

# THE BRETHREN

# JOURNAL



Vol. 123

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## ***Christian Sisters' Union Executive Boards 2022-2024 and 2024-2026 Joint Meeting Hus School Encampment, June 13, 2024***

*Pictured L to R: Ann Sebesta, Secretary, 2022-'24 & 2024-26; Connie Janac, Vice-President, 2024-'26; Carolyn Groseclose, Financial Sec'y., 2024-'26; Carolyn Beseda, President, 2022-'24 & 2024-'26; Anna Wotipka, Vice-President, 2022-'24; Paige Hearn, Treasurer, 2022-'24; and Janice Zavodny, Treasurer, 2024-'26. Not Pictured: Dorothy Milberger, Financial Sec'y., 2022-'24.*

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

*The Continued Persecution of the Unity...* by Jim Pokorny  
Hus Camp Summer Recap  
Seaton Brethren Church Bake Sale Invitation

**...AND MORE!!**

## THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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# Editor's Note

The Brethren Journal Business Committee wanted to inform you that we are currently experiencing delays in mailing out copies of the Brethren Journal due to unexpected issues with postal software. We are actively working with the printer to resolve these problems as quickly as possible to ensure that you receive your magazine without further interruptions. Until we can mail out your Brethren Journal, we will be emailing a file to each church to print for each subscriber. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your patience and understanding during this time. Thank you for your continued support.

Brethren Journal Business Committee

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Ben Polasek, Business Manager

Dorothy Milberger, Treasurer

Bro. Mike Groseclose, Chairperson, Synodical Committee 2nd VP

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**Sunday School**  
9:30 AM

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

**Sunday Worship**  
10:30 AM

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

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# The Continued Persecution of the Unity

By Jim Pokorny

The first persecution of the ancient Unity of the Brethren had begun, and it was none other than King George Podiebrad of Bohemia who initiated it. Gregory, the founder of the Unity, was among the first to be stretched upon the torturers' rack. But Gregory was not dead. As he slowly recovered, he was in great pain and was not initially aware of what had transpired. But when he lost consciousness at the hands of his tormentors, Gregory experienced a dream. As he recuperated, he began telling others about his vision.

In this dream, Gregory found himself in a meadow. In that meadow stood a tree heavy with fruit upon which various kinds of birds ate. A boy sat on one branch.

He held a rod in his hand. The boy used this rod to control and direct the birds so that none of them left their place or flew away. Three men stood near the tree to guard it, and Gregory was struck by their appearance.

According to Gindley, on the day following his dream, George of Sussic, Halar, and George of Funfkirchen publicly recanted their faith in the Thein Church. All three formerly cut ties with the Brethren and swore to uphold Utraquist doctrines. Sadly, two of the men had previously been Elders in the Unity. Having cut ties with the Brethren, they were set free. Others who had been arrested with them were kept in prison as late as



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1463. Through the intervention of his Uncle Rokycana, Gregory was released and assumed residence at Reichenau near Seftenberg to continue his recovery.

Podiebrad's persecution was brutal, but it failed to bring about the result he had in mind. Podiebrad saw this persecution as a step toward gaining the imperial throne. This persecution, along with the views of Rome, rendered his political ambition unpopular. In fact, citizens of Bohemia not only felt that Podiebrad had forsaken the Hussite tradition, but they also felt his rule had become more Germanic in nature. Podiebrad, out of necessity, abandoned his pursuit. He also fired the advisor who suggested this course of action in the first place. Moreover, he was forced to give the Diet assurance in writing that their rights and privileges would be upheld. This included upholding the Compacta.

Although Podiebrad's personal ambition had been sidetracked, the persecution of the Brethren continued unabated. Soon after Gregory's liberation, a new edict was issued that forbade every form of public worship that was not conducted in either the Utraquist or Catholic traditions. Moreover, it went on to state that any priest who dared to conduct worship in the manner of the Picards would be put to death.

The Brethren's Michael Braciacius was arrested and thrown into the dungeon of Lititz Castle. More Brethren were arrested and held prisoner in Podiebrad's castle where the constant fear of execution hung heavy over their heads. According to both Gindley

and Lasitius, Baron Zdenek Kostka ordered four members of the ancient Unity to be burned alive at Richenburg.

An appeal was sent to Rokycana. Although he did not approve of the persecution, he did sanction it. His nephew Gregory wrote: "Many evil accusations against us were laid before Rokycana, but for a long time, he rejected them, for he knew us intimately and was well disposed toward us. But he could not resist the King, whom prominent clergymen incited against us, including the Queen, too, to believe the things which were said, although, as God liveth, they were all untrue. Hence, the King ordered us to be imprisoned and tortured. Rokycana could not prevent this."

