

# 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.

### *Sunday Schedule*

Sunday School 9:30-10:15 a.m.

Worship - 11:00 a.m.

Find all our Newsletters on our

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

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# AUGUST 2022



## EDUCATION MATTERS

## Worship in August

### August 7—Campus Ministry

We will be joined by members of the Texas Wesley and hear a message from Rev. Ann Boswell, their assistant director

### August 14—Ministry with Harris Elementary

Celebrating one of our long-standing ministry neighborhood partnerships, the day before school starts!

### August 21—Ministry through Wesley School

Honoring our Wesley staff and families and praying for their new year.

**August 28—Celebrating** all students and teachers in our congregation with a special recognition for those who are moving to different schools



### AUGUST 10TH

We will have our back-to-choir potluck on August 10th at 6:30pm in the Parlor with mini rehearsal to follow. Any

interested members of the congregation are encouraged to come and hear about fall plans for the choir.



## News From pews



United  
Women  
in Faith

### Pancake Breakfast



2nd Sunday of each month in  
the Gym Kitchen  
8:30am August 14th



UWF meets the 3rd Wednesday of  
each month: August 17th 10:30am

Many Thanks to all for  
donations to the garage  
sale, to the youth for  
letting us use their room  
and to Kendall and Matt  
for taking remaining  
items to Goodwill. This raised close to \$500.

### THANKS



## August Birthdays

- 4 Melanie Baccus
- 5 Doris Owens
- 6 Christian Ramos
- 14 Taryn Stewart
- 15 Lonan Zia Gray
- 16 Kathleen Beuttenmueller
- 21 Lynda Rychlik
- 25 Karin Crumbling
- 26 Felicity Rodriquez
- 27 Patricia Ericson  
Wallace Fowler
- 28 Kerry Schmidt McFarland
- 29 Vidette (Kiki) Corry  
Michele Reinhart Rehm
- 30 Scooter Cheatham
- 31 Richard Friedrich  
Julie Gonzales



# Celebrating 150 years

In December 2023, the congregation which is  
currently called Memorial UMC will be 150 years  
old!

We are looking for people who have a vision for any  
events leading up to our celebration to vision those  
events and then help to make them happen!

We hope that this celebration isn't just about a single  
day or party, but about an exploration of how God  
has been with us and who God might be inviting us  
to be in the future.

These events won't happen without YOU--so make  
sure you let us know that you would like to do  
something!



## Bread Church

August 21

7pm Gym Kitchen

# The Pastor's Corner

*For learning about wisdom and instruction, for understanding words of insight, for gaining instruction in wise dealing, righteousness, justice, and equity; to teach shrewdness to the simple, knowledge and prudence to the young—let the wise, too, hear and gain in learning and the discerning acquire skill, to understand a proverb and a figure, the words of the wise and their riddles. (Proverbs 1:2-6)*



You may have noticed a theme to this newsletter—education!

Going all the way back to John and Charles Wesley, education has been important to the people known as Methodists. The Wesleys took seriously that the Bible called people to learn and keep learning, as in this passage from the book of Proverbs, where the purpose of the collection of sayings is set out: it is to be for learning and understanding, for shrewdness and for prudence—and not just for those who are ignorant, but also for those who are already considered “wise”. The Wesleys also believed that education was not just for the wealthy or prominent, but for everyone.

Methodists throughout the centuries have taken this legacy to heart. Just this past month, a statue of Mary McLeod Bethune was unveiled in the US Capitol Building’s Statuary Hall. Born to formerly enslaved people after the Civil War, Bethune opened a school to Black girls in 1904 with only \$1.50 and five students. That school is now Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, FL.

During the month of August in worship, we will highlight some of the ways United Methodists have supported education and celebrate ministries and partnerships in our congregation that are education-based. We hope you will join us for these special Sundays, which will include a guest preacher from the Texas Wesley (campus ministry) and a special recognition of the kids and youth in our congregation.

But beyond having good feelings about education, I also have a challenge for us. But first, a story: When I was in college, I went on a mission trip to a Native American reservation in northern California. While we were there, we insulated a pottery guild, led worship in a church and hung out with high school students. When we went to the high school, I was amazed (in a good way) at how many computers they had in the classrooms—in the early 90s, there was 1 computer for every 2 students! I asked about this, and the reply that I got was that the tribe valued education so highly that they put a lot of resources toward the high school.

