

The Newsletter

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.

Find all our Newsletters on our

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April 2021



Holy Week, Easter and Beyond!

Beginning March 30: Holy Week Stations of the Cross. Come and either walk or drive the stations set up around the drive at MUMC. A booklet guide will be available at the start of the drive.

Maundy Thursday—April 1: Our service will be either online or following an emailed/mailed liturgy. As a part of this service, we will *not* have communion, but everyone will have an opportunity to come pick up some homemade matzoh on March 30-31 or April 1 so that we have a shared part of our meal.

Good Friday—April 2: Our service will be online at 7:00pm and will take us through Mark 14-15 (The Passion Story) with musical interludes.

Easter Sunday—April 4: In-Person service at 10:00am with options to sit in your car or on the lawn! Please come masked and bring flowers from home for the cross! We will participate in Holy Communion. Streaming service at 11:00am on facebook.

We are going to be publishing our In-Person Re-engagement protocols very soon, but we have a target date of late April to begin services in our sanctuary again. It will take us a couple of weeks to get some technical issues worked out so that we may offer both streaming and in-person services, so we appreciate your patience! More details to come.



News From Pews

By Billie
Nixon
Membership
Coordinator



April Birthdays



Our prayers go
out to the
friends and
family of
Diana and
Larry.

Diana Velastro joined the Church Triumphant this past December. Though her condition had not allowed her to attend worship for some time, her faith and hope remained strong according to her friends and caregivers. We remembered her in a brief outdoor service with her close friends on a Saturday in March.



Larry Tiemann born on 11/04/1950 He was the only child of Herbert (Goldwithe TX) and Selma (Llano TX) Tiemann. A native Austinite who worked at Brackenridge Hospital as a RN for 30 years and retired in 1997.

Larry spent the rest of his life caring and loving his furry children, oh so many cats and dogs.

Larry passed away on 3/4/2021 and will be laid to rest by his parents in Llano. He will be missed by his many friends.

- 2nd Stephanie Shelton Walker
- 3rd Zora Mae Hise
- 7th David Paul Teaney
Christina Williams
- 8th Ava Baccus-Knowles
- 9th John Shelton
- 13th Michael Shelton
- 18th Jennifer Eddleman
Debbie Schmidt Parsley
Victoria Purtle
- 19th William Dennig
- 20th Lucas Benavides
- 21st Russell Moore
- 22nd Betty Moore
- 23rd Laura Rhoades Smith
- 24th Lauren Michele Dennig
Glenda Houston
- 27th Lela Barker
Jacob Shelton
Sarah Shelton
- 29th Wes Walker
- 30th Jane Friedrich





The Pastor's Corner

“No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins.” (Mark 2:21-22)



This passage has been used as a foundational text or even title for articles and books that talk about how worship is changing—most notably when we talk about liturgies and especially music. Those changes have been slowly seeping in around the edges of the church—or sometimes barreling the doors down to the delight of some and the chagrin of others!

But I keep going back to something I learned on a tour of a winery once—that they have wine that is really new and just beginning to become all that it can be...and older wine that is much closer to its peak. The trick is to know when to drink it. There's even some wine in cellars across the country that is now no longer like wine and much more like vinegar—even wine doesn't age gracefully and last forever!

But I also thought about how we will develop and be changed by all that we have been through over the last year. I have now written a full year's worth of newsletter articles, some more hopeful than others, about how we're handling all this and when we will begin to re-engage with in-person ministries. Some of you are more anxious than others to return, but if you haven't heard me say it, please know that there are some who are more engaged *because* of the modifications to our ministries we've made in the last year, whether it's because they receive worship in their email box every week or in their mailbox delayed by about 3-4 days or because they have seen us online.

All of this means that while we seek to re-engage through mature-wine in-person worship and small groups, we might need to keep some of the new wine online and at-home experiences. We will need people to advocate for each of them while not discounting the needs of the other group. In other words, we will need to make room for the church to have both new wineskins AND mature wineskins.

This will also mean that there will be changes—we won't be going back to exactly what we were doing before. Not only will there be some adjustment time as we are not yet into a time of being as fully vaccinated as we will need to protect everyone, there may be some things that we have learned to do in a way that helps us.

Many of you know this kind of circumstance because you've had to make adjustments after a major life event. Sometimes, you eventually get back to something at least similar to what came before. But other times, there are restrictions that need to stay in place (like when your doctor tells you after heart surgery that you will need to restrict salt for the rest of your life) or adjustments that need to be made (like changing your gait after major knee reconstruction).

And in an alternate explanation for what Jesus was doing in talking about the wineskins, one scholar (Dr. Ian Paul) noted that the wineskins may not in the end refer to traditions that we can put new or old practices into. Rather, they are more likely to be representative of how we receive what God is doing in our midst—the wineskins are us! New wine needs wineskins that are flexible enough to grow and stretch with the new things, though also be ready if there's some mature wine that needs a place to go.

So we are also called to respond to what God is doing in our midst with flexibility and compassion and grace—the same way Jesus continues to meet us in our own lives. So this is my prayer for this season when we celebrate God's resurrection—that we might meet one another and how we re-engage in worship and ministry with that flexibility and compassion and grace. Amen.

Synthia Kepler-Hauer

April Newsletter

Wesley Recreation will be starting back its afterschool sports program starting Wednesday April 7th! This semester we will be teaching soccer. Only 10 slots available. Please contact Daphne at 512-456-5796 option 7 if interested.



The end of the year trip for youth 6th-12th grade planning is underway. It is TBA for now, but planning for the trip to happen late May/Early June. We are finalizing plans and safety that are in line with CDC covid guidelines. More information will be given out soon. See our Youth page at www.MemorialUMCAustin.com

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Our ATX CROP Hunger Walk took place on Sunday, March 8th. There aren't any photos from Camp Mabry, because as

you might know, our walk was "virtual" this year. Hunger Heroes walked on their own – some walked weeks before March 8; others walked on the 7th, and still more will be walking throughout March. We walked in parks; along streets in Austin; at the beach in Port Aransas; in the Sandia Mtns of New Mexico, and – my personal favorite – somewhere in Spain! That, friends, is a virtual walk.

Austin, each year, responds to the needs of vulnerable people through the CROP Hunger Walk. To-date, we have raised more than \$60,000 toward our \$80,000 goal. And it's not too late to help with your gift at www.crophungerwalk.org/austintx

Ending Hunger Together,
Kevin Murphy, CWS Community Engagement Manager