A letter from the Brethren painfully asked: "Have we deserved the persecutions brought upon us? Have we not been your disciples? Have we not followed your own words in refusing to remain in connection with the corrupt Church? Is it right to invoke the civil power against us? Civil power is intended for those who have broken the laws of society and be coerced within proper bounds. It arose in the heathen world. It is absolutely wrong to use it in matters of religion."

Painful though these words were, they changed nothing for the moment. The first persecution of the Brethren continued. In time, this period of persecution would die out. But the damage it inflicted would have consequences. It would lead to a Brethren Synod held at Reichenau where a separation from the Utraquist Church would be both official and final.



# 2024 Christian Sisters 51st Convention Minutes

**Theme: Christ is Calling, Let Us Praise and Thank Him**

**Scripture: Psalms 101:1, Ephesians 5:19-20, Philippians 3:14**

The 51st Biennial Christian Sisters Convention was held April 27, 2024, at the Hus Encampment hosted by the New Tabor Christian Sisters. **Registration** began at 8:30 a.m. with a Continental Breakfast prepared by the New Tabor Christian Sisters featuring delicious kolaches. As delegates registered, they were given **additions to the delegates' packets previously mailed:** Convention bulletin, Executive Committee Report: Secretary, Audit committee Report for Treasurer's books from Nelsonville Brethren Church, Addendum to Financial Secretary's report, and Motion #4 printout.

The **Worship Service** began at 9:30 a.m. with a welcome by Diane Surovik, New Tabor Christian Sisters President with a response by Carolyn Beseda, Christian Sisters Union President. Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill led the service and brought the

message based on Luke 4:38-39, emphasizing women historically as warriors for Christ. Communion was served, Rev. Dr. Terrill being assisted by Rev. Rhonda Johnson. The Convention song "Lord, You Are Merciful" and special music "Lord We Praise You This Day" were both composed by Carolyn Beseda, Christian Sisters Union President.

The **First Session** opened at 10:54 a.m. with prayer by Carolyn Beseda, President. Debbie Clark (Crosby) complimented breakfast refreshments. Vice President Anna Wotipka reported no usable Christian Records are stored at Hus Encampment.

**Roll Call** was given by Secretary Ann Sebesta. 15 delegates were seated. (Originally reported as 14 delegates and 9 alternate delegates, one delegate position was

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## Fayetteville Brethren Church

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filled by an alternate delegate, adjusting the number to 15 delegates and 8 alternate delegates.) Good Shepherd, Pasadena, Wall, and Westheimer Societies were unable to send delegates. 4 Pastors, 14 visitors, and 5 Christian Sisters Union Executive Board Members were also present, a total of 46 in attendance.

Naming of **Convention Committees** was read. Names of two delegates unable to attend were deleted from Committees.

**Minutes of the 50th Christian Sisters Convention** were corrected: Page 4 of minutes – Publicity Committee: correct 30 to 39 to read "For a total of 39 in attendance."

**Reports of Officers:**

**President** Carolyn Beseda's report was in mailed delegates packets – no questions or comments from delegates. **Vice President** Anna Wotipka gave oral report –

no Christian Sisters archives were at the Hus Encampment. (Subsequent to this convention, Secretary Ann Sebesta remembered Anna Wotipka reporting to the board in the year of the 50th convention that there were 2 boxes of Christian Sisters' records at Hus Encampment but were almost exclusively treasurer's records. At that meeting the Secretary offered to take those boxes, with irrational thoughts of taking time to glean historical information from those records. Those two boxes are currently still in the Secretary's possession.) **Financial Secretary** Dorothy Milberger mentioned timely attention to deadlines makes the job less stressful for both Financial Secretary and Treasurer. The Financial Secretary's report was mailed in delegates packets, with an Addendum distributed at registration today. **Treasurer** Paige Hearn's →

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

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*Board of Elders*  
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Brady Collard  
254-229-5217

*Church Office*  
*Secretary*  
Roxie Holik  
M-Th-7:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

report was in delegates' mailed packets. No questions or comments from delegates. **Secretary** Ann Sebesta's report was distributed during registration today.

**Reports of Standing Committees:**

Rev Joe Emerson gave a report of **Mission work** of the Unity. Home Mission Board Chair is Rev. Joe Emerson, Foreign Mission Chair is Carolyn Groseclose, with Rev Joe Emerson as Synodical Committee Liaison (1st VP). The Synodical committee is pausing missions to focus and regroup for mission work and at their September meeting will focus on ideas in this area. Home Missions-our mission is Cade Lake; Czech missionaries are active; prayer is needed especially for Israel missionaries. Prayer and input for all mission work is needed.

