

# The Newsletter

## April 2017

### Memorial United Methodist Church

6100 Berkman Drive Austin TX 78723

Rev. Cynthia Kepler-Karrer - Pastor

Feeding Northeast Austin, body, mind,  
and spirit in the name of Jesus.

#### *Sunday Schedule*

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

Worship - 10:30 a.m.

Web site:

[www.memorialumcaustin.com](http://www.memorialumcaustin.com)

Find us on Facebook at

Memorial United Methodist Church-Austin

Email:

[secretary@memorialumcaustin.com](mailto:secretary@memorialumcaustin.com)

Phone: 512. 452.5796

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## April 2017 Holy Week Events



Palm  
Sunday  
Service  
10:30am

April 9th  
2:30pm-  
4:30pm



Maundy  
Thursday  
Service  
April 13th

7pm

Good  
Friday  
Service  
April 14th  
7pm



Easter  
Sunday  
Service  
10:30am



By **Billie Nixon**

**Membership Coordinator**



### *In Memory of*

#### **Alma Madison**

November 27, 1935 - March 1, 2017

Arrangements under the direction of Cook-Walden Funeral Home, Austin, Texas. Alma L. Madison went home to the Lord on March 1, 2017 after a hard-fought battle with congestive heart failure. She left this earth peacefully surrounded by the love of her partner of 62 years, Johnie Madison, Jr., and her children, Ronnie and Kelly. There was a memorial service for Alma on Saturday, March 11, 2017, at 11:00 a.m. at Memorial United Methodist Church, 6100 Berkman Drive, Austin, Texas.

Alma was born on November 27, 1935 in Bell County, Texas to Curtis and Alma Doss. She was the third of six children. She lived in Bell County during the early years of her life and attended elementary school in Belton and then transferred to Salado, where she graduated salutatorian from Salado High School in 1955. She met the love of her life, Johnie Madison, Jr., through her older brother, Don Doss, while she was in high school. Alma and Johnie were married on December 23, 1954 in the Salado Methodist Church. Alma and Johnie lived in Temple during the early years of their life together and had two children, Ronnie and Kelly. Johnie worked for Superior Dairies in Temple and was promoted to a position in Austin so the family moved there in 1963.

Alma worked in accounting throughout her life. She went to school in Temple after graduating from high school and earned a technical degree in bookkeeping. While living in Temple she worked at Griggs. When the family moved to Austin she took a position at Tracor and worked there in the accounting department until 1980. After leaving Tracor she continued her accounting work by helping Johnie with Turner Downs Sprinkler Co. She enjoyed her accounting work and was very adept at what she did. Having grown up during the

end of the Great Depression, she was very frugal, whether at work or at home. She knew and appreciated the value of a dollar and had a work ethic based on honesty and integrity in all that she did.

Alma loved her family dearly. She made sure that her husband and children had three meals a day and clean clothes to wear. She ran a tight household and everything had its place so her house was always clean. In spite of working a full-time job, she always found time to make sure that her children participated in whatever endeavor that they wanted to pursue. She was always in the stands at the football, baseball or track events and she was a vocal supporter. Alma was proud that her children are Texas A&M graduates. This support carried on from her children to her grandchildren to her great-grandchildren. She traveled to attend the grandkids sporting events from t-ball through college, from dance recitals through half-time dance programs, even the charity Texas Music concerts her granddaughter organized. She loved her Dallas Cowboys, her Texas Aggies and always had a special place in her heart for the Reagan Raiders.

Alma also loved the outdoors and she made sure that her family spent time together enjoying God's creation. Many nights were spent camping at Inks Lake State Park, Bastrop State Park and Garner State Park. She loved going to Colorado, Montana and Wyoming. Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks were her favorite destinations. When Johnie finally retired for good in 2012 he and Alma were known to take off and go north with their travel trailer in search of cooler weather and beautiful vistas.

Alma defied all odds to make it to the age of 81. She had rheumatic fever as a child which caused her to miss a year of school and also set her up for many health challenges in the years to come. In 1961 she was diagnosed with a faulty mitral valve and underwent an open-heart valve repair surgery by Dr. Denton Cooley in Houston that year. This type of surgery was very new at that time but she came through with flying colors. In 1980 she was diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent surgery and chemotherapy to beat that disease. She had to have her heart valve replaced in 1995 and she had that surgery in Austin. Throughout all of these trials Alma bore the burden and the pain with a positive attitude and she beat them all. She continuously displayed tremendous courage and determination to the very end.

