. Aside from this one concession, the Utraquist followers of Hus were in all other respects, Catholic. They adored the Host, read the masses, kept the fasts, and said the prayers as their forebears

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had before them.

Also, with the ratification of the Compacta, the fate of the remaining Hussite factions was sealed. The Taborites and Orphans were not completely satisfied and insisted upon additional concessions. Unfortunately for them, their power was declining. Nobility had long grown tired after years of seemingly ceaseless struggle. With prompting by the Utraquists, a league was formed of men of rank with one goal: the pacification of Bohemia and Moravia by overwhelming force.

On May 30, 1434, two armies met at the Battle of Lipany. The Taborites and Orphans were utterly defeated and practically crushed out of existence. The battle became a massacre. The slaughter continued all the night and part of the following day. Prokop the Great and 13,000 of his warriors lay dead in the field. With this battle, the more than 15 years of bloodshed known as the Hussite Wars officially ended.

But there was additional blood to be shed. The last remnants of the Taborites were under the command of Jan Rohac of Dube. This

force was besieged at castle Sion near Kutna Hora. It was captured by Sigismund's forces, and on September 9, 1437, Rohac, who still refused to accept Sigismund as his King, was hanged in Prague.

The Utraquists had achieved the goal for which they strove. They were even considered "redeemed" because they abandoned the Taborites at Lipany. They would go on to model themselves on the hierarchy of the Church. They even went as far as to seek Church approval for the appointment of its clergy. After more than 15 years of violent bloodshed, the Hussite movement had been defeated militarily. But with that defeat, several questions remained. Was this to be the end of the reforms Hus strove for? Would the teachings of Hus survive? With the powerful voice of Hus long since silenced and the clamors of war beginning to fade, would a new voice dare to speak out again?

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Fayetteville Brethren Church

**Worship on the
2nd, 3rd, and 4th
Saturdays
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Rev. Mike Groseclose

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Protestant Preaching
in Texas - 1855'*



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New Tabor Brethren Church

130th Anniversary Celebration Invitation

The New Tabor Brethren Church would like to invite you to join in the celebration of their 130th Anniversary on Sunday October 15, 2023. The celebration will begin at 10:00 a.m. with a worship service followed by a catered lunch in the Fellowship Building.

Everyone is invited – current and past members, visitors, and friends of New Tabor Brethren Church. Please come and join our celebration!

RSVP is appreciated by October 1, 2023, if planning to join us for lunch. Please contact one of the following:

Lillie Chafin 979-777-6674
Adelle Morehead 979-324-3878
Cathy Homeyer 979-324-4561
Shirle Urbanovsky 979-324-3800

The church is located at 2439 County Rd. 225, Caldwell, TX 77836

HOUSTON BRETHERN 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

TAYLOR BRETHERN 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

Seaton Christian Sisters Annual Bake Sale & Quilt Show Invitation

The Seaton Brethren Church Christian Sisters will host their annual bake sale/quilt show fundraiser on

**Saturday, November 4, 2023,
from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

at the church, 12561 State Highway 53, Temple (Seaton).

Kolaches, cakes, pies, cookies, jellies, pecans, home-made canned goods and chicken dressing will be available for sale. Sandwiches and home-made soup will be available for sale.

Pre-orders for chicken dressing only are being taken up to Wednesday, October 25.

Text or call (254) 718-5356 or (254) 913-6054 to pre-order. Dressing is to be picked up at the church the day of the fundraiser. A Re-Sale shop of gently used items will be opened. A handmade quilt and gift cards will be given away for a love donation of \$1.00 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$5.00. Proceeds from the fundraiser will be used for the many projects the Christian Sisters support in the church and community. The fundraiser is free and open to the public.

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

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.