**Hus Encampment** presentation brought by Kent Laza with pictures from last year's camps and a report of more renovation to come. The number of children served has increased but the camp leadership

volunteer program needs to be strengthened. Camp newsletter has been started, and Hus Facebook group has a wish list of items requested for camps, such as fishing gear. Outside organizations are able to rent camp facilities and to hold retreats. Other information was shared regarding the purchase of neighboring property.

**Business Session adjourned** 12:16 p.m. with prayer by Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrell. A delicious turkey and dressing lunch prepared by the New Tabor Christian Sisters was enjoyed by all (free will offering). Convention committees used the lunch break for committee work.

**The Memorial Service** to remember 24 deceased Christian Sisters since the 2022 Convention began at 2:30 p.m. The Memorial Service (Handbook Section VII) was recited, and as the names of departed Christian Sisters were read, a candle was lit by a family member, friend, or Christian Sisters Local Society representative. Special music was presented by



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**Youth Directors**

Derek & Aubri Cotton



Ann Sebesta.

The **Second Session of Business** began at 3:08 p.m. Bro. Joseph Polasek brought greetings from the Mutual Aid Society: 2024 scholarship recipients to be announced shortly for 5 applicants, \$10,000 funds available. MASUB Scholarships began in 2011. \$51,000 cumulative amount has been awarded in years since 2011. MASUB also makes available building construction loans for Unity churches or their entities.

**Reading of Convention minutes:** Motion made and passed for a synopsis of minutes to be given, which was done by Secretary Ann Sebesta.

**New Business:** None brought before the Convention body.

**Committees: Auditing committee** reported the books of the Christian Sisters are in order.

**Motion** to approve audit of Financial Secretary and Treasurer's books to be in order was made and passed.

**Budget committee** presented budget: Projected dues \$1,875.00 plus Convention income and Donation \$1,500 = \$3,375 receipts. Disbursements: Administrative board expense \$1,000, Convention expense (Honorarium, promotional items, postage, supplies, Memorial Service) = \$3,800 disbursements, leaving a net loss of \$425. Motion to increase dues from \$8 to \$12 to be presented by Motions Committee.

**The Nominating Committee** presented the slate of officers but vote had to wait on disposition of

Motions #1, 2, and 4 brought by the Nominating Committee.

**The Resolutions Committee:** Regret for the loss of 24 deceased members since the last Convention and for local societies which were not able to send delegates. Rejoicing for the participation of Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill and Rev Rhonda Johnson in Worship and Communion Service, for music and hymns during Worship and Memorial Services and for gift bags.

**Motion** made and passed to accept report

**Motions Committee:**

**Motion #1** Due to the fact that the Nominating Committee's work to provide a slate of new Nominating Committee members Place 1, 2, and 3 was hampered by the inability of so many members contacted being unable to serve for a variety of reasons, it is moved that Handbook Article VII Nominating Committee item #1 which states in part "If at all possible each member of the committee should be from a different local society." be set aside at this convention on the event the nominee from the floor to fill Place 3 is from a society already represented on the Nominating Committee. (Motion in

mailed delegates' packet brought by the Nominating Committee to possibly expedite accepting a nomination from the floor at this Convention to fill Place 3.) **Motion passed.**

**Motion #2** Due to the fact that the Nominating Committee's work to provide a slate of eligible nomi-

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nees for Christian Sisters' Union offices was hampered by the inability of so many members contacted being unable to serve for a variety of reasons, it is moved that Handbook Article VII Nominating Committee item #5 portion “\*Has had at least one year of experience as an officer in her local.” and “\*Has served as a delegate to one or more Christian Sisters Conventions.” be set aside at this convention to allow presentation of a nominee who has been a member of a local society for some time but has not served as a local officer, and is unable to document serving as a delegate to a Christian Sisters' Convention. (Motion in mailed delegates' packet brought by the Nominating Committee to allow nomination of a Christian Sisters member who volunteered to have her name placed in nomination after hearing discussion of the need for this office at her local Society, and with no reservations of this action expressed from her local Society.) **Motion passed.**

**Motion #3** The duly elected Executive Committee of the Christian

Sisters Union (consisting of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Financial Secretary, and Treasurer) at the 51st Christian Sisters' Union Convention on April 27, 2024, is authorized to conduct the business of the Christian Sisters Union of the Unity of the Brethren through the conclusion of the next convention, usually held every two years. The Treasurer and President of the Executive Committee are each authorized to sign checks on accounts and otherwise conduct CSU business with the financial institution or institutions of the Executive Committee's choice. Only one signature is required on checks unless the financial institution requirements addressing special circumstances says otherwise. (This motion in mailed delegates' packet is brought by the current Executive Committee of the Christian Sisters Union to demonstrate to financial institutions the desire of the convention body to give authority to the newly elected Executive Board to act as stated in the motion.) **Motion passed.**



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**Motion #4 (this motion was given to delegates at registration today)**

It is moved that Handbook Article VII Nominating Committee item #5 portion “\*Will be present either as a delegate or visitor at the current convention” be set aside at this convention to allow presentation of a nominee for office who recently discovered a family obligation would prevent her attending the current Christian Sisters’ Convention. The nominee is well qualified for the office for which she is nominated. Circumstances regarding the challenges in searching for nominees for office has been presented in motions #1 and #2.

