

# The Newsletter

## Memorial United Methodist Church

6100 Berkman Drive Austin TX 78723

Rev. Dr. Robyn Bishop - Pastor

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

### *Sunday Schedule*

Sunday School Starting @ 9:30-10:30a.m.

Worship - 11:00a.m.

Find all our Newsletters on the About Us tab at

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



Find us on Facebook at  
Memorial United Methodist  
Church-Austin

Follow us on Instagram at  
<https://www.instagram.com/memorialumcaustin/>



Email:

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

Phone: 512. 452.5796

Press 1 for info, Press 2 for directory,

Press 3 to connect to the Wesley School

### In this issue:

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# December 2023



Hanging of the Greens  
Dec. 3rd in Worship

## Happy 150th Memorial/Central United Methodist Church

(see inside for celebration  
info)



Dec. 17th Guest  
Organist in Worship  
11am- Kent Burress

December  
24th at  
6pm  
Candlelight  
Service





## Church news



## Charge Conference in the Parlor via Zoom

**Sunday December 3rd @ 5pm**

Please contact Pastor Robyn at [robynbmumc@gmail.com](mailto:robynbmumc@gmail.com) if you are able to attend or would like the zoom link to watch from home.



*Sympathy*



### Hildegarde Anne Carlson Kothmann "T"

Hildegarde was born September 04, 1924 to Ida Louise Swahn Carlson and Gustaf Carlson. She returned to our Lord Jesus Christ on the morning of November 8, 2023 at the age of 99. To say she lived a remarkable life would be an understatement!

Hildegarde grew up during the great depression, lived through World War II and raised a family starting in the 1950's. She was part of the greatest generation and all who had the pleasure of knowing her were blessed. She had an optimistic personality and always pushed forward. In her life time, she worked as an Office Manager for a law firm, managed a ranch in the Texas hill country, retired from the AISD in the role of an administrator. She was married to her first husband, William Dale Kothmann a few months prior to his shipping out to Europe on her birthday.

Services were directed on November 15th at 1pm by Beck Funeral Home in Austin, TX

Our prayers and condolences go out to the Kothmann family and friends at this difficult time and for God's peace and comfort to hold you.



## Staff Love Gift

As we approach the Christmas season and end of another year, and consider how much we have to be grateful for, we want to offer you an opportunity to show your gratitude for our amazing church staff! Please prayerfully consider a financial gift for our staff which we will split evenly among our paid staff of five. You may put a check or cash marked "Staff Love Gift" in the offering or mail to/drop off at the church office (or give online and choose the "staff love gift" option.) Please do this by December 15<sup>th</sup> so we can present the gifts before Christmas! Thank you for helping us show appreciation for what our entire staff does all year long!

Kendall Smith

SPRC Chair

**MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

# 150th Anniversary

**December 9 - 10, 2023**

Dec. 9: 1:00 - 5:00 pm Community Gathering with Fika (coffee & snacks)

Dec. 10: 11:00 am Worship and Catered Luncheon  
6100 Berkman Drive, Austin, Texas 78723

Saturday Dec. 9:

Performances  
Presentations  
Games & Crafts  
Bouncy Houses  
Cafe/Fika

Sunday Dec. 10:

Worship  
Swedish Lunch

Tickets for Lunch:

\$15 Adult

\$8 Kids (10 & Under)

To order tickets:

[secretary@memorialumc.austin.com](mailto:secretary@memorialumc.austin.com)

**Free Event Saturday!**

**Free Coffee & Cocoa**

**Free Hot Dogs**

**Bouncy Houses**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Come celebrate  
with us!



Wesley School  
Fundraiser Take your  
photo with Santa on  
Friday Dec. 1st and Dec.  
8th for \$10 between 4:00-  
6:30 pm in the Gym



Wesley School  
Annual Winter  
Program  
Dec. 15th  
6:00pm  
Sanctuary

## December Schedule



- ◆ Sunday December 3th –  
UMYF 6 pm
- ◆ Saturday December 9th – 150<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary celebration 1:00 - 5:00 PM!
- ◆ Sunday December 10th Worship &  
Luncheon

You are invited to join the families of our beloved Wesley School to see and hear the precious children sing songs with their teachers.