2024 Camp Dates!

Encounter: June 9-12

Discovery: June 16-21

Pioneer: June 23-28

Hus School: July 7-19

Alpha: July 21-25

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

Brethren Youth Leadership Team 2023-24

Congratulations to those who will be serving on the leadership team. This group is responsible for helping to plan retreats and service projects for the BYF. The first meeting was on Sunday, August 13 at Wall Brethren Church.

Youth Members:

Joanna Chervenka (Ocker)
Jacelyn Chervenka (Ocker)
Riley Green (Snook)
Harper Houser (Wall)

Ryan Dusek (Wall)
Katelyn Zrubek (Taylor)
Anabelle Denise (Ocker)
Alyson Cocke (Taylor)

Adult Members:

Dillon Barbisch (Ocker)
Teresa Cocke (Taylor)
Brady Collard (Wall)

Jordan Barbisch (Ocker)
Kayla Marek (Taylor)
Jennifer Chervenka (Youth Coordinator)

BYF Retreat Dates for 2023-2024

The retreats will be held at the Hus Encampment. Please visit the youth website for more information about each retreat and for registration information. Retreat fee is \$30. Registration deadlines in ().

T-shirts are available for an additional charge. Retreats are for any youth ages 12-21. Youth do need to be a member of a local BYF to attend.

Nov. 4-5 (Oct. 15) • **Jan. 6-7** (Dec. 17) • **March 1-3** (Feb. 11)

The **State Children's Rally** for ages 3-11 will be **Saturday, March 2**, at the camp.

Visit www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.org for more information and to see photos of past activities or contact Jennifer Chervenka, state youth coordinator 254-913-1244; jennchervenka@gmail.com.

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

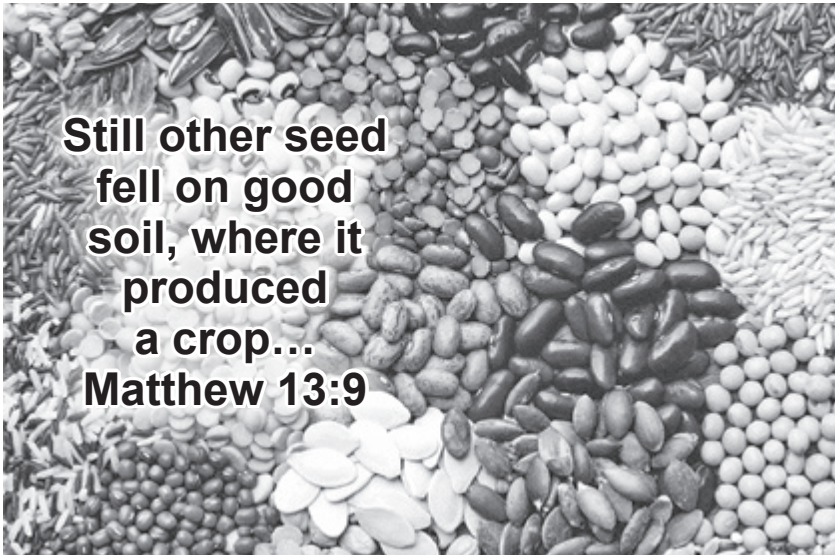
Cemetery

Sharon Marek

(254) 482-0498



SUNDAY SCHOOL HELPER



**Still other seed
fell on good
soil, where it
produced
a crop...
Matthew 13:9**

Fall is upon us and many children may have experienced or seen the harvesting of crops. Harvest is a powerful Bible concept. More than 100 verses refer to sowing or reaping! This month the activities will revolve around the Parable of the Sower.

The Parable of the Sower

Scripture: Matthew 13:3-9

Ask children what a harvest is?

Read Matthew 13:3-9, The Parable of the Sower. As you read, use the Sower's Sack to tell the story.

Sower's Sack Materials: small lunch sack, construction paper, Bible sticker, marker, scissors, tape, glue.