Alma was preceded in death by her parents, Curtis and Alma, and by her older brother, Don Doss. She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Johnie Madison, Jr.; her son Ronnie Madison and his wife, Dana Latz Madison, who live in Lubbock; her daughter Kelly Madison Walton and her husband, Bret Walton, who live in San Antonio; her grandson Russell Madison, and his wife, Whitney, and their children Hunter, Caleb and Avery, who live in Lubbock; her grandson Michael Madison, and his wife Tessa, and their daughter Finley, who live in Lubbock; her granddaughter Amy Walton, and her fiancée Brett Harrison, who live in Louisville, Kentucky; her grandson Bradley Madison, and his fiancée Arrington Hayes, who live in Lubbock; and her granddaughter Megan Walton who lives in Chicago, Illinois. She is also survived by her older sister, Helen Tausch and her

husband Scott; younger brother Curtis Ray Doss and his wife Bonnie; younger brother Jay Doss and his wife Betty; and younger sister Carol Lynn Fuller; and many, many nieces and nephews and their families. She is also survived by her fellow members of the Red Hat Society of Temple.

Alma was a woman that loved God. She attended church as often as possible and was a willing volunteer at church as long as possible. She was a member of Memorial United Methodist Church in Austin from 1963 until her passing. To honor her memory the family asks that in lieu of flowers, anyone that would like to make a donation in her honor please do so to Memorial United Methodist Church.



On behalf of myself and my entire family I wish to thank so many people who have been so kind to us during her illness and following the passing of Alma Madison.

Thanks to Pastor Cynthia for her visits and prayers, thanks to those who provided and prepared the reception following the memorial service, thanks to the choir for adding to the service and a special thanks to all our church members who have sent cards, phone calls and prayers to us. We deeply appreciate each of you.

I would like to extend a special appreciation to Rev. Larry Lacy for conduction of her memorial service and to Norma Hauser and Kendall Smith for the beautiful solos.

May God Bless Each of You,

## Easter Lilies For Sale \$10

Order by Monday  
April 10th



If you do not want to take the Lily home, you may donate \$10 or more in honor of loved ones or in memory of loved ones for the Easter bulletin but have no flowers, the funds will go to updating Easter and Christmas ??

Order Form on Back Page

## Spring Fling

April 9th 2:30pm-4:30pm

Bounce house, games, and more! We will have staggered start times for the Easter Egg hunts (please check website for more info as the event approaches).



WORSHIP  
VOLUNTEER  
opportunities



## Worship Readers Wanted

We are constantly seeking people who would like to participate in worship by reading scripture or offering the Prayers of the People. We believe that the more voices we hear, the more we understand that liturgy is the work of all the people--not just the pastor and choir. If you would like to receive more information about doing this or would like to receive some tips and tricks for how to do it more effectively, please let the office know, and Pastor Cynthia would be happy to speak with you. You can also speak directly to Connie Tatom, our scheduler, to be on the list of readers and pray-ers!

## Pew Crosses For Sale \$25



Last year, Pat Marcum fashioned crosses from the dismantled pews.

We now have these crosses for sale in either a free-standing form or a wall-hanging form. They are \$25 apiece, and all funds will go to updates to the sanctuary (like the carpeting). This is a beautiful opportunity to have a piece of Memorial in your home. Please contact the church office for more information on getting your own cross (512-452-5796).



Shopping Hours

Wednesdays  
11am-1pm Gym



Monday, Wednesday & Friday  
10am-1pm In Gym (not the office)

Austin Shakespeare  
presents  
The Comedy of Errors  
Free Shakespeare in the Park

WHO: Austin Shakespeare - Classic Theater in Central Texas

WHAT: Free Shakespeare in the Park: The Comedy of Errors

WHEN: Thursday– Sunday at 8pm from May 4– May 28, 2017

Preview performance on Wednesday, May 3

WHERE: Beverly S. Sheffield Zilker Hillside Theater 2206 William Barton Dr. , Austin, TX 78704



Gear up for Greatness...April's theme for Drive a Senior-Senior Access. As we gear up for the month, and Gear up for Greatness we want you to consider how you are preparing yourself for everyday life or for a future event. Let's just admit it, life is pretty crazy and hectic for most everyone.

Preparation is key to being successful in every aspect of life whether it is meal planning to become healthier, work related to reach your goals, family related to maximize time and build relationships, or volunteer related to give back to your community.

Gearing up for Greatness takes effort. But, the end result is worth it! Remember, this year is All About You and the changes you want to make to become the person you want to be. It is not a competition with others-only yourself. Ken Venturi, a professional golfer, said, "I don't believe you have to be better than everybody else. I believe you have to be better than you ever thought you could be." So, become better today than you were yesterday...Gear Up for Greatness and get going!



If you want to help us Gear Up for Greatness, we have two events in April in which you could participate. April 1st is our first 5K Stride For Seniors Fun Run at Bohls Park in Pflugerville. April 6th is our 14th Annual Swinging for Seniors Golf tournament at Golf Club at Star Ranch. To register or learn more information about either of these events, please contact Karah Ricketts at [dd@driveasenior.org](mailto:dd@driveasenior.org) or visit [www.driveasenior.org](http://www.driveasenior.org).