If you would like to bake cookies for the reception following the program or send a note of thank you to our Wesley School staff, please let Pastor Robyn know:  
[robynbmumc@gmail.com](mailto:robynbmumc@gmail.com)

UWF meets on the  
3rd Wednesday of  
each month at



10:30am in the Pearce Room. For  
December, we will meet on the 2nd  
Sunday, Dec. 13th to make gift bags for  
our homebound and resource bags for  
those experiencing homelessness.

**\*No Pancake Breakfast in December\***

*"Do not be anxious  
about anything, but in  
everything by prayer  
and supplication with  
thanksgiving let your  
requests be made known  
to God."* Philippians 4:6



### 2 Ways to Join Others in Prayer:

- 1). Every Thursday we send an email with a list of prayer requests and reminders of upcoming events for the week. If you would like to receive this weekly email, please contact our Administrative Assistant, Kc Nixon, [secretary@memorialumcaustin.com](mailto:secretary@memorialumcaustin.com).
- 2). Afton Cherry will lead prayer in the Chapel on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month.
- 3.) If you have a prayer request or would like to have a pastoral call, please contact Pastor Robyn, [robynbmumc@gmail.com](mailto:robynbmumc@gmail.com)



### All Ages Welcome! Join the Merry Makers

for games, laughter &  
fellowship

On the 2nd & 4th Thursdays  
in Room 403

(Faith, Hope & Love) Off the gym.

For more info. contact Alberta Shelton, Connie Tatum or Betty Sanders



# Memorial United Methodist Church

6100 BERKMAN DRIVE  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78723

PHONE (512) 452-5796  
E-mail: secretary@memorialumcaustin.com  
Web Page: www.memorialumcaustin.com

## A Letter from your Finance Team:

Especially after our recent focus on “The Path of Gratitude,” most if not all of you can think of many ways that this church has been a blessing to you and your family over the years. Some of you have been here over 50 years, some for a much shorter time. We have had great opportunities for fellowship, for building important relationships, worshipping together and opportunities to be involved in ministry both within and outside of our congregation. All of us have also watched the changes taking place around us in our neighborhood for many years and the decline in our worship attendance and the financial resources available for sustaining the church. Despite this, we have a strong, though small, faithful group of believers in Christ that still worship together and do great work in impacting our world for God’s Kingdom.

Church is a team sport. There is a role for everyone, and success or effective ministry only comes when everyone does their part. Our church has faced many challenges and in 150 years, I am sure there were many before we showed up on the scene.

This past year was one of our most challenging years financially, so much so that we had to request a part time pastor because that’s all we could afford. God (and the Bishop!) blessed us with an amazing new pastor who has brought new energy and passion for our mission and ministry here at Memorial UMC. While our expenses have NOT outpaced our income this year we are still operating with minimal reserves and face new challenges each day. THANK YOU for what each one of you did in 2023 to help us pay ALL our expenses and continue in ministry in Northeast Austin and beyond!

As we come to the close of the year, we ask you again to do these two things:

Please pray for all our church leaders as we continue to discern how to adapt to our new challenges and implement strategies to carry forth a vision of hope, love and grace for the next 150 years!

In order to see more clearly what we need to do to continue in ministry throughout 2024, we ask each person or each household to complete the pledge card (see below). If you have already done this, thank you!

If you have questions, you are welcome to come to Church Council, speak to Pastor Robyn or anyone on the Finance team.

Thank you! Kendall Smith Mark Corry Laura Smith Chuck Garner

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     **Yes! I/We will support Memorial United Methodist Church in 2024.**

**Choose One:**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ weekly for 52 weeks

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ semi-monthly for 24 periods

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ monthly for 12 months

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ yearly/bi-annually/quarterly

This reflects a total commitment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

**\_\_\_\_\_ At this time, I am only able to support the church through prayers, presence, service and witness. When conditions allow, I will contact the church to discuss how I can give financially.**

\_\_\_\_ This represents a tithe of my/our income.

\_\_\_\_ This represents an increase over last year.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I/We would like information on how to provide for Memorial UMC in my/our will.

\_\_\_\_ I/We would like to speak with the pastor or Church Council representative about other giving opportunities.