(Motion brought by Alice Kocurek, Rosenberg delegate, second by Dorothy See, Snook delegate to allow nomination of a member who only recently discovered she would not be able to attend the current convention, had fully intended to be present, and is well qualified to serve in the office for which she is nominated.) **Motion passed.**

**Motion #5** Due to the fact that gasoline prices are on the rise, it is moved to raise the price of gas mileage for the Executive Committee from 25 cents to 40 cents per mile (from home to destination.) (This motion is brought by the current Motions Committee to reflect the need for an increase in prices due to inflation.)

During discussion of Motion #5 the following **amendment** was offered by the Motions Committee: Replace the “40 cents” amount with “50 cents”, and replace the

words “(from home to destination.)” with “round trip”. The **amendment passed.**

**Motion #5 as Amended:** Due to the fact that gasoline prices are on the rise, it is moved to raise the price of gas mileage for the Executive Committee from 25 cents to 50 cents per mile round trip. **Motion #5 as Amended passed.**

**Motion #6:** Motion is made to change the Christian Sisters Union dues to \$12 per member effective 2025. (This motion is brought by the current Budget Committee because dues have not been raised for many years and the rise in prices as noted in the Budget Committee’s report.) **Motion passed.**

**Publicity Committee:**

Reported information of complete for publicity notice, with new officers to be completed when elections are done.

President Carolyn Beseda recognized those present who have served in any capacity on the Executive Board: Lillie Chafin, Mary Polasek, Elain Koehn, Anna Wotipka, Paige Hearn, Dorothy Milberger, and Carolyn Beseda; and gave thanks to those who assisted with this year’s convention especially the New Tabor Christian Sisters and Allen Haisler Hus Encampment maintenance.

Elections: **Nominating Committee slate** presented:

Place 1 Anna Wotipka (Caldwell) 2024-2028

Place 2 Rita Tyson (Houston) 2024-2028,

Place 3 vacant 2024-2028,

→

Place 4 Barbara Jancik (Caldwell) 2022-2026

Place 5 Debby Clark (Crosby) 2022-2026

No nominations from the floor for Place 3 or any other position. Slate elected as presented.

**Christian Sisters Union Executive Board slate** presented:

President, Carolyn Beseda (Houston)

Vice President, Connie Janac (Snook)

Secretary, Ann Sebesta (Snook)

Financial Secretary, Carolyn Groseclose (Ocker)

Treasurer, Janice Zavodny (New Tabor)

No nominations from the floor. Slate of Christian Sisters Union Executive Board elected as presented. Vice President Anna Wotipka conducted vote.

The **2026 Christian Sisters' Union Convention** - no invitation was received.

Debbie Clark will ask Crosby Christian Sisters if they would consider an invitation.

**Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill installed the newly elected Christian Sis-**

**ters' Union officers.**

President Carolyn Beseda presented crosses to outgoing Anna Wotipka for service as Secretary and Vice President, Paige Hearn as Treasurer, and Dorothy Milberger as Financial Secretary. Thanks were expressed to Diane Surovik, New Tabor Christian Sisters President and New Tabor Local members Diane Gilbert, Adelle Moorehead, Susan Skrabanek, and Sheila Orsak. The Christian Sisters Union presented a religious picture to the New Tabor Local Society.

**Convention closed** with the convention song "You, Lord, are Merciful" and adjourned with prayer at 4:47 p.m.

**Addendum to minutes:** The freewill donation for lunch prepared by the New Tabor Christian Sisters and all, rather than half, of the offering received at the Worship Service (a total of \$890) were presented to the Christian Sisters Union, this being the desire the New Tabor Christian Sisters membership.

*Ann Sebesta, Secretary*

## TAYLOR BROTHERS CHURCH

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

# Seaton Brethren Annual Bake Sale Invitation

The Seaton Church Christian Sisters will host their annual bake sale fundraiser on Saturday, November 2, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the church, 12561 State Highway 53, Temple (Seaton). Kolaches, cakes, pies, cookies, jellies, home-made canned goods and chicken dressing will be available for sale. All pre-ordered dressing must be picked up on the day of the sale. Sandwiches and home-made soup will be available for purchase. A Re-Sale shop of gently used items will be open. A drawing for 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 event will be used for the projects of the church and community. Cash and checks only. The fundraiser is free and open to the public.

## Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

Sept 7, 2024 – Fall Synodical Committee Meeting at the Hus Encampment – 8:00 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship; 9:00 a.m. Meeting Begins

### Save the Dates ...

#### NEW 2025 Summer Camp Dates

**ENCOUNTER**

ages 7-9 yrs old

Camp cost: TBD

Camp Date: June 15 - 18

**ALPHA**

ages 10-11 yrs old

Camp cost: TBD

Camp Date: July 13 – 17

**PIONEER**

ages 12-13 yrs old

Camp cost: TBD

Camp Date: July 6 - 11

**DISCOVERY**

ages 14-15 years old

Camp cost: TBD

Camp Date: June 8 - 13

**CHALLENGER**

ages 16-19 years old.

Camp cost: TBD

Date: Not Held in 2025

**HUS SCHOOL**

In depth Leadership Program ages 16-Adult

Cost: TBD

Date: June 20 - 28

#### For more information

about the Hus School Encampment go to ...  
[www.huscamp.org](http://www.huscamp.org)

*Does your church/organization have an activity that you would like to include in this listing? Please send activity information including a contact name, phone number and/or email address to the Brethren Journal Editor at: [editor.brethrenjournal@gmail.com](mailto:editor.brethrenjournal@gmail.com). Information must be received by the first day of the month immediately preceding the month of publication.*

# Hus Encampment Summer Camp 2024 Recap

The Hus Encampment wrapped up our Summer Camp programs at the end of July. This year the Hus Camp served 163 campers across all five camping sessions! This is the largest group of campers that we have seen since 2020. We are very excited for our numbers to be rising again. This year we had kiddos from all over the Unity and many first-time campers! Word is spreading about our little camp in Caldwell, Texas and we are ecstatic to be sharing Jesus with so many young people. This Summer our campers really enjoyed things like Water Day, dance parties, and their study sessions. Encounter Campers, ages 7-9, learned that they were Built to be Awesome! They walked through the creation story talking about how God created each one of them in His image and for a special purpose! The Alpha Campers, ages 10-11, went on an adventure following Jesus and learned what it means to be connected and produce Spiritual Fruit. At Pioneer Camp, ages 12-13, the students learned that everyone's invited to the table of grace set by Jesus. Discovery Campers, ages

14-15, learned the history behind worship, what worship is, our motivation for worshipping God, and how we worship through prayer, singing, and serving others. Finally, Hus School, ages 16-19, covered the Brethren history and beliefs and included lessons on how to be a Christian adult.

The Summer Camp program could not happen without the support of individual congregations and the Unity. Thank you so much to everyone who sent their children and grandchildren, donated to a camper's tuition, and those who prayed so diligently over our camps. The work that is happening at the Hus Encampment is so important and so impactful to these students and we could not do it without your support.

Finally, the Hus Encampment sends out a yearly newsletter in the Fall. This newsletter gives a great recap of what is going on at the Camp and things to look forward to throughout the year. If you have not previously received this newsletter, and would like to, please send an email that includes your mailing address to [info@huscamp.org](mailto:info@huscamp.org). That same email can also be used if you ever have any questions about the Camp or need to get in contact with us!

**Jordan Barbisch,**  
*Camp Programming Coordinator*

## 2025 CAMP DATES:

Encounter, entering 2nd-4th grade: June 15-18

Alpha, entering 5th & 6th grade: July 13-17

Pioneer, entering 7th & 8th grade: July 6-11

Discovery, entering 9th & 10th grade: June 8-13

Hus, entering 11th, 12th & College Freshman: June 20-28





Encounter Camp 2024. 41 Campers. 21 Staff Members. Pastor: Mike Groseclose  
Directors: Susan Neal, Elizabeth Odom, Lance Labeledelle, Collin Weise  
Nurse: Sarah Gallander Theme: Built to be Awesome!



Alpha Camp 2024. 38 Campers. 15 Staff Members. Pastor: Mark Sebek  
Directors: Jennifer Chervenka, Jessica Chervenka, Krystal & Ben Wilde  
Nurse: Grace Tawney Theme: Alpha Adventure.