But then I asked what it meant that the dropout rate was also high (about 50%). Among several reasons, many of which involved systemic injustices in the relationship between the tribe and the government, which had not been faithful to its own promises, the person I was talking to said, “And it’s easier for the tribe to value education than for individual families.” When the importance of education did not filter down from the tribe the family, it became merely lip service.

And here is the challenge. While we have had wonderful opportunities for ministry with kids, youth and young adults through education, we know that right now, people under the age of 25 are in the middle of a huge mental health struggle—as well as having a lot of specific challenges of consistent housing and food in our neighborhood. Teachers aren’t doing much better! They need more than our good thoughts. I’d like for every household in the congregation to commit for the next 9 months to participate in one of five activities—and to TELL us that you’re doing it so that we can hold one another accountable:

- Prayer and monthly notes of encouragement for one of our youth (we will assign)
- Prayer and monthly notes of encouragement for a Harris or Wesley or MUMC teacher
- Volunteering to read with or tutor kids at a nearby school
- Getting trained through Safe Gatherings (learning about how we keep kids safe)
- Volunteering to resource or help with our Wesley Rec or youth programs

Call the office or fill out one of the cards in our August worship services to tell us which one you plan to do, and we will start giving you resources to fulfill your commitment!

*Synthia Kepler-James*

# August Youth

Aug. 8th & 21st



## Wesley Recreation

**Center** is a free sports program for incoming 5th and 6<sup>th</sup> Graders. **Stay Tuned to email and the bulletin for more information on Wesley Rec coming in August.** The program will include instruction, games, and free time. There is no fee, but pre-registration is required. If you have any questions please contact Kendall Smith 512-844-6809 or Kathleen Beuttenmueller 920-980-7313.



**MEALS on WHEELS**  
CENTRAL TEXAS

Hey Austin! Meals on Wheels has resumed daily hot meal deliveries! If you have 1 lunch hour a week or a month, Meals on Wheels Central Texas has a volunteer opportunity for you. There are 11 distribution sites around the city for you to choose from. Memorial United Methodist Church is a meal pick-up site and currently there is a high need for volunteers in this area.

Please call 512 476-6325 or

Fill out the online application here:

<https://www.mealsonwheelscentraltexas.org/get-involved/volunteer-application>



## 2022 UMarArmy Sterling City

Four youth and two adults attended the Rio Texas Conference UM ARMY mission trip June 12-16 in Sterling City. There were 53 participants from five churches including Oak Hill here in Austin. Five teams rotated through mission products during the week and accomplished the following:

- Trimmed trees, cut bamboo, picked up trash and did general cleanup at Sterling City Cemetery for three days.

- Painted the outside of the Sterling County Nursing Home for three days.

- Scraped and repainted 30+ metal picnic tables at the City Park along with several parking bumpers and some bleachers over three days.

- Held a car wash and raised over \$800 to purchase items for care packages for an army battalion preparing to be deployed.

- Shopped for and assembled 200 care packages. Sterling UMC Pastor, Derrick Oullette, will deliver to a Fort Hood Chaplain he knows who will get them to the battalion.

- Assembled six picnic tables, paid for with registration funds and delivered to multiple sites around town including Library and other churches.

- Built a Gaga Ball pit for Sterling City UMC (twice!) □

All also participated in morning, noon and evening worship and enjoyed the local pool, a scavenger hunt and watching the movie Big Hero Six which was used as our worship theme, CONNECTING!

Thanks for supporting our youth!

Do you remember?