(please make sure to complete info on reverse side)

## Bible or Book Study in the New Year?



If you are interested in participating in a short term Bible Study or book club, please contact Pastor Robyn at [robynbmumc@gmail.com](mailto:robynbmumc@gmail.com)

## December Birthdays

- 7 Paula Garner
- 12 Evelyn Capps
- 15 Susan Froebel
- Jan Purtle
- 17 Rebecca Bird
- 26 Mark Corry
- 27 Thomas Bissett

## Office Closed

December 22nd -Jan. 1st

Mail will be checked & collected for end of year giving due in office by Dec. 31st.

## Online Giving Breeze

[www.memorialumcaustin.com](http://www.memorialumcaustin.com) or link here:  
[Breeze Online Giving](#)

- Instructions: 1. Enter Amount 2. Enter Fund to Direct Your Gift/Payment  
3. Choose One Time or Recurring Setting  
4. Enter Payment Method & Details  
5. Choose whether to include the cost incurred by MUMC to process your gift based on the amount

\*\*If you once had a recurring gift set up, Please go to Breeze Online Giving to set up a new one.

## 2023 Contributions



If you wish for any contributions to Memorial UMC to "count" for tax year 2023, they must be in to

our office by December 31. If the office is not open, they may be placed in the mail slot, where it falls securely into the building, under the portico at the office entrance. Mail and messages will be collected during the last week of the year. Thank you!

**\*\*\*Please return your 2024 Estimate of Giving card at your earliest opportunity if you have not already done so.**

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We thank you for your generous acceptance of stewardship and pray you may find the level of giving that is right for you as you progress in your journey of faith and commitment. Your pledges and contributions are a **critical** part of how we can make a difference in our church, our community, and our world.

Please complete this estimate of giving, and return it in the offering plate or to the church office. You may change your commitment at any time by notifying the church office.

If you have questions regarding this card, call 512-452-5796.

Name (Please Print):

\_\_\_\_\_

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip:

\_\_\_\_\_

Email:

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone:

Cell Phone:

\_\_\_\_\_

(turn over card)



.... *With Love from your Pastor*

*And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. -Luke 2:10-12*

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas! Many stores and even families are putting up their Christmas trees already. Setting out Christmas decorations seems to happen earlier and earlier every year. I noticed the weekend before Halloween, HEB was already putting up shelves of lights, ornaments, and other decorations. It used to bother me that everyone just moved over Thanksgiving, and yet I'm now in a state of wanting it. There is an elevation of HOPE in the season of Christmas and I too, cling to this HOPE!

In November, we had "A Path of Gratitude" stewardship campaign focused on being grateful and making a pledge to return to God with thanksgiving for what God has given us. We recognized that we are grateful for God's healing in our lives, we are grateful for our family and friends, and we are grateful for the host of saints that have gone on before us who paved the way for us to be a part of Memorial UMC!

As we move into December, please continue your practice of giving gratitude as we participate in the exciting things happening at Memorial UMC!

We will have an Advent starting with **Holy Communion** and **Hanging of the Greens** on the **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday**. A special worship service with special guests like our District Superintendent on our **150<sup>th</sup> Celebration** for the **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday**. Then we will have the **world renown organist, Kent Burress**, sharing with us in worship on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday** of Advent. On **Christmas Eve**, we will have **Communion & Candlelight at 6pm** on our final day of Advent.

As you make plans for going to see the "Nutcracker," the "Trail of Lights", or a favorite Christmas movie, please make plans to come see and hear our beautiful children of the Wesley School present songs of the holidays. The program will be on Friday, December 15th at 6pm. Our Wesley School children are a sign of hope for what is to come!

For our Advent Series in December, we will focus on the empty manger and consider what our soul hopes for. Please come worship and bring a friend. May the Lord bless your preparations for the remembrance of God coming into the world in the flesh as you are in your home, your other places of influence and in our church!

Happy Advent, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year!

*Solym Brislow*

# Upcoming 2024 Events

Looking forward to seeing what new life will grow from what God has planted.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Property Beautification Days, particularly Jana Alexander for sharing her landscaping expertise, John Alan Nixon for sharing his workers to trim our trees, and Robert Kovar, who brought his tractor from Blanco!

**Thank you all!**



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