Pioneer Camp 2024. 31 Campers. 14 Staff Members. Pastor: Brady Collard  
Directors: Kayla Marek, Patrick McSorley  
Directors-in-Training: Allyson Cocke, Rebecca Olson Camp Nurse: Connie Janac  
Theme: You Can Sit with Us



Discovery Camp 2024. 38 Campers. 21 Staff. Directors: Brady Collard, Travis Hejl, Kathryn Laza, Carolynn & Matt Wilde. Pastor: Dale Weise Nurse: Gwendolyn Kraus. Theme: Created for Worship



Hus School 2024. 15 Campers. 4 Staff. Directors: Jordan & Dillon Barbisch, Jennifer Chervenka Nurse: Connie Janac

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## **NEW TABOR BRETHREN CHURCH**

2439 County Road 225, Caldwell, TX 77836  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 262, Caldwell, TX 77836  
(979) 220-3822

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

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

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



# SUNDAY SCHOOL HELPER

**HE DETERMINES  
THE NUMBER OF  
THE STARS AND  
CALLS THEM  
EACH BY NAME.  
PSALM 147:4**

"I am a creature with five arms, Found in oceans, with no harm. I have no blood, no brain to think, Yet on the seafloor, I do not sink. What am I?"  
This month we are learning about the starfish! It is the star of the sea. The Bible tells us that the skies proclaim God's glory and he calls the stars by name. Children will learn that God created something He cares for even more than stars— Each one of them!

**Bible Story:** Stars in the Sky

**Scripture:** Psalm 147:4

**Focus:** God created the stars and knows them by name. God loves us and knows us by name.

**Materials:**

Show a picture of the night sky. Ask children if they can count the stars. Ask them who created the stars. Read Psalm 147:4. Discuss how God named each star he created. Talk about how God made each child and how much he loves them. Say: God, the all powerful God of the universe knows every single star. He knows their name. He created each one. And aren't we more important than a star? Like the stars, he knows us. He calls us by name. He made us and he loves us. The God who made the stars knows you and he loves you. You are loved.

**Craft:** Star Ornaments

**Materials:** Cardboard stars, glitter, glue, string

Decorate the star shape with glitter. Attach string or ribbon to hang the ornament.

**Craft:** Star Projector

**Materials:** Paper cup, a flashlight, push pin

Turn the cup upside down and punch holes in it using the push pin. Insert the flashlight into the cup, project it on a blank wall, and turn off the lights.

**Facts About Starfish:**

- Starfish aren't fish. They're invertebrates and are related to sea cucumbers and sand dollars.
- They have not brain or blood.
- Not all starfish have 5 arms. Some have a lot more... up to 40!



- Starfish are only found in the ocean because they can't survive in fresh water.
- They're able to regenerate limbs.
- At the tip of each arm, starfish have eye spots that can detect light and dark, helping them navigate their environment<sup>2</sup>.
- They move using hundreds of tiny tube feet located on their underside. These tube feet also help them hold onto surfaces and capture prey.

**Game:** Tic Tac Toe

**Materials:** Paper, play dough

Draw a Tic Tac Toe Board. Use the playdough to create 6 starfish shapes and 6 sand dollar shapes. Use the shapes created to play Tic Tac Toe.



**Craft:** Starfish Footprint

**Materials:** Paint, cardstock

Make paint footprints like the picture. An alternative is to trace

the outline of the foot five times and arrange in a star pattern.





# Daily Morsels for September 2024

by Mari-Anne K. Gordon

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

**1. Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above. Jm. 1:17a**

2. Every good gift comes down from the Father of lights, with Whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Jm. 1:17b

3. In fulfillment of His own purpose, He gave birth to us by the word of truth. Jm. 1:18a

4. We were to become a kind of first fruits of His creatures. Jm. 1:18b

5. You must understand this, my

beloved brothers and sisters: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger. Jm. 1:19

6. Human anger does not produce God's righteousness. Jm. 1:20

7. Therefore, rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness. Jm. 1:21a

**8. Welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. Jm. 1:21b**

9. But be doers of the word

→

## ***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

## **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



and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. Jm. 1:22

10. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror, and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. Jm. 1:23-24

11. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act--they will be blessed in their doing. Jm. 1:25

12. If any think they are religious and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Jm. 1:26

13. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world. Jm. 1:27

14. Just as Moses lifted up the ser-

pent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life. Jn. 3:14-15

**15. For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life. Jn. 3:16**

16. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but that the world might be saved through Him. Jn. 3:17