1937-1985  
Sunshine Class  
Motto: Others



Sunshine Class



Friendship Class



Builders Class



Fellowship  
Class  
Picture Not  
Available



Joined Together  
to form the  
Never Ending  
Worship Class  
N.E.W. in 1969



### Children's Classes

2 Nurseries,  
2 Kindergartens,  
4 Elementary,  
Junior & Senior



Nursery II

High

Elementary IV

Other classes: Bridge Builders, Glad Hand, Collage and Career class, Seekers, New Friends, Rainbow, Faith Hope & Love. If you can think of other classes we missed, please email us the name at [secretary@memorialumcaustin.com](mailto:secretary@memorialumcaustin.com) Subject: Sunday School Class Name

**Introduction to Sunday School** John Wesley supported a "class room" to nurture people in the faith and grow in the spirit. 1780—the modern Sunday School began with Robert Rausk's and Thomas Stock. They raised money to help pay for a basic education for the poor working children, so they read the Bible and learn a trade.

1724-William Elliott an Englishman who immigrated to Virginia, started Sunday School in his home. He taught not only his own children, he included friends, neighbors, both boys and girls, servants and slaves. So that these children could learn to read the Bible for themselves.

**Church Sunday School Classes 1873** -The first Sunday School superintendent was Mathis Goldstein. **1929** -The first Sunday School class taught in English. **1932** -Average attendance: 145, Enrollment: 200.

**1932** Central Sunday School Class arrangements: Mr. Flick, Friendship Class in balcony. Mr. Emil Anderson, Swedish Class in left room. Rev. Moberg Young Peoples Class in right room. Mr. Oscar Olson, Seniors in back right. Russell Moberg, Intermediate boys midway, left side. Ella Johnson, Intermediate girls in front right. Junior girls on right platform, Junior boys on stage in hall. (\*Directly copied from S.S. meeting minutes)

They had 10 officers, with 2 pianists, 2 librarians, 12 teachers and 4 assistant teachers.

The Sunday School Collection in the late 1920's & 1930's was spent on Christmas programs, plays, decorations and lighting. Also, perfect attendance awards, repairs on the buildings, paid part of the phone bill, VBS supplies, Easter programs & supplies. Ice, telegrams, piano tuning, flowers, song books, missionaries, Children's day gifts and Sunday School picnic. Plus a one time donation to radio broadcast KNOW.

# August Newsletter

6100 Berkman Dr, Austin TX 78723  
October 1, 1998

## Rainbow Class

Occasionally I talk with someone who knows nothing about this class, and we want everyone to be aware of the Rainbow Class. It came into being when Bob Scott was the pastor at Memorial. A family moved into our church family that had a young man, Mitchell, who had Down Syndrome. He kept asking our pastor when we were going to have a Sunday School class for him. It was brought to the attention of the board and discussed. I volunteered to teach this class and Hazel Wright also volunteered. Hazel is a retired Special Education teacher. It took quite a while to get organized and ready. Members have come and gone. Right now, and for several years, we have 6 ladies from Bluff Canyon Community Home and 1 from Allandale Community Home. Norma Jones has become a teacher for several years and Kaye Collins is our latest teacher. Norma Hauser comes in each Sunday to sing with our class and they really enjoy singing. They have been going to Kingdom Kamp at Mt. Wesley in Kerrville for several years now. Over the Labor Day weekend, the Leavelle's drove them down in the church van on Saturday and picked them up on Monday. Lindsey Berry from Memorial and the Leavell's daughter, Jan and her husband, Don Dodge are all counselors. 1998 was the sixth year the Dodges were at the camp. One of Memorial's former members, Jonathan Langham, has also been a counselor there several years. The ladies really have a good time and come back with new Mt. Wesley t-shirts and news of friends, especially long-time friends that have been made there. We were told that the Memorial Campers were "The Life of the Party". The ladies like being spoken to on Sunday and many of you make a point to do so. Thank you for doing this. We also have been asking some of you ladies to be special friends to one of our class members on the Sundays when we have a Church Dinner – to help them get their food, sit with them, etc. They love this and we teachers do appreciate the help. If anyone enjoys these meals more than the Rainbow Class, I don't know about it. The Faith, Hope, and Love Class brings goodies to the class to go with their juice or coffee. This is great appreciated. I hope everyone feels the class is part of our church family and continues to greet and hug them. They thrive on the attention. If you want to volunteer to help in any way, feel free to let us know. We now have very good Methodist literature with lessons geared to their understanding, and with many helps for learning. Come by our class soon and see the things we are making and doing. Doris Leavelle (taken from the Newsletter Archives)

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