1. Write Parable of the Sower on the sack.
2. On a light brown strip of paper, write "wayside". Draw little seeds on the paper.
3. Draw a bird on another piece of construction paper.
4. Use another piece of construction paper to make a rock and write "rock" on it.
5. Take a green square of construction paper. "Fringe" it like grass and glue it on top of the rock. This is a withered seed.
6. Use brown paper to create thorns. Write "thorns" on this paper. Glue some small pieces of green to the bottom of the thorns. This is the withered seed.
7. Cut a rectangle from dark brown paper. Cut a small wiggle at the top to resemble a furrow. Cut more grass from dark green construction paper and glue it on top of the dark brown rectangle. Write "good soil" at the bottom. This is good soil.
8. Using dark green paper, cut out a seed. Write "This is a good seed." Place a Bible sticker or draw a Bible on the seed.
9. Place all the pieces in the sack and use the props as you tell the parable.

A SOWER PLANTED SEEDS

Tune: Beverly Hillbillies

A sower planted seeds,
He tossed them all around.
Pesky birds, scorching sun,
Tough thorns and rocky ground,
In good soil, seeds grew tall,
They grew for all to see,
God's Word is the seed,
I'll let it grow in me.



Harvest Game

Materials: balloons, string, large trash bags

Blow up the balloons and tie a string to each one.

Explain that the balloons are giant seeds. The goal is to plant as many seeds as possible.

1. Form two teams. Have children line up on one side, with the trash bag on the other side.

2. Children must stay on their hands and knees. They will put a string in their mouth and crawl to the garbage bag. They can try to take as many balloons at one time as they think they can handle.

3. Without using their hands, they have to stuff the balloons into the trashbag. (One team member or an assistant can hold open the bag)

4. Children have 45 seconds to complete the task. At the end of 45 seconds, say STOP.

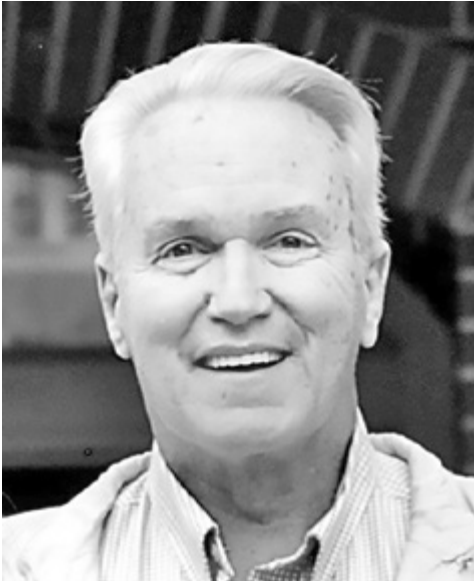
5. Then the next two children try. Continue until everyone has a chance. The team with the most seeds in the bag, wins.

Talk about how many seeds didn't get planted (make it in the bag). Connect that to the Parable of the Sower. Talk about what happened to the ones that didn't grow. **Read** Matthew 18-23. Use the balloon seeds as an illustration.

- Jesus said the seeds are like the Good News about God.
- When anyone hears and does not understand, the evil one snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path.
 - The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a brief time.
 - The seed falling in the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life make it unfruitful.
 - Pick up the garbage bags with the balloons. These are the good seeds! These are like the people that heard the word of God when it was sown to them in spiritual seeds.

VITAL STATISTICS

RECENT DEATHS



GILBERT, DAVID MICHAEL (MIKE), 76, a member of the New Tabor Brethren Church, passed away peacefully on July 1, 2023, in Houston, TX with his loving family at his bedside after a brief illness. Mike was born on April 16, 1947, in Houston, Texas to Charles M. Gilbert and Mary Sue Gilbert and spent most of his young life in Houston, graduating from Reagan High School in 1967. He married the love of his life and high school sweetheart,

Diana Rose Marek, on June 10, 1967. They settled in Tomball, TX where they raised their two children, Tami Rene, and Jason Michael. Mike spent most of his career in the insurance appraisal business. After retirement from USAA in 2008, he and Diana moved to Caldwell, TX where they became active members of New Tabor Brethren Church. Mike was an attentive father, adoring husband, loving grandfather, and loyal friend. He was a World War II history buff, enjoyed everything Aggie, and loved spending time at the family farm. But most importantly, he treasured time spent with friends and family.