17. The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced. Is. 50:7a

18. Therefore, I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame. Is. 50:7b

19. It is the Lord GOD Who helps me. Is. 50:9a

20. Gracious is the LORD and righteous; our God is merciful.

→

## OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

17454 State Highway 53, Temple, TX 76501

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

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

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

Phone: (254) 985-2240

*Serving Christ, Serving Our Community*

Sunday School 9:00 AM

Worship 10:15 AM

*Pastor*

**Dr. Brad Herridge**

(254) 716-2578

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

*Youth Director*

**Jennifer Chervenka**

(254) 913-1244

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

*Cemetery*

**Sharon Marek**

(254) 482-0498

Ps. 116:5

21. Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go. Jos. 1:9

**22. A woman of noble character... is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her. Pr. 31:10-11**

23. She does him good and not harm all the days of her life. Pr. 31:12

24. She girds herself with strength and makes her arms strong. Pr. 31:17

25. She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the

needy. Pr. 31:20

26. Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. Pr. 31:25

27. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. Pr. 31:26

28. She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Pr. 31:27

**29. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband, too, and he praises her. Pr. 31:28**

30. Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Pr. 31:30

## CROSS CHURCH ON BIRDCREEK

2202 Birdcreek Drive

Temple, Texas 76502

email: [ccb@crosschurchonbirdcreek.org](mailto:ccb@crosschurchonbirdcreek.org)

<https://www.crosschurchonbirdcreek.org>

[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](mailto:tpch4359@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto:Kent.laza@verizon.net)

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

**MUTUAL AID SOCIETY  
LOCAL SECRETARIES**

Granger #1: Donna Vitek, PO Box 943,  
Granger TX 76530,  
dlvitek@yahoo.com

Taylor #3: Pat Daffin, 2950 FM 3349,  
Taylor TX 76574, 512-913-6084,  
pat.daff@yahoo.com

West #4: Mike James, 414 Fort Rd,  
Waco TX 76705-5718,  
pswmhjames@gmail.com

Fayetteville #5: Sandra Stepan, PO Box  
145, Fayetteville TX 78940, 512-468-  
2396, sandrainaustin@yahoo.com

Dime Box #6: Vacant\*

Snook #7: Ann Sebesta, PO Box 115,  
Snook TX 77878, 210-244-3362,  
sebestaa2015@outlook.com

Ocker #8: Sandra Dubcak, 3239 FM 437,  
Rogers TX 76569-3705,  
254-985-2374, sandrad@spjst.com

New Tabor #13: Connie Surovik, 1733  
St Hwy 21 E, Caldwell TX 77836,  
conniesurovik76@gmail.com

Nelsonville #14: Sondra Brau, PO Box  
252, Industry TX 78944, 979-820-5632

Seaton #16: Joyce Skrabanek, 7157 FM  
2086, Temple TX 76501, 254-721-  
6324, jjskrabanek@gmail.com

Wesley #18: Elaine Koehn,  
9053 Leaning Oak Lane, Brenham TX  
77833, 979-836-5196,  
koehns72@yahoo.com

Temple #20: Irene Marek, 2900 Pecan  
Valley Drive, Temple TX 76502,  
254-778-2120

Rosenberg #21: Cathy Kuritza, 5220  
Reading Rd, Rosenberg TX 77471,  
281-344-1386, mpruett3660@att.net

Westheimer #22: Vacant\*

Houston #23: Vacant\*

Wall #25: Sharon J. Hohmann,  
222 Crestwood Drive, San Angelo TX  
76903-9106, 325-651-5884

Caldwell #27: Brenda Schroeder,  
4193 FM 696, Caldwell TX 77836,  
979-280-5597

Crosby #28: Vacant\*

Austin #32: Vacant\*

Pasadena #33: Betty Orsag,  
5118 Coventry Ct, Friendswood TX  
77546-3001, 281-482-1501

B/CS #34: Natalie Outlaw, 7575 Wixon  
Road, Bryan TX 77808-8085, 979-  
589-2012, natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com

\*Contact Natalie Outlaw at  
979-589-2012 or  
natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com

-----  
**MUTUAL AID SOCIETY  
BOARD MEMBERS**

President: Joseph Polasek, PO Box 54,  
Snook TX 77878, 979-272-1624,  
josephjpolasek@yahoo.com

Vice President: Daniel Vojtek,  
5434 Marcia Lane, Bryan TX 77807,  
979-823-4147,  
cdvojtek05@yahoo.com

General & Jr. Dept. Secretary:  
Natalie Outlaw, 7575 Wixon Road,  
Bryan TX 77808-8085, 979-589-2012,  
natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Ruth Ann Wuensche,  
2451 CR 405, Taylor TX 76574,  
512-365-3013,  
ruthannwuensche@gmail.com

Board Member: Ann Sebesta,  
Box 115, Snook TX 77878, 210-244-  
3362, sebestaa2015@outlook.com

Board Member: James Marek,  
1304 T. H. Johnson Drive, Taylor TX  
76574, marek1304@hotmail.com

## FOREIGN MISSIONS BOARD

### Chairman:

Carolyn Groseclose (2023) – (Ocker)  
Missionaries invited to join the board but not  
as voting members

Alan Haisler – (2019) (BCS)  
Jerry Dove – (2019) (Fayetteville)  
Rev. Gerry Davis – (2019)  
Jon Farrow – (2019) (CCB - Temple)  
Connie Janac – (2023) (Snook)  
Open Seat

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

Rev. Joe Emerson

## MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS BOARD

**Rev. Vanessa Mitchell**  
(Pastor to the Pastors)

**Rev. Joe Emerson (member)**

**Rev. Jerry Terrill (member)**

**Rev. Mike Groseclose (member)**

## MINISTERS BENEFITS COMMITTEE

Liz Ripple, Executive Sec./Treas.