If volunteering is one way you want to Gear up for Greatness, please contact Sherrie Rose at

512 310 1060 or [vr@driveasenior.org](mailto:vr@driveasenior.org)

News from Church World Service



Austin's CROP Hunger Walk was an incredible success – over 700 participants (100 more than 2016). To-date, we've received \$61,000 to support the hunger-ending ministry of CWS and our 4 local hunger-fighting partners. We anticipate at least matching our 2016 total of \$78,000.

If you are on Facebook, make sure to friend the CROP Hunger Walk page and the Austin CROP Hunger Walk page.

Kevin Murphy,

Community Engagement Specialist



<sup>13</sup> *But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.* 1 Thessalonians 4:13

It doesn't take any special powers of observance to know that we as a congregation have been through a lot of grief lately. There's grief from those who have actually died, and there's also grief from diagnoses, debilitating accidents, having to move. And in addition, we have stress from things that may seem really wonderful but still throw us into different life patterns—things like retirement or pregnancy or the purchase of a new home.

The Lenten season deals with the grief that should surround our sin. We acknowledge that we have sinned, both in word and deed and in holding back our words and deeds. We have sinned both in our overt actions and in the deep recesses of our mind. We have been taught the sins of racism and sexism and classism, and those are deep and persistent. Sometimes these sins are the ways we “go along to get along”, but it doesn't make them any less sinful.

All of this might lead us to despair. When we are faced with our sin or with any of the stressors I mentioned above, but especially when we are faced with death, we can feel helpless. Many times, we look for a way to blame someone, even ourselves, maybe even God. We have a greater possibility of hurting others because in our pain, we want others to feel a bit of that pain as well.

But here's the other thing I know: we are not created to grieve without hope. We are not created in order to live in the despair of sin. Christ came to save us from the power that grief and sin have to change the direction of our lives, to move us away from God. And all of the grief that you have, all of the sin that you feel acutely—or even try to ignore—none of it can match the power of God's saving love in Jesus.

Andrew Peterson puts it well in his song, “Lay Me Down”:

*I believe in the holy shores of uncreated light  
I believe there is power in the blood  
And all of the death that ever was,  
If you set it next to life  
I believe it would barely fill a cup*

This is our hope, especially as we move toward Holy Week and Easter. That when our grief and our sin become unbearable, we might remember that we are not people without hope. That hope is given to us every day in Jesus Christ. It is the hope that “all of the death that ever was” cannot be as great as the power of Jesus Christ. And that is the power that heals, that is the power that helps us to see “Thy kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven.”

May that power work in your life today. I pray to see you in worship, with all of our sin and grief...and with all of our hope.

**RESTORED**—Finding Redemption in Our Mess

Our Leadership Team has consistently lifted up small groups as a discipleship possibility for MUMC. Small groups are groups of church folk (and non-church folk!) who get together on a regular basis for prayer and sharing and possibly study. They can meet in homes or in coffee shops or for dinner or without food at all. In addition, churches that are growing and thriving often have small groups as a way of helping members deepen their walk with Christ and as a way to invite people who don't have a church home to an experience that's a little less intimidating than worship can be.

To help MUMC congregants start small groups, I would like to offer Tom Berlin's book “Restored: Finding Redemption in Our Mess” as a way we can walk together in the Easter-and-beyond seasons. I would like for each congregant at MUMC to find a way to engage with at least one or two others persons while reading this (or some other book on spirituality). If you are having problems finding a group, please let me know, and I will help. If your group would be willing to receive others, please let me know what time and where you will be meeting.

Books may be purchased through the church for \$10. They are also available through Amazon if you would like to purchase on your own. Orders through the church need to be placed by Easter and can be made by phone, email or by order blank in worship.