Mike is survived by his wife Diana of 56 years, son Jason Gilbert and his wife Meagan, daughter Tami Whitmarsh and her husband Brad, sister MaryAnn Jones and her husband Mike, and sister Brenda Hutchinson. He is also survived by his grandchildren Camryn Whitmarsh, Lauren Whitmarsh, Peyton Whitmarsh, Anna Gilbert, and Haley Gilbert and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at New Tabor Brethren Church on Friday, July 7th followed by burial at New Tabor Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to New Tabor Brethren Church P.O. Box 262 Caldwell, TX 77836.

Daily Morsels for Oct. 2023

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

From the Holy Bible New Revised Standard Version, slightly modified

1. O my God, in You I trust. Ps. 25:2a

2. Lead me in Your truth and teach me. Ps. 25:5a

3. Good and upright is the LORD. Ps. 25:8a

4. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit. Phil. 2:3a

5. In humility regard others as better than yourselves. Phil. 2:3b

6. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Phil. 2:4

7. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus. Phil. 2:5

8. You shall have no other gods before Me. Ex. 20:3

9. The heavens are telling the glory of God. Ps. 19:1a

10. The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. Ps. 19:9

11. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to You, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer. Ps. 19:14

12. I regard everything (else I have attained) as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Phil. 3:8

13. I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the sharing of His sufferings by becoming like Him in His death. Phil. 3:10



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14. Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Phil. 3:13b-14

15. By awesome deeds You answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation. Ps. 65:5a

16. You are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas. Ps. 65:5b

17. The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 2 Cor. 9:6

18. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Cor. 9:7

19. God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. 2 Cor. 9:8

20. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! 2 Cor. 9:15

21. Remember the LORD your God. Deut. 8:18

22. He is exalted over all the peoples. Ps. 99:2b

23. Let them praise Your great and awesome name. Holy is He! Ps. 99:3

24. Mighty King, lover of justice, You have established equity. Ps. 99:4

25. I am the LORD, and there is no other. Isa. 45:6b

26. Sing to the LORD, all the earth. Ps. 96:1b

27. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples. Ps. 96:3

28. He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with His truth. Ps. 96:13

29. From everlasting to everlasting, You are God. Ps. 90:2a

30. You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. Lev. 19:2

31. 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

This is the greatest and first commandment. Mt. 22:37b-38

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Chair: Kari Raesz – (2021) Taylor,
kari.raesz@icloud.com

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Open seat

Jennifer Chervenka – Youth

Coordinator, Ocker

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(Pastor to the Pastors)**

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

Rev. Tim Chaplin

Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill

Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

October 15, 2023 – New Tabor Brethren Church 130th Anniversary Celebration. Beginning at 10:00 a.m. with a worship service followed by a catered lunch in the Fellowship Building. All are invited. RSVP to Cathy Homeyer at 979-324-4561. For more information, see the article in this issue.

Save the Dates ...

November 4 – Seaton Brethren Church Christian Sisters Annual Bake Sale & Quilt Show from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the church, 12561 State Highway 53, Temple (Seaton). Kolaches, cakes, pies, cookies, jellies, pecans, home-made canned goods, chicken dressing, sandwiches and home-made soup will be available for sale. **Pre-orders for chicken dressing only are being taken up to Wednesday, October 25.** Text or call (254) 718-5356 or (254) 913-6054 to pre-order. For more information, see the invitation in this issue.

November 4 – 5 – Youth Retreat at Hus Encampment. Deadline to register is October 15. For more information, see the retreat article in this issue. You can also visit www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.org to find additional information and see photos of past activities or contact Jennifer Chervenka, state youth coordinator 254-913-1244; jennchervenka@gmail.com.