Members: Rev. Mike Groseclose,  
Rev. Tim Chaplin, & Rev. Joe Emerson  
Synodical Liason - - Rev. Mike  
Groseclose (2nd VP)

Ex-officio: Rev. Dr. Larry Koslovsky

## PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

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

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

Anna Wotipka: (979) 218-9043

**Advisors:** Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

**Synodical Committee Liason:**

Dr. Larry Koslovsky

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

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

**Member:** Rick Weise (2017 – Wall)

**Member:** Angie Labaj Dolan (2019 – Temple)

**Members:** Ben Wilde (2021 – Ocker)  
Jennifer Chervenka (2017 – Ocker)  
Dillon Barbisch – 2023 (Ocker)

**Member:** Natalie See Kovar – 2023 (Snook)

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](mailto:jordanbarbisch@gmail.com)

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

**Caretakers:** OPEN Position

**Synodical Committee Oversight:**

Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill, Synodical 3rd VP

## BRETHREN YOUTH LEADERSHIP TEAM 2023-24

### 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)  
Synodical Committee Liason: Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill, 3rd VP

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

# SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

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

– Rev. Mark Sebek

---

**Buckholts** – Worship at 9 AM every Sunday except the 5th Sunday.  
Holy Communion on 1st Sunday.  
Guest speaker on 4th Sunday.

– Rev. John Kueker

---

**Caldwell** – Come as you are! **Sundays** – explore the Bible @ 9:30 AM (all ages); KIDS CHOIR practices @ 10:15 AM; & worship @ 10:30 AM! **Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday**, join the fun @ Family Game Night, 6-7:30 PM! Check out [lifeatcbc.org](http://lifeatcbc.org) for spiritual resources, events, videos, & more! Friend us on Facebook! [caldwellbrethrenchurch@gmail.com](mailto:caldwellbrethrenchurch@gmail.com)

– Rev. Joe Emerson

---

**Crosby** – 9 AM: Worship  
10 AM: Faith Adventure

– Rev. Dr. Larry Koslovsky

---

**Dime Box** – Worship at 9 AM every Sunday.

– Rev. Joe Emerson

---

**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.

– Pastor Jose Pantin Mora

---

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

– Pastor Judy Gotcher

---

**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.

– Rev. 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.

– Rev. 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. Robbie Price

---

**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

Joel & Teresa Jelski  
Mazkeret Moshe  
19  
Jerusalem 9431619  
Israel

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

Rev. Joseph J. Polasek, President  
Daniel Vojtek, Vice-President  
Natalie Outlaw, Gen. & Jr. Dept.  
Secretary, 979-589-2012  
Ruth Ann Wuensche, Treasurer  
James Marek, Board Member  
Ann Sebesta, Board Member  
Synodical Liaison: Rev. Mike  
Groseclose, 2nd Vice-President

## BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Chair: Jordan Barbisch (2019)  
(Ocker-elected Chair in 2023),  
jordanbarbisch@gmail.com  
Tiffany Hargraves – (2023) (Snook)  
Anna Wotipka – (2023) (Caldwell)  
Jonna See – (2023) (Snook)  
Open Seat  
Open Seat  
Jennifer Chervenka – Youth  
Coordinator (Ocker)  
Synodical Committee Liaison: Rev. Dr.  
Jerry Terrill, 3rd VP

## HOME MISSIONS BOARD

Chair: Rev. Joe Emerson, (2023)  
Alan Haisler – (2019) (BCS)  
Jerry Dove – (2019) (Fayetteville)  
Rev. Gerry Davis – (2019) (West)  
Jon Farrow – (2019) (CCB - Temple)  
Connie Janac – (2023) (Snook)  
Open Seat

## SYNODICAL COMMITTEE

**President:** Rev. Larry Koslovsky, (713) 594-4518  
**1st Vice President:** Rev. Joe Emerson,  
(254) 931-1653  
**2nd Vice President:** Rev. Mike Groseclose,  
(979) 865-3026  
**3rd Vice President:** Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill,  
(281) 744-1147  
**Secretary:** Loree Lewis,  
loreelewis91@gmail.com  
**Treasurer:** Lynette Urbanovsky Shimek, 13795  
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