# APRIL CALENDAR

## **Saturday, April 1**

12:00pm– 3:00pm Girl Scout Area Meeting

## **Sunday, April 2 Communion**

### **One Great Hour of Sharing**

9:15am Sunday School for all ages

10:30am Worship Service

11:30am Leadership Team

## **Monday, April 3**

6:30am Morning Prayer - Chapel

6:00pm Girl Scouts - Gym area

6:30pm Austin Harmony - Choir room

7:00pm Boy Scouts Council - Gym area

## **Tuesday, April 4**

9:00 m -1:30pm ESL classes - Parlor

9:30am BIF - Pearce

## **Wednesday, April 5**

11:00am-1:00pm Free Store Open for Shopping

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

## **Thursday, April 6**

9:00 m 1:30pm ESL classes - Parlor

## **Friday, April 7**

6:30pm-10:30pm Austin Shakespeare - Gym

## **Saturday, April 8**

10am Windsor Park Neighborhood Assoc. –FHL

12:30pm-5:30pm Austin Shakespeare - Gym

## **Sunday, April 9 Palm Sunday & Spring Fling**

8:30am Pancake Breakfast - Gym

9:15am Sunday School for all ages

10:30am Worship Service

11:30am Trustees

## **Monday, April 10 Easter Lily Order Deadline**

6:30am Morning Prayer -Chapel

6:00pm Square Dancing - Gym

6:00pm- 8:00pm Girl Scouts - Gym area

6:30 pm Austin Harmony - Choir room

## **Tuesday, April 11**

6:30pm-10:30pm Austin Shakespeare - Gym

6:00 pm Wesley Board - Pearce

## **Wednesday, April 12**

11:00am-1:00pm Free Store Open for Shopping

6:30pm-10:30pm Austin Shakespeare - Gym

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal - Choir room

## **Thursday, April 13 Maundy Thursday**

12:00-2:00pm Drive A Senior - Pearce

7:00pm– Maundy Thursday Service - Parlor

7:00pm - 9:00pm Austin Ukulele Society - Gym

## **Friday, April 14 Good Friday**

7:00pm– Musical Stations of the Cross

## **Saturday, April 15**

**(MAY Newsletter Content Deadline)**

## **Sunday, April 16 Easter Sunday**

9:15 am Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am- Worship Service

4:30pm-9:30pm Austin Shakespeare - Gym

## **Monday, April 17**

6:30 am Morning Prayer -Chapel

6:00 pm Girl Scouts - Gym area

6:30 pm Austin Harmony - Choir room

6:30 pm Finance Team - Pearce

## **Tuesday, April 18**

9:00 am - 1:30 pm ESL classes - Parlor

10:00 am Honeybees - Anderson Chapel

6:00 pm NAMI Support - Pearce

## **Wednesday, April 19**

11:00am-1:00pm Free Store Open for Shopping

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

## **Thursday, April 20**

9:00 am - 1:30 pm ESL classes - Parlor

10:00 am Reading and Library - Anderson Chapel

6:30pm-8:30pm Undoing Racism - Parlor

**Thursday, April 20 Continued**

5:00pm-6:30pm Wesley Fundraiser Prep - Gym

7:00pm Bread Church - Gym

**Friday, April 21**

5:00pm-8:00pm Wesley Spaghetti Dinner and Talent Show-Gym

**Saturday, April 22 Earth Day**

**Sunday, April 23**

9:15 am Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am Worship Service

**Monday, April 24**

6:30 am Morning Prayer -Chapel

6:00 pm Girl Scouts - Gym area

6:30 pm Austin Harmony - Choir room

**Tuesday, April 25**

9:00 am - 1:30 pm ESL classes - Parlor

**Wednesday, April 26**

11:00am-1:00pm Free Store Open for Shopping

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, April 27**

9:00 am 1:30 pm ESL classes - Parlor

**Friday, April 28**

**Saturday, April 29**

**Sunday, April 30**

9:15 am Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am Worship Service

Christina Williams

8th Ava Baccus-Knowles

9th John Shelton

13th Michael Shelton

18th Jennifer Eddleman

Debbie Schmidt Parsley

Victoria Purle

19th William Dennig

20th Lucas Benavides

21st Russell Moore

22nd Betty Moore

23rd Laura Rhoades Smith

24th Lauren Michele Dennig

Glenda Houson

27th Lela Barker

Jacob Shlton

Sarah Shelton

30th Jane Friedrich

Do you enjoy making bread from scratch? Have you always wanted to learn how to make your own, but are just a little intimidated by the process? Want to hang out, learn some new recipes and think about the way that God works on your spirit?



**Bread Church  
Thursday April 20th  
7pm in the Gym**



Join Your Church  
Every 2nd Sunday  
of the month for  
Pancake Breakfast  
in the Gym  
April 9th 8:30am



**April Birthdays**

- 2nd Stephanie Shelton
- 3rd Zora Mae Hise
- 5th Virginia Smith
- 7th David Paul Teaney

**"Easter Lily Order Form"**

The Easter Season is upon us again and it is time to place your orders for the Easter Lilies. The cost is \$10.00 a plant. Please fill in the information below to ensure that your message will be included in the Lily Insert on Easter Sunday. Return the form along with your payment no later than Tuesday April 11th 2017

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Messages to be placed in the Insert: \_\_\_\_\_

How many plants? (\$10.00 each) \_\_\_\_\_

Donate \_\_\_\_\_

Return to Memorial United Methodist Church

Attn: Billie Nixon

Memorial United Methodist Church  
6100 Berkman Drive  
Austin, Texas 78723  
Phone: 512-452-5796  
Fax: 512-450-0323  
Web site: [www.memorialumcaustin.com](http://www.memorialumcaustin.com)  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