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.*

Knesek Family Funeral Chapels



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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

FOREIGN MISSIONS BOARD

Chairman:

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

Unity Representatives:

John Brinkley (2021), Ocker
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)

HUS SCHOOL ENCAMPMENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Please send ALL HUS SCHOOL DONATIONS TO: Susan Marek, Treasurer – see below for address

Chairman: Kent Laza (kent.laza@verizon.net), 4913 FM 166, Caldwell, TX 77836; (979) 220-1957 (2017 – BCS)

Treasurer: Susan Marek (Marek1304@hotmail.com), 1304 T H Johnson Dr., Taylor, TX 76574; (512) 352-6165 (2021 – Taylor)

Member: Tami Laza (2017 – BCS)

Member: James Marek (2017 – Taylor)

Member: Rick Weise (2017 – Wall)

Member: Angie Labaj Dolan (2019 – Temple)

Members: Ben Wilde (2021 – Ocker)
Jennifer Chervenka (2017 – Ocker)

The Encampment is governed by a Board of Trustees of 8 members. Chairperson is elected by the Convention. Terms: 2 years, may be re-elected/re-appointed for a maximum of 4 terms or 8 years. (Unity of the Brethren By-Laws, Article XIV, Sec C.)

Non-Voting Appointments

Programming Director: Jordan Barbisch
jordanbarbisch@gmail.com

Facilities Manager: Alan Haisler
haislera@ymail.com

Caretakers: OPEN Position

Synodical Committee Oversight: Rev. Vanessa Mitchell, Synodical 3rd VP

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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Natalie Outlaw, Gen. & Jr. Dept.
Secretary, 979-589-2012
Ruth Ann Wuensche, Treasurer
James Marek, Board Member
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Synodical Liaison: Lance LaBedelle,
2nd Vice-President

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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

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

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 lifecatcbc.org for spiritual resources, events, videos, & more! Friend us on Facebook! caldwellbrethrenchurch@gmail.com

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.

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

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

Carolyn Groseclose
NDO
PO Box 630260
Choma, Zambia
email: carolyngroseclose84@gmail.com

Joel & Teresa Jelski
Mazkeret Moshe
19
Jerusalem 9431619
Israel

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

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

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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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

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

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. Whitney Amos and
Rev. Charles Amos

Non-Voting Lay Alternate: Taylor Brinkley,
Ocker

Lay Members:

BCS: Alan Haisler, haislera@gmail.com

Buckholts: Charlene Vogelsang,
cakv@hotmail.com

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

Crosby: Debbie Clark, foxfire890@aol.com

Dime Box: No Representative

Fayetteville: Sandra Stepan,
sandrinaustin@yahoo.com

Good Shepherd: Lorenzo Wilson

Granger: No Representative

Houston: J.T. Verwold, dmverwold@yahoo.com

Industry: Harvey Treybig, harvey.treybig@gmail.com

Nelsonville: Jenell Zettel, (979) 203-8390

New Tabor: Robert Campbell,
robertfcampbell05@yahoo.com

Ocker: Lisa Sebek, sebeks@centurylink.net

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 Srmensky

Temple: Jim Hiles, jimhiles1959@gmail.com

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

Wesley: Beth Dusek, bethbrenham@gmail.com

West: Mike James, pswmhjames@gmail.com

Westheimer: Buddy Allen,
buddyallen@gmail.com

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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. 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) 594-4518 (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
Ln., Temple, TX 76504. (254) 742-8333;
Baylor Medical Center, Round Rock,
TX, mark.labaj@utexas.edu

Rev. Denise Mikeska, 3894 Apple Cider
Road, Temple, TX 76501.
sbccpastordenise@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@gmail.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
jerryleterrill@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

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

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

Rev. Al Newby, 2210 Forest Trail,
Temple, TX 76502. (254) 778-1860

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